

For Immediate Release

Bill Somerville, the “Maverick” Grantmaker and Founder of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, Will Sign Copies of His New Book at the Upcoming Council on Foundations Philanthropy Leadership Summit

In His Highly Anticipated First Book,
Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker
Somerville Calls For a New Approach to Philanthropy

Oakland, Ca (April 16, 2008) Bill Somerville, the founder of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF) and a nationally recognized expert on creative grantmaking, will debut his newly released book, Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker at this year’s Council on Foundations Philanthropy Leadership Summit, taking place May 4-8th at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Washington, DC. Somerville will appear on Sunday, May 5th from 1:00-1:30pm in the Council on Foundations on-site bookstore to sign and discuss his new book.

Described by Amazon as “An illuminating book for those in the foundation and nonprofit worlds alike”, Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker (Heyday Press) is a straightforward and urgent call to action; a challenge to philanthropists in small and large foundations alike to actively engage with their community, to hit the streets in search of people who are doing extraordinary work and to find creative ways to fund those in need quickly and with a minimum of process and paperwork. Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker is available now through select booksellers and online merchants. For more information visit the PVF website at www.venturesfoundation.org.

About Bill Somerville

Bill Somerville is a nationally recognized expert on creative grantmaking. He has consulted at over 350 community foundations in the United States, Canada, and the U.K. on innovative grantmaking and effective operations. In 1991 he founded Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, which specializes in responsive approaches to grantmaking, such as paperless discretionary grants and grants with a forty-eight-hour turnaround.

Somerville publishes two periodicals: Building Community Foundations, distributed to 850 community foundations worldwide, and Dialogue, to 1,700 non-profit organizations on fund development. He currently teaches courses on philanthropy at both Stanford University and Laney Community College, in Oakland, CA.

A recipient of the 2004 Gerbode Fellowship Award in recognition of outstanding achievement as a non-profit executive, Somerville is a member of the National Advisory Board, Haas Center for Public Service, Stanford University, and the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare Advisory Board. Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker is his first book.

About the Council on Foundations Philanthropy Leadership Summit

The Council on Foundations is a Washington, DC, area-based nonprofit membership association of more than 2,100 grantmaking foundations and corporations. As the voice of philanthropy, the Council works to create an environment in which the movement can grow and thrive, and to provide Council members with the products and services they need to do their best work. Two years in the making, the Council's Philanthropy Leadership Summit is an unprecedented convening of family, community, corporate, public and private philanthropic foundations to address the key issues of the day, as well as the best practices in philanthropy to most effectively serve the common good.

About Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Since its inception in 1991, Oakland-based Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF) has distributed over \$50 million in grants to those who need it most; gaining national recognition for pioneering innovative approaches to grassroots philanthropy. Under the stewardship of Bill Somerville, PVF has operated as a "living lab", incubating first-of-their-kind funding programs including: Immediate Response Grants delivered in less than 48 hours of request; First Response Disaster Relief, which guarantees \$25,000 to ten designated agencies addressing emergency food and shelter needs for the needy during a natural disaster; and the Juvenile Judges Program, which provides immediate grants to youth in the foster care system as identified by Juvenile Court Judges. In addition to their own programs, PVF works with donors and private foundations to customize their giving to specific areas or programs of interest. PVF is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity. Philanthropic Ventures Foundation. 1222 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, CA 94612. www.venturesfoundation.org

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