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Current Employment

Andy Morikawa serves as the Executive Director of The Community Foundation of the New River Valley. The Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public nonprofit. The Foundation provides full service assistance to donors who are seeking to maximize the benefit of their charitable giving. The Foundation makes grants to charitable organizations that address community needs in Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties and the City of Radford, a small town, rural area in Virginia's Appalachian region. In his thirteenth year at the foundation, Morikawa has focused on three fundamentals of a relational organizational culture:

1. The insistence on transparency and accountability as standards of operation
2. A sustainable governance and trustee culture of servant leadership
3. Investment in community-based relationships that embody grassroots community values of self-help, inclusiveness and trust

At the Community Foundation of the New River Valley Andy works to build group and team effectiveness, leadership development, board and trustee development, and grantmaking as fund raising. He has a long-term interest in and commitment to developing locally-based, self-sustaining community initiatives. He has served as founding board member of the Free Clinic of the New River Valley, New River Valley Habitat for Humanity, Community Sentencing Program of the NRV, and World SHARE (Self Help And Resource Exchange), a self-funding nonprofit. He served for fifteen years as trustee for the Robert Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership.

Background

A third generation Japanese-American, Andy grew up in the Hyde Park area of Chicago's southside. His parents settled there after being freed from the Colorado River War Relocation Center prison in 1943. Andy graduated from Kalamazoo College in Michigan receiving a B.A. degree in English Literature and went directly into the Peace Corps with his wife, Susan. They served in Micronesia, eventually living there for eight years in different rural, island communities, teaching and training indigenous teachers of English as a second language. They were active in the transition process from an education system run by Americans to one led by Micronesians. Andy has served as CEO of New River Communication Action, a regional anti-poverty agency in Appalachian Virginia; of World SHARE, an international food distribution and community development agency based in San Diego; and currently of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley, a grassroots regional philanthropy.

Personal Engagement in Civil Society

Morikawa serves as a trustee on the boards of the Community Group (a local African American civic engagement organization), the New Mountain Climbers Giving Circle (a grassroots African American philanthropy), and the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library System. He serves as facilitator for the Via Institute of Via International.

Bridging Divides

Andy has served as a working group member of the Transatlantic Community Foundation Network, an international program of thirty-five community foundations from Canada, Mexico, the U.S., and Europe. The program, funded by the Bertelsmann Foundation and the Charles Stuart Mott Foundation for the past nine years, underscores the importance of mutual learning exchanges between widely varying

cultural groups that share a common, philanthropic purpose: to build strong civil societies. For many countries undertaking the creation of civil society infrastructures, the community foundation model offers a particularly adaptable organizational structure whose form lends itself well to embodying practices of open, inclusive, and transparent governance.

If newly emerging civil societies must bridge formidable divides, moving as they often are from totalitarianism to democracy, and they must, their more established colleagues in North America and Western Europe are realizing change has overtaken them as well, requiring that they too must cross over from one set of assumptions and beliefs onto new, uncharted ground. In peer exchanges, the more established western foundations are discovering that they may well have as much to learn from their eastern European and Mexican colleagues as they have to teach and share. Morikawa suspects that uncertainty and confusions faced with humility, if claimed by all equally, may lead us out and onto a new field of practice for discovery, innovation, and emergent global civility.

Governance in Communities of Place

Andy does advisory and facilitation work for community groups in governance and board development. His interest in nonprofit governance began in the late 1970's when he first started working with and for trustee boards. Although he has enjoyed serving on national and international boards, he has come to see that his own strengths and interests suggest that working with boards in communities of place is where he can contribute best.

Personal

Andy lives in Blacksburg, VA with his wife, Susan, who does nonprofit accounting. Their three children attended Montgomery County Public Schools, Virginia Tech, New River Community College, and Radford University. All three and their families including two grandchildren live and work in the New River Valley. Their family giving circle, now in its twenty-fifth year, has engaged four generations of their extended family in philanthropy.

Storytelling and Community Building

Andy's interests include digital photography and digital video. In his community and foundation work, he often employs a presentation and storytelling approach that integrates digital imagery and narrative to make reports and present ideas. He believes that a community must know itself, must learn its own story from itself as a vital step in the development of a vibrant civil society.