

# The Power of Collaboration

## IN HIGH-IMPACT PHILANTHROPY

By Kandice K. Bridges

The roots of collaboration and partnership run deep at the Center for High-Impact Philanthropy (CHIP) at the University of Pennsylvania. In fact, CHIP is itself the product of a collaboration between Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice and Wharton School alumni. Katherina Rosqueta, founding executive director, is keenly aware of how powerful collaborative efforts are, especially with respect to its own mission: to provide the information and education that allow funders to maximize the social impact of their philanthropic activities.

"Our ability to create impact relies on the strength of our partnerships," she says. By tapping a broad network that includes nonprofits working in the trenches, academic researchers, foundations, policy makers, donors and the intended beneficiaries themselves, the center's team develops guidance that is informed by the best available evidence and actionable for philanthropists now.

In 2015, CHIP released two such guides: *Invest in a Strong Start for Children: A Toolkit for Donors on Early Childhood* identifies proven, effective strategies for improving outcomes for vulnerable children. *Lifting the Burden of Addiction: Philanthropic Opportunities to Address Substance Abuse Disorders in the United States* is for philanthropists who want to make a difference for communities and families struggling with the consequences of opioid and heroin addiction.

Another partnership, with Ubuntu Education Fund, resulted in the creation of the podcast series *Philanthropy Unfiltered*. "There is both an art and a science to practicing high-impact philanthropy," notes Rosqueta. Leading philanthropists and social entrepreneurs are fearless in their candor. Abigail Disney addresses the use of film to create social change; Rob Kaplan of Draper Richards Kaplan takes on venture capital philanthropy funds; and Dan Palotta expands on his popular TED talk to debate nonprofit financing models.

High-impact philanthropy is possible for donors at all levels. To that end, CHIP is working with Fidelity Charitable, which Rosqueta describes as a leader and pioneer of donor-advised funds (DAFs) programs. A donor-advised fund is a dedicated charitable account that allows donors to make a single tax-deductible donation, and then recommend how that donation is distributed to their preferred

### How Small Dollar Amounts Can Make an Enormous Impact

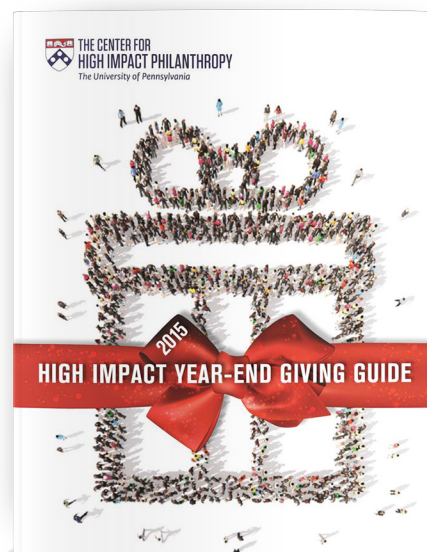
"High-impact philanthropy is not concerned with how much money you have to give. Small amounts can literally save a life," says Rosqueta. Resources for high-impact philanthropy in specific areas are available on CHIP's website. Read the 2015 *High Impact Year-End Giving* guide to see how you can:

- \$ Feed a family of four in the United States for a week, for as little as \$8
- \$ Prevent at-risk children from losing academic gains over the summer for as little as \$25
- \$ Save a newborn's life in a developing country for \$150

charities. "Fidelity Charitable was created to improve the ease and convenience of giving, while CHIP's goal is to make that giving more impactful." Both organizations are committed to helping donors give more strategically, and Fidelity Charitable is extending CHIP's guidance to its donors as a way to help them be more effective and impactful in their giving.

Back at Penn, CHIP developed a new course to teach students from all schools how to analyze opportunities for social impact, develop effective strategies and lead efforts that create positive social change. The story behind its creation is telling. "We were pleasantly surprised," says Rosqueta. "It was developed in response to requests from students across disciplines, including medicine, business, law and social work." That's high impact.

Widespread, systemic social issues are inherently complicated. Finding a solution will demand interdisciplinary knowledge and strategic cooperation from a wide range of players. Rosqueta says, "One of our favorite expressions is, 'If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.'"




**THE CENTER FOR  
HIGH IMPACT PHILANTHROPY**  
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