



Access to Capital

The Portfolio Advisory Board separates its ministerial endeavors into the categories of corporate responsibility and alternative (community) investing. PAB established the Corporate Responsibility and Alternative Investment Committees to engage the two approaches.

This separation identifies ongoing tasks required by each committee. Strategies utilized with community organizations differ greatly from those employed with corporations. Therefore, in order to accomplish pre-designed goals and objectives, the methodologies of each committee are distinct.

However, the main goal of facilitating access to capital is the same. The challenge PAB faces on a daily basis is how to coordinate the endeavors of each committee.

The Corporate Responsibility Committee addresses issues of affordable housing, predatory lending, community reinvestment, micro-financing, remittance programs (international policies), and payday lending with commercial banks and financial institutions such as Bank of America, Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, H&R Block and Freddie Mac.

The Alternative Investment Committee deals with commercial lending practices at the community level as they impact low- to moderate-income households. For those households, inadequate commercial policies and programs fall short of addressing the reality of economic and social crises. Community-based lenders such as community development banks, community development credit unions (CDCUs), community development financial institutions

(CDFIs) and social investors have been the leaders in addressing the gap. They have motivated the commercial lenders in the examination of marketplace lending standards and practices.

These alternative (community) financing options have a commitment to practices that improve the lives of those most vulnerable to

“legal” high-rate financial services. While “mainstream” entities provide banking services, most have no explicit community development mandate.

Socially responsible investors continually ask questions of the previously mentioned institutions regarding their lending practices, the criteria

used when dispensing loans, and their best-practice policies.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters, through PAB, join our corporate responsibility endeavors with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility composed of over 275 faith-based institutional investors. PAB realizes community investment goals through partnerships and network opportunities with an array of community-based organizations and as ally members of the National Community Capital Association composed of over 150 community development institutions.

It is essential to integrate corporate responsibility and community investing so that inequalities present in the marketplace are transformed. PAB strives to make this a reality.

- Annette Sinagra, OP
Corporate Responsibility Analyst

- Lura Mack
Coordinator of Alternative Investments



Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.
Finding, building and investing solutions to challenged local communities.



“We walk in solidarity with people who are poor and challenge structures that impoverish them.”

- General Chapter '04