

# MERIDIAN

INTERNATIONAL CENTER



ANNUAL 2011 REPORT



Dedicated to the memory of Trustee The Honorable Charles T. Manatt friend, supporter, visionary.

He is deeply missed.

#### Chairman and President's Message

Meridian is building on the momentum of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by launching new programs and projects that propel our leadership into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our traditional programs of exchange, exhibitions, seminars, and gatherings are all strengthened and revitalized by new technological applications that enable us to access more audiences, broaden our outreach, and expand our knowledge base. Meridian is the one place in Washington, D.C. where you can find leadership preparation, educational exchanges, and networks that circle the globe.

We continue to focus on our mission to create innovative exchange, educational, cultural, and policy programs in order to advance three goals:

- Strengthen U.S. engagement with the world through the power of exchange;
- Prepare public and private sector leaders for a complex global future; and
- Provide a neutral forum for international collaboration across sectors.

In 2011, we expanded our reach through projects and partnerships such as:

- An historic U.S.-China cultural initiative that builds bridges of understanding at a critical time for the U.S.-China relationship;
- A Meridian India Initiative that forges new ties between U.S. and Indian business, political, and civil society leaders;
- A Memorandum of Understanding signed with Washington D.C.'s Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center to partner on convening larger conferences and events, promote business and trade relationships, and highlight cultural opportunities.

2011 also brought successes such as the new U.S.-France Strategic Dialogue and programs like Insights at Meridian, which serve the diplomatic community here in Washington, D.C. Our anchor — the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) — continues to provide high-quality programs for international leaders, with 1,767 leaders visiting in 2011. In fact, in a recently released report of U.S. Department of State ratings for this important work, Meridian received the highest mean score in every evaluated category.

Our funding partners say that they find value in the high-quality programming we provide, in the way we connect embassy resources around the world, and the cultural content they can access through our exhibitions. Throughout it all, we have advanced our mission of strengthening international understanding through the exchange of people, ideas, and culture.

As we look forward to 2012, we are confident that Meridian will continue to be vital to the growth of the international affairs and policy communities — Meridian is *the* place for global leadership.



Governor James J. Blanchard Chairman Meridian Board of Trustees

(fin Bland)



Amb. Stuart W. Holliday President and CEO Meridian International Center

Short Holliday

### Meridian's Global Leadership Project

The annual release of the U.S. Global Leadership Track, a joint project with Gallup, provides a comprehensive assessment of how the world views the leadership of the U.S. 2011 events highlighted current U.S. and international initiatives in: Global Health and Food Security; Disaster Response; Energy and Environment; Economic Growth and Development; Innovation and Technology; and Women's Leadership.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/global-leadership-project

# The Prevention and Control of Chronic Disease: A Global Leadership Challenge

On July 26, Meridian hosted a conference on the topic of chronic diseases, co-sponsored by Gallup and Healthways. Representatives from NIH, Pan American Health Organization, the American Diabetes Association, George Washington University, and Health Affairs participated as speakers for this half-day program. In the discussion following the panel presentations, members from a multi-region IVLP group, including representatives from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, and Haiti, shared their experiences and addressed cultural issues within the health sector.

## Taking the Lead: Promoting Green Technology Around the World

On September 29, Meridian hosted *Taking the Lead: Promoting Green Technology Around the World*, sponsored by Multistack, an innovative manufacturer of energy efficient cooling and heating products. The roundtable discussion with experts from the public and private sectors highlighted current initiatives in energy efficiency and technology around the world. In addition to the diverse audience at Meridian, the event was streamed live online, and viewed by U.S. embassies around the world.



## Looking Forward: The Arab Spring and What Matters Now

On September 27, The Meridian Council on Women's Leadership partnered with the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center to host a panel discussion on political change in the MENA region. After a presentation of survey data by Meridian Trustee Mark Penn, a panel of think tank and media experts highlighted the role of women in the Arab Spring movement. A group of journalists and activists from Yemen participated in the event as part of an IVLP and shared their perspectives on change in the Arab world.

#### Trade Missions

Meridian works with the U.S. Trade and Development Agency to implement high-profile reverse trade missions. These programs bring international delegations representing large procurement projects to meet with representatives of U.S. companies. For every dollar appropriated by Congress, projects like these result in a historical return of more than \$47 in U.S. exports.

## Youth Leadership Development

Meridian staff implemented leadership training programs for more than 100 youth from Iraq, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, and the U.S. These programs focused on conflict resolution tactics and developing action plans for youth-led community projects, as part of the Youth Leadership Program with Central Europe.

### Global Leadership Training and Conferences

Our tailored executive education programs and exchanges equip business leaders with cultural insights and political analyses to help organizations succeed in the global business environment. This year, Meridian's administration of the U.S. – Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission provided insights and information on mass media and civil society to Russian education officials.

### **Customized Exchanges**

Meridian helps U.S. Embassies and other clients develop exchanges with local experts on topics ranging from civil society, policy and politics, to trade and economic development. In 2011, Meridian worked with the U.S. Embassy in Doha and the Qatar Railway Authority to host eight officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council Railway Authority. The visit highlighted the U.S. rail system's best practices and connected visitors with U.S. companies and regulators as these countries seek to develop their railway systems.



## American-Chinese Cultural Initiative (ACCI)

Amb. Holliday and Mme. Zhou, Vice Minister of Culture for the People's Republic of China (PRC), signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Meridian and the China International Culture Association. Subsequently, Meridian launched the American-Chinese Cultural Initiative to promote highlevel connections between American and Chinese businesses, non-profit organizations, and government entities in support of shared cultural projects.

In February, Meridian and the Embassy of the PRC in Washington, D.C., co-hosted a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration at Meridian House, with more than 350 guests, including PRC Ambassador Zhang Yesui.

In September, the first MOU-sponsored exhibition, *CHINA Town: Contemporary Ceramic Painting from Jingdezhen*, opened in the Meridian Cafritz Galleries. The exhibition, curated by Meridian, brought a unique collection of painted porcelain works from China for an exclusive display in the U.S.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/acci



## U.S.-Afghan Relations

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Meridian organized an historic photo exhibition, *In Small Things Remembered: The Early Years of U.S.-Afghan Relations*, which premiered in the Cafritz Galleries before traveling to Kabul for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of 9/11. More than 6,000 local school children visited the show while it was at the Queen's Palace in the Babur Gardens. Six smaller copies of the exhibition will travel throughout Afghanistan.



## Meridian's Traveling Exhibition Service

The Art for Cultural Diplomacy Traveling Exhibition Service organized domestic tours for Sudan: The Land and the People and Jam Session: America's Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World. Also, the U.S. Department of State's world tour of Jam Session continues to attract thousands of visitors, reaching 13 countries this year. Traveling exhibitions serve as catalysts for conversations between Americans and viewers abroad; bring the cultures of other lands to diverse audiences in the U.S.; and promote closer relations between our nation and others.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/exhibitions-on-tour

### Insights at Meridian

Insights at Meridian is a forum for the Washington, D.C. based senior diplomatic community to discuss substantive issues with international experts and opinion leaders. Topics in 2011 included the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, stimulating the economy while reducing the deficit, and the Presidential primaries.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/insights



### Global Dialogue Dinners

Meridian Global Dialogue Dinners are "salon style," off-the-record conversations examining the policy challenges facing international world leaders. Featured speakers this year included His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France; His Excellency Sameh Shoukry, Ambassador of Egypt; and former Italian Ambassador Giulio Maria Terzi di Sant'Agata, currently serving as Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/dialogue-dinners

## Global Business @ Meridian Downtown

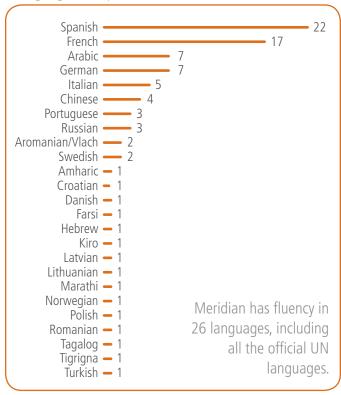
Global Business @ Meridian Downtown provides members of Meridian's Corporate Council with opportunities to learn about key commercial issues between the U.S. and its leading trade partners. This year featured programs led by His Excellency Ebrahim Rasool, Ambassador of South Africa; His Excellency Arturo Sarukhan, Ambassador of Mexico; Her Excellency Meera Shankar, Ambassador of India; and His Excellency Gary Doer, Ambassador of Canada.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/global-business

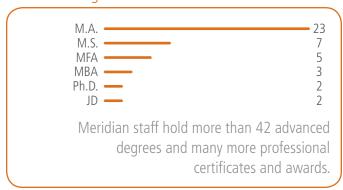
#### Our Expertise

At Meridian, we take pride in the diversity and talents of our clients, partners, and visitors, as well as our hard-working and highly qualified staff. Many staff members have advanced degrees in law, teaching, business, and the arts, and have gained experience by working with the Foreign Service, Peace Corps, Fulbright Program, and many other organizations.

#### languages we speak



#### advanced degrees



#### nations in which we have lived





## International Day of Service

On May 7, Meridian's Global Service Leaders Initiative (GSLI) inaugurated the International Day of Service. More than 50,000 individuals in 50 countries and 100

cities took part in voluntary service projects impacting hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.



## United Nations International Volunteer Day of Service

GSLI initiated two projects to celebrate the United Nations (UN) International Volunteer Day. On December 3, GSLI partnered with Washington Parks and People and the DC Green Corps to plant more than 100 trees in Oxon Run Park. On December 5, GSLI honored the UN's International Day of Service with projects in 50 countries that highlighted the UN's Millennium Development Goals and recruited volunteers from marginalized communities.

## Innovative Global Leadership Networks: Powering Service and Volunteerism

In January, Meridian, Gallup, and the Points of Light Institute hosted a multi-disciplinary conference on social entrepreneurship, innovation in volunteerism, and collaboration. Experts from diverse organizations including IBM, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, U.S. Department of State, and Ashoka spoke on how volunteer networks can be strengthened and improved.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/gsli

## **VOLINTEER**

Meridian's Global Service Leaders Initiative (GSLI) identifies, connects, and engages service leaders around the world in order to provide them with the tools necessary to achieve their goals. Within GSLI, the VOLINTEER knowledge network is dedicated to enhancing the development of global volunteer movements and providing a platform for peer-to-peer leadership exchange.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://meridianserviceleaders.ning.com">http://meridianserviceleaders.ning.com</a>

## International Visitor Leadership Program

For more than 60 years, Meridian has been one of the U.S. Department of State's principal partners in implementing the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), which promotes mutual understanding through visits to the U.S. The IVLP provides leaders from all over the world the opportunity to exchange ideas in their fields and build lasting relationships. The program, which invites more than 4,000 distinguished visitors to the U.S. every year, is funded by the U.S. Department of State. Meridian is the IVLP's single largest provider and annually administers approximately



Murrow Program participate in a conference in

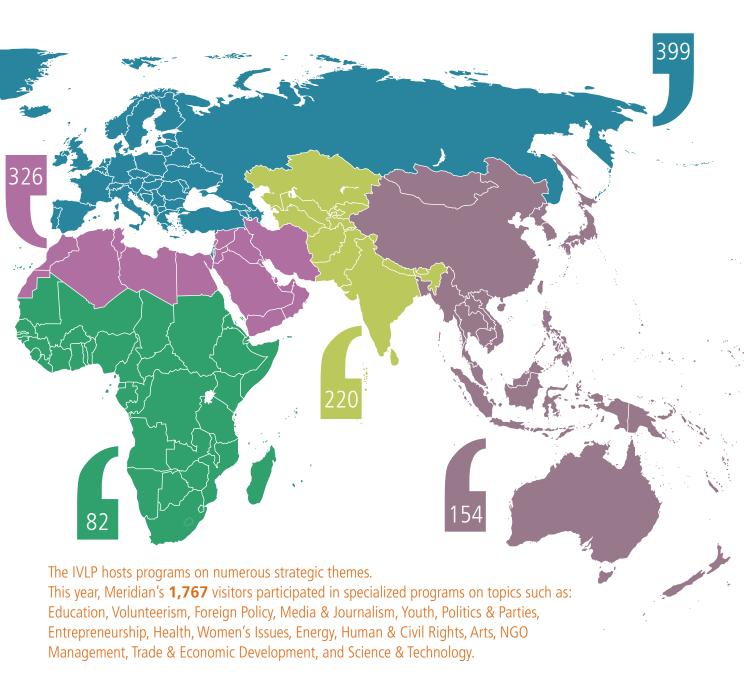
Washington, D.C. ▶▶

(Ilya Smirnov/Phjarannik Daily)



# Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists

Every fall, more than 150 rising international journalists travel to the U.S. to take part in the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists, conducted in six languages. In October, Meridian hosted groups from Europe, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union. The program offers participants an opportunity to observe media coverage of state politics and government, as well as American civic life and political affairs, through academic seminars and activities at top U.S. journalism schools.



## Young Leaders RISE: Renew, Inspire, Serve, and Empower

Designed for young Arab political leaders, non-governmental organizers, community activists, academics, and news media representatives, the IVLP, *Young Leaders RISE: Renew, Inspire, Serve, and Empower* explored strategies for increasing political participation and coalition-building. Topics addressed included strategic planning, leadership development, social media, lobbying, public outreach, and the use of volunteer networks.

### Sustainable Cities

In October, an IVLP Multi-Regional Project brought an 18-person delegation from 16 countries to the U.S. on a three-week project that examined the ecological, economic, and social dimensions of urban planning and development. One highlight was a tour led by a local specialist of Columbia Heights, in Washington D.C., addressing how commercial, residential, and artistic aspects of the neighborhood have drastically changed in the past decade.

#### Global Partnerships



and International Trade Center (RRB/ITC) (MOU) to foster greater cooperation between our two organizations. Signed by Ambassador Stuart Holliday and John P. Drew, the memoto work cooperatively with the RRB/ITC using our strengths, experience, and resources to pursue international projects that advance both of our missions. Shared efforts have branded events and programs such as the upcoming International Children's Festival, trade delegations and international visitor's meetings, as well as internationally themed art and cultural exhibitions.





### U.S.-France Dialogue

The U.S.-France Leadership Dialogue brings together U.S. and French representatives from business and government to discuss issues of common concern and promote great-

er collaboration. The Dialogue is structured around a series of one-day forums that are held alternately in the United States and France, and is sustained through issue-specific colloquia and technology that allows for on-going interaction and the sharing of ideas among participants. Meridian is leading this Dialogue in partnership with the Association France-Amériques and the French-American Cultural Foundation, under the auspices of the French Embassy.

#### Meridian International Center India

In 2011, Meridian signed an MOU with the Duet Foundation to establish Meridian International Center India, which facilitates stronger bilateral ties between India and the United States. Through this on-the-ground presence in the center of the world's largest democracy, Meridian has increased its capacity to implement the unique international exchange programs and cultural exhibitions that define its mission. Through our unique lens, we will promote greater understanding and stronger ties.





Board and staff members share their reasons for joining Meridian and what they value about Meridian's impact.

### Ricardo Ernst, Ph.D.

Professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business specializing in global supply chain management

Meridian Board member since: 2010



Why he believes in Meridian: "I don't believe in geographic identity: I embrace the idea of a global citizen. Meridian has an energy that brings together

different countries, cultures, sectors, and even different generations in a whole new way, creating an unbiased platform unlike any other."

## Philip Lauinger

Retired international trade magazine publisher

Meridian Board member since: 1996



Why he believes in Meridian:

"Meridian has unique assets at its disposal: the caliber of its staff and leadership, its historic campus, its solid gold reputation in the field...

There is nothing more worthy than their work to improve America's international engagement, and it is a joy to be involved in that work."

#### Alana Ramo

Program Associate and Social Media Coordinator With Meridian since: 2010



Why she believes in Meridian: "I love working here at Meridian; I look forward to meeting people from around the world every week. It inspires me to learn more

about other countries, stay updated on events shaping international affairs, and connect with international visitors on a personal level."

## Patricia de Stacy Harrison

President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Meridian Board member since: 2010



Why she believes in Meridian: "Having worked with the IVLP program and currently working with CPB, I know that personal engagement and conversations are

the crucial links between people in international exchange. Visitors learn through their experiences with Meridian that anyone can make a difference, and that the power of community is indomitable."

## Henry Collins

Program Officer

With Meridian since: 1991



Why he believes in Meridian: "After 21 years serving abroad in the military, I can appreciate the key human element that Meridian brings to international understanding. You

can study a country intellectually, but it isn't until you meet real people that you can truly understand a nation or culture."

## Curtis Sandberg, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for the Arts

With Meridian since: 1996



Why he believes in Meridian: "Meridian's Art for Cultural Diplomacy program is the only one of its kind in the United States, and I am constantly reminded of this when

I meet with our embassy partners and international visitors, each of whom is eager to learn more about our model and replicate it in their country."

#### LiveLocal/ThinkGlobal Network

Launched this year, The Meridian LiveLocal/ThinkGlobal Network (LL/TG), connects the Washington, D.C. community to the world through free, public educational programs and activities. The LL/TG

Network works with its partners to present the International Children's Festival, the Global Perspectives Film Series, Wired World, educational art and photo

tours, and classroom visits.



## The International Children's Festival

Meridian presented the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Children's Festival with partners THIS for Diplomats and Cultural Tourism DC. The festival provides free programming to Washington, D.C. students and exposes residents to the international diplomatic community and unique cultural performances and displays. More than 1,000 attendees attended the festival this year, with 23 embassies participating.

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/icf

### The Meridian Council on Women's Leadership

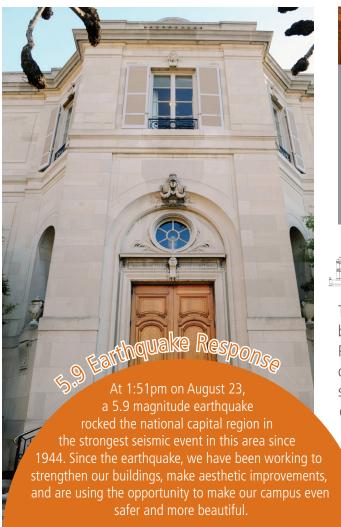
Launched this year, the mission of the Meridian Council on Women's Leadership is to strengthen international understanding of the political, economic, and social factors that help to advance women in their local communities, nationally and globally. The Council is fulfilling its mission by engaging the Meridian global network to convene meetings and connect Council members and international leaders to examine and strengthen women's empowerment in the U.S. and abroad.

To learn more about, visit www.meridian.org/cwl



On September 15, Meridian partnered with The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and The Independent Television Service (ITVS) to celebrate the launch of Meridian's Council on Women's Leadership and highlight the CPB, ITVS, and PBS global public media campaign to empower women and girls, Women and Girls Lead. Geena Davis, actor and founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, provided her insights, and Abigail Disney, awardwinning documentary filmmaker, previewed the series and participated in the panel discussion with Ambassador Donald Steinberg of USAID.

#### Support Meridian International Center





Did you know? Our houses provide a unique, unmatched venue for your next event, whether a corporate conference, a wedding, a special event,

To learn more, visit www.meridian.org/eventrental, email EventRentals@meridian.org or call (202) 939-5592.

#### Our Historic Houses



The Meridian House and the White-Meyer House, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are two examples of the residential designs of renowned architect John Russell Pope, who designed the Jefferson Memorial, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Archives and Records Administration building. The adjacent houses, built in 1920 and 1912, respectively, form a city block of supreme historic and architectural interest, in the centrally located U Street neighborhood in Washington D.C.

## The Meridian Global Leadership Awards

L to R: Chairs Ben Leedle and Douglas Bennett, awardees The Honorable Mr. and Mrs. Korologos, Chairman of the Board Jim Blanchard, awardee Jim Clifton, Ambassador Stuart Holliday, and Honorary Chair John Hope Bryant ▶▶



The Meridian Awards honor those who, by their actions and practices, exemplify the positive impact individual and corporate leaders can have in their communities and around the world. At a June gala dinner, Meridian recognized The Honorable Tom C. Korologos, The Honorable Ann McLaughlin Korologos, and Mr. Jim Clifton, Chairman & CEO of Gallup, with The Meridian Awards for International Understanding and for Innovative Leadership.

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Hon. Pierre Richard Prosper Counsel Arent Fox LLP

Mrs. Marie Thérèse Royce Managing Director Global Strategic Initiatives, Americas Public Affairs Alcatel-Lucent

Hon. Rodney Slater Partner, Patton Boggs

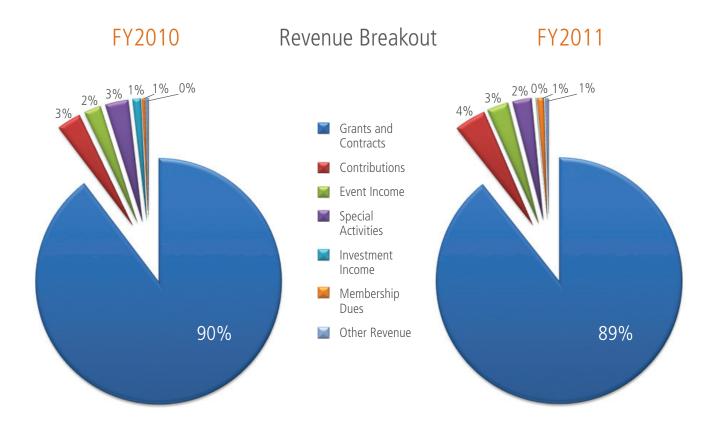
Mrs. Jill Cooper Udall U.S. Senate Spouse (D-NM)

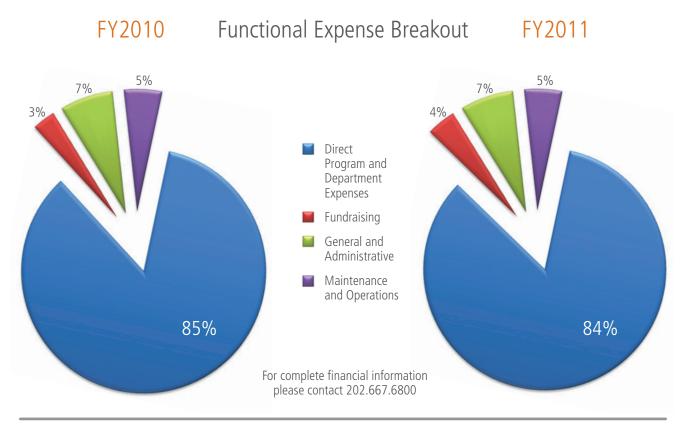
Hon. William F. McSweeny Trustee Emeritus

Hon. Walter L. Cutler President Emeritus

Legal Counsel Deborah Taylor Ashford, Esquire Hogan Lovells US, LLP

Italicized names completed their terms of service in 2011.





#### Support Meridian International Center



Meridian's work is made possible by the generous support of our donors. Meridian benefits from funding provided by individuals, foundations, government agencies, and corporations who, through their contributions, demonstrate our understanding of the importance of our many activities and programs. Their commitments have helped us grow and develop for more than 50 years. This year we set a record for number of donations and total private support.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the continuing success of Meridian International Center. We offer a wide variety of options for supporting Meridian.

For more information contact merdvelopment@meridian.org or visit www.meridian.org/joinus

### The Meridian Corporate Council











ExonMobil.

Deutsche Bank





Genentech























The Meridian Corporate Council provides a platform for exchange, dialogue, and networking on key global issues among diplomatic, public, private, and non-profit sector leaders. Council Members represent major corporations that are leaders in corporate social responsibility and international initiatives.

Corporate Council membership benefits include access to Global Business @ Meridian Downtown, Insights at Meridian, the U.S. Global Leadership Project, art exhibition openings, tickets to the Annual Meridian Ball, special programs and events, and recognition on the Meridian website.

To learn more about the Corporate Council, visit www.meridian.org/corporate

## The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meridian Ball

Since 1969, the Meridian Ball has been Washington, D.C.'s premier international social event with the proceeds from Ball was held on October Susanna Quinn, Mrs. Clara Brillembourg Chopivsky, and serving as Ball Chairs.



#### Supporters October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011

#### \$100.000 +

Chevron The Estate of Dr. Ronald L. Gabriel Genentech Richard Lounsbery Foundation U.S.Commission of Fine Arts

#### \$50,000 - \$99,999

The Coca-Cola Company Mr. and Mrs. Akram R. Elias ExxonMobil Corporation The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Mr. Gordon Gund Healthways, Inc. Poongsan

#### Visa U.S.A., Inc. \$25,000 - \$49,999

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Peabody Energy Travelport

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#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Toyota Motor North America, Inc

Wal-Mart Stores

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and Mrs. Estrin The Honorable Richard M. Fairbanks III and Mrs. Fairbanks Mr. and Mrs. Hossein Fateh

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Mr Thomas C Israel The Honorable James R. Jones and Mrs. Jones

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