

**TIDES FOUNDATION AND TIDES CENTER**

Tides Foundation  
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P.O. Box 29907  
San Francisco, CA  
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- Net Assets: Tides Foundation - \$142,007,356 (2006); Tides Center - \$43,969,744 (2006)
- Grants Received: Tides Foundation - \$68,725,557 (2006); Tides Center - \$49,859,754 (2006)
- Grants Awarded: Tides Foundation - \$67,319,624 (2006); Tides Center - \$5,566,058 (2006)

Established in 1976 by California-based activist [Drummond Pike](#), the Tides Foundation was set up as a public charity that receives money from donors and then funnels it to the recipients of their choice. Because many of these recipient groups are quite radical, the donors often prefer not to have their names publicly linked with the donees. By letting the Tides Foundation, in effect, "[launder](#)" the money for them and pass it along to the intended beneficiaries, donors can avoid leaving a "paper trail." Such contributions are called "donor-advised," or donor-directed, funds.

Through this legal loophole, nonprofit entities can also create for-profit organizations and then funnel money to them through Tides -- thereby circumventing the laws that bar nonprofits from directly funding their own for-profit enterprises. [Pew Charitable Trusts](#), for instance, set up three for-profit media companies and then proceeded to fund them via donor-advised contributions to Tides, which (for an 8 percent management fee) in turn sent the money to the media companies.

If a donor wishes to give money to a particular cause but finds that there is no organization in existence dedicated specifically to that issue, the Tides Foundation will, for a fee, create a group to meet that perceived need.

In 1996 the Tides Foundation created, with a \$9 million seed grant, a separate but closely related entity called the Tides Center, also headed by Drummond Pike. While the Foundation's activities focus on fundraising and grant-making, the Center -- in its role as [fiscal sponsor](#) -- [offers](#) newly created organizations the shelter of Tides' own charitable tax-exempt status, as well as the benefits of Tides' health and liability insurance coverage. As the Capital Research Center explains:

"Under the Tides Center umbrella, the new group can then accept tax

deductible contributions without needing to apply immediately to the IRS for tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity tax status.... Besides giving a new project its seal of approval, the Tides Center performs a notable service in showing new groups how to run an office, apply for grants, conduct effective public relations, and handle the many personnel, payroll, and budget problems that might baffle a novice group."

Between 1996 and 2010, the Tides Center [served](#) as a fiscal sponsor to some 677 separate projects with combined revenues of \$522.4 million; in 2010 alone, the Center was [actively managing](#) nearly 200 projects.

In addition to the foregoing duties, the Tides Center also functions as a [legal firewall](#) insulating the Tides Foundation from potential lawsuits filed by people whose livelihoods or well-being may be harmed by Foundation-funded projects. (These could be, for instance, farmers or loggers who are put out of business by Tides-backed environmentalist groups.)

The Tides Center's Board Chairman is [Wade Rathke](#), who is also a member of the Tides Foundation Board. Rathke, a protege of the late [George A. Wiley](#), serves as President of the New Orleans-based Local 100 of the [Service Employees International Union](#), and is the founder and chief organizer of the [Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now](#) (ACORN).

Maya Wiley, daughter of George A. Wiley, sits on the Tides Center's Board of Directors.

[Chip Berlet](#) sits on the Board of the Campaign to Defend the Constitution, a Tides Center project formed in 2005 to combat "the growing power of the religious right" and to "fight for the separation of church and state." Berlet is a senior analyst for [Political Research Associates](#), and has had affiliations with the [American Civil Liberties Union](#), the [American Friends Service Committee](#), the [Christic Institute](#), the Socialist Workers Party, the [National Lawyers Guild](#), and the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#).

The Tides Foundation promotes a multitude of leftist agendas, as evidenced by its assertion: "We strengthen community-based organizations and the progressive movement by providing an innovative and cost-effective framework for your philanthropy." Among the crusades to which Tides contributes are: radical environmentalism; the "exclusion of humans from public and private wildlands"; the anti-war movement; anti-free trade campaigns; the banning of firearms ownership; abolition of the death penalty; access to government-funded abortion-on-demand; and radical gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender advocacy. The Foundation is also a member organization of the International Human Rights Funders Group, a network of more than six-dozen [grantmakers](#) dedicated to financing leftwing groups and causes.

Immediately after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Tides [formed](#) a "9/11 Fund" to advocate a "peaceful national response." Tides later replaced the 9/11 Fund with the "Democratic Justice Fund," which was financed in large measure by the [Open Society Institute](#) of [George Soros](#), who has donated more than \$7 million to Tides over the years. Reciprocally, the Tides Foundation is a major funder of the [Shadow Party](#), a George Soros-conceived nationwide network of several dozen unions, non-profit activist groups, and think tanks whose agendas are ideologically to the left, and which are engaged in campaigning for the Democrats.

Tides also set up a Peace Strategies Fund and an [Iraq Peace Fund](#), the latter of which has granted money to such groups as [MoveOn.org](#), the [National Council of Churches](#), the [Arab-American Action Network](#), [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#), and the pro-Castro groups [United for Peace and Justice](#) and [Center for Constitutional Rights](#). In addition, Tides funds “A Better Way Project,” which coordinates the activities of United for Peace and Justice and the [Win Without War Coalition](#)/Keep America Safe Campaign.

Tides and the organizations it supports interact closely with one another on a regular basis. [For example](#), Drummond Pike sits on the Board of the [Environmental Working Group](#) along with [David Fenton](#), founder of [Fenton Communications](#).

Recent recipients of Tides Foundation grants include: the [A.J. Muste Memorial Institute](#); the [American Civil Liberties Union](#); the [ACORN Institute](#); the [Agape Foundation](#); [Alliance For Justice](#); [American Family Voices](#); the [American Friends Service Committee](#); the [American Immigration Law Foundation](#); the [American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee](#); [Amnesty International](#); the [Border Action Network](#); the [Brennan Center for Justice](#); [Campaign for America’s Future](#); the [Center for American Progress](#); the [Center for Community Change](#); the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#); the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#); [Changemakers](#); the [Children’s Defense Fund](#); [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington](#); the [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#) (as [revealed](#) in [FrontpageMagazine](#)); [Democracy Now!](#); [Earth Day Network](#); [Earth Island Institute](#); [Earthjustice](#); [Environmental Defense](#); [Environmental Media Services](#); the [Environmental Working Group](#); [Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting](#); the [Feminist Majority Foundation](#); [Free Press](#); [Funding Exchange](#); [Global Exchange](#); [Grantmakers Without Borders](#); [Grassroots International](#); [Greenpeace](#); [Human Rights First](#); [Human Rights Watch](#); the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#); [Institute for America’s Future](#); [Institute for Policy Studies](#); [Institute for Public Accuracy](#); the [Israel Policy Forum](#); the [Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#); the [Lawyers’ Committee on Nuclear Policy](#); the [Jane Addams Peace Association](#); the [League of Conservation Voters](#); the [League of United Latin American Citizens](#); the [League of Women Voters](#); the [Liberty Hill Foundation](#); [MADRE](#); [Medecins Sans Frontieres](#); [Media Matters for America](#); [Mercy Corps](#); the [Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#); the [Mexico Solidarity Network](#); the [Middle East Children’s Alliance](#); [Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet](#); the [Ms. Foundation for Women](#); the [NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation](#); the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#); the [National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers](#); the [National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty](#); the [National Council of Churches](#); the [National Lawyers Guild](#); the [National Network of Grantmakers](#); the [National Organization for Women Foundation](#); the [National Wildlife Federation](#); the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#); the [Nature Conservancy](#) (of California and of New York); the [New Israel Fund](#); the [New World Foundation](#); [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#); the [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation](#); [Oxfam America](#); the [Pacifica Foundation](#); [Peace Action](#); the [Peace Development Fund](#); [People for the American Way](#); [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#); [Physicians for Social Responsibility](#); [Planned Parenthood](#); the [Ploughshares Fund](#); [Population Connection](#); the [Progress Unity Fund](#); [Project Vote](#); the [Proteus Fund](#); the [Public Citizen Foundation](#); the [Rainforest Action Network](#); the [Rainforest Alliance](#); the [Rockefeller Family Fund](#); the [Ruckus Society](#); the [Sentencing Project](#); [September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows](#); the [Sierra Club](#); the [Shefa Fund](#); [Sojourners](#); the [Threshold Foundation](#); [TrueMajority Action](#); [Trust for Public Land](#); the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#); [USAction](#); [Veterans For Peace](#); [Waterkeeper Alliance](#); the [Wilderness Society](#); [Witness For Peace](#); [Women’s Action for New Directions](#); and the [World Wildlife](#)

## Fund.

Tides also runs a tax-exempt “alternative media source” called the [Institute for Global Communications](#) (IGC), a leading provider of Web technology to the radical left.

Between 1993 and 2003, at least 91 foundations made grants to the Tides Foundation. These included the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#); the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#); the [Arca Foundation](#); the [AT&T Foundation](#); the [Barbra Streisand Foundation](#); the [Bauman Family Foundation](#); [Ben and Jerry's Foundation](#); the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#); the [Blue Moon Fund](#); the [Bullitt Foundation](#); the [CarEth Foundation](#); the [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#); [Changemakers](#); the [ChevronTexaco Foundation](#); the [Columbia Foundation](#); the [David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#); the [Energy Foundation](#); the [Fannie Mae Foundation](#); the [Ford Foundation](#); the [Foundation for Deep Ecology](#); the [Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#); the [Heinz Family Foundation](#); the Hoffman Foundation; the Homeland Foundation; the [Howard Heinz Endowment](#); the [J.M. Kaplan Fund](#); the James Irvine Foundation; the [JEHT Foundation](#); the [Jenifer Altman Foundation](#); the [Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation](#); the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#); the [Joyce Foundation](#); the [Lear Family Foundation](#); the [Liberty Hill Foundation](#); the [Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation](#); the [Ms. Foundation for Women](#); the [Nathan Cummings Foundation](#); the [New World Foundation](#); the [Open Society Institute](#); the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#); the [Ploughshares Fund](#); the [Proteus Fund](#); the [Public Welfare Foundation](#); the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund; the [Righteous Persons Foundation](#); the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#); the Roberts Foundation; the [Rockefeller Family Fund](#); the [Rockefeller Foundation](#); the [Schumann Center for Media and Democracy](#); the [Stern Family Fund](#); the [Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust](#); the [Summit Charitable Foundation](#); the [Surdna Foundation](#); the [Threshold Foundation](#); the [Turner Foundation](#); the [Vanguard Public Foundation](#); the [Verizon Foundation](#); the [Vira I. Heinz Endowment](#); the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#); the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#); and the [Woods Fund of Chicago](#).

One particularly notable donor to the Tides entities is [Teresa Heinz Kerry](#), wife of Senator [John Kerry](#). From 1994 to 2004, the [Heinz Endowments](#), which Mrs. Kerry heads, gave the Tides Foundation and Center approximately \$8.1 million in grants. Until February 2001, Mrs. Kerry also served as a trustee of the [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), which has given Tides numerous six-figure grants.

The Tides Foundation and Tides Center also receive [grants from the U.S. federal government](#). Between 1997 and 2001, these grants included the following: \$395,219 from the Department of Interior; \$3,350,431 from the Environmental Protection Agency; \$3,487,040 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; \$208,878 from the Department of Agriculture; \$39,550 from the Department of Energy; \$93,500 from the Small Business Administration; \$10,986 from the Department of Health and Human Services; and \$84,520 from the Centers for Disease Control U.S. Agency for International Development.

Project Not Found

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