PHILANTHROPY’S ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION IN TIMES OF CHANGE

The aging of our population is one of the most transformative events of our times. Now that 10,000 Boomers are turning 65 every day, this change is happening swiftly and permanently. Today’s older Americans are also more diverse than ever before.

This new demographic reality poses challenges, but also creates opportunities, including older adults’ enormous but largely untapped energy and productivity.

Funders play an invaluable role in creating, refining, and expanding innovative responses for an older America. Philanthropy’s essential contributions range from sustaining programs for poor, sick, and vulnerable older people to promoting innovative ideas to help the vast majority of older people, who are in excellent health, stay engaged and contributing. This work benefits not just older adults, but people of all ages and communities of all kinds.

GIA ACTIVITIES

GIA offers funders and others interested in aging timely and philanthropy-focused thought leadership: programming ideas; original reports, resources, and blogs; curated resources and news; and an e-newsletter, Aging Matters. The GIA network is a highly collegial, committed group of professionals who value and serve each other as partners, sounding boards, mentors, and friends.

- **GIA’s Annual Conference** brings together 200+ leading foundation executives, practitioners, academics, and researchers in health care, transportation, housing, civic engagement, the arts, intergenerational and age-friendly community initiatives, and more. Features include presentation of the GIA Diversity Award, interactive workshops, plenary sessions with nationally recognized authorities, social and networking events, and a highlights report.

- **Community AGEnda: Improving America for All Ages** is a GIA program funded by the Pfizer Foundation that helps America’s communities become more “age-friendly,” meaning, great places to grow up and to grow old. Community AGEnda has made grants to five communities to accelerate their age-friendly work and has developed a set
of unique resources including *Age-Friendly Communities*, an overview of the age-friendly movement; *Aging Power Tools*, a toolkit of curated materials from top practitioners; and *Age-Friendly America*, our searchable online database of more than 200 programs.

- **GIA Funders Forums** engage diverse groups of funders, nonprofits, and practitioners to improve the funding base and sustainability of promising ideas in aging philanthropy. Currently GIA is focusing on affordable housing with supportive services for older adults, and age-friendly community development.

- **Conversations with GIA** is a series of GIA-run webinars offering a funder’s perspective on cutting-edge issues. Recent topics have included “Advancing 50+ Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship,” “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Fostering Community Support,” and “Social Impact Bonds: A Model for Aligning Investment, Risk, and Outcomes.”

- **For All Ages: The GIA Guide to Funding Across the Lifespan** offers funders useful background and concrete examples of successful programming in a host of funding areas.

- **The GIA Resource Center** is an online database of publications, presentations, fact sheets, and other essential research material for funders.

- **The EngAGEment Initiative** is a recently completed partnership between GIA and regional associations of grantmakers that explored new ways to build awareness of funding opportunities in aging. Supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, EngAGEment involved 41 philanthropies and raised more than $5.4 million in new funding for aging.

### GIA’S LEADERSHIP

**GIA’s board** is composed entirely of GIA members. Our offices are located in Arlington, Virginia.

**John Feather, PhD**, joined GIA as CEO in October 2011. Previously Dr. Feather served as Executive Director and CEO of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and the Director of the AARP Andrus Foundation, the research and education charity of AARP. Dr. Feather also held several positions at the State University of New York at Buffalo and served as Director of the Western New York Geriatric Education Center. Dr. Feather is past Board Chair for the American Society on Aging, Treasurer of the National Hispanic Council on Aging, and a board member for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more, please visit [www.GIAging.org](http://www.GIAging.org) or contact John Feather, PhD, by email at jfeather@GIAging.org or by telephone at (703) 413-0413.

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