



Investing in Education – Stanford University

Since our very first year as a 501.c.3 Operating Foundation we have invested heavily in the education of today's students as a means of bringing about a more hope-filled tomorrow. We were proud to be the first major donor for the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality.

Initial Expertise: We designed and developed the Center's database-driven website, the cornerstone of the Center as the data repository. Members of our team designed a **logo** for the Center as well as **branding materials** used at the Center's annual State of the Union event. We co-produced a musical celebration of the Center's launch, on Thursday, September 6, 2007, coordinating with local gospel and classical musicians including members of The Peninsula Symphony, conductor Mitchell Sardou Klein, and composer Giancarlo Aquilanti. We also produced an award-winning documentary of the event, *A Concert for Hope*. We released *inequality.com 2.0* in 2010, but our basic design stood unchanged for ten years, until an overhaul in 2016. Years later, some of the original structure remains useful.

Funding Visiting Scholars: The *Elfenworks Foundation Visiting Scholars Program* brings leading scholars and practitioners to Stanford University to carry out research, teach classes and inform public debate on poverty and inequality policy. Each year, the Elfenworks Foundation funds two visitors: a distinguished scholar who spends one or two semesters in residence delivering several public lectures and writing a book for the *Controversies in Inequality* book series, and a visiting lecturer who contributes to graduate and undergraduate programs in poverty and inequality.

Poverty, Inequality and Policy Magazine: As part of its continuing involvement with the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, the Foundation helped the Center develop and launch *Pathways* magazine. The Elfenworks Visiting Scholars have been among many distinguished contributors to this magazine, which has for years provided a forum for top scholars to disseminate their research and to provide the facts and cogent analysis that inform crucial policy decisions on poverty and inequality.

External Advisor: Our CEO continues to serve as an External Advisor and our technologists continue to assist with expertise, as requested. We have worked hard to build bridges for the Stanford Center with other groups, including an early one which was sparked by Bruce Western (Harvard) and David Grusky (Stanford) which we worked towards facilitating. This Collaboration for Poverty Research, we believe, was a first between Harvard and Stanford, and other collaborations have followed.



Figure 1: Development team for *inequality.com* website.



Feedback

We received the following feedback from Stanford in March of 2017:

“Thanks to support from the Elfenworks Foundation and our other funders, the CPI has produced **19** issues of *Pathways Magazine*, including **4** annual State of the Union Reports. Just in the first 18 editions, there were **137** articles. As part of the CPI’s collaboration with the Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, we produced **12** podcasts featuring discussions of cutting-edge research on poverty, inequality, and social policy. We also released America’s Poverty Course, the country’s first online course on poverty and inequality, which included **49** videos highlighting the most recent findings on poverty and inequality. Finally, support from Elfenworks has allowed the CPI to directly support **13** postdoctoral and visiting scholars, as well as to host shorter visits of both distinguished and new scholars of poverty and inequality.”

We asked the Center Director, Dr. David Grusky, for feedback as to which parts might be attributable to Elfenworks, and he wrote back with this generous comment:

The problem is that pretty much everything we’ve done is due to Elfenworks. If it weren’t for Elfenworks, we’d be in a completely different situation, a much worse one! And hence it’s hard to sort out what we’ve done that isn’t attributable to Elfenworks. I’m not trying to be generous or nice ... that’s just the truth of it.

About the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, online at www.inequality.com, serves as a clearing house for inequality scholarship and data, supports graduate and undergraduate training programs in poverty and inequality analysis, and fosters innovative interdisciplinary research on poverty and inequality. They also publish and distribute *Pathways*, a landmark magazine on poverty, inequality, and social policy.

A web-based center for trend and other breaking research data on poverty offers journalists, politicians, and policy makers at all levels immediate access to a wealth of information, making it possible to monitor poverty and inequality just as easily as monitoring economic output. Professor David Grusky, Director of the Stanford Center, believes this access is crucial. Without it, every American loses, because societies that choose a high-poverty road do so at a high cost to rich and poor alike (e.g., through raising crime rates and increasing the national health care bill, among other things). In other words, a high-poverty economy hurts everyone’s bottom line and should be treated accordingly. Dr. Grusky hopes that his work can help prepare the next generation to face the looming spectre of poverty and remove this social blight.

This Center’s objectives include: to support scientific analysis of poverty and inequality, to develop science-based policy on poverty and inequality, to disseminate data and research on poverty and inequality, and to train the next generation of scholars, policy analysts, and politicians. The Center was founded by Center Director Dr. David Grusky, who can be seen on our feature film “The Concert for Hope.”