

# MEMBER VOICES

## Sarah Martinez-Helfman Executive Director Eagles Youth Partnership

### *In her own words...*

**I knew our grantmaking was making a difference when. . .**  
*we started getting calls from parents, teachers and school nurses describing the life-changing impact that our programs were having for their (our) kids.*

**The person who has most influenced how I approach grantmaking . . .**  
*is Chuck Feeney (Atlantic Philanthropies) because during three years of working for him in Europe, he taught me the following, by example, and I continue to live and work by these principals:*

- *Be curious. Ask questions. Listen deeply.*
- *Engage your heart.*
- *Find people with vision and help them to build their capacity.*
- *Find alignment rather than imposing your will on others.*
- *After due diligence, be decisive and act.*
- *Be strategic and make corrections midstream.*
- *Take risks and learn from mistakes.*
- *Money is a tool, not an answer. The power is in giving it away. The joy is in seeing its impact.*
- *Respect grantees and the people they serve.*
- *Invest in the best of human nature.*
- *Strive for sustainable impact.*
- *Enter uncharted territory.*
- *Believe the impossible is possible.*

**My one wish for philanthropy in our region . . .**  
*is that we be less silo'd and team together with each other, other sectors and disciplines to scale our impact.*

June 2010

### Vital Statistics



**Grantmaker Type:** Public Foundation

**Year Founded:** 1995

**Total Charitable Assets:** \$5,058,157

**Annual Grants:** \$244,000 (\$1,401,000 in direct service programs such as the Eagles Eye Mobile, Eagles Book Mobile, Annual Eagles Playground Build, Eagles Chess Tournament and Eagles Top Achiever Awards)

**Primary Location:** Greater Philadelphia

#### **Mission/Principal Funding Areas:**

- **Mission:** to enhance opportunities and improve the quality of life for children and youth in the Greater Philadelphia region through education and health partnerships.
- **Principal Funding Areas:** vision care, literacy, after-school programs and safe play spaces.

**Name/position of other Key Leaders:**  
Christina Lurie - President; Jeffrey Lurie - Chairman; and 12 additional Board members representative nonprofit, health and corporate sectors.

**Member of DVG since:** 1996

**Personal Involvement with DVG:**  
Currently serve on the Membership and Member Services Committee. DVG keeps me connected, informed and on my toes (thank you for that!)

#### **More information:**

[www.philadelphiaeagles.com/partnership/](http://www.philadelphiaeagles.com/partnership/)