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*Advancing Effective,  
Responsible Giving*

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April 17, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The philanthropic sector supports a remarkably broad spectrum of issues, communities and funding strategies. Often referred to as the “independent sector,” grantmakers enjoy a wide berth in regard to their giving priorities and practices. With this diversity of perspectives comes dynamism—as well as debate.

Southern California Grantmakers (SCG) supports the idea that respectful, critical debate among peers enables our sector to remain vibrant and forward-thinking. For this reason, I am pleased to present *Point/Counterpoint*, a new publication series highlighting different viewpoints on critical issues of interest to the philanthropic sector.

This inaugural issue of *Point/Counterpoint*, “Does Philanthropy Serve the Public Interest?” features contributions from two leading thinkers in the field: Aaron Dorman, executive director of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and Adam Meyerson, president of The Philanthropy Roundtable. By outlining the guiding philosophies of their respective organizations, Dorman and Meyerson thoughtfully explore the private/public dichotomy of philanthropy and its role in society—and the implications for your giving.

I hope this publication stimulates fresh thinking and discourse within the SCG community, and I look forward to sharing more such dialogues in the future.

Sincerely,

*Sushma Raman*

Sushma Raman  
President