

The Packard Foundation's 50th Anniversary: A Message from Board Chair Susan Orr

February 18, 2014 – As you know, this foundation was started by my parents, David and Lucile Packard. My siblings and I were each brought on the board at a relatively young age—when we turned 21 years old—so we had the good fortune of seeing how our parents' values shaped not only our lives, but the work of this foundation. When the foundation became incorporated in 1964, it was our mother who shaped its work. She cared about communities, she cared about listening to other people's ideas and supporting them, and she cared about finding the most effective ways to have impact. These are values we still embrace in our work. In later years, after our father was less involved in Hewlett-Packard, he brought his values to the Foundation's work—the value of thinking big, and trusting great individuals to do great things. Underlying all of this was the deep integrity that infused both of our parents' lives.



As the children of these wonderful parents, we were witness to these values in operation on a daily basis. They came through in how our father ran his company; they came through in our mother's daily interactions with the local communities around us. And when our parents created the foundation that bears their names, and asked us, their children, to serve on the board, they passed on an incredible opportunity to us. By giving us the ability to participate in philanthropy, as informed by their values and beliefs, our parents taught us that we could change things in the world for the better. And while sometimes the challenges we tackle as a foundation seem endless, and the pace of change can feel slow, we've been fortunate enough to see that change is possible. With the support of our grant dollars and other types of assistance, the Foundation's grantees and partners have done inspiring work. As we celebrate 50 years of work, and look forward to many more, we pause to remember and celebrate the legacy of David and Lucile, and what they left, not just in dollars, but as examples to all of us in how to have positive impact on our communities and the world.