

## **About Conrad N. Hilton Foundation/The Hilton Legacy: Serving Humanity Worldwide**

The idea for *Conrad N. Hilton Foundation/The Hilton Legacy: Serving Humanity Worldwide* was suggested by Barron Hilton, the eldest surviving son of hotelier Conrad N. Hilton. The book's mission was to describe the formation, growth, and future of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, one of the largest and most global of today's great family foundations.

Barron presented the idea to his son Steven, President and CEO of the Foundation, who enthusiastically supported the concept and added direction and perception that shaped the book's content. Intended primarily for family, friends, and colleagues in philanthropy and business, the book would be based on deep research into the Hilton archives, interviews with long-time Foundation directors, staff, and grantees and, most importantly, a personal focus on the ultimate beneficiaries of the Foundation's grantmaking.

The early concept met with the Board's approval and Steve designated his special projects assistant, Marge Brownstein, to head the effort. Marge engaged Joseph Foote, a writer with a background in family philanthropy, estate law, and national and international subjects. Steve set out the ground rules: keep the writing concise and readable; use language that is informative but not academic; and make the book visually appealing.

Adding to her already extensive knowledge of the Foundation gained over more than 20 years of service, Marge launched an exhaustive research program and identified persons who could fill gaps in the widening information base. She managed development of the manuscript, rounded up hundreds of images, and oversaw the design and production, holding all team members to the highest standards of quality. Foundation Board members Gregory R. Dillon and James R. Galbraith provided valuable insights as the text took shape.

The book brings Barron's idea to life. It takes the reader to a small village in Ghana, where a Hilton-funded crew has just drilled a water well. It introduces children in Brazil, Bulgaria, and Sri Lanka, children who, though deaf and blind, are learning skills to help them live a more productive and promising life. Along

the way, the reader meets a homeless man in Los Angeles, a Catholic Sister in Haiti, and charitable organizations that have been awarded the prestigious Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. Hospitality industry students at the University of Houston provide testament to the Foundation's giving back to the industry to which it owes its existence.

The timing of this project proved to be propitious, for during the writing, Hilton Hotels Corporation and associated properties were sold, and Barron Hilton announced his intention to give the bulk of his proceeds from the sale, as well as of his estate, to the Foundation. The magnitude of his gifts clearly establishes him alongside his father as a co-donor of the Foundation and enables the Foundation to take a quantum leap forward in its grantmaking. Simultaneously, Barron agreed to become Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, and a new chapter was added to the book to recognize his contributions to the Foundation and his leadership role as Chairman in coming years.

*Conrad N. Hilton Foundation/The Hilton Legacy* tells a very American story — of a boy born on Christmas Day in New Mexico when it was still a Territory, a boy devoted to the Catholic Sisters who taught him catechism, a boy who became a patriot, a statesman, and one of the great global entrepreneurs of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Foundation that he established in 1944 is today known and respected worldwide for innovative grantmaking and major, long-term support of life-changing initiatives, with special concern for programs affecting Catholic Sisters and children. Yet the Foundation remains essentially a family enterprise, with the Founder's son as Chairman, the Founder's grandson as President and CEO, and a majority of the Board consisting of family members.

The Hilton family, Foundation Board members, and staff are committed to following the Founder's intent as expressed in his Last Will, which directs that the Foundation strive in perpetuity to alleviate the suffering of humankind. The invigorating contributions from Barron Hilton and the family's ongoing oversight ensure that the Foundation will carry on the Hilton humanitarian legacy for generations to come.

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