

BACKGROUND

Established in 1944 by hotel entrepreneur Conrad N. Hilton, the foundation remained relatively small until his death in 1979 when he bequeathed virtually his entire estate to the foundation. In accordance with Hilton's Last Will and Testament, the foundation seeks to alleviate the suffering of the world's most disadvantaged, with a special emphasis on children and support for the work of the Catholic Sisters.

The foundation identifies critical societal needs, and then proactively initiates major, long-term projects with selected partner organizations for implementation. Offices are located in Los Angeles, California, and Reno, Nevada, U.S.A.

**ESTIMATED
CURRENT
WORTH**

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Hilton Fund and related charitable entities have total assets in excess of \$4 billion. Since inception, the foundation and fund have awarded approximately \$800 million in grants. Currently more than 50% supports international charitable projects.

**STRATEGIC
PROGRAMS**

At the foundation's last five-yearly retreat, in 2008, it was decided to focus on *five strategic initiatives*:

Safe Water Development—The foundation currently supports safe water programs in rural communities in West Africa, Ethiopia, India and Mexico. The WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) paradigm has been recognized by the foundation as the most effective way to improve health, and peripheral programs, such as micro-irrigation schemes, can provide livelihoods that contribute to community sustainability. In total, the foundation's cumulative investment in water projects over 17 years is \$65 million.

Homelessness—The foundation has promoted the concept of supportive housing as one of the most effective ways to end homelessness, particularly for the mentally ill. In the last few years, it has chosen to focus its efforts on Los Angeles County, the site of the largest homeless population in the United States. Since 1991, the foundation's total commitment to homelessness has been \$34 million.

Children—Addressing the health, education and standard of living challenges facing children in the United States and selected countries is the foundation's third strategic priority. Historically, the foundation has focused on early childhood development issues in the United States, particularly with respect to the handicapped. In this area, the foundation provided a total of \$19 million to Early Head Start and Migrant Head Start programs nationwide.

Substance Abuse—Since 1982, the foundation has distributed \$53 million to the RAND Corporation and the BEST Foundation for a Drug Free Tomorrow to develop and disseminate Project ALERT, a middle-school-based curriculum now in use in all 50 U.S. states.

Catholic Sisters—The Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters was established in 1986 as an independent organization run by Sisters. It has awarded more than 7,000 grants and distributed more than \$70 million to Sisters' projects worldwide. The Hilton Foundation supports a Sisters Leadership Development Initiative, currently focused on Africa, to help the growing number of Sisters in the developing world more effectively administer projects that address human suffering.

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**MAJOR
PROJECT
AREAS**

In addition to the five strategic initiatives, the foundation will continue to provide support to a number of *major project areas*:

Blindness Prevention—The foundation provides critical funding toward the global effort to control and prevent trachoma, the leading cause of preventable blindness in the world, by supporting the widely-endorsed SAFE strategy – Surgery for people at risk for blindness; Antibiotic treatment; Facial cleanliness; and Environmental improvements. Over the past decade, a total of \$40 million has been committed to trachoma. In addition, the foundation has supported the Perkins School for the Blind with more than \$60 million in grants since 1989 to help blind children throughout the world who also have other disabilities.

Hotel & Restaurant Management Education—Since 1969, the foundation has provided \$55 million for hospitality management education. Of that amount, \$46 million has been provided to the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston.

Multiple Sclerosis—The foundation has awarded nearly \$13 million over five decades to help researchers and practitioners find the cause of multiple sclerosis. It has also focused on developing effective treatments and medications and improving the care of patients who suffer from its often debilitating effects.

Disaster Relief & Recovery—In addition to the \$3 million distributed to humanitarian relief agencies following major international and domestic disasters since 1991, the foundation has awarded \$11 million to assist with the relief and recovery needs of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Foundation policy emphasizes long-term recovery needs, which are often under-funded, yet critical to the revitalization of communities impacted by disaster.

Catholic Schools—Recognizing the value Conrad Hilton himself placed on Catholic education, the foundation is assessing the needs and common challenges facing Catholic educators to develop a new strategic direction for urban Catholic schools.

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