

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Funds' new directions, outlined on pages 6-11, build on accomplishments from 1989-99. The decade's highlights include:

## DEWITT WALLACE-READER'S DIGEST FUND

- Launched *Pathways to Teaching Careers*, an effective, replicable model for recruiting teachers for hard-to-staff public schools that now operates at 45 colleges and universities nationwide. Pathways has directly supported the preparation of more than 2,600 highly qualified new teachers from non-traditional candidate pools such as teachers aides, returned Peace Corp volunteers, and the military. The program's accomplishments, which are supported by an independent evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute, led Congress to include its program components in federal legislation for improving teacher quality. Today, the Education Commission for the States is conducting workshops for state leaders around the important issues of recruiting and preparing quality teachers for low-income public schools.
- Raised teacher quality as an important issue, now on the national agenda. The Fund was a founding partner of the *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*, and directly supported the professional development of thousands of teachers in low-income schools. The report of the *National Commission on Teaching and America's Future* has galvanized states into looking at innovative ways to recruit and better prepare teachers.
- Inaugurated *Library Power*, a landmark initiative that supported improvements in 700 public schools in 19 communities across the country, became the national standard adopted by the American Library Association in its publication *Information Power*.
- Improved high school vocational programs through early support for *High Schools That Work*, an initiative of the Southern Regional Education Board now recognized as the country's most successful secondary school reform effort, reaching more than 900 schools nationally and shaping state and national policy in this area.
- Enabled more poor and minority youth to continue their education through a founding partnership in

*Equity 2000*, an innovative program of the College Board to eliminate tracking and increase the college-going rate of minority youth. Toward this end, the Fund also launched a national initiative to improve the ability of school counselors to provide academic guidance for all students. Our investments created community-based college information centers, and supported strong academic preparation programs and last-dollar scholarship programs.

- Invested in 60 new extended-service school programs, which provide academic and recreational programs in school buildings beyond the traditional school hours.
- Supported the training of more than 50,000 youth workers through national and local youth-serving organizations to improve the quality of their work and help promulgate positive youth development practices.

## LILA WALLACE-READER'S DIGEST FUND

- Helped 500 arts and cultural institutions put audience building on a par with artistic and institutional development, thereby broadening and diversifying their audiences and deepening their participation. Ten years ago, not many people were thinking about how cultural organizations could become more "customer focused." Today, we see an increasing interest in information about how to build participation, including two reports issued recently by the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Assembly.
- Enabled 29 fine arts museums to expand their role in their communities through the *Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Museum Collections Accessibility Initiative*. Museums are working closely with their communities and reorganizing their permanent collections, launching innovative programming and crafting effective strategies to attract new visitors and deepen the engagement of all their audiences.
- Made jazz accessible to millions of people through a variety of investments, including National Public Radio for the development of new jazz programming, ultimately helping to increase NPR's membership by 42 percent. We also partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to increase the public's understanding of and appreciation for jazz through *America's Jazz*

*Heritage*, a 10-year effort that included traveling exhibitions, an oral history project, radio series and other activities. Thousands of people in communities across the country were able to see jazz performed live through 2,000 performances coordinated by the Fund-supported *National Jazz Network*, an affiliation of 19 jazz presenters and six regional arts organizations that connects musicians to performance venues.

- Helped 42 nonprofit theaters around the country expand and diversify their audiences. Fund-supported research helped theaters better understand the productions that appeal to target audiences, develop programming that complements stage productions, and enhance their internal management systems.
- Became the first national foundation to invest in American folk art traditions. Our work, which includes a Fund-commissioned study outlining the needs of the field, has since sparked other funders to underwrite folk arts. Our support includes a wide range of activities, such as local and regional projects that document, preserve and present folk art traditions; a network of folk arts organizations; touring exhibitions, performances; and radio programs.
- Raised visibility of public libraries as centers of high-quality adult literacy instruction and helped 20 leading libraries teach more than 22,000 adult learners, open new sites in accessible locations, recruit more than 3,000 new tutors and lever additional support. We also co-sponsored *TV411*, an innovative television-based program that makes learning enjoyable, accessible and effective for adult learners and developed the *What Works Literacy Partnership*, a national network of literacy programs dedicated to creating standards for practitioner quality.
- Secured more than 350 acres of new land for parks; restored and rehabilitated nearly 300 acres of existing parkland; and preserved more than 50 miles of new trails and greenways. Levered over \$100 million in new public and private commitments and supported 19 public-private partnerships in 17 cities. Also created the *City Parks Forum* to encourage mayoral leadership in improving parks and sponsored the *Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Urban Parks Institute* as a conference and resource center.