Reflecting on a year of learning together with the Global Philanthropists Circle.

2018 in review
A year of vision

As we at the GPC reflect on 2018, one key takeaway came to the fore: philanthropy and social investment can, and should, do more to move us towards a world that is just, equitable, peaceful, and sustainable. We’ve heard similar reflections this year from our nearly 400 members spread across 30 countries. It is not enough to be catalytic; philanthropy needs to lead by bridging divides, taking a systems perspective, and cultivating trust-based collaboration.

In 2018, we continued to partner with members to achieve this greater vision for philanthropy and social investment. Membership meetings and Learning Journeys all offered a trusting space for members to seek and give input on difficult choices and complex questions. GPC members connected more deeply with their purpose and values through retreats and bridging leadership workshops. And the GPC team supported individual members to dive even deeper on specific challenges and opportunities.
Powering trust builders worldwide

GPC membership dues directly support Synergos programs that build the trust and strong collaborations needed to solve some of the world’s greatest social problems.
The work our members support

**ETHIOPIA**
Synergos leads a collaboration between Ethiopia’s Ministry of Agriculture and farmer cooperatives in several states to increase productivity, accelerate commercialization, and help farmers raise their incomes to climb out of poverty.

**NIGERIA**
In Nigeria, Synergos uses a systems-change approach to help state governments partner more effectively with farmers and other stakeholders to streamline their agriculture systems. The goal: to move the sector from subsistence to opportunity.

**NAMIBIA**
Synergos has been strengthening health systems in Namibia since 2007. We helped reduce infant and maternal mortality by 14 percent between 2006-2013 and are now working with the Namibian government to design a basic universal healthcare system.

**BANGLADESH**
Drowning is the number one killer of children under 5 in Bangladesh. The Synergos-led Drowning Prevention Partnership is working to change that. We’re building a coalition to raise awareness and partner with government ministries to scale-up proven interventions and save thousands of lives.

**ARAB WORLD**
Youth unemployment may be the greatest challenge facing the Arab World. Since 2008, Synergos has built the region’s largest network of social entrepreneurs – agents of change that have innovated to create thousands of jobs while meeting the greatest needs of their communities and countries.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**
Social isolation is increasingly recognized as both a cause and byproduct of multidimensional poverty, particularly among children. For six years, we’ve partnered with child welfare organizations across Southern Africa to help them build social connectedness programs into their existing work.
Synergos is one of the few institutions that can reach in to donors and out to communities.

– ADELE SIMMONS, GPC MEMBER & SYNERGOS BOARD MEMBER
OUR MEMBERS

104 families
THE GPC CONTINUED TO GROW IN 2018, ADDING TWO NEW FAMILIES

398 members
INDIVIDUAL PHILANTHROPISTS AND SOCIAL INVESTORS

30 countries
AS MEMBERSHIP EXPANDS, SO DOES GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY
Member families by region

Our member families hail from every major continent, bringing a rich diversity of perspectives and experiences to each event and conversation.

Note: several families are represented in more than one region.
Our members cover the sustainable development map

Number of GPC members working on each Sustainable Development Goal*

- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: 96
- Zero Hunger: 84
- Partnerships for the goals: 115
- Good health and Well-being: 138
- Quality Education: 138
- Gender Equality: 168
- Life on Land: 40
- Life below water: 25
- Climate Action: 84
- Responsible consumption and Production: 19
- Sustainable Cities and communities: 124
- Industry Innovation and Infrastructure: 101
- Affordable and Clean Energy: 83
- Decent Work and Economic growth: 150

*Note: The numbers represent the number of GPC members working on each sustainable development goal.
What are members most interested in?

We asked members about the causes they care most about. Here are their top ten issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN/YOUTH</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POVERTY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE/RURAL ISSUES</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOMEN’S ISSUES</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTS/CULTURAL PRESERVATION</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Synergos and the GPC offer me a safe space I really enjoy...I truly appreciate how Synergos doesn’t base itself on the social or economic status of its members in a way that separates us from other people. How Synergos fits into this landscape and approaches the members’ ‘roles’ is different and special.

– OLAVO SETUBAL, GPC & NEXTGEN MEMBER
Recalling 2018 events

More than 800 participants attended dozens of events across the world in 2018. Here’s a sampling of some of the most memorable.

- SPIRITUAL CIVILIZATION GATHERING
  - May, New York

- IMPACT INVESTING CONFERENCE
  - December, United Kingdom

- LEARNING JOURNEY
  - December, China and the Philippines

- BRIDGING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
  - April, Mexico

- BRIDGING LEADERSHIP
  - NextGen PROGRAM
  - Ongoing, Brazil

- MEMBERS MEETING IN EUROPE
  - October, Italy
Affinity groups take our philanthropy to new heights

The GPC’s affinity groups enable members to go deeper on topics they care about most by offering group learning and networking opportunities tailored to their specific interests. Five GPC affinity groups were active in 2018: NextGen, Spiritual Civilization, Refugees, Shifting the Food System, and Impact Investing. Our members guide and inform our affinity group offerings. We look forward to continue growing them with members in the coming year.
The NextGen group supports deeper engagement between younger philanthropists within the GPC, as well as those who represent the second or third generation in their family’s philanthropic journey.

143 members
OUR LARGEST AFFINITY GROUP IN 2018

Key topics...
INTER-GENERATIONAL GIVING, TRANSFER OF VALUES, FAMILY DYNAMICS
Cultivating our values together

SPIRITUAL CIVILIZATION

The Spiritual Civilization affinity group aims to increase consciousness of the ideals that drive members of society to help each other and work towards the greater good.

74 members

ACROSS GEOGRAPHIES AND INTEREST AREAS, MEMBERS COME TOGETHER AROUND SHARED VALUES

Key values...

COMPASSION, PURPOSE, LOVE, FAITH, ETHICS, ALTRUISM INNER WORK, CREATIVITY, SPIRITUALITY, MEDITATION
There is a humility that we have to have as donors and funders to say, ‘Look these are big problems that are hard, and that people have been working at for a long time. I need to be very cognizant of being humble. I need to listen. I need to understand.’

– ELLIOTT DONNELLEY II, GPC & SYNERGOS BOARD MEMBER
Giving hope to those who’ve lost everything

REFUGEES AND MIGRATION

The Refugees and Migration affinity group convenes members to share effective interventions, identify service gaps, and explore ideas for joint action. Member collaborations have emerged from this group in 2018.

56 members
WORKING ON EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MENTAL HEALTH, AND MORE

25 organizations
SUPPORTED BY AFFINITY GROUP MEMBERS THAT ARE ACTIVELY WORKING WITH REFUGEES
The Shifting the Food System Affinity Group explores how to use food as a tool for social and environmental change. The group’s activities are driven by members’ varied interests surrounding the food system.

55 members

WITH INTEREST IN FOOD AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Key focus areas

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE CHANGE, LAND ACCESS, CARBON FARMING, SUPPLY CHAINS, CONSERVATION
Investing as a force for good

IMPACT INVESTING

Many members have significant personal or family experience in impact investing and are leaders in the field. To support deeper engagement with these members, we formally launched the Impact Investing Affinity Group in 2017. It continued to grow this year.

88 members
EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN IMPACT INVESTING

Key issue areas
MICRO-FINANCE, ENERGY, WOMEN AND GIRLS, FINANCIAL INCLUSION, EMPOWERING MINORITIES
I feel incredibly lucky to have joined the GPC family...We all know there is a large difference and gap between Chinese and American philanthropy... Peggy and many friends gave us exceptional help and welcomed us with such warmth to give us an opportunity to connect with the most prominent, outstanding philanthropic families globally.

– WANG BING, GPC MEMBER
GPC members have direct access to the resources and networks across all of Synergos, including its proven approach to social change, the relationships and learnings from its partnership programs, training opportunities through the Bridging Leadership program, and individual support through our relationship managers and Synergos Consulting Services. We invite our members to take advantage of events and other opportunities throughout the year to learn and grow with us.
How Synergos builds trust to drive social impact

Systemic change requires collaboration. Collaboration is powered by trust. Synergos creates and sustains collaborations capable of achieving lasting social change by using the tools in our approach to build trust within, between, and among key stakeholders. Here’s what that looks like.

**INNER WORK**
- Increasing awareness of the self, others, and the system in which the problem exists
- Aligning understanding of the problem and intentions to address it

**BRIDGING LEADERSHIP**
- Creating and sustaining trusting working relationships among key stakeholders of diverse perspectives
- Using systems thinking to see how elements of the problem exist within a whole

**COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS**
- Working together with others, including those most impacted by the system as it currently operates, to leverage collective knowledge, resources, and actions

**SUSTAINABLE IMPACT AT SCALE**
- Supporting the network of partners to sustain collective action and create lasting progress
- Mentoring emerging Bridging Leaders to deepen trust and collaboration as the partnership grows
We’re building Bridging Leaders. Bridging Leaders build trust.

Our Bridging Leadership training program helps philanthropists and representatives from governments, NGOs, and corporate foundations create collaborations to create durable solutions to complex social and environmental challenges. Here’s what the Bridging Leadership program achieved this year.

8 Bridging Leadership sessions
IN BRAZIL, THE PHILIPPINES, INDIA, AND MEXICO

8 gatherings in 5 countries
ENABLING EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

80 participants
LEARNED ABOUT HOW TO APPLY BRIDGING LEADERSHIP IN THEIR WORK
Advisory services to deepen philanthropic impact

Engaging with Synergos Consulting Services is an effective way to deepen your social impact while working with trusted members of the Synergos family. Our team has partnered with GPC members to design giving strategies, conduct partnership due diligence, and provide advisory and research on an ongoing basis.

A recent example of our work comes from India where, in partnership with a GPC member, we took a systems-view analysis of the community healthcare system. Together we analyzed the system’s capacity to manage soaring levels of cardiovascular disease and its myriad impacts on community health. Read more in our full article here.
Our team is strategically spread across the world to assist our members in their philanthropic work, help them organize events, and connect them with other members in their region.
Synergos has been the community within which I understood that you could give philanthropy a chance. I now feel that I can both attack and defend philanthropy in a meaningful way. The GPC is a safe environment where you can be yourself...there is a sense of trust. That’s pretty beautiful.

– ALESSANDRO D’ANSEMBOURG, GPC & NEXTGEN MEMBER