

Development

The Council has never been more relevant than it is today, responding swiftly to critical issues with books, articles, op-eds, meetings, debates, town hall gatherings, task forces, and roundtables. Response to the Council's development efforts from members, foundations, and corporations has enabled the Council to act independently and quickly when situations have warranted. New and ongoing support provided financial backing for our other work as well, resulting in policy-oriented studies, meetings, and publications on a variety of crucial topics. The Council extends its most sincere appreciation to all the donors listed in these pages.

The Annual Fund

Annual giving—the Independence Fund—provides a critical piece of the Council's overall funding, helping to support key programming and annual operating expenses. This year annual giving grew to new heights as members contributed in record numbers. 1,792 members, representing approximately 44 percent of the membership, gave \$3,570,000 to the Annual Fund in fiscal year 2002–2003, the highest amount contributed by the largest percentage ever of the membership. Sixty-six members increased their gifts through corporate or foundation matching gift programs. The Harold Pratt Associates, who give \$10,000 or more each year, increased to 172 members, 38 of whom gave at the \$25,000+ Chairman's Circle level.

As a tribute to Les Gelb for making the Term Member Program a top Council priority, term members responded to a challenge spearheaded by Andrew S. Gundlach and Maria C. Figueroa Küpçü to boost term member participation in annual giving. Deroy Murdock and Phoebe L. Yang wrote to their term member colleagues, with follow-up by a team of volunteers. Term member giving rose to 54 percent as a result. A special listing of the term members who contributed this year appears on page 72. All donors to the Annual Fund are listed on pages 80–86.



Stephen A. Orlins, Matthew Nimetz, J. Tomilson Hill, and Thomas Schick at the June 25, 2003, Farewell Reception for Leslie H. Gelb.