

Foundation case studies

A series of summary case studies of other Foundations is shown below.

As can be seen, a number of 'for profit' and 'not for profit' organisations have created a Foundation in order to support their corporate objectives and the Foundation has given positive benefits.

Australian registry foundation

The auDA Foundation is a charitable trust that was established by auDA to promote and encourage education and research activities that will enhance the utility of the Internet for the benefit of the Australian community. It is a grant scheme that will provide financial support for projects that satisfy the objectives of the auDA Foundation Charter.

auDA has established auDA Foundation Ltd as a 100% subsidiary to act as trustee company for the auDA Foundation Trust. The initial directors of auDA Foundation Ltd are a combination of representatives of auDA and independent third parties. As a subsidiary of auDA, the activities of auDA Foundation Ltd are ultimately subject to approval by the auDA board.

auDA Foundation grants will typically be between Aus\$5,000 to Aus\$20,000 and be awarded to a range of eligible education or community-based projects (for example, any new technologies that reduced or eliminated spam or enabled Internet voting).

Applicants need to present a business plan, prove there is a demonstrated need for their innovation and prove that the project is financially viable. Financial support will not be awarded unless grant applicants can demonstrate that their ideas would not get off the ground without the grant. Eligible projects must be not-for-profit and must not be for a political, religious or sectarian purpose. Not-for-profit subsidiaries of Australian businesses will also be eligible.

The Foundation recently announced the award of Aus\$275,000 in grants to 16 not-for-profit Internet projects from across Australia. The grants will help fund a broad range of Internet projects including initiatives to increase secondary school retention rates amongst indigenous students and to prevent the suicide of young men living in rural areas, the alleviation of a number of health problems, improvements in the efficiency of local government, programs for those with vision and hearing problems and initiatives that seek to redress social disadvantage.

Austrian registry foundation

The Internet Foundation Austria (IPA) was established as a non-profit organisation by the Association of Internet Service Providers in Austria (ISPA).

The foundation's purpose is to promote the internet in Austria and, particularly, to act as a trustee in order to take over the .at domain administration for the benefit of the general public. The technical and administrative tasks of domain administration have been assigned to their company "nic.at Internet Verwaltungs- und Betriebs-GmbH".

The IPA sees itself as an organisation dedicated to applying the proven principles of internet organisation (that is private self administration) to the administration of the Top Level Domain .at in a transparent and effective manner.

The Switch Foundation

"SWITCH - Swiss Academic and Research Network" was established as a foundation by the Swiss Confederation and eight university cantons (Basle City, Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Neuchâtel, St. Gall, Vaud and Zurich).

The foundation was established "to create, promote and offer the necessary basis for the effective use of modern methods of telecomputing in teaching and research in Switzerland, to be involved in and to support such methods".

It is a non-profit foundation that does not pursue commercial aims.

The board of trustees includes representatives from the Swiss Confederation, the university cantons, federal technical colleges, cantonal universities, colleges of higher education and similar organisations.

The Nationwide Foundation

Legal status

The Nationwide Foundation was established in 1997. It is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance, policy and work of the Foundation. The total number of Trustees is ten, no more than six of whom may be appointed by the Nationwide Building Society (a maximum of three of whom can be directors, officers or employees of the Society). The remaining four trustees are appointed by the board.

The Foundation has close links with the Society, the relationship between the parties being governed by the provisions of a Framework Agreement.

Objectives

The purpose of the Foundation is to promote such charitable purposes as the trustees determine from time to time in keeping with its mission of the creation of a just and caring society by encouraging people to participate in building better futures for their communities.

Funding

The Foundation receives funds of approximately £2 million per annum from the Society (whose latest profit before tax amounted to £652 million) together with free use of specialist staff services, accommodation and IT support. It has received approximately £26 million from the Society since it was set up.

The Foundation had retained funds of £4.3m at 31st March, 2006.

Grants

The current grant making strategy is called Supporting Families and is designed to help people in need and address the causes of social exclusion by encompassing the following 3 aims:

- promoting the well-being of young people whose lives have been affected by domestic violence ;
- improving the quality of life of families with an immediate relative in prison ;
- providing rehabilitation schemes for young people who have been subject to the criminal justice system.

It incorporates two grant making initiatives :

- The Small Grant Programme

The Small Grant Programme offer one-off grants of up to £5,000 to registered charities with an annual income under £500,000. For the year ended 31st March, 2007 a total of 182 small grants representing £800,000 were to charities across the UK.

- The Investor Programme

The Investor Programme offers long term support and core funding to a selected number (6) of charities over 3 years whilst encouraging partnership working among them. Each aim of the programme has a budget of £1.25 million. Some of the charities also receive support from individual trustees of the Foundation to enhance the funding relationship and share knowledge and skills.

Both programmes are independently evaluated and monitored by external consultants to determine any long term benefits that arise.

The Wellcome Trust

Legal status

The Wellcome Trust is a charitable trust created in 1936 by the will of the late Sir Henry Wellcome. The sole trustee of the Wellcome Trust is the Wellcome Trust Ltd, a company limited by guarantee and run by a board of governors responsible for setting strategy, establishing funding policies and allocating budgets.

Objectives

The Trust provides long term support for scientific research, principally in the UK, that leads to advancement in the understanding of human and animal health and disease by means of:

- a) advancing knowledge and understanding of health and disease ;
- b) using knowledge to benefit health ;
- c) engaging society to foster an informed climate within which biomedical research can thrive ;
- d) developing people who can contribute to the advancement and use of knowledge ; and
- e) improving conditions for research.

Funding

The initial funding of the Trust was derived by the vesting of the entire share capital of (the pharmaceutical company) The Wellcome Foundation. These shares were subsequently sold to GlaxoSmithKline. The Wellcome Trust is an independent organisation with no connection to any corporate entity.

The Trust had retained funds of £12.7 billion at 30th September, 2006 invested across a variety of asset types to produce an average annual return of 6 % above inflation over the long term. Annual expenditure is set at a target of 4 % of the value of the investment portfolio (using a 3 year weighted average).

Grants

The Trust awarded grants amounting to approximately £450 million during the year to 30th September, 2006 which included those to

- The European Bioinformatics Institute (£4.1 million) for the Ensembl project providing free access to genome sequence data and software tools for the analysis of genome data;
- The Cambridge Institute for Medical Research (£4.0 million) to support research into the molecular mechanisms of disease;
- The Structural Genomics Consortium (£16.0 million) in relation to the analysis of structures of human protein families relevant to health and disease;
- The Medical Research Council (£19.4 million) for help in recording the genetic and environmental factors that cause a wide range of debilitating diseases to facilitate prevention and cure;
- The Royal Society (£0.5 million) for assistance with the purchase of the minutes of the Royal Society written by Robert Hooke between 1661 and 1682 documenting advancements in scientific understanding;
- Principal Research Fellowships at several UK universities to fund career support schemes providing long term assistance for basic and clinical researchers of international standing; and
- The Wellcome Trust Conference Centre providing major scientific conferences, meetings and courses and generating £1.7m in sales revenue.

The Innocent Foundation

Legal status

The Innocent Foundation was set up by Innocent Ltd in June 2004 as a company limited by guarantee and has charitable status.

It has a board of trustees comprised of the board of directors of Innocent Ltd but is run largely by a volunteer committee of ten employees assisted by a 'Guardian' who is employed part-time.

Objectives

The primary aim of the Foundation is to support charities and not for profit organisations working in the areas of nature and community development that meet certain qualifying criteria

- a. that work for the benefit of communities rather than individuals ;
- b. undertake projects that are sustainable in the long term ; and
- c. provide opportunities in education and training.

Funding

The Foundation received donations of approximately £400,000 during the year ended 31st December, 2005, £397,000 of which was provided by Innocent Ltd. The turnover and profit before tax of Innocent Ltd for the corresponding period was £37.7m and £3.7m respectively.

The Foundation had retained funds of £444,000 at 31st December, 2005.

Grants

The Foundation made grants totalling £28,850 during the year ended 31st December, 2005 supporting 6 causes:

- a. Send a Cow (£10,000)

Send a Cow provides cows and other livestock , training in livestock rearing and organic farming and low-cost veterinary and advice services. The aim is to help farmers increase productivity farm their land and improve family welfare and health as well as income.

- b. Amigos de Iracambi (£4,800)

Amigos de Iracambi is a Brazilian registered non-profit association promoting conservation of rainforest and preservation of endangered species of wildlife. The project works with local farmers to identify and buy degraded patches of forest.

- c. Find your feet (£7,600)

Find your feet is a UK based project assisting poor people in India and Africa with improvements in agricultural productivity and income, education in specific social issues and reduced reliance on moneylenders.

- d. Plan International UK (£3,400)

Plan International UK is an international humanitarian organisation promoting child health and welfare. The Innocent Foundation has facilitated education in food production while protecting the environment and increasing the availability of fresh produce.

- e. Groundwork West London (£1,250)

Groundwork West London promotes environmental regeneration projects in its local area. The Innocent Foundation has provided funding for projects promoting food growing in 4 schools in Hammersmith and Fulham.

f. KIDA (£1,800)

KIDA is a voluntary organisation working in Uganda developing small scale agricultural projects to help reinvigorate local communities, particularly those affected by AIDS.