



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

**Charitable Activities Committee  
2009 Annual Report**

**Total Grants Approved in 2009**

| <b>Funding Principle</b>           | <b>Number of Grants</b> | <b>Amount of Funding</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scholarships                       | 39                      | \$1,130,020              |
| Math/Science                       | 5                       | \$3,424,707              |
| Other                              | 8                       | \$258,000                |
| GTF Educational<br>Matching Grants | 7                       | \$55,668                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>59</b>               | <b>\$4,868,395</b>       |

**Total Grants Paid in 2009**

| <b>Funding Principle</b> | <b>Amount of Funding</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scholarships             | \$1,146,322              |
| Math/Science             | \$2,635,540              |
| Other                    | \$1,497,434              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$5,279,296</b>       |

**Total Requests Declined in 2009**

| <b>Type of Request</b>                   | <b>Number of<br/>Declinations</b> | <b>Amount Requested</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Letters of Inquiry</b>                | 16                                | \$3,924,056             |
| <b>Proposals</b>                         |                                   |                         |
| Rising to the Challenge                  | 11                                | \$275,000               |
| Generation Proud                         | 14                                | \$350,000               |
| Community College<br>Scholarship Program | 11                                | \$274,200               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>52</b>                         | <b>\$4,823,256</b>      |

## Grants Approved in 2009

### Scholarship Programs for Higher Education

#### **Generation Proud** (10) \$250,000

The Generation Proud Scholarship Program provided assistance to students that were the first generation of their family to attend college. The program was meant to encourage and support first generation college students and provided a total of \$250,000 in need based aid in the 2008-2009 school year. (Angelo State, Midwestern State, Sam Houston State, Sul Ross, Texas Tech, UTSA, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Houston-Downtown, UTB/TSC, and West Texas A&M)

#### **Rising to the Challenge** (10) \$250,000

The foundation's Rising to the Challenge Scholarship Program was meant to encourage and support students making the transition from a community college setting to a four-year institution of higher learning. Rising to the Challenge provided a total of \$250,000 in need based aid in the 2008-2009 school year. (Tarleton State, TAMU, TAMU-Texarkana, Texas Woman's University, UT at Arlington, UTEP, UT of the Permian Basin, University of Houston-Victoria, UNT Foundation, UNT at Dallas)

#### **Community College Scholarship Program** (10) \$250,000

The Community College Scholarship Program was developed to meet the unique needs of community college students and continue the foundation's commitment to removing educational barriers to education. The program provided a total of \$250,000 in need based aid in the 2008-2009 school year. (San Antonio College, St. Phillip's College, Brazosport College Foundation, Dallas County Community College District Foundation, El Paso Community College District, Midland College, Navarro College Foundation, North Harris Montgomery Community College District Foundation, Northwest Vista College, South Plains College Foundation)

#### **Removing Educational Barriers** (8) \$360,020

In 2003 the foundation offered \$20,000 scholarship grants to each public four-year post-secondary institution in the state. During 2004-2006 these awards were made on a matching basis. In 2007 the foundation's board established a goal to create a \$200,000 scholarship endowment to each public four-year post-secondary institution in the state. To that end, the foundation offered matching funds (on a 1:1 basis), up to \$100,000 to each institution. Because the 2008 budget was exhausted, institutions that secured matching funds by December 31, 2008 were put in a queue for matching disbursements in 2009. This amount totaled \$360,020. (Stephen F. Austin, TAMU Foundation, TAMU-Kingsville, UT-Austin, UT-Brownsville, UTEP, UT-Tyler, UNT)

**GTF Educational Matching Grant Program 2008:** (7) \$55,668

This program is meant to encourage giving by Greater Texas Foundation officers, board members, committee members, and employees to educational institutions or organizations supporting education. The foundation will match contributions up to \$5,000 on a 2:1 basis. (Prairie View A&M University, TAMU Foundation (4), Tyler Junior College Foundation, and Texas State University – San Marcos Development Foundation)

**Mission Early College High School Scholarships** \$20,000

To support students transitioning from Mission Early College High School to full-time study at The University of Texas at El Paso.

**Improving Math & Science Education**

**Integrated Science, Math and reflective Thinking (iSMART)**

\$3,023,207

To provide an applied master's degree experience for high capacity middle school teachers who, in turn, will become instructional leaders in their middle schools and districts. (The University of Houston)

**A Web-Based Educational System for Learning Mathematics**

\$150,000

To support the expansion of Reasoning Mind, a web-based educational system for learning mathematics, for schools in low-income areas. (Reasoning Mind)

**Teacher Professional Development** \$250,000

To support the teacher professional development and support program for the Advanced Mathematical Decision Making Course – a rigorous and engaging capstone high school mathematics course. (Charles A. Dana Center at The University Of Texas at Austin)

**President's Fund: Infinity Project** \$1,500

To support course material and technology to inspire students to take a greater interest in math and science. (Alice Johnson Jr. High)

**Outreach for Higher Education**

**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Strategic Planning Process** \$108,000

To support the hiring of an external consulting firm to facilitate the development of a strategic plan for the Texas Higher Education

Coordinating Board and higher education in the state of Texas.  
(Communities Foundation of Texas/Texas High School Project)

### **School Community Partnerships**

#### **Book Trust at Kemp and College Hills Elementary Schools, Year 2**

\$70,000

To support the Book Trust program, which enriches the literacy culture of families in need by giving children the opportunity to choose, own, and delight in books.

#### **Texas Partnership Zones: Turnaround Challenge** \$75,000

To support the preliminary phase of consulting and research that would be necessary for the successful launch of Partnership Zones (urban school district redesign) in Texas. (Communities Foundation of Texas/Texas High School Project)

#### **President's Fund Academic Grant (5)** \$5,000

To support academic programs for students/teachers at Port Houston Elementary School, Foerster Elementary School, Iola Elementary School, Mumford Independent School District, and YES Prep Southwest.

### **Additional 2009 Initiatives**

#### **Strategic Plan 2010-2014**

In 2009, Greater Texas Foundation engaged FSG Social Impact Advisors in a six month process to examine its mission, vision, funding principles and internal operations, and develop a strategic plan for the five-year period from 2010 to 2015.

- **Phase I:** explored internal perspectives on the foundation's potential to create value. Internal processes consisted of interviews with all members of the Board of Directors in addition to some staff, as well as a survey of all staff and board. Interviews provided a context around GTF's areas of strength.
- **Phase II:** focused on gathering input from a range of external stakeholders with expertise in the Texas educational landscape. Forty-two interviews with external stakeholders (other funders, college presidents, government agencies, K-12 school districts, nonprofit organizations, and experts and academics) focused on external perspectives with regard to GTF's potential role and opportunities for impact.
- During this time, secondary research was done on topic areas identified by GTF and stakeholders as important and as possible impact areas for the foundation. This research served to reinforce many of the findings

from the interviews with external stakeholders and also to provide evidence-based findings to inform GTF's decision making process.

- Based on findings from phases I and II, the new portfolio was designed to favor focused, proactive philanthropy, particularly with regard to partnerships and innovative programming.

- **Final Phase:** an action plan was developed to include potential goals, outcomes and evaluation measures for each component of the portfolio, relevant organizational implications, and a plan for communicating GTF's strategy.

The resulting strategic plan is not a departure, but an evolution, from where the foundation began. The foundation will continue its commitment to improving educational outcomes for Texas students; however, in order to have a greater impact on the tough and persistent challenges facing education in Texas, we are making a shift toward being more focused in our funding. By targeting specific points in the education pipeline, we will work toward increasing post-secondary access and persistence and improving math and science education, with a focus on increasing the number of students who are prepared to succeed in post-secondary education.

Going forward, we will allocate a significant portion of our grants toward strategic initiatives, efforts that focus our resources on pressing education needs related to post-secondary preparation, access, persistence, and completion. In addition, we will focus strongly on convening partners to exercise leadership in education and work toward specific, common goals.

Through its philanthropy, the foundation intends to impact students across the state of Texas and has a strong desire to focus on measurable, research-based, and outcomes-driven work. The foundation also wishes to capitalize on its strength in partnering with other organizations, including other funders, governmental agencies and educational institutions. By following its strategic plan, Greater Texas Foundation aims to bring greater clarity and coherence to its philanthropy, with the goal of creating greater impact on the educational success of Texas students.