

# [***America s Top Givers 2024: The 25 Most Philanthropic Billionaires***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BBM-XNJ1-JBCM-F024-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** Four newcomers join billionaires including Warren Buffett, Bill Gates and MacKenzie Scott in the ranks of the nation s most generous donors.

**Body**

**Four newcomers join billionaires including Warren Buffett, Bill Gates and MacKenzie Scott in the ranks of the nation s most generous donors.**

**By Forbes Wealth Team, Forbes Staff**

America s 25 biggest philanthropists doled out billions of dollars in grants to a wide range of causes last year, from medical and scientific research to environmental sustainability to legal services for low-income Americans. And ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November this year, several of these philanthropists focused their giving on groups that strengthen democracy.

Altogether, the lifetime giving of these 25 philanthropists through December 30, 2023 rose to nearly $211 billion, up about 7% from last year s total,**Forbes**found. New giving just in 2023 by the members of this year s list totaled nearly $25 billion.

But that increase in charitable giving pales in comparison to the rise in their fortunes in the past year. The 25 biggest givers are together now worth an estimated $1.35 trillion up an astonishing 44% more than a year ago, largely thanks to a dramatic rise in U.S. stocks.

Warren Buffett tops our list as the biggest giver for the fourth year in a row, with $56.7 billion in lifetime giving. The 93-year-old CEO of conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway who also gave away the most in 2023 is on a mission to make sure that he doesn t leave his heirs a fortune. My children, along with their father, have a common belief that dynastic wealth, though both legal and common in much of the world including the United States, is not desirable, Buffett wrote in a statement he issued in November to accompany a gift of Berkshire shares to four family charitable foundations. Still, he s only donated 30% of his fortune, in part because the value of his Berkshire Hathaway stock keeps rising.

MacKenzie Scott continues to give away billions of dollars a year faster than just about anyone else in the ranking, to a wide variety of nonprofits in the U.S. and countries like Brazil and India. In December, the novelist and former wife of Jeff Bezos published a list of the 360 nonprofits to which she d donated a combined $2.15 billion during 2023. That brings her lifetime giving in less than five years to nearly $16.6 billion to 1,954 groups more than all but four others on this list, all of whom have been at this for at least three times as many years. Scott, who received a 4% stake in Amazon as part of the divorce settlement with Bezos in 2019, now owns just under 2% of the company, per a recent regulatory filing.

Four newcomers join the ranks of the biggest givers. One, Barbara Picower, created the JPB Foundation in 2011, two years after her husband, billionaire investor Jeffry Picower, died; he was the biggest beneficiary of Bernie Madoff s Ponzi scheme. In a settlement with U.S. authorities, she agreed to return $7.2 billion to the victims of Madoff s fraud in 2010. But there were billions of dollars more in Jeffry Picower s estate as a result of his investing, which over the yearsBarbara has contributedto the JPB Foundation. The other newcomers: Home Depot cofounder Bernie Marcus and his wife Billi; cable TV pioneer Amos Hostetter Jr. and his wife Barbara, and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and his wife Wendy.

The newcomers replace two entrants on last year s list who have since died: Duty Free Shoppers cofounderChuck Feeney, who was hailed as an inspiration for the Giving Pledge, and Intel cofounder Gordon Moore (d. March 2023) and his wife Betty Moore (d. Dec. 2023). Together the four newcomers have given away just under $8 billion so far about the same amount as Feeney did. Two others missed the cut this year: CNN founder Ted Turner and credit card tycoon T. Denny Sanford. The cutoff to make the list this year is $1.44 billion in lifetime giving, up from $1.4 billion a year ago.

Thirteen of the 25 have signed the Giving Pledge, promising to donate at least half of one s fortune during their lifetime or at their death. So far, of these philanthropists, only George Soros has given away more than half his fortune, though he s not one of the 13 to have signed on to the pledge.

**Methodology:**Our estimates factor in the total lifetime giving of Americans through the end of 2023, measured in dollars given to charitable recipients; we are not including money parked in a foundation that has yet to do any good. To that end, we also do not include gifts that have been pledged but not yet paid out, or money given to donor-advised funds opaque, tax-advantaged accounts that have neither disclosure nor distribution requirements unless the giver shared details about the grants that were actually paid out by such entities. For giving as a percent of net worth, we add lifetime giving to net worth and then divide lifetime giving into that total. This is a list of individuals and couples who are U.S. citizens; as a result, we exclude extended families like the Waltons, controlling shareholders of Walmart, and big givers like Hansjoerg Wyss, who lives in the U.S. but is a Swiss citizen. We also don t list deceased individuals. Net worths are as of February 9, 2024.

Here s the full list of America s 25 most generous givers:

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Tmothy Archibald

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**Warren Buffett**

**Lifetime giving: $56.7 billion, +$5.2 billion vs. year ago**

**Giving focus: Health, poverty alleviation**

**Net worth: $131 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 30%**

The Berkshire Hathaway CEO, now 93, promised to give away more than 99% of his fortune during my lifetime or at death in his letter joining the Giving Pledge an effort that he founded with Bill and Melinda Gates to encourage charitable giving by billionaires in 2010. Buffett has been donating billions of dollars of Berkshire stock annually since 2006 to The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and to four foundations set up by his three children and his late wife. Meanwhile, Buffett s fortune has tripled from $42 billion in early 2006 due to a steady climb in the price of Berkshire Hathaway stock, which means there s still a heck of a lot left to donate $130 billion, at this point in order to meet his giving goal.

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Elaine Thompson/AP

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**Bill Gates & Melinda French Gates**

**Lifetime giving: $42.5 billion, +$4.1 billion**

**Giving focus: Health, poverty alleviation**

**Net worth: $125 billion, $10.6 billion**

**Giving as a percent of combined net worth: 24%**

Bill and Melinda continue to co-chair the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, despite their 2021 divorce.**Forbes**counts the former couple s donations as a combined number. Their foundation, which among other things works to vaccinate children in poor countries, has been increasing its annual budget. In January the foundation announced an $8.6 billion budget, up $300 million from last year. Its goal is $9 billion in annual distributions by 2026. The foundation is one of the backers of a multi-year clinical trial of a new vaccine for pulmonary tuberculosis, a form of TB that doesn t get much protection from the TB vaccine currently given to infants and children.

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Jasper Juinen/Bloomberg

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**George Soros**

**Lifetime giving: $21 billion, +$2.6 billion**

**Giving focus: Democracy, human rights**

**Net worth: $6.7 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 65%**

Over the course of three decades, hedge fund founder George Soros, now 93, put $32 billion of his fortune into Open Society Foundations, which in turn says it has spent $21 billion through the end of 2022. It funds groups that promote democracy, transparency and freedom of speech and is active in some 120 countries. Open Society Foundations encompasses a number of funding entities; in the U.S., its Open Society Institute is a registered charitable foundation that has $4.5 billion in net assets. Soros now 38-year-old son Alex was quietly elected chair of Open Society Foundations in December 2022; the news became public in June 2023.

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MICHAEL PRINCE FOR FORBES

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**Michael Bloomberg**

**Lifetime giving: $17.4 billion, +$3 billion**

**Giving focus: Climate change, health, education**

**Net worth: $96.3 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 15%**

The 82-year-old founder of financial data and media company Bloomberg LP doled out $3 billion in 2023, nearly $1.3 billion more than he d given away in 2022. He committed $500 million over several years to Beyond Carbon, a philanthropic effort to fight the climate crisis following a $500 million commitment he made in 2019 when he launched the effort. He also pledged $420 million over four years to an initiative to reduce tobacco use in 110 countries, including China and India. Following the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, Bloomberg donated $44 million to Magen David Odom, the Israeli Red Cross. Last year, Mike Bloomberg said he would donate his stake in his company Bloomberg LP to Bloomberg Philanthropies when he dies, if not sooner.

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Toni Anne Barson/Getty Images

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**MacKenzie Scott**

**Lifetime giving: $16.58 billion, +$2.15 billion**

**Giving focus: Economic, racial and gender equality**

**Net worth: $35.3 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 32%**

Scott gave $2.15 billion in 2023 to a total 360 groups in 35 U.S. states plus in Brazil, India and beyond, including to Camfed, a pan-African group supporting girls education and women s leadership; Just the Pill, a U.K. group that delivers abortion pills by mail; and Legal Aid groups in Oklahoma, West Virginia and four other U.S. locations offering legal services to low-income residents. Scott, who was previously married to Jeff Bezos and received a 4% stake in Amazon in their 2019 divorce, does not have a traditional charitable foundation, but instead does at least some of her charitable giving via donor-advised funds. She publishes a list of her grants on her Yield Giving website.

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**Jim & Marilyn Simons**

**Lifetime giving: $6.03 billion, +$830 million**

**Giving focus: Basic science, math**

**Net worth: $30.7 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 16%**

In June 2023, the Simons pledged $500 million over seven years to the endowment of the State University of New York at Stony Brook in Long Island where Jim used to chair the math department (before launching hedge fund Renaissance Technologies) and where his wife Marilyn obtained a bachelor s and a PhD in economics. The gift will go toward perpetual funding of student scholarships, professorships, research and clinical care. They also gave $100 million to the New York Climate Exchange, which will develop solutions to the global climate crisis while acting as a hub for New Yorkers to benefit from the green economy.

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Jeff Chiu/AP

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**Mark Zuckerberg & Priscilla Chan**

**Lifetime giving: $4.5 billion, +$600 million**

**Giving focus: Science, education**

**Net worth: $165 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 3%**

The Meta cofounder and CEO and his pediatrician wife have expanded their science philanthropy, announcing the creation and funding last year of two new biohubs research collaborations among multiple universities in the same geographic area inChicagoand New York, which will work to better understand how human tissues function and engineer immune cells for early disease detection and treatment. The biohubs are part of an ambitious effort the couple conceived in 2016 to develop tools and knowledge that will help the scientific community cure, manage or prevent all disease by the end of this century.

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ERIC FEFERBERG/GETTY IMAGES

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**Steve & Connie Ballmer**

**Lifetime giving: $3.75 billion, +$850 million**

**Giving focus: Economic mobility**

**Net worth: $123 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 3%**

In September, the former Microsoft CEO and his wife announced a $175 million gift over seven years to Strive Together, an Ohio-based group that works in 29 states to support children in poverty with coaching and resources; the Ballmers donation has the goal of putting 4 million young people on a path to economic mobility. Last year the couple also made a $165 million pledge over six years to Communities in Schools, which supports under-resourced public schools across the country. The couple does not have their own charitable foundation; the Ballmer Group website publishes a list of its grants.

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Ethan Pines for Forbes

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**Phil & Penny Knight**

**Lifetime giving: $3.6 billion, +$230 million**

**Giving focus: Education**

**Net worth: $42.5 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 7%**

The Nike founder and his wife Penny in April announced a $400 million pledge over five to ten yearsto a fund that will support Black residents of Portland, Oregon; funds will go to education services, the arts and other programs for residents of a Portland neighborhood once known as Albina about 10 miles from Nike headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon. Last year the Knights made another installment on their 2021 pledge of $500 million to create the University of Oregon s Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact, which is named after the couple. Phil Knight, a U of Oregon alum, ran on the school s track team.

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MICHAEL PRINCE FOR FORBES

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**Jeff Bezos**

**Lifetime giving: $3.33 billion, +$540 million**

**Giving focus: Environment, education**

**Net worth: $196 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 2%**

The Amazon founder and chairman and his fiance, Lauren Sánchez, announced the creation of a $100 million Maui Fund in August following the fire that destroyed parts of the Hawaiian island, where Bezos has a home. So far the fund has distributed about15% of that amountto a handful of Maui nonprofits. The Bezos Earth Fund, a $10 billion, decade-long commitment announced in 2020 to drive solutions to climate change, distributed $210 million in grants in 2023; in July, the Earth Fund committed to spend $400 million to enhance green spaces in underserved U.S. communities, including in Albuquerque, Atlanta and Los Angeles. The Bezos Day 1 families fund awarded $117.5 million last year to 38 groups in 23 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico to help families move from shelters or the streets to permanent homes.

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RYAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

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**Edythe Broad & family**

**Lifetime giving: $3.3 billion, +$160 million**

**Giving focus: Education, arts, science**

**Net worth: $7 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 32%**

Together, Edythe and her late husband Eli (d. 2021), a homebuilding and insurance billionaire, have made their mark on their adopted home, Los Angeles, creating The Broad, a contemporary art museum with free admission, and BroadStage, a performing arts presenter at Santa Monica College. In recent years the Broad Foundation shifted its grantmaking to focus more on Los Angeles area nonprofits, including Great Public Schools Now, which among other things offers summer programs for children from low income families.

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Kristin Hoebermann

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**Barbara Picower**

**Lifetime giving: $3.15 billion, NEW**

**Giving focus: Environment, poverty, medical research**

**Source of wealth: Investments**

**Net worth: Not available**

Picower, 81, launched the JPB Foundation in 2011, two years after her husband, billionaire investor Jeffry Picower, died. He had been one of the largest beneficiaries of Bernie Madoff s Ponzi scheme; in 2010, Barbara Picower agreed in a settlement to return $7.2 billion to Madoff s fraud victims. The JPB Foundation, which supports the environment, poverty alleviation, reproductive rights and medical research, is also funding groups working to strengthen democracy. The foundation, which had $4.1 billion in assets in 2022, made $425 million in grants in 2023 and plans toincrease its giving this year.Prior to 2010, the couple distributed more than $275 million in grants over two decades through the Picower Foundation.

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RYAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

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**Sergey Brin**

**Lifetime giving: $3.02 billion, +$470 million**

**Giving focus: Parkinson s disease, economic mobility, climate change**

**Net worth: $119 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 2%**

Brin, who cofounded Google with Larry Page in 1998, has given more than $1.25 billion toward research of Parkinson s disease, including just over $150 million in 2023. Brin disclosed more than a decade ago that he has a genetic mutation that puts him at a higher risk for the neurodegenerative disease, and has backedan ambitious effort to fund collaborative basic research of Parkinson s. In the past year, that led to the discovery of a gene variant that nearly quadruples the risk of the disease among people of African descent. He also funds groups working to reduce the impact of climate change, including a $40 million gift last year to the Climate Imperative Foundation.

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ANDRES KUDACKI/AP

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**Lynn & Stacy Schusterman**

**Lifetime giving: $2.93 billion, +$410 million**

**Giving focus: Education, Jewish community, gender and reproductive equity**

**Net worth: $4.5 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 39%**

The wife and daughter of late oil billionaire Charles Schusterman (d. 2000) run the family foundation. They have stepped up efforts to fund groups in Israel following the October 7 attacks by Hamas including ELEM, a group that works to support youth in distress, and the Israeli Association of Community Centers, a network of 1,000 centers around the country that offers a range of services to families, especially now to those who have been displaced as a result of the violence.

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GOOD VENTURES

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**Dustin Moskovitz & Cari Tuna**

**Lifetime giving: $2.82 billion, +$710 million**

**Giving focus: Global health, science, animal welfare**

**Net worth: $17.2 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 14%**

Among the grants that Facebook cofounder Moskovitz and his wife made last year: a $10.5 million grant to the Rand Corp. to study potential risks from advanced AI and a grant for research into lead exposure by the Center for Global Development, a nonprofit think tank. The couple also helped fund clinical trials of a new vaccine for malaria called R21, which the World Health Organization recommended in October to prevent malaria in children.

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RAMIN TALAIE/GETTY IMAGES

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**Pierre & Pam Omidyar**

**Lifetime giving: $2.57 billion, +$750 million**

**Giving focus: Poverty alleviation, human rights, education**

**Net worth: $6.3 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 29%**

The Ebay founder and his wife Pam have a multi-tentacled approach to philanthropy, funding organizations that include the social change**-**focused Omidyar Network; Humanity United, which combats human trafficking and forced labor; Democracy Fund, which supports groups working on free and fair elections; and Imaginable Futures, which funds education and skill building in 50 countries. Distributions by Omidyar-backed groups in 2023 totaled more than $250 million; the $750 million change in giving by the Omidyars actually covers three years, from 2021 to 2023.

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**Michael & Susan Dell**

**Lifetime giving: $2.43 billion, not available**

**Giving focus: Education, economic stability**

**Net worth: $73 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 3%**

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, which among other initiatives grants college scholarships to low-income students in the U.S. and South Africa, got a big infusion from the computing tycoon in 2023, as did the couple s donor-advised funds. BetweenOctoberand late December he donated more than $900 million worth of Dell Technologies shares to a mix of those entities. As of 2022 (the most recent information available), their foundation had $1.6 billion in assets. A representative for the Dells did not share any details about their out-the-door charitable giving in 2023.

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Aaron Kotowski for Forbes

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**Ken Griffin**

**Lifetime giving: $2.17 billion. +$610 million**

**Giving focus: Education, economic mobility, medical research**

**Net worth: $37.3 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 5%**

The hedge fund mogul made a$300 million gift in April to Harvard s Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which led the university to name the graduate school of arts and sciences after Griffin, a Harvard alum. In January this year, Griffin said he would pause his significant giving to the university over its handling of anti-semitism. Griffin and billionaire David Geffen together gave New York s Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center a$400 million giftin December to fund breakthroughs in research and treatment.

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Jay L Clendenin/Los Angeles Times/Getty Images

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**Donald Bren**

**Lifetime giving: $2.11 billion, +$10 million**

**Giving focus: Education, conservation**

**Net worth: $18 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 12%**

The Southern California real estate mogul, now 91, continues to fund Caltech s Solar Space Project an idea he helped to hatch and that he and his wife Brigitte, a Caltech trustee, funded with a commitment of over $100 million starting in 2011. The project seeks to harvest solar power from space and beam it back to the earth. He gave $10 million to Caltech last year for the program.

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MICHAEL PRINCE FOR FORBES

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**George Kaiser**

**Lifetime giving: $2.02 billion, +$340 million**

**Giving focus: Education, health, poverty alleviation**

**Net worth: $14.4 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 12%**

The oil and banking billionaire centers much of his giving on efforts in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he has long lived. His George Kaiser Family Foundation made $34 million in grants last year toward early childhood education, including to the Birth Through Eight Strategy For Tulsa and Tulsa Educare. Its $12 million in grants for criminal justice included funds to Still She Rises and Women in Recovery, which provide legal support for mothers. The new figures for Kaiser s giving include grants paid in both 2022 and 2023.

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ARNOLD VENTURES

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**John & Laura Arnold**

**Lifetime giving: $1.98 billion, +$350 million**

**Giving focus: Education, criminal justice, healthcare**

**Net worth: $3.3 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 38%**

The Arnolds Laura previously worked as a lawyer and her husband John as a hedge fund founder back evidence-based solutions to an array of issues, including criminal justice and health care. Among their 2023 grant recipients: the Safe States Alliance, to broaden databases that record incidences of gun violence,and Justice Action Network, which is working to reform the criminal justice system. The state of California chose CivicaRX, a nonprofit supported by the Arnolds, to be a manufacturing partner for low-priced insulin. The $350 million in new giving covers grants paid in 2022 and 2023.

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GUERIN BLASK FOR FORBES

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**Charles Koch**

**Lifetime giving: $1.8 billion, not available**

**Giving focus: Education, poverty alleviation, criminal justice**

**Net worth: $55.3 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 3%**

The 88-year-old free market fanatic and chairman of Koch Industries, America s second largest private company, quietly donated $5.3 billion of his family conglomerate s nonvoting stock to a pair of 501(c)4 social welfare organizations from 2020 to 2022,**Forbes**learned last year. The newly formed nonprofits, Believe in People and CCKc4, which have fewer restrictions on lobbying and ***politics*** than traditional charitable foundations, are directed by Koch s son Chase, Koch Industries co-CEO Dave Robertson and Brian Hooks, the CEO of Koch s Stand Together nonprofit network. So far, most of the $254 million in grants made by the new C4s through 2022 have gone to Stand Together, which includes Koch s private foundation, as well as several public charities (and additional C4s) that also raise money from like-minded business people. Because the funds received by Believe in People and CCKc4 have not yet been distributed to nonprofit groups as of their most recent tax returns, they are not included in Koch s lifetime giving total. A representative for Koch did not share details of 2023 giving.

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The Marcus Foundation

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**Bernie & Billi Marcus**

**Lifetime giving: $1.75 billion, NEW**

**Giving focus: Jewish causes, veterans, medical research**

**Net worth: $10 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 15%**

Bernie Marcus, who cofounded Home Depot with Arthur Blank in 1978, donates with his wife Billi primarily through the Marcus Foundation. They join the ranks this year after donating nearly $400 million to nonprofit groups in 2022 and 2023 combined. To address the high rate of suicide among veterans, Bernie Marcus created Avalon Action Alliance, a national coalition that delivers care for veterans, including for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress and addiction. In the wake of the Hamas attacks on Israel, the Marcuses donated to American Friends of Magen David Adom the Israeli Red Cross and to Nefesh B'Nefesh, or Jewish Souls United, which helped to bring physicians from outside Israel into the country.

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Pilot House

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**Amos & Barbara Hostetter**

**Lifetime giving: $1.61 billion, NEW**

**Giving focus: Climate, arts, education**

**Net worth: $3.5 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 32%**

Amos Hostetter Jr., who made a fortune in cable TV in the 1990s, and his wife Barbara give primarily to groups in Massachusetts through their Boston-based Barr Foundation, which has net assets of $1.9 billion as of its most recent tax filing. Last year the foundation awarded more than $100 million in grants, including a $5 million commitment to the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corp. to expand affordable housing; $4 million to the Transportation 4 Massachusetts Coalition, which works to improve transportation for low-income communities; and $2.2 million to the Mystic River Watershed Association to develop greenways and waterfront access in greater Boston.

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Courtesy Eric and Wendy Schmidt

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**Eric & Wendy Schmidt**

**Lifetime giving: $1.44 billion, NEW**

**Giving focus: Renewable energy, healthy oceans**

**Net worth: $21.5 billion**

**Giving as percent of net worth: 6%**

The former Google CEO and chairman and his wife Wendy have embraced environmental philanthropy and backing talented young people through their three foundations: The Schmidt Ocean Institute (which funds sophisticated ocean research vessels used by academic researchers), the Schmidt Family Foundation and The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fund For Strategic Innovation. Through the latter entity, the couple announced a $1 billion commitmentin October 2021to fund the world s most promising teenagerswith a full college scholarship, mentorship and more; it s funded 100 such students annually for the past three years. That entity also funds Schmidt Futures, the subject of a recent**Forbes**investigation. A representative for the Schmidts declined to share the dollar amount of charitable expenditures in 2023.

**By Kerry A. Dolan with Matt Durot, Chris Helman, Phoebe Liu, Chase Peterson-Withorn and Giacomo Tognini**

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