On March 22, 2012, individuals across the world celebrated the 19th annual International World Water Day. The mission of World Water Day is to bring to attention the importance of freshwater, and advocate for sustainable management of freshwater resources. Although the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water has been met, water sanitation and hygiene still remain a problem. Foundations are taking great strides to improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in developing countries. In honor of World Water Day, check out what some foundations are achieving in the water sector to help improve the lives of vulnerable populations around the world.

Rockefeller Foundation
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Hilton Foundation
Howard G. Buffett Foundation
New Foundation Alert

The Unilever Foundation (Global)

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Unilever announced a new partnership with five global organizations with the goal of helping more than one billion people improve their health and well-being, and in turn, create a sustainable future. MIT projects may have interesting synergies with the work of the foundation, depending on how its goals and initiatives develop.

Key areas:
- Hygiene
- Sanitation
- Access to clean drinking water
- Basic nutrition
- Enhancing self-esteem

While the company has operated a US foundation for some time, this is a distinct entity. For more information, see the website and press release.

Funders to Watch

Predicted to be newsworthy in 2012

Click on links below for more information:

Howard W. Buffett Jr. / Howard G. Buffett Foundation

Laurene Powell Jobs / Various Involvements

New leadership / Nathan Cummings Foundation / Atlantic Philanthropies / Open Society Foundations

Dustin Moskovitz / Facebook

Peter Thiel / Thiel Foundation

Christopher Elias and Trevor Mundel / Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Larry Kramer / William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

William and Joyce Cummings / Cummings Foundation

Sylvia Mathews Burwell / Wal-Mart

(Source: Philanthropy.com 1/3/2012)

New Billionaires Index

Michael Bloomberg recently announced the creation of a Billionaire’s Index that will track the wealth of the world’s 20 richest people in real time (updated daily at 5:30 p.m.) In response, Forbes announced that they will roll out a real-time list that updates every 15 minutes, tracking the gains and losses for 50 billionaires.

Writer Kevin Rose, compares the two lists and analyzes their accuracy in a recent article on the New York Times’ DealBook blog.
College Giving Rebounded in 2011

Donations to U.S. colleges and universities rose to almost unprecedented levels in 2011, according to a report by the Council for Aid to Education. While most universities saw some sort of increase from 2010, 86 percent of the money went to 25 percent of the institutions. A few fundraising powerhouses drove most of the dramatic increase, with and without campaigns. MIT came in at fourth overall in the survey, with Stanford, Harvard, Yale, and Columbia occupying the other top five spots. For more information and figures, see link below.

(Source: Philanthropy.com 2/15/12)

Upcoming Trainings

- Foundation Center Webinars
- Foundation Center’s Proposal Writers Boot Camp
- Grantseeker Training Institute