

SENIOR LIVING FOUNDATION of the American Foreign Service

A Time of Service, A Time of Need

Volume 23, Number 1

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Message from the Chairman

The Senior Living Foundation (SLF) of the American Foreign Service makes a difference and changes lives.

The start of a new decade is a good time to reflect on how the Foundation continues to make a positive impact in our Foreign Service community. Thanks to your financial gifts and unwavering commitment, SLF has evolved from what were humble beginnings in 1988 to the stability and capacity the Foundation has today.



In 2019, SLF received over \$380,000 in individual donations, corporate gifts, and bequests. All of us at the Foundation, as well as the grantees we assist, deeply appreciate your generosity. You make it possible for SLF to fulfill its mission of "taking care of our own."

SLF supports retired Foreign Service personnel and their spouses — including widows and divorcees — who find themselves in strained circumstances. The numerous requests we receive vary from a one-time emergency grant to replace a furnace to covering a retiree's monthly heating bill. Your contributions address both types of distressed situations as well as defray the costs of senior housing, long-term care, basic living expenses, etc.

In today's international environment, Foreign Service families can face unique challenges — beyond the relatives that accompany them to their overseas posts. To assist with these cases, SLF added the Parent Program to help active-duty employees manage the needs of their aging parents. On page 4 of this newsletter, we describe in more detail how the Parent Program has made a positive contribution to SLF's mission.

The Foundation is preparing for the 9th Planning for Change (PFC) seminar to be held in Washington, DC on September 24, 2020. Every two years, SLF sponsors this educational event to offer resources for the next stage of life. Past topics included senior nutrition, case management, estate planning, and more. The workshops are designed to help you plan how to protect your mental, physical, and financial health. We look forward to welcoming you to this excellent event.

SLF remains active, effective, and ready to serve. We are motivated by the fact that the work of changing lives never stops. Your financial support of the Foundation's services makes this work possible. Allow me to personally thank you for your ongoing support as we "take care of our own."

Sincerely,

Marc Grossman

Overview

he Senior Living Foundation (SLF) consistently makes a difference in the Foreign Service Community. Our work demonstrates dedication and service — much like the careers of our respected grantees. Whether SLF identifies local resources or provides financial grants, we strive to improve the outcomes of an individual's life. SLF uses simple methods to address major needs — SLF listens, SLF responds, and SLF acts. Those basic concepts help us effectively "take care of our own."

SLF LISTENS ▶ We started SLF primarily because of the stories of despair shared by our colleagues. Retirees who contributed to the Foreign Service in so many ways faced never-imagined challenges. Wives of Foreign Service Officers who spent their lives overseas supporting their husbands, now needed help caring for them in a different way. Widows found themselves in uncertain situations as they managed life's changes without their life partner. Marriages ended for various reasons, and the remaining spouses needed support to rebuild their lives. In present day, SLF still listens as potential grantees share their troubling stories. That initial phone call and our capacity to listen shape the person's entire SLF experience.

SLF RESPONDS ▶ "Taking care of our own" means responding to the call. Many can offer a sympathetic ear; however, SLF takes steps to make a positive difference. The Foundation was created as a response to challenges in the Foreign Service Community. Today, our Social Work Consultants assess each client's unique needs and develops a plan to meet those needs.

Our most important mission is taking care of the Foreign Service family. We believe that focusing on the broader Foreign Service family is consistent with that mission. In response to the needs of active duty Foreign Service personnel, SLF established the Parent Program—an extension of SLF's traditional services. Through this program, the Foundation supports Foreign Service personnel who may be managing their parent's urgent or chronic medical situation from afar.

SLF ACTS ▶ SLF addresses the concerns of every person who calls upon us for help. SLF acts in a variety of ways. SLF's Resource Center provides information and seeks out local resources. Clients who meet the qualifications for financial support receive funding to ensure their dignity, stability, and safety. Our partnerships with several State Department offices — Employee Consultation Services, the Retirement Office, HRSC in Charleston — help reach colleagues who need our assistance. The entire Foreign Service family benefits from the educational resources offered on SLF's Facebook Page (facebook.com/seniorlivingfoundation), our website (slfoundation.org), and through our biennial Planning for Change Seminars (details on page 16).

In 2019, the Foundation continued its commitment to those in need. Your generosity helped SLF pay for medically necessary dental work, senior living facilities, transportation, prescription drugs, and more. All this was made possible because of your financial support.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to "taking care of our own."

See how your contributions make a difference, through select stories on the following page.

SLF MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Senior Living Foundation of the American Foreign Service is to provide support to retired Foreign Service personnel and their spouses (including surviving or divorced spouses) and, on the basis of need, to defray the cost of home health care services, senior housing, long term care insurance, or other senior services that contribute to the health and security of the retired Foreign Service family.

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Grant Giving & Resource Center

A FSA's Retiree Counselor referred an 85-year-old widow of a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) to SLF. She was concerned about her decreasing savings and not being able to afford her Assisted Living Facility.

SLF established a recurring monthly grant to help pay the costs for her Assisted Living Facility.

A retired FSO served as the primary caregiver for her disabled husband, who had suffered a major stroke. The wife asked SLF to help her identify available resources.

▶ The Foundation hired a care manager to assess the couple's situation. The trained professional recommended local resources to assist the wife with her husband's care.

A n 87-year-old retired FS employee needed help paying her bills. She was single and lived alone.

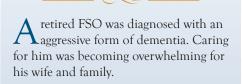
SLF hired a care manager to assess her expenses. The retiree now receives a recurring monthly grant to help pay her utility bills. A 55-year-old newly retired FS employee requested financial assistance to pay for temporary homecare. She wanted to continue her Foreign Service work. However, she had to retire to focus on being treated for cancer.

▶ SLF provided a three-month grant to assist while the retiree completed her cancer treatments.

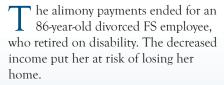
A 90-year-old widow of an FSO realized she required homecare to continue living in her home. However, she needed financial assistance to pay for those services.

SLF paid a care manager to identify appropriate caregivers. Then, the widow began receiving a monthly recurring grant to help pay for those services.

SLF hired a care manager to identify an appropriate facility for the husband. The professional suggested financial/ legal resources and referred the family to a dementia support group.







With SLF's financial assistance, she moved to a moderately priced retirement community, where she receives three meals per day, additional care services, and regular social events with other residents. She now feels comfortable, safe, and appreciative.



A recent widow of an FSO was living without electricity and her car had been repossessed. The widow's survivor annuity was not expected to arrive for another three months.

▶ SLF hired a care manager to assess the situation immediately. The care manager took the widow shopping for groceries and restored her telephone service. SLF is paying for ongoing care management.



Foreign Affairs Day

The State Department celebrated Foreign Affairs Day on Friday, May 3, 2019. This annual homecoming recognizes retired employees of foreign affairs agencies for their sacrifice and service. An average of 400 retirees attend every year to participate in the lively discussions and informative sessions.

As in the past, the Foundation hosted an information table at Foreign Affairs Day. SLF also joined AFSA and DACOR in cosponsoring this worthwhile annual event. Lastly, SLF Executive Director, Paula Jakub, was invited to give remarks during the opening session. She told a story of the emotional and financial struggles of a typical SLF grantee, underlining the motivation for the Foundation's charitable work.

Foreign Affairs Day allows the participants to ask questions and gather materials about the Foundation. We let the attendees know that any Foreign Service retiree who

> may, be unable to manage life's challenges can seek our help.











Expansion of Our Mission

hen a parent faces a lifechanging situation, it can add stress to a Foreign Service employee who may be serving far from home. Through the Parent Program, the Foundation seeks to support Foreign Service personnel who may be managing a parent's urgent or chronic medical situation from afar.

Our Social Worker Consultants have access to Aging Life Care Professionals across the U.S. The Foundation can arrange for an in-person visit by one of these professionals to assess a parent's needs, develop a care plan, and provide information on helpful resources.

Since launching the program, over 100 active duty colleagues, from three dozen worldwide posts, have contacted SLF for advice and support for their parents. While limited financial assistance is available on the basis of need, we found that the bigger impact to the families we have touched — in the short time of the program's existence — is the development of a care plan and the comfort in knowing that mom or dad is in a safe environment.

Your generosity touches all SLF programs, including the Parent Program. SLF's main focus is, and always will be, our retirees. As the needs of our Foreign Service change, SLF stands ready to assist our entire community by "taking care of our own."

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1988, SLF has taken care of the Foreign Service family. Here are a few facts about SLF's successful history.

- SLF's Resource Center has provided advice/guidance to over 1600 individuals
- More than 250 people have received SLF's financial grants
- Since giving its 1st grant in 1995, SLF has distributed over \$4 million in grants
- SLF has covered home health care, prescription costs, durable medical equipment, care management, and more – for over 30 years

To learn more about SLF's rich history and present day successes, visit slfoundation.org.

SLF at State's JSP Program Receptions

his past year, the Senior Living Foundation (SLF) participated in the State Department's Job Search/ Transition Program (JSP). Offered by State's Career Transition Center (CTC), this program supports retiring employees as they transition into their next phase of life. A closing reception happens at the Foreign Service Institute, at the end of the month-long JSP sessions — held three to four times per year. At each reception, SLF hosted an information table and shared the Foundation's mission with the graduating JSP participants. The attendees learned that SLF relies on the Foreign Service community for support as well as to identify those in need of assistance. SLF joined DACOR and AFSA in presenting their services. It was a great opportunity to distribute SLF materials and answer Foundation questions.





SLF Donors

The Senior Living Foundation (SLF) appreciates the gifts we have received from Corporate Donors. In 2019, SLF's Leadership – Ambassador Marc Grossman, SLF's Board Chairman, and Paula Jakub, SLF's Executive Director – personally accepted contributions from DACOR and Express Scripts Inc. We thank our industry partners for supporting the mission of the Foundation. Your contributions help continue the proud tradition of "taking care of our own."



Paula Jakub with Tim Wentworth, President, Express Scripts and Cigna Services



SLF Chairman, Ambassador Grossman with DACOR President Paul Denig

Expression of Thanks

The Senior Living Foundation would like to express our thanks to the following individuals who made gifts to the Foundation in 2019:

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Abington, Edward
Abramowitz, Morton
Abramowitz, Sheppie

Adair, Ginger

Adair, Marshall

Adams, Linda

Adams, Michael

Alexander, Susan

Allan, Stuart

Allegrone, Charles

Allegrone, Kathleen

Allison, Lynn

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Alter, Pat

Anders, Robert G.

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Anderson, Mark E.

Anderson, Michael

Anderson, Nancy C.

Andres, Janet S.

Andrew, Nicole

Angevine, Joan

Archabal, Tedd

,

Archibald, John

Armbruster, Susan

Armitage, Richard L.

Arndt, Richard

Asencio, Diego

Asquino, Mark

Atherton, Joan

Austin-Ferguson, Kathleen

66

I appreciate all the help SLF has given me.

99

В

Baer, Lawrence

Ballow, Barry

Bandy, Thomas

Bankwalla, Navaz

Baque, William R.

Barbis, Patricia

Barbour, Robert

Barmon, Kathleen

Barry, Catherine

Baskey, Nick

Baumann, Andrea

Baumann, Walter

Bazala, Sylvia

Becker, John

Becker, Priscilla

Beckman, Robert

Beecham, Susanne

Beecroft, Mette

Beecroft, Robert

Belsito, Barbara

Benedict, Lawrence N.

Bennett, David C.

Bennett, John

Bennett, Margaret R.

Benson, James

Benson, Robert

Berger, Rosella R.

Bergold, Karlene

Bernicat, Marcia

Bernstein, Amy

Berry, Ann

Bethune, L

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Bleske, August

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Bloom, Roger

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Bodde Jr., William

Boerner, Dorothy

Bogart, Genko

Bogosian, Richard W.

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Bolton, Deborah A.

Boorstein, Michael

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Bowker, Donald L.

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Boyatt, Thomas D.

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Cohoes, Robert R.

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Cook, Frederick R.

Coon, Jane Abell

Coony, Thomas M.

Corbett, Joan Ellen

Corlew, Marlene

Curry, Dennis

D

Daks, Lawrence

Daley, Matthew

66

I don't know where I would be living without the Foundation's assistance.

Coronway, Gwen

Correl, Frank

Corry, Ethel

Corum, Claudia

Coulter, Clara

Coulter, Elizabeth

Coulter, Frank

Council, Logan

Crane, Louise

Creagan, Gwyn

Creagan, James F.

Cromwell, Margaret

Cross, Kumiko K.

Crump, Donna

Crump, Frank

Cuadrado, Joseph

Cunningham, Carl

Curran, James

Delawie, Greg

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Danga, Karl

Daris, Anne-Marie

Daris, Charles

Davies, Glyn

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Dawkins, Stephen

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De Santilana, Gerald

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De Vos, Nancy

Deal, Timothy E.

Dean, Dale

Deason, Robert

DeBusk, Loretta

Deckelman, Elizabeth

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Denig, Paul

Dennis, Eeda

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Dial, Imogene

Dickey, Angela

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Dillon, Robert

Dionne, Rachelle

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Duffy, Patrick

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Flynn, Alice
Flynn, Christopher
Folan, Patrick
Follestad, Robert

Friedbauer, Allan Fritzler, Barbara

Gadsden, James I.

G

Gadsden, Sally F. Gallagher, Martha Gammon, Samuel Gardner, Gail Garland, Elaine Garland, Patrick Garland, William A. Garrison, Mark Garufi, Carmela Garz, Yolanda Gaynor, Barbara A. Geisel, Harold Geisel, Susan Gelbard, Robert Gelber, Sarah Giacobbi, Nat J. Gibney, Jonathan Gibney, Selene Gibson, William F. Gilbert, Frederick Gilbert, Janet Gilroy, Mary Ellen Glass, Robert L. Gleysteen, Marguerite Gnehm, Edward Godson, Ruth

Goff, Edward Goin, Evelyn W. Gojnycz, Konstantin Gomez, Anne Gomez, Robin Gonzalez, Raymond Gordon, Charles Gosende, Robert Gowen, George Graham, Nancy Gralnek, Wendy Graner, Ralph H. Grant, William Gray, Ingrid Graze, Deborah Greene, Ernest Greenfield, Lafayette Grice, Lisa Griffith, John Grimste, Robert Grossman, Marc Grout, Deborah Zamora Gunning, Shirley Gurvin, George Gutensohn, Lynn Gutierrez, Lino Gwynn, John B. Н Haas, Dean J.

Hahn, Zach Haines, Mary A. Hall, John E. Hall, Patricia L. Halligan, Delina Hallman, Eileen Hallock, Myriam Halmo, James L. Hamby, Thomas Hamilton, John R. Hancock, Michael Hanley, Laurie A. Hanrehan, Patricia Hansen, Charmaine Hanson, Brad Hara, Hugh Hardy, Alan Hare, Paul Haresnape, Robert Harman, Sally Harris, Christine Harrison, Beverly Harrop, Ann Harrop, William C. Hart, Shirely M. Hartford, Caitlin Hartley, Douglas G. Hartman, Jan Hartman, John Harty, Maura Harvey, Barbara Hausrath, Don

Thank you to the Foundation for the generous grant.

Engel, Alma
Engel, David
Epstein, Sharon
Eubank, Margaret
Ewing, Raymond

F

Falzone, Brigitte
Falzone, Ralph
Farerell, Thomas
Feeney, Paula
Fendrick, Reed

Fon, Robert L.
Forbes, James
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Hicks, Camilla M. Higgins, Peter T. Hill, H Kenneth Hill, William Hines, Richard Hitchcock, David Hitchcock, Lee Hodai, Kathleen Hodai, Patrick Hoffer, Patrick F. Hoffmann, Myron Hoffmann, Patricia Hogan, Alice Hogan, James Hogan, Reinhild K. Hoganson, Barbara Hoganson, Jerome Hogeman, George H. Holland, Harry J. Holmes, Allen Holmes, Brooke Holmes, James Holt, James

I appreciate everything SLF has done.

Hooper, James Hopper, Robert Hornblow, Caroline Hornblow, Michael Houdek, Robert Hovenier, Jeffrey M. Howell, Frances Howland, Richard Hrapsky, Alan Hughes, Arthur Hughes, David Hughes, Patricia Hughs, Mary Grace Hulings, Harriett Hulings, Joseph Humphrey, Sandra N. Hunter, S Hurley, Pamela Hurley, Paul

Irons, Alden
Isaacs, Arnold
Isaacs, Jeannette
Itoh, William

Hurtado, L Victor

Hussey, Robert E.

J

Jackson, Kenneth V.
Jacobs, Janice L.
Jaeger, George

We received generous gifts from the following businesses, foundations, and organizations in 2019:

AmazonSmile

American Diplomacy Publishers

Ayco Charitable Trust

DACOR, An Organization of Foreign Affairs Professionals

Express Scripts Inc.

Foreign Affairs Retirees Association of Maryland

Foreign Service Retiree Associaton of Florida

Foreign Service Retirees Association of Southern California

Nelson B. Delavan Foundation

United Way

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Jennings, Monika
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Johnson, Anne
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Jakub, Michael

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Krebs, Sheldon

Krhounek, Kimberly C. Krizek, Eugene Krol, Andre Krys, Sheldon Kuchel, Roland Kunsman, Eric Kunsman, June Kursch, Donald Kurzbauer, Ruth Kuser, Suzanne

L

La Porta, Alphonse La Porta, Ann Lake, Joseph Lambrakis, George Landis, Vivian Lane, Elizabeth Lane, Helen Lane, Robert L. Lange, John Lange, Leonard Lanpher, Edward G. Larner, James Latvanas, Barbara Lauderdale, Elizabeth Lauderdale, Maria Laul, Sonia Lawrence, Marilyn Lawrence, William U. Lawson, Lisa Le Baron, Richard Le Zotte, M Diane Leader, Joyce Lefes, Sue Lefes, William Lehovich, Magda Lepuschitz, Judith Lesser, Larry

Long, Richard G. Longton, Kyle Lorton, Ronald Louis, Jean A. Love, R Lowenthal, Alice Lowery, Bolling Lucius, Mary W. Lukens, Susan

SLF has been a valuable source of information and support.

Levinson, Michael Lewinsohn, Joann Lewis, John Lill, Lilli Lillig, Renata Linder, Perry Lisle, Martha Lissfelt, Mark Lloyd, Wingate Logsdon, Elaine Logsdon, Kent Logsdon, Michelle Loken, Kristin

Lomanno, Frank J.

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Maciejewski, Theresa Mackenzie, Donald Mackie, Nancy Macuk, Ute M. Madden, James Maerkle, Frederic Maiorino, Deborah

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Odor, Sandra S. O'Herron, Thomas Ojamaa, Elo Kai Oliver, Beverly A. Olmon, Eric Ostrander, Nancy Owen, Adelaida Owens, Jane Owens, Michael P Paciorka, Joseph Paganelli, Robert P. Palazzolo, Giovanni Palazzolo, Mary Dell Palmeri, Bob Palmeri, Virginie Papendick, Dennis Papendick, Josefina Parker, Alan Parker, Andrew

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Polansky, Kathryn B.
Postupack,
Catherine I.
Posz, Gary
Potash, Janet

Thank you for your ongoing assistance.

Potter, Sara Powell, Nancy Powers, Robert Powers, Robert Poynter, Roz Fishman Pratt, Genevieve Precht, Henry Presel, Claire-Lise Presel, Joseph Price, Caroline Price, Russell Proctor, Robert W. Prosser, James Pugh, Thelma Purnell, Jon R.

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