

PROFILES IN PHILANTHROPY



JIM LINTOTT AND MAY LIANG

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Jim Lintott is chairman and founding principal of Sterling Foundation Management, the oldest firm of its kind in the country, which provides charitable consulting services to some of the country's largest private foundations. Lintott and Liang serve as members of numerous boards and have generously donated to each organization. He is a board member of the Children's National Medical Center Foundation, Best Buddies and the Freer/ Sackler Galleries. She serves on the boards of the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Epilepsy Foundation and Sidwell Friends School. Together, they also run the May Liang and James Lintott Foundation.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO YOU TO BE CHARITABLE? Liang: We've been blessed with the ability to give back. One more Chanel bag or pair of Jimmy Choo shoes isn't going to make my life better, but a donation to a worthy charity has the ability to change the lives of many people for the better. I believe we are obligated to be good stewards and leave the world a better place than we found it.

ARE THERE PARTICULAR CAUSES THAT ARE NEARER AND DEARER TO YOUR HEART THAN OTHERS? Lintott: Unable to fall asleep one night, May and I discussed what was the benefit of having extra money. We knew plenty

of wealthy people who were not happy. It did occur to us that having money meant that you always knew your children could get quality healthcare if they got sick. If that was the case, we decided it would be good for us to give in an area that could provide that same feeling for other parents. That began the involvement with Children's National. I ended up leading the foundation board for four years and the parent board for four and a half years. Providing world class healthcare for at-risk children in the D.C. area means everything to me. Best Buddies has also been very important to us because of how they too protect some of the most vulnerable members of society. Anthony Shriver has created an organization that helps intellectually disadvantaged young people find friends, find jobs and find a successful place in society, and I am proud of our involvement since 1994.

HOW DO YOUR CHARITABLE INTERESTS DIFFER FROM ONE ANOTHER? Liang: I tend to focus on smaller and more local charities. I feel like I can make a bigger difference on the board of a smaller organization than on a larger one. It's important for me to be involved in charities that resonate with me in some way. There are a lot of worthy charitable organizations out there, and it's impossible to get involved with all of them. I've learned over the years that if you don't feel passionate about the organization, you're doing a disservice to yourself and the organization.

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