

We believe Brian Byrnes embodies the qualities you specify for the Distinguished Service Award. Brian's commitment to philanthropy is evident through his service to foundation work over the last 14 years:

- President & CEO, Santa Fe Community Foundation;
- Managing Director, and Senior Vice President, Tides Foundation;
- President & CEO, Vermont Community Foundation;
- Deputy Executive Director-Programs, San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Board member, Confluence Philanthropy and Foundation Leadership Team, and Chair, National Conference for Community Foundations Council on Foundations;
- Steering Committee, Foundation Strategy Group, National Donor Advised Fund Study
- Chair, CF Leads Brian joined SFCF in December 2009.

Using his national experience, he moved us beyond our traditional community foundation business model (money in/money out; build endowment) to new policies and practices that make SFCF a showcase for how a small community foundation can become a force for change.

Brian introduced Policy Governance, a process that focuses the Board's energy and attention on the needs of the community. Brian led the purchase of a building to create a place where philanthropists and not-for-profit organizations could gather to enhance the philanthropic life of Santa Fe. Today, known in the community as "The Hub", the building serves 3000 people per year attending foundation programming, technical assistance workshops, and community meetings.

Brian introduced impact investing. The Board has allocated \$1.5M of the SFCF endowment toward local impact investment opportunities. He grew the Foundation's endowment from \$26M to \$57M, a result of more flexible policies governing donors' granting rights, the performance of the endowment, and the willingness of national funders to use SFCF for their work in New Mexico.

SFCF now houses multiple W.K Kellogg Foundation grants, including a multi-year, statewide \$3.2 Health Equity Partnership grant. Other national funders are in the pipeline for several of SFCF's initiatives. Brian created the Community Leadership Fund to support community-wide convenings and initiatives.

One of several initiatives is "Birth to Career" which brings together community leaders to address challenges facing youth from prenatal care, pre school, K-12, and college/career options.

A second initiative brings together police, the City of Santa Fe, health care providers, drug rehabilitation specialists and many others to offer a choice to property crime offenders who are opiate users who would otherwise be in the system were they not offered this chance at rehabilitation.

The thrust of our initiatives is always the Foundation's role in supporting groups working on similar problems and facilitating their collaboration. SFCF is the "back office" for numerous citywide initiatives that raise funds throughout the year to serve at-risk communities.

By our absorbing these costs, all the funds raised go to the intended recipients. Brian wondered why there are five separate community foundations in New Mexico – a rural state with a small population. With national funding he brought the community foundation leadership together in 2010 and began a three-year process of exploring possible merger scenarios. Now, on the eve of Brian's departure, these conversations have gained steam and will certainly result in a change in the status quo.