

Letter from NGO executive director to supporters

Dear members and supporters,

2011 was a year of transformation for FBB. This was the year we launched Volunteers Beyond Belief, a US-national network of local humanist teams volunteering in their communities. We also created Humanist Crisis Response, a focal point for the humanist response to major humanitarian crises.

As I write this in early 2012, our Volunteers program includes more than 1,600 humanist volunteers in 14 cities, and our disaster relief focus on the Japanese tsunami and Horn of Africa famine has raised a combined \$34,000 to alleviate suffering in the face of two different but equally devastating calamities.

Our flagship Humanist Giving program hit several landmarks of its own, including our 1,000th member and passing \$200,000 in total giving.

This was also the first year of Challenge the Gap, an innovative program allowing members who choose to do so a chance to support progressive, non-proselytizing charities based in worldviews other than our own.

2012 is already shaping up to be a year of even more transformation. At this writing, we have surpassed a quarter million dollars in giving and launched our first international expansion in Australia, while a joint venture with the Stiefel Freethought Foundation is well on its way to raising one million dollars for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society, a goal made possible by a generous \$500,000 matching grant from the Stiefel family.

We continue to be moved and motivated by stories from our beneficiaries. An indigenous high school scholar in Guatemala will attend college on a full four-year scholarship from our members. A library is rising in Ghana and a humanist school expending in Uganda with our help. Underfunded urban U.S. classrooms received much-needed supplies. We watched with pride tinged with sadness as an innocent man went free after 27 years in a Texas prison thanks to the work of one of our beneficiaries.

The list goes on.

We've also been touched by stories from our own members. A recent college graduate making his first donations through us. The member who found her charitable giving has more than tripled since joining. Another whose children have become more aware of needs in the world by helping to select the family's distribution each quarter.

We do this to change the world, but also to change ourselves — to rise to the highest aspirations of humanism, a deeply inspiring worldview.

Thanks for being with us.