Maintaining the quality and variety of the work and programs for which the Council is known requires a steady stream of independent operating support from a variety of sources. The Council relies on charitable contributions from individual members, corporations, private foundations, and other institutional donors to support both ongoing programs and new initiatives each year. This year we are pleased to recognize in this section those who have made gifts to support the Council’s operations. Donors to the Campaign for the Council are recognized in a special section that follows this one.

The Council receives grant support from foundations and other outside funders for the Studies Program, outreach activities, and other special Council activities. Contributions to the Annual Fund, a pool of unrestricted funds used to provide general support across the institution, are critical to keeping our annual operating budget in the black. Apart from the Annual Fund, gifts can be designated to support special programs and activities such as Independent Task Forces or roundtables; to the unrestricted endowment, the income from which is used to support annual operations; or to endow or add to an endowment for specific chairs, fellowships, lectures, or other programs.

The Council extends its deepest gratitude to all of its donors and volunteers who give so generously of their time and resources in support of its mission each year.

THE ANNUAL FUND
Contributions to the Annual Fund provide roughly 12 percent of each year’s operating budget, and are therefore a critically important source of revenue for the Council. Annual Fund gifts provide unrestricted income that is used for a variety of purposes across the organization, ranging from funding the Meetings Program to providing salary support for fellows and staff, to supporting member services. These gifts, like all charitable gifts to the Council, are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by U.S. law and are contributed over and above annual membership dues.

In fiscal year 2007, 1,951 members, representing about 45 percent of the membership, contributed $5,796,537 to the Annual Fund. Once again, annual giving to the Council set a new record, surpassing last year’s total of $5,031,000. Fifty-four members increased their gifts through their participation in employee or director matching gift programs sponsored by many corporations and foundations. We are honored to recognize members who support our Annual Fund in the listing that begins on page 63.

The Harold Pratt Associates, the Council’s recognition group for members who donate $10,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, continued to grow. Two hundred and sixty-two members now belong, with eighty-four qualifying for the Chairman’s Circle, which distinguishes those who have made annual gifts of $25,000 or greater. The Council is indebted to these leadership donors who recognize the importance of providing such significant annual support for its work.

Term member contributions to the Annual Fund reached a new high, as well. The Term Member Committee on Annual Giving solicited term members this spring, and in response, more than half the term members contributed a total of $217,128 to the Annual Fund, an impressive showing by this vibrant group of young Council members. Term members are designated by an asterisk in the list of Annual Fund donors that follows.