

Foundation assets connected to the failed Barings Bank in England would have been worth \$1.6 billion but are now likely worthless, says *Corporate Philanthropy Report*.

## A family tradition

# Blumenthal Foundation's reach is deep and wide

Since it was established in 1953, the Blumenthal Foundation in Charlotte has built up its resources and reputation. Nonprofit leaders say the volunteer hours that members of the Blumenthal family devote to charitable causes are as important as their dollars.

By BARBARA SOLOW

### Charlotte

The major change Philip Blumenthal has seen since he became involved in running his family's foundation is a rise in the number of grant requests.

"A lot of people say you should give bigger grants to a smaller number of organizations," says the director of The Blumenthal Foundation and the Wildacres Retreat center

### GRANTMAKING

for human relations that his family built in Little Switzerland.

"We've talked a good bit about whether we should restrict our focus. But we decided not to. We enjoy being able to respond to so many different issues."

Others in Charlotte's philanthropy community agree that the breadth of grantmaking by the roughly \$20 million-asset family foundation remains one of its greatest strengths.

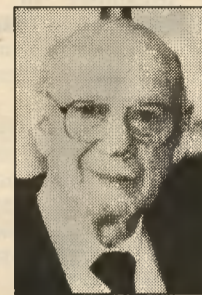
"They are tied only to that which moves them, rather than some sort of trust that is so definitive as to restrict their imagination," says Don Sanders, retired head of the United Way of the Central Carolinas. "They look for ways to be particularly helpful and deal with a wide variety of issues. I think they've been on the

cutting edge for a long time."

Even in a county with North Carolina's largest concentration of foundation assets and grants, The Blumenthal Foundation stands out as a source of support and innovation.

It gave the gift that established the Blumenthal Center for the Performing Arts - a keystone of Charlotte's cultural scene and its downtown - and more than \$1 million to the recent campaign for the Arts & Science Council.

Earlier this year, the foundation launched a fellowship program to train young North



Herman Blumenthal

Carolinians to be leaders in their communities.

The foundation will spend \$375,000 over three years on the Wildacres Leadership Program, which will select 20 William C. Friday fellows to participate in a series of weekend retreats and collaborative projects in the arts, education and public service.

The 1993 North Carolina Giving directory lists The Blumenthal Foundation as second on a roster of foundations that gave the 10 largest grants to religious organizations.

The foundation's grant of \$290,000 to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte placed it second only to the Duke Endowment in support for religious nonprofits in the state.

Other recent grant recipients include the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, \$30,000; the Neighborhood Grants Program and

Look for **BLUMENTHAL**, page 7

## In the family name

# Duke receives belated gift from heiress

By SUSAN GRAY

### Durham

Duke University has received \$10.5 million from the estate of Doris Duke.

The gift was made more than a year after the death of Duke, daughter of Durham tobacco baron James B. Duke and sole heiress of his fortune.

At a news conference at Duke University in late March, Bernard Lafferty - Doris Duke's former butler and now co-executor of her \$1.2 billion estate - presented the overdue gift to Duke President Nan Keohane.

Duke did not receive the gift earlier because the assets of Doris Duke's estate have been tied up in a New York court, where several people are battling over the former socialite's will.

According to news reports and court files, a nurse claims that Doris Duke did not die of natural causes but was drugged by Lafferty. And Chandi Heffner, a woman whom Duke adopted and then disowned, alleges that she was wrongfully left out of the heiress' will.

Lafferty and co-executor U.S. Trust persuaded a New York judge to release the \$10.5 million gift to Duke, arguing that the court cases would not change the status of the gift. They also tacked on \$500,000 to the original gift because of the delay.



Duke University President Nan Keohane, right, accepts a check from Bernard Lafferty, co-executor of the Doris Duke Estate.

Photo by Chuck Liddy

### EDUCATION

The gift will support health and environmental research at Duke, including searches for cures to AIDS, Alzheimer's disease and cancer. It also will be used to develop a computer model to enhance scientific understanding of the environment.

"It is especially fitting that Doris Duke, during her lifetime and in this wonderful bequest, has continued the extraordinary philanthropic tradition of her father and the Duke family by providing generous support

for science research and teaching at the university," Keohane told a crowd of about 100 people at the news conference.

James B. Duke helped create Duke University in 1924 when he gave \$40 million to a financially faltering Trinity College. The Methodist college was renamed in his honor.

In addition to her philanthropic bequest to Duke University, Doris Duke's will calls for the creation of the Doris Duke Charitable

Look for **DUKE**, page 7

## Giving back

# Merchants' group funds Durham-area charities

A foundation formed five years ago by Durham merchants is working to support local nonprofits and be a catalyst to help them raise additional dollars.

By TODD COHEN

### Durham

Frank Davis is a former runner who now heads a nonprofit that keeps Durham youngsters on track by running competitively.

Kevin McDonald is a former heroin addict who heads a nonprofit that provides a home and jobs for substance abusers.

Durham Striders Track Club and TROSA - the nonprofits headed by Davis and McDonald - are among 62 Durham programs funded over the past five years by the Durham Merchants Association Charitable Foundation.

The foundation was formed in 1990 with \$2.2 million in proceeds from the sale of association-owned land, a downtown building and a credit service.

Formed by downtown merchants at the turn of the century to market downtown stores, share credit information and bill collection, the association found it had outlived its useful-

### COMMUNITY

ness with the rapid growth of suburbia and suburban shopping malls.

To honor its commitment to the community, the association formed the foundation, which has handed out roughly \$110,000 a year in grants to nonprofits in Durham County.

The foundation's strategy is to be a catalyst, using its grants to help nonprofits obtain other funding.

Foundation grants support cultural affairs and the arts, community services and education.

Durham Striders, for example, received \$10,000 from the foundation in 1993. The funds were used to purchase equipment, which enabled the nonprofit to host track meets that in turn generated revenues through entry fees for participants.

And TROSA - Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers - received startup funds from the Merchants Association Foundation, which in turn helped the nonprofit raise additional money. Last year, the Merchants Association Foundation gave TROSA \$6,000 more to buy equipment to train its residents in skills needed to start

Look for **MERCHANTS**, page 7

### BRIEFLY

#### Correction

Information about publications offered by Funders Concerned about AIDS published in the March issue was partially incorrect. Funders does not publish a \$60 guide to AIDS giving by foundations. That is available from the Foundation Center in New York, (212) 620-4230.

#### National council hosts conference

The national Council on Foundations will hold its annual conference May 1-3 in San Francisco under the theme "Evolving Visions of Philanthropy and the Public Good." Speakers include Adam Clayton Powell III, of the Freedom Forum Media Center and Randall Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica Forum.

#### Foundations support NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has received more than \$700,000 in grants and pledges from foundations since the board elected Myrlie Evers-Williams as chairman in February, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* reports. Among the donors are The Chevron Corp. (\$50,000); the Freedom Forum (\$327,500); the Gannett Foundation (\$100,000); and The Rockwell International Corp. Trust (\$45,000). Actor Denzel Washington has reportedly pledged \$100,000. An audit of NAACP finances with its estimated \$4 million deficit is due to be completed this month.

#### Survey shows minorities lack insurance

A survey commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund in New York shows non-white Americans are twice as likely to lack health insurance as whites, and almost a third report little or no choice of where they receive medical care. The survey was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates. For information, call (212) 535-0400.

#### Fund reaches the 500 mark

The Fund for Southern Communities recently announced it awarded its 500th grant. Since 1981, the Atlanta and Durham-based foundation has made more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofits working for social and economic justice. For information, call (919) 682-3702.