

December 5, 2006

Dear One Percent Club Member:

It's the "season for giving." While the One Percent Club tries not to compete with your favorite charities, we do have modest expenses that need to be funded. And, since our annual survey shows we've had a 100 to 1 return on investment (where else can you get that kind of ROI?), I'm not embarrassed to ask for your support.

Your gift is important because:

- You'll feel good about your contribution. Sure taxes and the for profit sectors do good things to make the world a better place, but the non profit sector is necessary, efficient, and heart-warming.
- The One Percent Club is a low-budget, low-overhead operation. Rent is only \$200 per month, the Executive Director takes only \$500/mo., and there are no health insurance or other indirect costs.
- This year we invested in a special marketing effort, the DVD shown at the Annual Meeting, which had \$15,000 of costs associated with it. It will pay off in the long run, but needs the funding. You can designate your contribution here if you'd like.
- We think it's a very competitive use of your money.

Thank you for considering sending a check in the enclosed envelope by the end of the year. Suggestions for program improvement are also welcome.

Happy Holidays, 

Joe Selvaggio, Executive Director

A QUICK SURVEY

Dear Members:

In the future, some of you may prefer receiving your newsletters and other publications via e-mail. This will greatly reduce our costs of printing and postage.

We would therefore want your e-mail address so we can update our database. Others may still prefer receiving the hard copies of our publications. Let us know what your preference is. Please fill out the information and mail to the address below. Thank you!

Print Name(s) of member(s)

E-mail Address

____ Check here if you prefer the newsletters and other publications e-mailed to you.

____ Check here if you still prefer the hard copies mailed to you.

Mail back this portion to:

**One Percent Club
1035 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404**

The One Percent Club
1035 E. Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Tel. (612) 455-5198
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Edition # 87 December 2006

Giving While Living
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

our pledge - To increase philanthropy in our community. Specifically, to enlist people to a new standard of giving - to contribute 1% or more of net worth annually, or 5% of income, whichever is greater, to the tax-deductible cause(s) of their choice.

One Percent Club Member
and Philanthropist Gary Fink
Has a Passion to Help the
Disadvantaged



Read the full story inside.

GARY FINK'S PASSION IS MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Gary Fink is something of a modern-day “Renaissance Man,” who wears many hats and wears them well.

Then again, variety has always been the spice of Gary's life. Never one to sit still, the septuagenarian, a retired Prudential agent, has done everything but slow down in retirement. In addition to serving as director and curator of the contemporary art “Museum Louvre It or Leave It” in downtown Minneapolis, he hosts at least two charity events per month with his wife Jo Ann, advises or sits on the boards of 22 philanthropic organizations, participates in animal and wildlife conservation activities on almost every continent, writes a monthly newsletter for 500 of his friends and acquaintances, and has authored two cartoon books.

So far, Gary's golden years have been a flurry of activity, but he's enjoying every minute. In fact, Gary hardly considers his numerous activities “work.” He calls his office, located on Museum Louvre It or Leave It's second floor, the place where he “pursues his passions.” And his greatest passion is helping those who are disadvantaged. It's all part of a philosophy he adopted from the Iron Workers of Northern Minnesota.

“Their motto was ‘producing and providing,’” Gary explains. “I identify with that and I'm fortunate to feel healthy and well enough when I wake up every morning to provide for my family and assist people who can't provide for themselves.”

A display of public affection

His dedication to helping people in need

prompted Gary to create the Phynque Phamily Phoundation in 2001. The foundation was established to perpetuate the legacy and ownership of the Finks' extensive art collection, which at the time filled their two homes and 40,000 square feet of office space.

Additionally, Gary wanted to make sure his art collection lived on to be appreciated after his death. So he created the foundation as a way to share the collection with the public and give back to the community. “What good is a foundation if the art is going to be shoved in a closet?” he asks.

Thus, Museum Louvre It or Leave It was born. The 5,000-square-foot museum in the heart of the Minneapolis business district occupies two floors and houses about 450 pieces of contemporary art, all of which were handpicked by the Finks. How did they choose which pieces to display in the museum? “We buy what makes our hearts sing,” Gary explains.

The collection is composed of pieces in different media, from oil paintings to photographs to glass and metal sculptures. Interestingly, many portray the darker side of humanity. “The subject matter tends to reflect reality, with particular attention paid to primitive art,” he explains. “Much of the art depicts people brutalized or discriminated against throughout history.”

Museum Louvre It or Leave It gets close to 75 visitors per week and, in true charitable fashion, admission is free. Sometimes, visitors are even treated to an exclusive guided tour with Gary, who knows the artist and history behind every piece.

A history of philanthropy

Gary's legacy of giving began when he received a mailing from the Bronx Zoo asking readers to help save the tiger in the last few remaining countries where the near-extinct animal still survived. So he created a special charitable arrangement with the zoo and the Wildlife Conservation Society, and today, he and his wife are still heavily involved in wildlife conservation around the world. He also continues to act as an advisor and consultant to more than 20 nonprofit organizations.

Gary says his giving spirit stems from a traumatic childhood experience. “My parents went from being wealthy to poor very quickly, at a time when I was impressionable,” he recalls. “I remember a lot of people who were very helpful and kind to me—and those who weren't.”

As a result, Gary says he has always worked to bolster people's dignity and quality of life. And he makes good on that goal in many ways, including as a member of Minneapolis' One Percent Club, a nonprofit group whose members give 1 percent or more of their net worth to support local charities. In fact, the Finks give away 5 percent of their net worth annually. “I'm more interested in seeing the results of the money I give away now rather than after I die,” Gary says.

He didn't always have wealth to share, but now that he does, Gary says his life is even more fulfilling. “I have a beautiful life,” he says. “My wife and I live comfortably, I still play golf a lot—what more could I ask for?” ♦

—Robyn Kurdek

Source: *Prudential Leader*, August/September 2006

Study: Entrepreneurs Twice as Charitable as Heirs

When it comes to charitable giving, self-made entrepreneurs are more than twice as generous as millionaires who acquired their wealth through inheritance, according to a new study.

The study, which included nearly 1,000 respondents across the nation with household income above \$200,000 or a net worth of at least \$1 million, found that entrepreneurs donated an average of \$232,206 per year, according to researchers at Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy.

By comparison, donors who inherited their wealth gave an average of \$109,745 annually, the study found.

The Ecumenical Council

