



The Annie E. Casey Foundation

February 24, 2010

Dear Casey Grantees and Colleagues:

Just a few days ago, our Board of Trustees paid me the immense compliment of naming me the next President and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. I'm truly honored, and more than a little humbled by the prospect of building on the incredible legacy of Doug Nelson.

Doug has guided the Foundation through the last 20 years of growth and increasing influence with uncommon vision and judgment. He has created and nourished a vibrant internal culture that values and supports individual entrepreneurship and creative thinking as well as teamwork and rigorous attention to performance measurement and continuous improvement. And with his leadership, we have become part of a network of grantees, advisors, consultants, advocates, public officials, nonprofit leaders and other experts, all committed to a common mission—to improve the odds of success for America's kids and families.

Working closely with our Board, and under the leadership of Executive Vice President Ralph Smith, we recently completed a thorough review of our major priorities and programs, as well as a realignment of our staff and grantmaking to better fit with our continuously evolving strategic direction. We are therefore well positioned to continue to improve and expand on our most successful initiatives, even as we work with our partners to develop new strategies to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

We will continue our most successful initiatives and programs in promoting family economic success, helping to make communities more supportive environments for families and reforming human service practice and policy. And we will continue to rely on Casey Family Services, our direct services agency, to demonstrate best practice for the most vulnerable children and families.

At the same time, we intend to focus even more effort on demonstrating the power of integrating these various strategies, to create the synergy necessary to improve outcomes at a scale we have not yet attempted: to demonstrate that it is possible to measurably improve the economic, educational, physical, behavioral and emotional well-being of whole populations of children and families in poor communities.

Over the next few months, I plan to spend every spare minute soaking up the advice and counsel of our own remarkable staff and our partners in every sector. I hope to talk personally with many of you, to get advice on how the Casey Foundation can best contribute to our common mission, and to share our current thinking about future directions for the Foundation. Whether or not we have a chance to speak directly in the near future, I hope you will continue to share your candid reflections on the Foundation's strengths, and where you think we can improve. As our founder, Jim Casey, was fond of saying, we need your help to remain "constructively dissatisfied," to ensure we are constantly working to become more effective and more useful.

I look forward to our continued partnership on behalf of kids and families.

Sincerely,

Patrick McCarthy

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