



## **Media Kit**

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## **Our Mission**

The primary mission of the Schusterman Foundation – Israel (SFI) is to help strengthen the fabric of Israeli society by providing funding, technical assistance and leadership for new and existing philanthropic initiatives. As the philanthropic arm in Israel of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, SFI strives to bring the same commitment to excellence and basic Jewish values that have been the hallmark of the Schusterman family's philanthropy for the past twenty years.

By engaging organizations and government policy-makers in Israel that share our ideals, we seek to make a lasting impact upon Israeli society in key ways:

- transforming the treatment and prevention of child abuse
- facilitating a sincere exploration of Jewish identity and global Jewish peoplehood for secular Israelis through *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and
- answering the biblical imperative to build Jerusalem, leading its renewal as a modern, open and eternal capital of the Jewish people

## **Our Values**

The establishment of the Schusterman Foundation – Israel in 2006 by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation gave powerful expression to the Schustermans' commitment to the Jewish people and the State of Israel, characterized by:

- A profound devotion to Judaism and the Jewish people around the world
- The belief that Israel truly can be "a light unto the nations"
- A commitment to fulfill the biblical imperative of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)

We believe that the ethics, values and lessons inherent in Judaism remain as relevant today as they have for thousands of years, and that the perpetuation of the Jewish people is of paramount importance.

We believe that the best way to ensure that the Jewish people thrive – not merely survive – in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond is for the worldwide Jewish community to work cooperatively to strengthen the Jewish identity.

We believe that Rabbi Tarfon, a great Jewish sage, spoke for all humanity when he explained that "while no one person is obligated to complete the task [of *tikkun olam*], neither is anyone free to desist from it."

We believe in the power of positive thinking and the unlimited potential of the human spirit.

### **The Schusterman Family**

Charles and Lynn Schusterman established their family foundation in 1987 and, for the next 13 years, worked together as equals to fashion their philanthropic agenda.

They were a wonderful team, perfectly complementary in both style and substance. They personified the old adage about the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

Since Charles' death in 2000, Lynn has continued to pursue the philanthropic course she first charted with her husband of 38 years. She is joined in this task by her daughter, Stacy Schusterman, the other director of the Foundation.

### **Charles Schusterman**

Charles Schusterman was the Chairman of the Board of Samson Investment Company. Samson is engaged in the production, development and exploration for oil and gas reserves everywhere from the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico through most states west of the Mississippi to the frozen tundra of Canada, as well as in Russia and Venezuela. Today, Samson ranks among the 20 largest independent oil and gas companies in the United States.

Widely known and respected for his skills in business, Charles was featured in Fortune magazine and served on many corporate boards of directors. Included among those groups were several Oklahoma financial institutions and various regional independent oil and gas associations.

Charles contributed much of his time to civic organizations to further causes in which he believed. This included serving on the boards of such diverse groups as STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal), PEJE (the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education), Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the Energy Institute of the Americas and the Israel Arts & Science Academy.

Diagnosed in 1983 with chronic myelogenous leukemia, Charles entered an experimental protocol and lived far longer than the few years he was originally told to

expect. He died on December 30, 2000, from Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), a complication of leukemia.

What Charles was able to accomplish during his last 18 years, both in business and in philanthropy, is more than remarkable. Given his medical condition, it is nothing less than astounding.

Charles received many honors during his extraordinary life, among the most notable of which were his inductions into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Tulsa Hall of Fame and the Central High School Hall of Fame.

### **Lynn Schusterman**

Born in Kansas City and raised in Oklahoma City, Lynn Schusterman first learned about philanthropy from her father. His words and deeds impressed upon her the importance of helping others help themselves. Today, Lynn speaks and lives those same values as chair of her family foundation.

Lynn also plays a leadership role at a multitude of national and international charitable organizations. Among her current responsibilities are serving as president of STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal), president of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and co-chair of the International Board of Governors of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. Her local activities are equally numerous. She is a past president of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. She currently serves on the advisory boards of the Parent-Child Center, the Foundation for Tulsa Schools, and Family and Children's Services, Inc.

Over the years, Lynn has received many prestigious honors and awards. In 2006 she was inducted to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and in 2003 into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. She was the 2004 recipient of the Kipkis-Wilson/Friedland Lion of Judah Award from the UJC National Women's Philanthropy. Three times Lynn has been named one of the 50 most influential Jews in North America by The Forward, a Jewish newspaper. In 2001, Lynn was named one of Oklahoma's Most Influential Women by Oklahoma Family Magazine and, along with Charles, was inducted by the Tulsa Historical Society into the Tulsa Hall of Fame.

### **Stacy Schusterman**

Stacy Schusterman serves as Chairman and CEO of Samson Investment Company, a private oil and gas company active in the United States, Canada and the North Sea. She is also the Founder and CEO of Granite Properties, a commercial real estate company active throughout Texas, the Denver area and Atlanta. She is Vice President and Treasurer of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. She also serves as a member of the Executive Committees of BBYO, AIPAC, and the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, Hillel's International Board of Governors, and on the board of Natan. Stacy is a past president of B'nai Emunah Synagogue in Tulsa.

Stacy is a graduate of Yale University and has an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

## **Our Team's Leaders**

**Sanford ("Sandy") R. Cardin** is the president of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Center for Leadership Initiatives, and the Schusterman Foundation - Israel. He is also the chair of the Westbury Group, an informal association of more than 25 Jewish-oriented foundations that fund internationally.

Among the boards on which Sandy has served are the Council on Foundations, the Jewish Funders Network and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. He is also a past president of Grantmakers of Oklahoma and Mizel Academy, the Jewish community day school in Tulsa.

Sandy graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1978 and was elected to the Order of the Coif upon the receipt of his juris doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1981. He is licensed to practice law in Florida, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

**David Gappell** is the director of the Schusterman Foundation – Israel. He is responsible for managing, enhancing, and expanding the scope of programs that the Schusterman family supports in Israel. Prior to joining the foundation, David was employed for nearly 13 years with the Sacta-Rashi Foundation in Israel, serving as its deputy director. He is currently the co-chair of the Forum of Foundations in Israel and serves on the boards of the Society for Excellence in Education, the Pradler Fellowship Program and Yemin Orde Initiatives.

A native of Los Angeles, David made aliyah in 1987 after receiving his B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of California, San Diego where he was co-chair of the Israel Action Committee. He received his Master of Science in Management from Ben-Gurion University/Boston University.