

Marcia and John Goldman's Remarks at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon
Association of Fundraising Professionals, November 18, 2016

Thank you, everyone, and a special thanks to the Golden Gate Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for this honor; we are humbled by your recognition. And congratulations to our fellow awardees – you are amazing individuals.

To everyone – your presence and support of all recipients reflect the vibrancy and necessity of community work.

We are thankful that Alejandro, who is here, and Sara, who couldn't be, are part of our family.

We especially appreciate of the hard work by our foundation professionals; thank you for all you do! And to Aaron and Jess – nothing makes us more proud than to see how strong your values and commitment to our society are. Your words touched us deeply and we love you so much!

This is preaching to the choir, of course, but we are living in challenging and disturbing times. Our nation's pillars of decency and freedom are at peril.

But let us not forget why we are here.

To paraphrase our daughter's words, we have a choice. We can wallow in fear and sadness. Or we can move forward with conviction and reaffirmation.

Now is the time to fight, to REALLY fight, for our rights and those of our neighbors. There are a lot of paths we can take post-election. And we are big believers in doing something proactive versus reactive.

Now is not a time to shut people out or to shut down. Nothing gets solved if we all stand in our corners or stay angry or worse yet, stand silent. We must bring people closer to us. We must think beyond ourselves. We must reach out because, when everything falls apart, when everything is crushed to pieces, it's the perfect time to put it back together again.

Let's focus on the power of the people. Let's show how change happens. And let's show how to love and then spread it to everyone - especially to those who hate. It's the only way to win.

After all, we are philanthropists, and we believe in the love of humankind. And as philanthropists, we know that love and tolerance, inclusion and acceptance, understanding and appreciation are never more critical than now.

So let's DO something. Do one thing today, and then another tomorrow and the day after that. And let's start by staying hopeful. Let the energy and devotion of you in this room and beyond make us a better nation and a better world. Now is the time for us to be leaders like never before.

We can assure you of one thing: we're not giving up, and neither should you. Thank you again for this great honor.