

Got a few million to spare? When it comes to generosity, it's easy to make promises, but a lot harder to sit down and write a fat check. To sneak a peek inside some of the area's most benevolent philanthropies, we pored over 990s (the most recent available for each) to see just how much cash locally based grantmaking organizations are funneling into our community, and the world at large. What did we learn? Old money still rules, mega-companies love to give big, and our city's thickest wallets are often synonymous with its biggest hearts. With a combined giving total of nearly \$900 million, here are some of Boston's most charitable souls.

Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston

ANNUAL GIVING: \$129.6 million

THE GOAL: Keep future generations (including, ahem, religion-averse millennials) invested in Jewish life and Israel.

THE PLAYERS: At the helm for three decades, president Barry Shrage led a campaign to raise more than \$55 million in 2015; big donors include Patriots owner Bob Kraft, who recently gave \$10 million.

WHAT SETS IT APART: It's not just Boston that benefits from this philanthropy's generosity: CJP helps more than 100 organizations here, in Israel, and across the globe.

The Boston Foundation

ANNUAL GIVING: \$100.8 million

THE GOAL: Make life better for everyone in Boston, with a focus on education, housing, the arts, and economic issues.

THE PLAYERS: Chief executive and president Paul Grogan probably knows the Hub as well as any local glad-hander ever has: He got his start as an aide and speechwriter for Mayor Kevin White decades ago.

WHAT SETS IT APART: The organization not only plays a crucial behind-the-scenes funding role, but also takes the lead

THREE QUESTIONS FOR

TOM WERNER

The Red Sox Foundation's chairman on what it means to hit home runs not just in Fenway, but in the community.

What is it like to oversee a foundation with a built-in fan base? Do contributions pick up when the team is doing well?

The Red Sox have been woven into the fabric of New England for a hundred years. The charity part leverages the good feelings people have about the baseball club, and I think that has made an enormous difference. We raised a lot of money last year in connection with David Ortiz's retirement. Some teams, when a player retires, they give them a watch. We used Ortiz's retirement to raise at least a couple million dollars for his charity.

What inspired the team's passion for helping military veterans?

The Red Sox went to Washington, DC, after we won the World Series in 2007. We thought it was important to visit Walter Reed Hospital as well as the White House. I spoke with one of the chief administrators of Walter Reed, who was talking about the fact that so many soldiers are coming back after Iraq and Afghanistan with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. I thought he would say 15 percent—he said it could be as much as 50 percent. On the flight back, I talked with the team doctor about what we could do. Through the Home Base program, a joint effort with Mass General, we have treated 11,000 veterans and their families.

Why do you think the Red Sox Scholars program for academically talented Boston seventh graders has been so successful?

It's more than the \$10,000 scholarship—we also provide mentors and are in contact with the students. When a student gets to spend time with Jackie Bradley Jr. or Mookie Betts and see that they are people they can look up to, that is a very powerful part of the program. The high school graduation rate last year was 96 percent for our scholars. They are becoming very productive members of society.

AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER

Because sometimes, philanthropy isn't just about doing good—it's about showing everyone just how much good you do. Take a look inside three of Boston's top fundraising galas. By ABBY BIELAGUS

Party in the Park

When: May
Benefits: Emerald Necklace renewal efforts.
Raised: More than \$1 million in 2017.
Known for: Ladies who lunch; elaborate hats—the bigger the better.
Boldface Attendees: Mayor Marty Walsh; former WHDH anchor Janet Wu.
The Inside Scoop: The most thrilling moment of this year's event came at the unofficial after-party at the Bristol, where revelers happened upon Justin Bieber eating alone with his bodyguards.

Hot Pink Party

When: May
Benefits: The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.
Raised: \$1.7 million in 2017.
Known for: Fanciful after-dinner performances (this year's included human disco balls); coveted swag bags; fashionably pink attire.
Boldface Attendees: Bill Belichick and Linda Holliday.
The Inside Scoop: "This event feels the most real," says one prominent person on the gala scene. "There isn't usually a dry eye in the entire house during the speeches."

MFA Summer Gala

When: June
Benefits: The museum's exhibitions and programs.
Raised: Undisclosed.
Known for: Brahmins commingling with a new generation of art lovers.
Boldface Attendees: Artists Farzaneh and Bahareh Safarani. Don't recognize their names now? You will.
The Inside Scoop: This is the party where even the stiffest patrons let loose, according to one attendee: "Maybe it's because it feels like you're doing something wrong, being in the museum after hours."