

Samuel S. Fels Fund

68th year 1935-2003

A Report for the year ended December 31, 2003



Samuel S. Fels Fund 2003

The Samuel S. Fels Fund initiates and assists any activities or projects of a scientific, educational or charitable nature which tend to improve human daily life and to bring to the average person greater health, happiness, and a fuller understanding of the meaning and purposes of life.



The Samuel S. Fels Fund was incorporated as a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation on December 17, 1935. The Charter was accepted and the foundation's work begun at the organizational meeting on January 27, 1936.

The Fund's founder was Samuel S. Fels, a Philadelphia philanthropist and civic leader who was president of Fels & Company, manufacturer of Fels Naptha, a vastly popular household soap. Sam Fels was born in Yanceyville, North Carolina in 1860 and died in Philadelphia on June 23, 1950.

The general purpose of the Fund, as stated in 1935 in the Charter, is "to initiate and to assist any activities or projects of a scientific, educational or charitable nature which tend to improve human daily life and to bring to the average person greater health, happiness, and a fuller understanding of the meaning and purposes of life."

To this end the Fund makes grants in the categories of Arts, Education, Community Programs, and Health, all in the city of Philadelphia. The ideal proposal to Fels is one that addresses positive social change. We also mean to be useful to organizations at points of particular need such as expansion, experimentation, or reorganization or in times of particular need for advocacy. The Fund is unable to make grants to individuals and accepts proposals only from organizations that are designated tax-exempt (501-c-3) by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Fund does not make grants for conferences, scholarships, fellowships or travel. Ordinarily, the Fund also avoids making grants for major programs of large institutions, capital and equipment, endowment, and the routine or direct services of social service agencies. Individual day care and after school care programs and computer centers cannot be accommodated, although agencies that serve these fields may apply.

The Fund also runs an annual program, the Fels Internships in Community Service. Recent grantees are invited to submit descriptions of projects that could be done by graduate students over the course of ten weeks in the summer. Organizations whose projects are selected receive \$6,000 to pay the graduate students, whom they select. The program is a way to draw talent to the nonprofit sector and to carry out serious work on the community's behalf.

Applications are accepted at any time (with the exception of Arts projects which are due by 5 p.m. on January 15th or May 15th). Agencies are asked to refrain from reapplying for a year after a proposal has been declined or until a final report has been accepted if a grant was awarded. Guidelines for applicants, with proposal requirements and cover sheet, are available on our web site at www.samfels.org or by calling (215) 731-9455.

Report for the year 2003

From the President and Executive Director

The literature that describes our grant making discusses the Fels Fund's willingness to support organizations when they are at Critical Junctures. The year 2003 found lots of organizations at critical points in their histories; it also found the Fels Fund at one.

In 2003 we made major administrative changes. We changed auditors after an extensive search, a proposition that was not easy as we had engaged the same firm, McGladrey Pullen (formerly Rudolph Palitz) for almost twenty years to everyone's satisfaction. Prompted by a need to shake ourselves up and have fresh eyes on our systems we chose a new firm, Asher and Company. With warm thanks we bid goodbye to Frank Barkan of McGladrey and we began the relationship with new auditors. Asher and Company's Statement of Activities is listed herein.

In 2003 we also switched investment firms. After almost two decades with PNC Bank we decided it was time to refresh that aspect of our operations as well. We interviewed and re-interviewed excellent firms with widely different styles of money management. Eventually, we chose the Vanguard Group for their combination of strong record, low cost, and good service. At the end of one year of investing with Vanguard - and we take the long view of evaluating investment managers - we are very pleased with our results, the endowment having recuperated over \$6 million at the close of the year.

Another 2003 addition to the team that oversees the Fels Fund is Anthony Santomero. Dr. Santomero joined us in May, as a Member-Director and by year's end had already become a wise and amusing voice on the Board. When Dr. Santomero isn't helping us at Fels he is leading the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia as President.

We had 127 more proposals to review in 2003 than in 2002 - quite an increase given the size of the staff: two - so we added a part-time helper, Tim Murray. Mr. Murray's presence on our team has been invaluable as he is able to pitch in on every front.

Of the 407 proposals we received in 2003, 199 resulted in grants, many of which were to support organizations' critical junctures. Is there any juncture more critical than the beginning? We helped three organizations start-up. The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians is the much-longed-for organization that will provide service to the immigrants we need to grow Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's population. Juntos (which means Together) also received a start-up grant.

It is serving the new Spanish-speaking community in South Philadelphia with social services, and English language and citizenship classes. WomenVotePA is a new get-out-the-vote organization dedicated to rectifying the sorry state of female voter registration in Pennsylvania. These three organizations and their able leaders hold great promise.

Many of the Critical Junctures grants went to organizations that had to add staff in order to get new or an increasing volume of work done. Among those receiving grants for staff support are Children's Village Child Care Center which increased the number of children served by 30% to 248; United Communities CDC which made the construction manager a full-time position to increase the number of houses acquired, renovated, and sold to families in South Philadelphia; Good Shepherd Neighborhood House Mediation Program, which at 20 years old, needed to hire fundraising staff to support the growing demand for mediation in communities, schools and courts. The Mother Bethel Foundation is

building the new Richard and Sarah Allen Center, an educational arm to the Richard Allen Museum. They needed support for staff to launch their \$20 million campaign. And Mt. Airy USA received funds towards the salaries of the director of real estate and financial manager because they are fostering a development boom. Philadelphia HUNE (Hispanic's United for Exceptional Children) doubled its staff - from one to two - to support Spanish speaking public school children with learning disabilities. And VUNA, the Vietnamese United National Association received a grant to enable the executive director to work full-time in service of needy clientele.

Critical Junctures take many forms. For Asian Americans United their refusal to accept government funds that would have limited the people they could serve caused a budgetary crisis that a Fels grant helped ameliorate. At the Norris Square Neighborhood Project a project that supports women called Grupo Motivos needed space of its own nearby and Fels helped with the renovations. Computer upgrades were a must for the New World Association of Emigrants for Eastern Europe's ability to train people for jobs. And Youth Service needed funds to pilot a program in the Emergency Teen Shelter to keep homeless and run away kids on track in school.



Certainly there are more grants made in 2004 for Critical Junctures; these are a few examples. There are also many that supported general operations in the Arts, Community, and Education and 25 grants were for hiring graduate students as

interns for the Summer 2003. In all we made 199 grants and turned down 208, many of which were requests we would have funded proudly had there been more money available. In 2003 as in previous years we did our best with the resources

we had. We are proud of the year gone by and we look forward to the next in the service of our community.

Ida Chen
President

Helen Cunningham
Executive Director

2003 Grants

	Number of Grants	*Payments in 2003
Arts	62	\$208,000
Community Programs	87	1,280,414
Education	19	480,975
Health	3	165,000
Internships in Community Service	25	150,000
Memberships	3	14,530
Total all Grants	199	\$2,298,919

*This reflects only payments awarded in 2003; the full value of multi-year commitments is not listed.

Arts

1812 Productions
General support \$ 3,000

Academy of Vocal Arts
General support 2,000

Amaryllis Theatre Company
General support 2,000

American Ballet Competition
Dance Celebration 5,000

American Composers Forum
Community Partners Project 3,500

American Music Theater Festival
20th anniversary season 5,000

The American Poetry Review
General support 3,000

Arden Theater Company
General support 5,000

Art Sanctuary
General support 7,500

Astral Artistic Services
Classroom Classics at
public schools 2,000

Azuka Theatre Collective
General support 2,000

Bach Festival of Philadelphia
Bach Gospel Jubilee 1,000

Blue Sky
General support 3,000

Brat Productions
New production of "Grease" 3,000

Bushfire Theatre of Performing Arts
General support 2,000

Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia
General support 5,000

Creative Artists Network
General support 5,000

**Eastern State Penitentiary
Historic Site**
Two permanent exhibits 9,000

Philadelphia Fringe Festival
Organizational expansion 7,500

Gay & Lesbian Theatre Festival
General support 1,500

**Images of the Motherland-Interactive
Theatre**
General support 1,000

Inliquid
General support 2,000

Interact Theatre Company
General support 3,000

Jeanne Ruddy & Dancers
Performances at the
Wilma Theatre 2,000

Koresh Dance Company
General support 3,000

Lantern Theatre Company
General support 3,000

Leah Stein Dance Company
Administrative support 2,000

Melanie Stewart Dance Company
Support for "NEW" 2,000

Mendelssohn Club
General Support 2,000

Montazh Performing Arts Company
General support 2,000

Moonstone
El Festival Cubano 3,000

Moxie Dance Collective
General support 2,000

Mum Puppettheatre
Strengthen fundraising capacity 2,000

Opera Company of Philadelphia
Production of "Susannah" 5,000

Opera North
Production of "Vanqui" 2,500

Orchestra 2001
"Journeys and Spirituals" concert 3,000

Painted Bride Art Center
Reorganization 7,500

Pennsylvania Ballet Association
General support 5,000

**Theatre Alliance of
Greater Philadelphia**
General support 5,000

Philadelphia Chamber Music Society
General support 7,500

Philadelphia Dance Company
General support 5,000

Philadelphia Dance Projects
General support 2,000

Philadelphia Film Society
General support 7,500

Philadelphia Print Collaborative
General support 3,000

**The Philadelphia Renaissance
Wind Band**
General support 2,000

The Philadelphia Singers
General support 2,000

Philadelphia Theatre Company
General support 5,000

**Philadelphia Volunteer
Lawyers for the Arts**
General support 5,000

Philomel Concerts
General support 2,000

The Pig Iron Theatre Company
General support 3,000

The Print Center
General support 3,000

Relâche
General Support 2,000

Rennie Harris Puremovement
Staffing 2,000

The Rosenbach Museum and Library
215 Festival 3,000

SCRAP Performance Group
General support 2,000

Settlement Music School of Philadelphia
Contemporary Music Series 2,000

Singing City
General support 3,000

The Vagabond Acting Troupe
General support 2,000

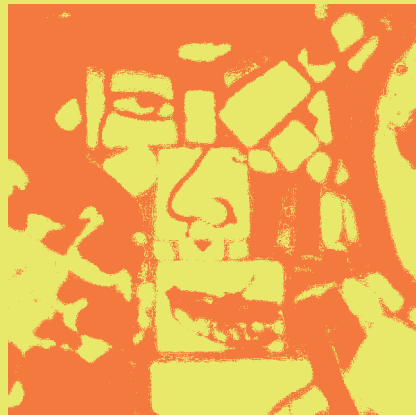
Vox Populi
General support 2,000

Walnut Street Theatre Corporation
Public school program 3,000

The Wood Turning Center
“Cabinets of Curiosity” exhibit 3,000

Young Audiences of Eastern PA
General support 3,000

Total 62 grants \$208,000



Community

Aid For Friends
Purchase of a back-up generator 6,000

ACORN
Predatory Lending Outreach and Education Initiative 7,500

Asian Americans United
General support 20,000

Asian Arts Initiative
General support 6,000

Awbury Arboretum Association
Salary support 15,000

The Big Picture Alliance
Equipment 10,000

Brandywine Graphic Workshop
Organizational assessment 10,000

Bread & Roses Community Fund
Planning 7,500

Cambodian American Senior Association
General support 10,000

The Career Wardrobe
General support 10,000

Ceiba
General support 20,000

Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights
Development efforts 10,000

Center for Responsible Funding
Strategic planning 5,000

Children’s Village
Staff expansion 20,000

Church of the Advocate
Restoration study 20,000

City Parks Association
Plan a design competition for Philadelphia’s vacant land 10,000

Community Accountants
General support 7,500

Community Design Collaborative of AIA Philadelphia
Implementation of strategic plan 15,000

Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project
General support 10,000

Cosacosa Art at Large
General support 2,000

Delaware Valley Council for Early Care and Learning
School Readiness
Transition Project 20,000

Fair Hill Burial Ground Corporation
Phase II restoration project 10,000

The Franklin Institute
Fels Planetarium renovations 166,000

Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery
General support 5,000

Friends of the Japanese House and Garden
Design study 5,000

Girl Scouts of Southeastern PA
New membership initiative 10,000

Good Shepherd Corporation
Capacity building 25,000

Greater Philadelphia Overseas Chinese Association
Intergenerational arts project 7,500

HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia
General support 15,000

HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition 11,000

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Design and fabrication of “Latinos in Philadelphia” 4,000

Homeless Advocacy Project
Shelter System
Advocacy Project 20,000

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
Policy initiatives 20,000

IHM Center for Literacy and G.E.D
Capacity building 10,000

Institute for Safe Families
Working with Men to End Family Violence Project 15,000

Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia
Cherry tree planting project 5,000

Jewish Community Centers
Gershman Y exhibits on the Holocaust 5,000

Juntos
General support 15,000

LaSalle University Nonprofit Center
Subsidies 17,500

The Lil Men of Philadelphia
General support 5,000

Manayunk Community Center for the Arts
Expansion 3,500

Metropolitan Collegiate Center of Germantown
Improve internal operations 25,000

Mitchell Robinson Center for the Arts
General support 5,000

Mother Bethel Foundation
Development efforts 25,000

Mt Airy, USA
Staffing 20,000

New Kensington Community Development Corporation
Kensington High School project 9,280

New World Association of Emigrants from Eastern Europe
Computer upgrades 15,000

Norris Square Neighborhood Project
New headquarters
for Grupo Motivos 15,000

Northwest Interfaith Movement
Expand programs
for isolated elderly 12,000

NPower Pennsylvania
General support 15,000

Open Borders Project
General support 18,000

Partners for Sacred Places
Develop a capital investment fund 15,000

Pennsylvania Prison Society
Support the Working Group to Enhance Services to Women 15,000

People’s Emergency Center
E-government project 18,000

Philadelphia Cares
Outcomes Project 12,500

Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth
General support 25,000

Philadelphia Health Management Corporation
Study on breaking the cycle of homelessness 7,634

Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility
Training for Peaceful Posse 10,000

Philadelphia Training Program
General support 2,000

Philadelphia VIP
Capacity building 25,000

Philadelphia Youth Network
Summer Career
Exploration Program 30,000

Point Breeze Performing Arts Center
General support 5,000

The Preschool Project
Technology Improvement
Project 15,000

Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
Create a business plan for the Boyd Theatre 7,500

Prevention Point Philadelphia
Expand services of legal clinic 10,000

Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial
Community Partnerships in the Arts 5,000

Scribe Video
General support 15,000

Sedgwick Cultural Center
Staffing 7,500

Smith Memorial Playgrounds
New Director’s Grant 20,000

Southwest Community Enrichment Center
Art Center activities 10,000

Supportive Older Women's Network Expand telegroup service to caregivers	15,000
Tabernacle United Church General support	10,000
Taller Puertorriqueño General support	25,000
United Communities Community Development Corporation Staffing	20,000
Unemployment Information Center Advocacy	15,000
United Way of Southeastern PA Salary of the public policy director	20,000
University City District Feasibility study	10,000
University City Science Center Community outreach	7,500
University of the Arts - College of Art and Design Signature Urban Objects Project	5,000
Urban Tree Connection Pearl Street Farm project	7,500
Vietnamese United National Association of Greater Philadelphia Salary support	15,000

The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians Start-up	25,000
West Philadelphia Child Care Network Relocation expenses	10,000
Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers Staffing	5,000
Women's Community Revitalization Project Constituent leadership development	15,000
Women Vote PA Start-up	20,000
Youth Service Teen shelter pilot	25,000
Total 87 Grants	\$1,280,414



Internships in Community Service

Advocate Community Development Corporation
For site study of the Susquehanna Avenue commercial corridor

Amaryllis Theatre Company
For a technical director for an ASL
Much Ado About Nothing

Art Sanctuary
To plan a visual arts component

Azuka Theatre Company
For a dramaturg on Freidl Dicker-Braudeis,
an Austrian artist who perished in the
Holocaust

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters Southeastern
Pennsylvania**
To develop recruitment strategies
for volunteers

**Center for Public Policy,
Temple University**
To study teacher site selection
and school improvement

**Central Philadelphia
Development Corporation**
To assess conditions on the Parkway
preparatory to a new plan

**Eastern State Penitentiary
Historic Site**
To survey, analyze and construct
Cell Block 4 Exercise Yard

The Enterprise Center
To help make micro loans, do loan
management and research on
best practices

Fairmount Park Art Association
To transform 300 block of May Street
in West Philadelphia to a garden,
play area, and work of art

Girls Inc.
To evaluate programs for girls ages
18 to 24 for replication

Greater Philadelphia Food Bank
To analyze service gaps in
feeding programs

HIAS and Council Migration Services
To address issues related to immigration
for Latino immigrant community

Library Company of Philadelphia
To create descriptions of 300 digital images
of 16th to 19th century illustrations of
African-American life

The Lighthouse
To prepare materials for the
100th anniversary exhibition

National Nursing Centers Consortium
To research Managed Care Organizations'
rules on reimbursing nurse practitioners

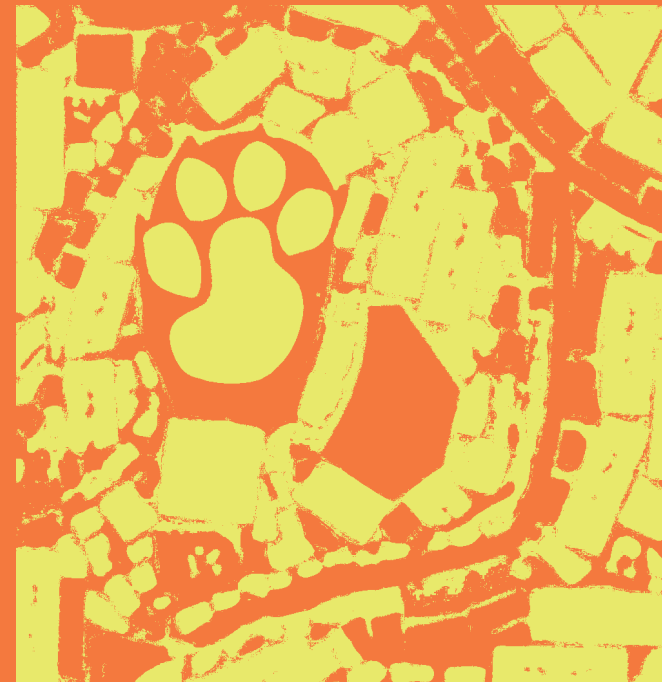
Memberships

Council on Foundations 4,530

Delaware Valley Grantmakers 5,000

Free Library of Philadelphia 5,000

Total 3 Grants \$14,530



Open Borders Project

To teach a course called Surfing and Web page Design

Philadelphia Fringe Festival

To develop materials for the Fringe guide and the Festival Web site

The Preservation Alliance

To create a Philadelphia Endangered Historic Properties list and a list of preservation allies

Public Interest Law Center

To prepare a federal lawsuit concerning due process for people with disabilities

Scribe Video Center

To produce a documentary oral history of "Precious Places," one day in the life of Philadelphia

Singing City

To develop a program of public concerts and to launch a competition

Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight

To document billboards along railroad corridors

Walnut Street Theatre

To catalogue historical archives and memorabilia from 1809

Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers

To do field survey of invasive exotic plants using Global Positioning and Geographic Information Systems

Total 25 Grants \$6,000 each . . . \$150,000

Education

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

Educational materials to accompany Lewis and Clark Bicentennial exhibit. \$ 5,000

Children's Literacy Initiative

Expansion 25,000

Community College of Philadelphia

Philadelphia Neighborhoods Project 3,000

Congreso de Latino Unidos

Latin/AfroCaribbean curriculum at Freedom Schools 15,300

Earth Force

General support 10,000

Education Law Center-PA

Advocacy for English language learners 15,000

Fels Center of Government at University of PA

MGA student scholarships 2002 150,000

Fels Center of Government at University of PA

MGA student scholarships 2003 150,000

Jewish Family and Children Service

Anne Frank Theatre Project 5,850

Moore College of Art & Design

Neighborhood Art Partnerships 11,600

Museums & Universities Supporting Educational Enrichment

Poster campaign in the Philadelphia public schools 10,375

NetworkArts Philadelphia

Science and Arts programs in Philadelphia public schools 7,500

Pennsylvania Young Playwrights Program

Programs in Philadelphia public schools. 15,000

Philadelphia HUNE

Bilingual parent advocate staff. 10,000

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Research for the educational resource center 5,000

Teach for America

Start-up a Philadelphia program. 25,000

White-Williams Scholars

Hire a consultant for strategic planning 5,000

Woodmere Gallery

Seed funds for the Art Squad. 2,350

Youth United for Change

Small Schools Initiative. 10,000

Total 19 Grants \$480,975

Health

The Lighthouse

Health programming. \$ 25,000

Southeastern PA Chapter of American Red Cross

Salary support for the mental health coordinator 15,000

Temple University, Fels Research Institute for Cancer and Molecular Biology

Support of new faculty 125,000

Total 3 Grants \$165,000



Statement of Activities

DECEMBER 31,	2003	2002
REVENUE		
Investment income	\$ 1,306,718	\$ 1,617,351
Realized losses on investments	(3,500,077)	(3,491,094)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<u>11,227,981</u>	<u>(4,857,568)</u>
Total revenue	9,034,622	(6,731,311)
EXPENSES		
Grant appropriations	1,760,185	1,619,976
Investment advisory fee	5,396	68,139
Management and general expenses	<u>426,937</u>	<u>423,018</u>
Total expenses	2,192,518	2,111,133
Change in unrestricted net assets before Federal excise tax (benefit)	6,842,104	(8,842,444)
Federal excise tax (benefit) on net investment income	<u>262,102</u>	<u>(47,659)</u>
Change in unrestricted net assets	6,580,002	(8,794,785)
Net assets, beginning of year	38,359,848	47,154,633
Net assets, end of year	\$44,939,850	\$38,359,848

Member-Directors

Ida K. Chen

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Sandra Featherman

Vice President

David H. Wice

Treasurer

Helen Cunningham

Secretary

Iso Briselli

Christine James-Brown

Daniel Burke

David Melnicoff

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Anthony Santomero

Staff

Helen Cunningham

Executive Director

Nell Williams

Office Administrator

Virginia Cairo

Accountant

Fox, Rothschild, O'Brien & Frankel

Counsel

Asher & Company, LTD

Auditors

Design: Assemblage, Inc./Photos: B. Kist and M. Hintz for CPTMC

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