CFGSWC Board Retreat Follow-up
Summary of Responses
September 2007

Personal Values Board Members Bring to Their Work:
(What board members tell their loved ones about why they volunteer for the community foundation)

- Engagement in the community – the foundation is responsive to changing community conditions, it's about the "whole community"
- The "whole" community and a larger vision
- Philanthropy redefined…no longer simply about "giving" or "check writing" but about a broader understanding - not just about the money but the value of all resources
- Opportunity to give back – Ruth talked about taking a lot from the community and wanting to give something back (in the interview she mentioned that the money her family made was earned in this community, so maybe some of it should stay in this community). Others offered: duty, responsibility, gratitude, and respect for the community. Ability to give back to the community through the work the community foundation does. "I care about the community." "I am trying to figure out how to make life better in this community in the future."
- Collective spirit – collaboration. "We can do together what one of us can't"
- Exciting – engaging, creative
- Access to knowledge – like to know what's going on
- Belief that individuals (and institutions) can make a difference
- Promoting a positive community image
- Pride
- Social Justice
- Sense of connectedness, community
- Intentional – deliberate outreach, responsive, rproactive
- Philanthropy as a tool to accomplish broader goals
- Courage
- Hope
- Resiliency
- Progressiveness
- Facilitative, partnering, mobilizing resources of all types
- Empowerment – what shape will that take?
- Permanency of commitment

What are the core values of the community foundation?

- Showing respect for each other – civility (explicitly means not showing disrespect for the choices of other individuals or institutions – being nonobstructionist is a form of respect). Civility – reciprocal hearing & listening
- Courage – prudent risk taking; action based on moral imperative; passion

- Inclusiveness (as opposed to exclusiveness)
- Integrity/trust (and being held in trust)/accountability – transparency (full disclosure)
- Honesty – espoused purpose is congruent with action
- "Serving" others, helping our fellow man, love of people – we need to empower the community rather than take care of them. "Our role is to make the community stronger, not simply hand out checks."
- Creativity, innovation, experimentation, imagination
- Diversity
- Social justice
- Excellence

What would be lost if the community foundation were no longer operational? What makes this organization different from competitors?

- There would be no convening/facilitative organization – loose the means to coordinate and leverage other resources
- The community would lack inquisitiveness – no other organization seeks out what is needed in the community
- Philanthropy would "take a hit" – there is no other way for those of modest means to give effectively to the community as a whole – the community foundation "enables philanthropy," it "democratizes" philanthropy
- Education and capacity building would decrease – through technical assistance, speakers, and leadership training, the community foundation serves as an important educational resource for community-based organizations and their leadership
- Social capital would decline – the community foundation promotes "community"
- Hope – the community foundation reminds us that good things can happen

Who is not at the table? What voices are missing from the "deep dialogue?"

- Those who are experiencing economic hardships
- Labor
- Underrepresented groups (Hmong, Hispanic, Native American)
- Youth
- Seniors
- Potential donors – those in the community who have means but have yet to engage

What gets in the way? What are the barriers?

- Neysayers – we need to continue even though there are those who disagree
- Lack of information/understanding of community foundation history or purpose
- Not having all the "right" people in the room
- Funders working at cross-purposes
- Past culture (overcoming the win-lose mentality)
- Fear of repercussions/disenfranchised groups