



Newsletter

Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties Chapter



Foundation Funding Trends Highlighted by Tom Parker

By Pat Snyder, S.B. Regional Program Chair

On Thursday, June 26, 2003, 44 local fundraisers from Santa Barbara and Ventura County attended AFP's Regional Luncheon Program to hear Tom Parker, President of Hutton Foundation, talk about his work with the Foundation Roundtable and to discuss funding trends among private foundations in these challenging economic times.

Tom stated that a paradigm shift is happening: government is cutting back and people do not want to pay taxes, but more people are willing to get personally involved in supporting non-profits. "Non-profits engage people, empower individuals, and complete the circle between those in need and those who can help," he said.

He then cited some statistics demonstrating that non-profits are one of the fastest growing economic sectors, both locally and nationally. In the Santa Barbara area, \$370 million was donated to nonprofits in 2000, as compared to \$100 million in 1990. During the same ten-year period, government funding barely kept up with inflation.

Generally, private foundations have seen a decrease in their assets in the past several years, yet their giving in 2002 was relatively flat, going down less than one percent. Locally, there has been a growth in the number of new foundations; Mr. Parker cited the Outhwaite and Mosher Foundations as examples. The Foundation Roundtable has a record membership of 34 foundations. He then explained how the Roundtable operates, holding monthly meetings to discuss common concerns and issues, and sometimes collaborating on funding projects of mutual interest.

Finally, he offered advice on submitting grant requests to the Hutton Foundation, explaining how their grant committee functions and offering tips for a successful proposal. He announced that the Hutton Foundation has purchased a new building on Hollister Avenue, which will be available in the future for rentals to non-profits at 70% of market rates. Currently, event sponsorships are a low priority and they are more focused on helping to sustain the core operations of important non-profits.

AFP members and guests were delighted to learn from such a dynamic philanthropic leader, and expressed thanks to Tom for his willingness to share his fascinating insights into the world of our local foundations.