

**RITA ALLEN**  
**FOUNDATION**



**REPORT TO COMMUNITY**  
**2010**

**Rita Allen Foundation**  
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**www.ritaallen.org**



## REPORT TO COMMUNITY

Since 2009, the Rita Allen Foundation has undergone a great transformation.

Started as a modest organization in 1953, the resources of the Rita Allen Foundation have increased significantly over the past fifty years.

Generosity to the Foundation has swelled our resources and propelled a complete reexamination of our management, grants and goals, and allowed us to reach beyond our traditional areas of interest.

Our expanded mission is to invest in transformative ideas in their earliest stages to leverage their growth and promote breakthrough solutions to significant problems.

We have adopted a more professional business model and have undertaken an overhaul of our grants protocols, programs and compliance to standards.

In addition, we are formulating a comprehensive operational plan to guide us as we move forward, stressing transparency, investments in innovation, better programming, and communications.

Beyond our internal reorganization and rejuvenation, we have formed exciting new partnerships with groups likewise engaged in seeking out change-makers who are reinventing our world.

Our leadership is now committed to advancing initiatives across various fields that ignite young leadership in the sciences and social innovation, promote civic literacy and build stronger communities.

Our experienced Board of Directors has attracted other high-caliber individuals with strong backgrounds in professional areas beyond the sciences, and our Scientific Advisory Committee has added more of the world's brightest minds.

Their focus is designed to ensure that the Rita Allen Foundation is aware of, and applying, the very best practices.

We continue to emphasize and enhance the successful Rita Allen Foundation Scholars program and other grants.

Over the decades, our awards to Scholars have accelerated and transformed careers on the frontiers of biomedicine, fostering research to extend human knowledge and encourage the cutting-edge of the life sciences.

We are proud of our more than one hundred Scholars. Many are prominent researchers, whose discoveries have earned them the highest honors, including a Nobel Prize and memberships in the National Academy of Sciences.

As we move forward, the Rita Allen Foundation is building on our history and successes, finding greater ways to motivate rising thought-leaders and doers in a variety of disciplines.

We are intervening at the right time to maximize their impact and advance their brilliance for the benefit of everyone.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Christopherson  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## MISSION

The overall mission of the Rita Allen Foundation is to invest in transformative ideas in their earliest stages to leverage their growth and promote breakthrough solutions to significant problems.

Areas of active interest include investing in young leaders in the sciences and social innovation, promoting civic literacy and engagement, and building stronger communities. Based in Princeton, New Jersey, the Rita Allen Foundation was established in 1953.

For over thirty years the Foundation has sponsored a Scholars program that has supported more than one hundred scientists and researchers, many of whom have made important advances in medical research.





## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To honor our rich history and to guide our activities in the future, we, the Directors and staff of the Rita Allen Foundation, embrace the following Guiding Principles:

### **1 Innovation**

We will be an innovative and agile organization; to this end, we will rely on strategic, collaborative approaches to initiate and support pioneering programs that break new ground and challenge the status quo.

### **2 Focus**

We will focus our efforts on enduring areas of domestic and global concern; our goals especially include advancing the frontiers of biomedical science, leadership and education. We will respond to short-term societal needs and undertake programs consistent with the Mission and Vision of the Foundation.

### **3 Lasting Outcomes**

We seek to advance new ideas and discoveries that address the root causes of challenging problems; we will define success by objectives linked to a significantly positive and lasting impact on individuals and the broader society.

### **4 Collaboration**

We will work with and convene leaders to develop and implement strategies that support innovation and bring new ideas and information to targeted groups; new areas of collaboration will evolve as we continually reevaluate human needs.

### **5 Core Values**

We will bring to our work and seek in our relationships with others a commitment to, and belief in, the positive power of courage, hope, passion, and shared aspirations; we are committed to translate these core values into effective action.

### **6 Leadership**

To be a leader and a model both in our programs and in our operations, we will embrace appropriate levels of risk; we will foster an entrepreneurial spirit informed by inquisitiveness, due diligence, creativity, and responsible stewardship of our assets.

### **7 Learning**

We will engage in a collegial process of continuous learning, hard work and reassessment; we recognize that these qualities are essential to achievement of our mission.

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of the Rita Allen Foundation is responsible for governing, advising and overseeing our policy, direction and resources. Directors assist with the leadership and general promotion of the Rita Allen Foundation to support our Mission, needs, and the work of our Scholars and other grant recipients. Since 2009, the Rita Allen Foundation Board has welcomed new members with diverse backgrounds and professional experiences.

**William F. Gadsden**  
Chair

**Elizabeth G. Christopherson**  
President and CEO

**Aristides Georgantas**  
Secretary

**Henry H. Hitch, Treasurer**  
Treasurer

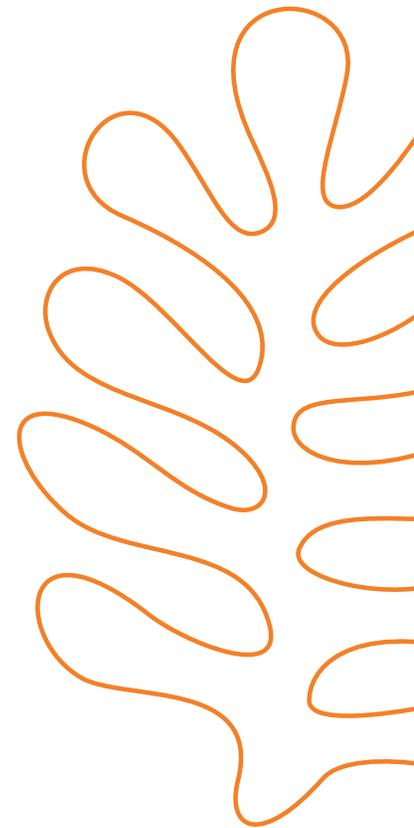
**Robert E. Campbell**

**Jon Cummings**

**Landon Y. Jones**

**Sam S.-H. Wang, Ph.D.**

**Moore Gates, Jr.**  
Director Emeritus



# THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(SAC) of the Rita Allen Foundation consists of leading scientists and clinicians from the finest institutions in the world. Augmented by their collective experiences in medical discovery and development within academia and industry, members of the SAC are critical advisors to the Rita Allen Foundation Board of Directors on matters involving our Scholars program and other grant proposals.

**Dr. Douglas T. Fearon**

**Dr. Kathleen M. Foley,**  
Rita Allen Foundation Medical Advisor

**Dr. Charles D. Gilbert**

**Dr. Gregory J. Hannon**

**Dr. Jeffrey D. Macklis**

**Dr. Carl F. Nathan\***

**Dr. Joan A. Steitz**

## **Emeritus Members**

**Dr. Maurice S. Fox**

**Dr. Irving H. Goldberg**

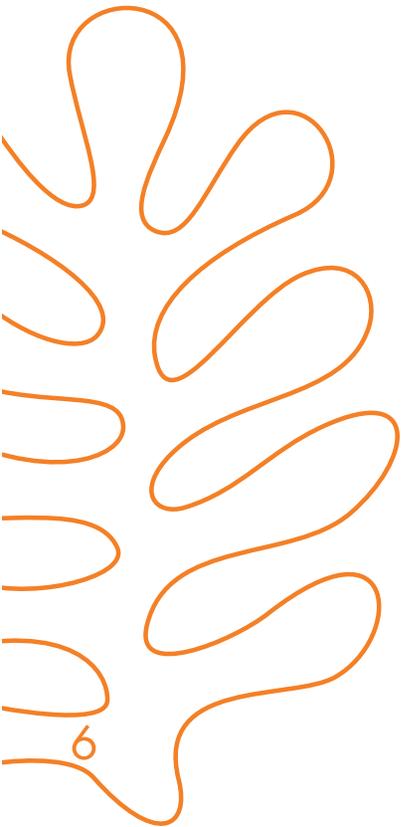
**Dr. Howard H. Hiatt**

**Dr. Thomas M. Jessell**

**Dr. Arnold J. Levine**

**Dr. James D. Watson**

**Dr. Torsten N. Wiesel**





## GRANT RECIPIENTS

### Young Leaders in Science or Social Entrepreneurship

#### Rita Allen Foundation Scholars

The Rita Allen Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in grants to our Scholars. The Rita Allen Foundation Scholars program concentrates on young leaders in bio-medical research who are advancing our understanding of the human condition. Through our Scholars, we embrace innovative research with above average risk and groundbreaking possibilities. We are proud of the over 100 Scholars, including a Nobel Laureate, who have received our financial assistance. Our Scholars are nominated by premier research institutions and then selected by the Rita Allen Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee. Individuals chosen and their affiliated institutions receive grants of up to \$100,000 annually, for a maximum of five years. Some of the Guiding Principles for selection include: attention to innovation, focus on areas of global concern, opportunities for lasting outcomes, collaborations, and a demonstration of leadership and learning potential. Investment in our Scholars helps us support transformative ideas in their earliest stages. [www.ritaallen.org](http://www.ritaallen.org)

#### PopTech 2011 Fellows



Each year, PopTech selects a small number of high-potential, early- and mid-career scientists for the Science and Public Leadership Fellows program. Ideal candidates are scientists who have strong in-ate communications skills and an interest in public leadership, but limited formal training. Fellows are provided year-long skills development led by a world-class faculty of

experts in communications, media training, public engagement and leadership. Fellows are also provided with significant opportunities to raise their public profile and that of their work, and to participate in a peer-level alumni network. The goal of the program is to help them become better communicators and leaders while continuing their scientific careers. Through the Science Fellows, PopTech aims to develop a corps of visible and trusted scientific leaders who can provide leadership, explore new collaborative approaches and engage with the public on a variety of issues of critical importance to the nation and the planet. The Science and Public Leadership Fellows program is made possible by a number of organizations, including the Rita Allen Foundation, with a deep commitment to expanding the role of young scientists in public life. The Rita Allen Foundation also supports PopTech's Social Innovation Fellows Program. [www.poptech.org/sciencefellows](http://www.poptech.org/sciencefellows)

# GRANT RECIPIENTS

## Civic Literacy and Engagement

### Center for Civic Responsibility

Jersey Call to Service Hyperlocal News Sites Project

How we receive news has changed forever. Gone are the days of relying on the morning paper delivery or the family gathered around the television listening to Walter Cronkite. The internet has taken over as the primary source of information for many Americans, and the Jersey Call to Service Hyperlocal News Sites Project recognizes and builds on the transformation taking place in communications today. By establishing local websites with a maximum focus on community politics and government, the Hyperlocal News Sites Project leverages interest in the issues and controversies by recruiting citizens as journalists and using the internet to speed information to viewers. The idea is as old as our democracy itself: Government is responsive when the citizenry is active, involved and afforded timely information. Although primarily an effort to promote civic literacy, hyperlocal news sites also appeal to a younger audience and foster the development of young leaders that strengthen communities. The investment from the Rita Allen Foundation helped the Hyperlocal News Sites Project establish a presence in New Brunswick, NJ., and a statewide association of hyperlocal organizations to share best practices. [www.njhna.org](http://www.njhna.org)

### Center for Public Integrity State Accountability Project

Open government is essential to civic literacy and a thriving democracy, and the Center for Public Integrity has become a powerhouse in promoting greater transparency at all levels. By producing original, responsible investigative journalism on significant public issues, the Center has left its mark on reform efforts and movements for better government. Armed with a string of successes, the Center is now focusing on the 50 U.S. states with the State Accountability Project. This new initiative promotes transparent state government, and provides a basis for national and local reporting that will help citizens understand if their governments are adhering to the principles of ethics and openness. This project is a collaboration that brings together a trio of organizations: Center for Public Integrity (lead); Public Radio International; and Global Integrity. It also enjoys the support of the Omidyar Network. Among the reports the Center anticipates producing are high-profile rankings of the “Top 10 Most At-Risk States for Corruption” and “Top 10 Most Accountable State Governments.” [www.publicintegrity.org](http://www.publicintegrity.org)

### Facing History and Ourselves Improve Online Resources and Tools

In order to avoid the mistakes of the past, we must learn not to repeat them. Facing History and Ourselves is an international organization that focuses on bringing ethical and moral philosophy to history and social studies classes, particularly issues such as racism, civic responsibility and tolerance. It provides professional development services and curricular resources to educators around the globe. Facing History encourages a civic literacy that addresses the prejudices that divide us, and how to confront them and change attitudes for the better. By advancing moral scholarship on issues such as the Holocaust and eugenics, Facing History shows students they can have a positive impact and provides them with the historical context to understand how and where they might begin to make a difference. Facing History serves an ever-expanding global network of educators reaching an estimated 1.6 million students in over 80 countries. The investment from the Rita Allen Foundation has enhanced the online resources and tools Facing History offers to those teaching the young leaders of tomorrow. [www.facinghistory.org](http://www.facinghistory.org)



# GRANT RECIPIENTS

## Community Building

### Isles, Inc.

Urban Agriculture and Farm-Education Projects



Urban gardening and farming is changing the landscape of cities throughout the United States. One of the homegrown organizations recognized as a pioneer in urban agriculture is Isles, Inc. of Trenton, NJ. Founded in 1981 by students and faculty from Princeton University, Isles is an award-winning nonprofit community development and environmental organization with a mission to foster self-reliant families in healthy and sustainable communities.

Through extensive partnerships, Isles finds creative, low-cost ways to transform toxic spaces into beautiful, clean places, educating people to take control of their own physical environments and personal health. Isles' solutions for better cities: planting community and school gardens, teaching adults and children about the environment and nutrition, creating opportunities for enjoyable exercise, and training residents for careers in agriculture and environmental protection. The investment from the Rita Allen Foundation is doing more than building a stronger Trenton. Isles' urban gardening program is helping to grow young leaders determined to live healthier and more responsible lives. [www.isles.org](http://www.isles.org)

### Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

A New Natural Approach to Wastewater Management

Outdated septic systems are failing at an alarming rate, threatening our environment, our health and communities. In central New Jersey alone, pollution from excess nutrients – from leaking septic systems and sewer lines – is causing aquatic life to falter. To meet this challenge head on, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is developing and building a new wetlands-based wastewater treatment system at its 860-acre Reserve to demonstrate a more effective, more energy efficient and less resource-intensive alternative to the traditional wastewater treatment system. While the system will be most applicable to residential clusters and smaller office complexes, the value of the model and the associated research has the potential to dramatically change the choice millions make in how they process their wastewater. Clean water is the vital lifeblood of our communities and the Rita Allen Foundation's initial investment in the Watershed's solution could help environmentalists ensure that a safe, effective and reasonably-priced treatment system is replicated throughout the country. [www.thewatershed.org](http://www.thewatershed.org)



# RITA ALLEN FOUNDATION



## STAFF

### **Elizabeth G. Christopherson**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
ec@ritaallen.org

### **Laura J. Longman**

Vice President, Finance and Administration  
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### **Genevieve A. Reilly**

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### **James H. Stocking, Ph.D.**

Technical Associate  
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## 2010 GRANTS

### **Young Leaders**

#### **PopTech**

PeaceTXT Project  
\$100,000

#### **PopTech**

2011 Science Fellows  
\$100,000

#### **Rita Allen Foundation Scholars**

\$1,800,000

### **Civic Literacy**

#### **Center for Civic Responsibility**

Jersey Call to Service Hyperlocal  
News Sites Project  
\$165,690

#### **Center for Public Integrity**

State Accountability Project  
\$250,000

#### **Facing History and Ourselves**

Improve Online Resources and Tools  
\$111,675

### **Community Building**

#### **Branch Brook Park Alliance**

Concourse Hill Urban Farm Project  
\$39,200

#### **Isles, Inc.**

Urban Agriculture and  
Farm-Education Projects  
\$115,000

#### **Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association**

A New Natural Approach to  
Wastewater Management  
\$100,000

### **Other**

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

The Triple Play Program  
\$500,000

#### **The Juilliard School**

Milton Cassel  
Woodwind Endowment Fund  
\$1,000,000

#### **The Metropolitan Opera**

Support The Met Broadcasts Campaign  
\$200,000

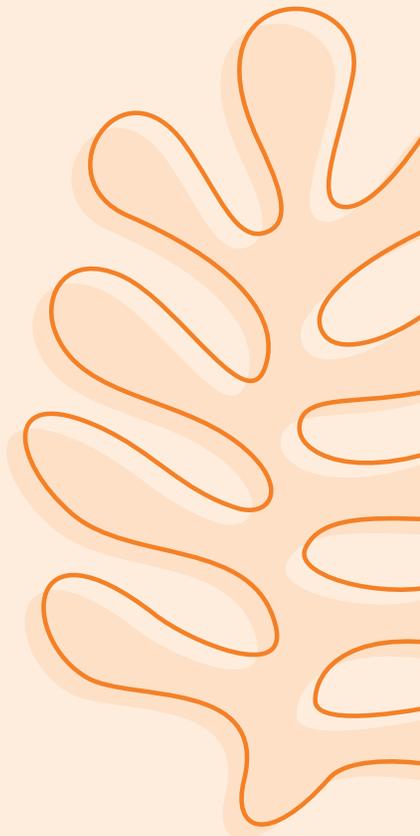


# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT:

## Statement of Financial Position, Modified Cash Basis

*For the year ended December 31, 2009*

	(Audited)
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$6,334,906
Investments	135,138,322
Beneficial interest in inter vivos trust	1,034,710
Note receivable	200,000
Total Assets	\$142,707,938
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	\$139,128,316
Permanently restricted	3,579,622
Total Net Assets	\$142,707,938





# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT:

## Statement of Activities, Modified Cash Basis

For the year ended December 31, 2009



	Unrestricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Revenue and Support</b>			
Investment Income (Loss)			
Interest and dividends	\$2,934,157		\$2,934,157
Net realized loss on investments	(5,006,377)		(5,006,377)
Translation gain	5,490		5,490
Costs attributable to investments	(386,000)		(386,000)
Net Investment Income (Loss)	(2,452,736)		(2,452,736)
Change in beneficial interest in inter vivos trust	(195,325)		(195,325)
Total Revenue and Support	(2,648,061)		(2,648,061)
<b>Expenses</b>			
Grant awards	3,452,363		3,452,363
Program and foundation operations	659,783		659,783
Federal excise tax	66,047		66,047
Total Expenses	4,178,193		4,178,193
Change in Net Assets before			
Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	(6,826,254)		(6,826,254)
Appreciation in Fair Value of investments	25,468,972		25,468,972
Change in Net Assets	18,642,718		18,642,718
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Beginning of Year	\$120,485,598	\$3,579,622	\$124,065,220
End of Year	\$139,128,316	\$3,579,622	\$142,707,938