

opportunity, leadership and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. For more information on the Council, visit its website at www.cof.org.

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2. Remember *Future Trails 2008*? A note from Tracy Gary, our keynote...

Dear Friends,

For those of you I had the honor of meeting at the annual event last month, I wanted to say Happy Holidays and to remind you how important your year-end and early 2009 generosity is to the community foundation. Only 800 other communities throughout the nation have such wonderful community money pooled, and you should be so proud of all that has been achieved through your leadership and giving so far.

Many foundations and donors and donor advisors are stepping up to give more, not less, during these challenging times, knowing that those who are low and no income, who are uninsured or undereducated, are surely in a lot worse situation than we are. Is it not our good fortune to be able to give now, to save more, and waste less, so that others may simply live and begin to improve their more difficult lives?

I urge you to join me and many who know how blessed we are to do all we can to assure that the Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation grows, has capacity and staffing, and administers your grants for the benefit of many.

Here's to the dreamer and dreammaker in you and to you and your family. Your leadership and your resourcefulness as a donor is the way we will co-create a stronger future.

May we all continue this journey of hope through our bold action and expressions of care.

Sincerely,

Tracy Gary, for the Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation

P.S. Please feel free to contact Tamara at 512-863-2484 / cell 512-536-0196 / or by email at tamara@chisholm-trail.org should you want any support at all as you plan your final gifts of 2008 or 2009. I know she would love to be of service to you or your family.

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3. Congratulations to our 4th quarter grantees!

Congratulations to our end-of-year discretionary grantees, the Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown and the Assistance League of Georgetown!

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4. Do you live in a healthy, vital community?

Our presentation, "What is a Healthy, Vital, Community?" has been requested a lot lately. We've decided to make it available in PDF form on our website, www.chisholm-trail.org. If you'd like a talk or conversation about this topic to your church, civic, or other group, let us know!

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5. Our wishlist!

CTCF has a short office needs wishlist if a secret Santa is listening!

- *copier (especially with document feeder and collating function!)
- *file cabinets (black, standard size)

Hand-me-downs are welcome!

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6. 2009 Preview!

In early 2009, look for learning opportunities through the community foundation including site visits to our favorite nonprofits, easy ways to think about estate planning (and how to feel empowered in the process), engaging children--and grandchildren--in philanthropy, and more!

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7. Thought for the month!

"...a deadly question that horribly over-simplifies reality and that the media has trained the public to idolize: "What percentage of my donation goes to the cause?" Experts agree it is the worst possible question we could be asking, and that the answer to it is 100% useless. Why? First, it tells you nothing about the quality of a charity's services, so a sub-standard soup kitchen can hide behind the statement that 90% of your money goes to the cause and you'll never find out they're serving rancid soup." --Dan Pallotta, Change the Way We Create Change, through the Council on Foundations (COF Breaking News: Tuesday, December 16)

In closing...

Please contact us with questions, by phone at 512.863.2484, 512.536.1096 if we're away from the office, or email friends@chisholm-trail.org. Thank you!

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