

## Prize for Individual Philanthropy 2014



### About the 2014 winners

#### Charly and Lisa Kleissner

Charly and Lisa Kleissner made their wealth in 1999 in Silicon Valley. Charly was the Sr. VP of Product Development at Ariba. Lisa, as the CEO of TKG, consulted to startups. With a portion of their wealth, they co-founded the KL Felicitas Foundation in 2000.

As Charly and Lisa began to explore the meaning of wealth, they challenged their investment advisory to show them product that not only provided a financial return, but also a measurable benefit to people and planet. Other than negative screening, impact investing was a little-understood concept in 2000. Today, the Kleissners are well on their way to 100% impact in their portfolio expecting to reach this milestone this year.

To inspire their peers, the Kleissner's have published numerous papers on impact investing and used their website to share resources and tools for those wishing to align their assets with their values. In 2013, Sonen Capital published the financial returns of the KLFF portfolio to demonstrate that impact investments can perform at or better than industry standard financial benchmarks. This seminal report was the first of its kind challenging the long held myth that impact investments cannot compete with the market.

In approaching philanthropy, Charly and Lisa brought their entrepreneurial know-how to bear. A significant hurdle for impact investors has been quantity and quality of investible product. To close this gap, the KLFF identified the need for specialised capacity building for social entrepreneurs. They co-founded Social-Impact International – an incubator of incubators and accelerators. The program they started in India in 2005 expanded into Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and now Hawai'i for the Pacific Basin.

With more investible product coming to market, the KLFF then focused on building a network for global impact investors. Toniic, the action community for global impact investing, was co-founded in 2011. Today, Toniic members around the world partner to fund deals, share their expertise, and co-create a sustainable global community of practice.

BioLite is an example of an impact-first equity investment the Foundation made out of its corpus. BioLite produces a unique fuel-efficient camping stove for the recreation market that generates power for charging cell phones and lights. This same technology is being used in their new product – the HomeStove – for developing countries.

Charly and Lisa focus great effort on measuring the impact of the Foundation's investment portfolio. Adhering to the Impact Reporting and Investment Standards (IRIS), they track portfolio and sector specific IRIS metrics, promote the use of GIIRS for their investees and then collect impact stories from each investment. Their impact report, to be published later this year, will not only share the data collected and their analysis of its import, but will also discuss the challenges and potential solutions for measuring impact in a meaningful way.

## **Tomasz Sadowski and Barbara Sadowska**

In 1989, Tomasz Sadowski and Barbara Sadowska established the Barka Foundation for Mutual Help (Barka means 'lifeboat' in Polish), a network of self-sustaining institutions working to help re-integrate and empower destitute and homeless people in post-communist Poland, helping them to lead independent and productive lives.

Tomasz and Barbara Sadowski were both trained as psychologists under the communist regime, but in 1989 decided to live with a group of patients, unemployed and homeless people, in an abandoned school building.

This was the stepping stone for the development of the Barka Foundation and its network.

Barka develops self-sufficient communities where service-users live in a family-like setting, helping to rebuild and run abandoned farms and other premises.

In addition, Barka runs programmes for education and vocational training, entrepreneurship development and accessible housing.

What started as a regional project is today a network of several hundred independent, self-sufficient institutions in 6 countries on 3 continents. Each year, up to 10,000 people benefit from Barka services. Indeed franchises abroad offer reconnection and integration programmes for stranded migrants from Eastern European countries.

As one of Poland's first NGOs, Barka has become a major player in the development of civil society and social economy, having influenced legislation on education, social entrepreneurship, and social cooperatives.