

# Foundation Overview

## Transforming the Lives of Children Living in Urban Poverty through Better Health and Education

Believing every child deserves opportunities to grow up healthy and educated in a safe environment, Michael and Susan Dell established the family foundation in 1999. We fund programs that foster high-quality public education and childhood health, and improve the economic stability of families living in poverty. We work in close collaboration with grantees and other foundations to support thoughtfully planned, data-driven programs showing clear paths to achieve lasting transformations in our focus areas.

### Our Funding at Work in:

#### EDUCATION

**United States:** providing tools and resources to large urban school districts to improve quality education and student achievement through performance management initiatives; developing school leadership; enabling innovation through charter schools; offering college scholarships through the Dell Scholars Program.

**India:** promoting primary education; literacy and opportunities for developing life skills.

#### CHILDHOOD HEALTH

**United States:** providing access to basic healthcare services; instilling healthy lifestyle behaviors through childhood obesity prevention; supporting applied research.

**International:** providing access to basic health, water and sanitation programs with the potential to be immediately effective and scalable as to meet the needs of many.

#### FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY

**India:** working to increase the number of quality microfinance institutions in the urban slums of India; improving the urban poor's access to micro-loans, formal financial services and social services to encourage entrepreneurial growth out of poverty; supporting the rollout of the Progress Out of Poverty Index (PPI) using common social indicators to measure the impact of microfinance.

### Supporting our Community

Recognizing the special needs in our home community of Central Texas, we focus special attention to socio-economic and health issues related to Texas' ethnically diverse population. We support regional programs in the following areas that also serve as a test-bed for global impact: academic & afterschool programs, childhood health & fitness and childhood safety.



#### GLOBAL ISSUES

- One of every 2 children in the world live in poverty.
- In 2006, the United States had the highest child poverty rate in the developed world at 21.9 percent.
- Four hundred million children live in India (20 percent of the world's children); 30 percent live in extreme urban poverty without basic services; 20 percent do not attend school; 50 percent in the third grade level lack basic literacy.
- Only one-third of US fourth and eighth graders perform at grade level in reading and math.
- One-third of US school children are overweight or obese.
- The CDC estimates one in three US children born in 2000 will develop Type 2 diabetes affecting their adult health.
- Only 10 percent of the world's poor (<60 million households) have access to any formal financial services to help raise them from poverty.

#### FOUNDATION FAST FACTS

- Established in 1999 by Michael & Susan Dell
- Grant commitments to date: ~\$650 million
- Global foundation supporting programs in the United States, India and Africa
- Fundamental emphasis on opportunities with the greatest potential to directly and measurably transform the lives of children
- Based in Austin, Texas with satellite offices in New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa
- ~ 50 employees

[www.msdf.org](http://www.msdf.org)