

J. KIRBY SIMON FOREIGN SERVICE TRUST

AN INVITATION TO PROPOSE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING BY THE J. KIRBY SIMON FOREIGN SERVICE TRUST IN 2007

The J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust is a charitable fund established in the memory of J. Kirby Simon, a Foreign Service Officer who died in 1995 while serving in Taiwan. The Trust is committed to expanding the opportunities for community service and professional fulfillment of active Foreign Service Officers and Specialists and their families.

The principal activity of the Trust is to support projects that are initiated and carried out, on an entirely unofficial, voluntary basis, by Foreign Service personnel or members of their families, wherever located. The Trust will also consider projects of the same nature proposed by other U.S. Government employees or members of their families, regardless of nationality, who are located at American diplomatic posts abroad.

In 2006 the Trust made its tenth round of grant awards, 40 in all, ranging from \$600 to \$4500, for a total of \$87,287. These grants support the involvement of Foreign Service personnel in the projects briefly listed below (further described in a Trust announcement entitled Grants Awarded in 2006 and available at www.kirbysimontrust.org). The grants defray a wide range of project expenses, including books, food, medicines, furniture, computers, wheelchairs, kitchen and medical equipment, excursion costs and instructional costs.

- **Educational Projects:** Afghanistan - art supplies for street children; Bangladesh and Cambodia - schools for street children; Honduras - life skills instruction at orphanage; India - schooling at a squatters' camp; Jamaica - poverty area rural school; Mexico - life-skills training for orphans; South Africa - primary school library; Tajikistan - vocational education for disabled persons; Ukraine - English language school library; Venezuela - vocational education school and orphanage.

- **Other Projects for Children:** Costa Rica - community children's playground; El Salvador - psychological treatment for abused children; Ghana - orphanage dining facility; Lithuania - excursion for children's home; Mexico - equipment for children's shelter; Romania - computer training and dentistry for orphanage girls; Russia - excursion for children's home; South Africa - home for street children; The Gambia - home for disabled children; United States - two programs to assist Foreign Service family teens.

- **Health-related Projects:** Bahamas - wheelchairs for disabled volunteer advocates; Belgium - farm for disabled individuals; Botswana - food bank storage shed; Central African Republic - health clinic video equipment; China - school for migrant children; Colombia - clinic for poor children; Cote D'Ivoire - protein deficiency program; Cuba - medicines and library for cancer patients; Honduras - wheelchairs for children's hospital; Peru - ballet studio for disabled girls.

- **Other Facilities in Poverty Areas:** Bosnia-Herzegovina - resettlement of Muslim refugees; Kyrgyzstan - women's crisis shelter; Kyrgyzstan - rebuilding of orphanage; Mexico - shelter for single mothers.

- **Projects for Animal Care:** Bolivia - rescue and shelter organization; Egypt and India - medical equipment for animal shelters; Jordan - animal hospital.

The Trust now invites the submission of proposals for support in 2007. It is anticipated that most of the new grants will fall within the same funding range as the 2006 awards, and that projects assisted by the Trust will reflect a variety of interests and approaches, some of which are illustrated by the 2006 grants.

Grants provided by the Trust can be used to support several categories of project expenses; the third paragraph of this announcement provides examples. However, certain restrictions apply: (a) Funds from the Trust cannot be used to pay salaries or other compensation to U.S. Government employees or their family members. (b) The Trust does not support projects that have reasonable prospects of obtaining full funding from other sources. (c) The Trust will provide support for a project operated by a charitable or educational organization only where the individual applicant(s) play an active part in initiating and carrying out the project, apart from fundraising. (d) The Trust will support only projects in which each applicant's role is clearly separate from the applicant's official responsibilities.

A proposal should include a description of the project, what it is intended to achieve, and the role to be played by the applicant(s); a preliminary plan for disseminating the results of the project; a budget; other available funding, if any; and a brief biography of the applicant(s). Proposals should be no longer than five double-spaced pages (exclusive of budget and biographical material). Please follow the application format available at www.kirbysimontrust.org/format_for_proposals.html or by communicating with the Trust (see below).

Proposals for projects to be funded during calendar year 2007 must be received by the Trust no later than March 1, 2007.

Proposals and inquiries can be sent by mail, by fax or (preferably) by e-mail to:

J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust
93 Edgehill Road
New Haven, CT 06511
FAX: 203-432-0063
info@kirbysimontrust.org

Further information about the Trust can be found on the Web at www.kirbysimontrust.org.



PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Foreign Assistance "Reform:" The Short-Term Mentality Sets In

By J. ANTHONY HOLMES

The buzz is back. The idea that was so pervasive earlier this year, that the State Department under Secretary Rice intends to take over USAID, has flared up again despite adamant denials. This time, though, the perception is that a merger by stealth is already well advanced.



Reports of rock-bottom morale and rumors of a surge in voluntary retirements reflect a growing perception of huge shifts in power and control from overseas to Washington and from USAID to State. I've gotten the impression that all our foreign assistance professionals think is missing is an official announcement that long-term development has now been supplanted as the agency's overarching goal by short-term political considerations cloaked as "transformational diplomacy."

The initial announcement early this year that the new USAID Administrator would concurrently be the Deputy Secretary of State for Foreign Assistance generated major heartburn among USAID staff but little reaction at the State Department. Aggressive efforts to assuage those concerns focused on coming reforms in the allocation process and potential benefits from streamlining multiple pots of our aid funds. But now, eight months into the effort, people have seen enough detail about the process, and learned of major funding cuts and reallocations, that the decibel level of concern has skyrocketed. This applies within State as well, where long-

standing thematic and regional programs are reportedly being relegated to the margins of viability.

A number of affected people have expressed alarm that the new USAID Administrator/Deputy Secretary, former

pharmaceutical executive Randall Tobias, is trying to apply to the huge, complex foreign aid structure the formula that worked relatively well for him, albeit on a much smaller scale, as head of PEPFAR, the White House initiative to fight HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR's hallmarks include: the narrowest possible geographical and thematic focus to achieve immediate impact; maximum control by headquarters, with limited input on funding decisions from pros in the field; and a focus on ensuring measurable results even in the near term for use as PR and in budget battles.

But what works in the fight against HIV/AIDS, some veterans believe, is not an appropriate approach to the complex, interrelated issues and processes of economic and social development. They want flexibility in the field to be able to respond quickly to changes on the ground. They fear a zealous pursuit of demonstrable results — an inherently short-term focus — will be the tail that wags the dog, reordering priorities, damping creativity and risk-taking, and dictating a supply rather than demand-driven dynamic between the U.S. and its aid recipient partners. The need for "local ownership" has become an article of faith in development. While that may converge completely with Washington's political agenda when it comes to dis-

tributing anti-retroviral drugs to AIDS sufferers, it could be quite the opposite with our larger programs and broader goals.

Reducing our aid's geographical and thematic focus creates other problems, particularly on a strategic level in terms of how to use aid to pursue overall U.S. interests. USAID was forced to shrink to survive during the 1990s, when a concentrated, "invest-in-success" model was also a reasonable development strategy. However, this approach neglects many challenges in a post-9/11 world, where we must find a way to engage with precisely those countries to which we give short shrift. The same is true, many believe, for our regional programs and our initiatives on transnational threats like WMD proliferation and environmental degradation.

The growing disquiet in State and USAID is striking in that consciousness of these profound changes has been such a creeping phenomenon, slowly sinking in without frank discussion, debate, or intellectual buy-in by the major stakeholders involved. Most of the large and diverse U.S. development community doesn't have a clue. While some briefings on Capitol Hill have taken place, I understand, invitations were limited and the focus was on process not substance. After the mid-term elections, of course, there will soon be new individuals in key positions and a different approach to oversight. Perhaps this would be a good time to initiate an all-parties review of the new paradigm so that the necessary support here at home is achieved in advance. ■

J. Anthony Holmes is the president of the American Foreign Service Association.