annual report

FY 2016

FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION research

President's Message

2015–16 was an extraordinary year for the Foundation. We started new research projects and continue those you rely on. We received the largest unrestricted donation in our history and attracted new donors through our Big Picture Campaign. We inaugurated the Think Tank, a special group of advisors who share their ideas, experience, and contacts, and provide financial support for our research. We awarded a scholarship to a graduate student doing ground-breaking research on community associations in suburban housing markets. And, we partnered with CAI on a comprehensive training program for homeowners and association volunteer leaders.

The Foundation is tackling new research projects that address rising issues and challenges for community associations, including:

- Aging-in-Place
- Water Use & Conservation
- Technology Use & Data Security
- Economic Impact of Community Associations
- Best Practices in Developer Transition
- Updates and Improvements in the Manager Salary Survey

This level of activity requires a great deal of volunteer effort, strong staff support, and generous donations. And, most important, it happens because of the financial contributions of many individuals, businesses and organizations which enable us to tackle these big projects.

Last December, we received meaningful acknowledgement of our work when the Foundation for California Community Association Education (FCCAE) made a $57,500 grant to advance our research agenda. This grant grew from an event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Davis-Stirling Act, the comprehensive body of California law that governs common interest communities and their associations. On behalf of the Foundation, and CAI, we thank the FCCAE Board for this generous gift and for trusting us to use it to continue their legacy of education and action.

2015 was the inaugural year of the Think Tank. This group of extraordinary advocates and supporters helps expand Foundation activity and visibility. We would like to thank each of the founding members for their belief in our mission and their investment in the Foundation.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE FOUNDATION?

You can participate in research activity by serving on a committee, taskforce serving or peer review panel in your field of expertise.

You can join one of our research brain-storming sessions, like we had at the CAI Annual Conference and Law Seminar this year in Orlando and New Orleans.

Quite honestly, what we need most are donations because this is how we pay for our research activity. If you contribute through the CAI membership renewal system (aka dues-check-off), please consider a $25 donation next year. If everyone who supports the Foundation through renewal did this, it would add half-a-million dollars to our research fund next year. Imagine what we could do with that!

If you've admired the Big Picture banners displayed at CAI conferences, make your own donation soon and we will put your photo (or your community or business photo) on a new Big Picture banner. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

This is your Foundation. Our goal is to help each community and every association to be effective, efficient and successful. We want to be your "go-to" resource for information about how we live and work. We hope you will join us in that effort.

CHRISTINE DANIELSON
FOUNDATION PRESIDENT 2015-2016

Looking Back and Moving Forward

The past year has seen the Foundation for Community Association Research take innovative, forward-looking strides to elevate its status as the go-to resource for all community association stakeholders. Thanks to our inspiring leaders and our generous contributors, we are accomplishing more than at any time in the Foundation's 40+ year history.

Our research and educational initiatives support the aspirations of the almost 70 million Americans who live and work in more than 335,000 community associations.

Our mission—with your support—is to provide research-based information for homeowners, association board members, community managers, developers and other stakeholders. Since the Foundation's inception in 1975, we've built a solid reputation for producing accurate, insightful and timely information, and we continue to build on that legacy.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FACT BOOK

One of our most ambitious initiatives was creation of the five-part ***Community Association Fact Book***, the most comprehensive collection of association data ever compiled. the online resource includes more than 1,000 pages of information and links to a vast array of additional resources. *The Fact Book*, updated with 2015 data in July 2016, continues to inform homeowners, association board members, community managers, association management companies, academicians, researchers, lawmakers, regulatory officials, media, developers—anyone who wants to know more about common-interest communities. This seminal achievement could not have been realized without the expertise and commitment of Clifford J. Treese, CIRMS, who was largely responsible for its content.

The Foundation's work also includes conducting **Snap Surveys**, covering topics like community association legal liability, professional management, reserves and community managers' perception of resident satisfaction.

And we continue to distribute the most recent update of the popular **Community Manager Compensation and Salary Survey**, an extensive report used by associations, community managers, association management companies and others looking to make sound, data-based decisions.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF RESIDENTS

On a larger scale, the Foundation conducted its survey of community association residents in March 2016—the sixth in a bi-annual series of national surveys to gauge how Americans living in associations view their communities, managers and board members. The results have been consistent since the first survey was conducted in 2005, with residents across the country largely satisfied with their community association experience. This credible research is an counterbalance to isolated negative media reports that impugn the perceptions of community associations and the reputations of the professionals and homeowner volunteers who work so hard to make associations preferred places to call home.

RECOGNITION AND GROWTH

Our contributions to the community association housing market are being rewarded with increased interest and donations from stakeholders who recognize the value of our work and benefit from the data and educational resources we provide. Most recently, we created a **Think Tank**, a group of community association leaders and innovators whose generous contributions and guidance will help the Foundation greatly expand its research agenda in the years ahead. We also continued the **Big Picture fundraising campaign. Photos of campaign supporters** were showcased at the 2016 Annual Conference and Exposition in Orlando, NV, and at Foundation headquarters in Falls Church, Va.

Financially, the Foundation has enjoyed strong support, with total contributions of $266,000 in FY 2015 and $277,000 (projected) in FY 2016. **Review the Foundation's most recent audited financial statements.**

Stay Current with *Catalyst*

You can read about all of our initiatives in **Catalyst**, an e-newsletter that chronicles our achievements and goals. The newsletter is distributed periodically to all members of CAI.

FOUNDATION FOR
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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