

Nothing will ever be  
accomplished if all  
possible objections  
must first be overcome.

## **The Foundation Mission**

The **Nathan Cummings Foundation** is rooted in the Jewish tradition and committed to democratic values and social justice, including fairness, diversity, and community. We seek to build a socially and economically just society that values nature and protects the ecological balance for future generations; promotes humane health care; and fosters arts and culture that enriches communities.

# 2001 annual report

**THE NATHAN CUMMINGS FOUNDATION**

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*\* New Program Guidelines are effective January 2002. The grants made in 2001 were under former guidelines.*

# Message from the Chair

**Transitions: a new millennium, a new decade, a new office, a new President and CEO, new guidelines, and September 11, 2001, together mark significant evolution for The Nathan Cummings Foundation (NCF).**



This report serves to inform the grantee and funding communities about some of the changes and transitions the Foundation underwent in 2001, and highlights the work of our grantees.

Our distinguished new President and Chief Executive Officer, Lance E. Lindblom, brings insight, broad philanthropic experience, and the creative vision to address issues at their core. One of Lance's earliest responsibilities included moving our office across town to 475 Tenth Avenue. In the interest of sustainability, we recycled as much of our former space as was aesthetically and practically feasible. We are also fortunate that he successfully recruited Caroline L. Williams as our new Chief Financial and Investment Officer in May 2001.

In conjunction with our new leadership, the Trustees, Associates and Staff have been diligently reviewing, debating, writing and revising our latest guidelines.

**Social and economic justice serve as our underlying themes, which reaffirm our commitment to the Foundation's mission and core program areas.** The new guidelines are posted on our website [www.nathancummings.org](http://www.nathancummings.org), which also includes all pertinent information about The Nathan Cummings Foundation.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the consequences following this soul-shattering earthquake in our consciousness, affirm the continuing need for our work, and more importantly our partnerships with our grantees. All of us at NCF feel deeply committed to respond to the challenges facing us, and look forward to deepening these relationships in the years to come.

James K. Cummings  
*Chair*

# President's Report

This was a year of tremendous change—and of accomplishment—for the Nathan Cummings Foundation. During this transition year, we were faced with the horrendous events of 9/11 that unfolded before our very eyes, as well as with a series of challenges to the Foundation to build upon its past legacy of excellence to meet new challenges.

We responded to 9/11 and its aftermath with a September 11th Response Fund that addressed three areas of crucial need in the weeks following the catastrophe. They were (1) to protect national security and civil liberties; (2) to promote tolerance; and (3) to strengthen relief efforts for those otherwise unable to receive support. Our grants under this program are included in this report.



The Foundation underwent a smooth transition to new leadership as Charles R. Halpern, the founding President, left the Foundation after eleven years. **Building on the legacy the Trustees, Associates, Family, Charlie and staff had established, significant changes were made to meet the new challenges we faced.** We had to move from our old space at 1926 Broadway, across from Lincoln Center, because our building was being torn down. We built-out and moved into beautiful new offices at 475 Tenth Avenue, which not only make it a pleasure to work, but allow us to assist non-profits when they need space for their activities. **We overhauled our grant-making, financial, computer, and administrative systems, as well as making adjustments in our investment policies.**

More importantly, we reformulated our program guidelines, focusing them on social and economic justice to make them more strategic, and to break down any “programmatic silos.” This allows us to take a more multi-disciplinary and unified approach to fulfilling the Foundation’s mission. **In 2001, we began the programmatic transition to our new guidelines which became effective in 2002.** Grants made in 2001 that reflect these new guidelines are highlighted in the grants lists of this report.

We could not have met the challenges we did, nor dealt with the frantic—some would say frenzied—pace of changes during this year of transition, without the support of the Trustees, Associates and staff. They made it all possible, while also shouldering their regular workloads. I want to thank them for their support and help in sometimes very difficult conditions.

All of these changes mean nothing unless they lead to a better implementation of our mission. That test will start in 2002 as we consolidate, adjust, refine and institutionalize the changes made this past year; and as we develop our new program approaches in ways that increase our effectiveness and impact.

Lance E. Lindblom  
*President and CEO*

# Staff List

**Lance E. Linblom**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Sara Rothstein**

*Program Associate, Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice and Special Assistant to the President*

**Kate Amendola**

*Executive Assistant to the President*

**Caroline L. Williams**

*Chief Financial and Investment Officer*

**Raham Mohamad**

*Senior Accountant*

**Amanda Fairchild**

*Accounting Assistant*

**Laura Shaffer**

*Financial Analyst / Administrative Assistant*

**M. Annette Ensley**

*Director of Administration and Human Resources*

**Paulette Brotherson**

*Human Relations and Administrative Assistant*

**Kyrce Swenson**

*Grants Administration Assistant*

**Daytowne Gooding**

*Office Assistant*

**Claudine K. Brown**

*Program Director, Arts and Culture*

**Karen Garrett**

*Program Assistant, Arts and Culture*

**Peter Teague**

*Program Director, Environment*

**Stacy Han**

*Program Assistant, Environment*

**Andrea V. Kydd**

*Program Director, Health*

**H. Elizabeth Woods**

*Senior Program Assistant, Health*

**Rachel Cowan**

*Program Director, Jewish Life and Values, Contemplative Practice*

**Jane M. Steinberg**

*Program Assistant, Jewish Life and Values, Contemplative Practice*

During the past year, the following staff left the Foundation. We would like to thank them for their contributions to our work.

**Jane McAlevey:** Program Director, Environment

**Ann Gael:** Grants Administrator

**Joanne Kehoe:** Manager, Information Systems

**David Neil:** Program Assistant, Jewish Life and Values, Contemplative Practice Program

**LaToya Sims:** Receptionist

## A Word About Our Staff

Our diverse staff brings to its work a strong commitment to strengthening social and economic justice. With their broad range of experiences and their wisdom and knowledge about the fields in which they work, their insight enriches our grant programs and the Foundation as a whole. Last year was one of tremendous transition for the Foundation with a new President and CEO, a new office, the development of program guidelines and of great sorrow after September 11. We are deeply grateful to the staff who rose to the challenges they faced and greatly contributed to the work of the Foundation in 2001.

# Board of Trustees and Associates

Our Trustees and Associates bring experience, expertise, and vision to the Foundation. They are philanthropists and activists in the arts, health services, religious and spiritual organizations, environmental advocacy groups, schools and universities, poverty programs, and citizen action groups. The majority are descendants of Nathan Cummings. Other family members, who serve on the Foundation committees as Associates of the Foundation, or who participate in the community grants program, also contribute actively to the work of the Foundation.

## Board Members:

**TRUSTEES:** (1) Adam N. Cummings, (2) James K. Cummings, *Chair*, (3) Sonia Simon Cummings, (4) Stephen P. Durchslag, (5) Reynold Levy, (6) Lance E. Lindblom, *President and CEO*, (7) Bevis Longstreth, (8) Beatrice Cummings Mayer, (9) Robert N. Mayer, *Treasurer*, (10) Albert Siu, *Secretary*, (11) Ruth Cummings Sorensen, *Vice Chair*, (12) Debra Weese-Mayer (13) Ken Brecher served as Trustee from 1996 – 2001, (14) Ruth Durschlag served as Associate from 1997 – 2000 and Trustee from 2000 – 2001.

**ASSOCIATES:** (15) Rebecca Bentjen, (16) Richard A. Cummings, (17) Roberta Friedman Cummings, (18) Clea Driscoll. Not pictured: Marc Cummings, Michelle Cummings, Danielle Durschlag, Rachel Durschlag, Jaimie Mayer, Jennifer Mayer served as Associate in 2000 – 2001.

**OUTSIDE INVESTMENT ADVISORS:** Not pictured: Andrew Golden and Marshall Front.

