



A charity of charities

Phoenix umbrella helps families form own foundations

By Russ Wiles
The Arizona Republic

Malcolm Lein worries about the environment. He's concerned about global population growth. He wants to play a role in promoting world peace.

But rather than just fretting about these issues, he and his wife Miriam did something about them. They established a family foundation 10 years ago through a Phoenix charitable umbrella group that directs ongoing financial support to various philanthropic entities. Through this organization - the American Foundation - the Leins' gifts provide help to more than 40 non-profit outfits each year.

Charitable giving is nothing new, of course, but the 15 people employed by the American Foundation believe they are providing one of the simplest, most flexible and most populist programs around - one that's open to anyone with as little as \$5,000 to spare.

"We feel it's as easy as setting up a bank account," said Benson Schaub, the American Foundation's founder and chief executive officer.

The American Foundation offers a simple program so individuals, families, small corporations and other entities can start foundations. Donors complete a two-page application, with no notarization or appraisals required. Accounts can be established at the same bank or brokerage where you hold investments by transferring title.

"This program is appropriate for people

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HOW TO CONTACT THE FOUNDATION

The American Foundation can be reached by phone at 955-4770 or online at www.americanfdn.org. It's at 4518 N. 32nd St., Phoenix.



Tom Tingle/The Arizona Republic

Benson Schaub (center) is CEO of the American Foundation, Which helped Valley residents Malcolm Lein (left) and Siglinde Goodson set up their own charitable foundations.