

# STRENGTHENING PHILANTHROPY, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



We believe that stronger philanthropy will result in stronger communities. This premise is grounded in the achievements of our sector in the recent past. The goals set forth in our 2006–2009 strategic plan build on those achievements and reflect a renewed commitment to exemplary service for our members while broadening our vision to expand DVG's role as a resource and voice for philanthropy.

The challenges facing our region will not be solved by philanthropic efforts alone. Central to our strategic plan is a commitment to building bridges among sectors, rallying our collective resources and knowledge toward effective solutions through a common understanding of issues, effective practices and focus on results. We look forward to engaging with our nonprofit partners and members of the private and public sector in the pursuit of regional progress.

In 2008, mid-way through this plan, DVG will celebrate 20 years of service to the regional philanthropic community. We are proud of the work of DVG and its members that has enabled us to thrive and grow. We welcome these new opportunities for DVG to act as a catalyst for positive change with others in our region who share this vision.

DVG is uniquely positioned to help those in our region who are committed to helping others through philanthropy and we invite others to join with us in our mission to build stronger communities. We will continue to report on our progress toward achieving our goals in the months and years to come.

# VISION

## Our VISION

Delaware Valley Grantmakers will deliver high-quality member services while increasing its role as a regional philanthropic leader. In the longer term, DVG, as a civic leader, will serve as a catalyst for community change through engagement of the philanthropic sector.

# MISSION

## Our MISSION

Delaware Valley Grantmakers builds stronger communities by increasing the impact and effectiveness of philanthropy.

# VALUES

## Our VALUES

- We believe that more effective philanthropy results in stronger communities.
- We value our members and serve them by strengthening their knowledge and their practice of effective philanthropy.
- Our effectiveness is directly linked to the positive impact our members and their nonprofit partners have on the issues facing our communities.
- We seek partners in this work and engage diverse voices to build understanding about the issues and opportunities in the region.
- We value learning within our organization and conduct ongoing assessments of the relevance, efficiency and impact of DVG efforts.
- We value our Board and staff for their expertise and commitment to the field, and support them with opportunities for professional growth and development.

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**In addition, our business practices model the same standards of accountability and transparency that we encourage our members to strive for.**

- We are committed to the public good and strive to maintain the public trust.
- We value diversity within our organization, in our membership and with our collaborative partners.
- We are in compliance with the law and act with personal and professional integrity.
- We are responsible stewards of our resources, maintaining structures and processes for effective governance.

## Our STRATEGIC GOALS

**GOAL 1** Provide exemplary service to our members, developing relevant and thought-provoking programs and services that engage and educate members to increase their knowledge and impact.

DVG's primary commitment is to our members, therefore our highest priority is to remain relevant and engaging to our membership, ensuring that each member finds value for its dues. Member retention is critical to DVG's financial viability and to its status as the philanthropic leader in the region.

**GOAL 2** Increase the number, range and diversity of DVG members and the proportion of total giving in the region that they represent.

In order to enhance our role as a philanthropic leader, DVG must represent the range and diversity of philanthropy in the region. DVG's impact on the region through our members and the validity of DVG to represent the 'voice of philanthropy' is tied to its ability to increase the number and diversity of members.

**GOAL 3** Give philanthropy a voice, identity and the ability to collaborate with and influence all sectors of the region that are committed to strengthening our communities.

A strong philanthropic sector is an essential part of the health of our communities. As one partner among many, philanthropy needs to understand its role, the breadth of its reach, areas where there are gaps, and issues that require a concerted effort by many. In turn, the broader community needs to understand what philanthropy is already doing, what it cannot do and where there is potential for collaboration.

**GOAL 4** Strengthen DVG's financial position, capacity and business practices as a foundation for measured, sustainable growth.

DVG has consistently operated from a strong fiscal position, functioning efficiently with a lean administrative structure and dedicated staff. This must be maintained moving forward to assure sufficient resources to implement the strategic priorities.

## IN APPRECIATION

The planning process is often as valuable as its outcome, and we wish to thank the numerous people who devoted their time and energy to the process of creating this plan, especially the DVG Strategic Planning Committee and Board of Directors. Although too numerous to list, our thanks also go to the many people who participated in interviews, discussion groups, surveys, and town hall meetings. Your help has made it possible to gather a broader understanding of the community we serve and make this plan an effective roadmap for DVG's future.

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