

From the  
**Cisco Foundation**



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# Agenda

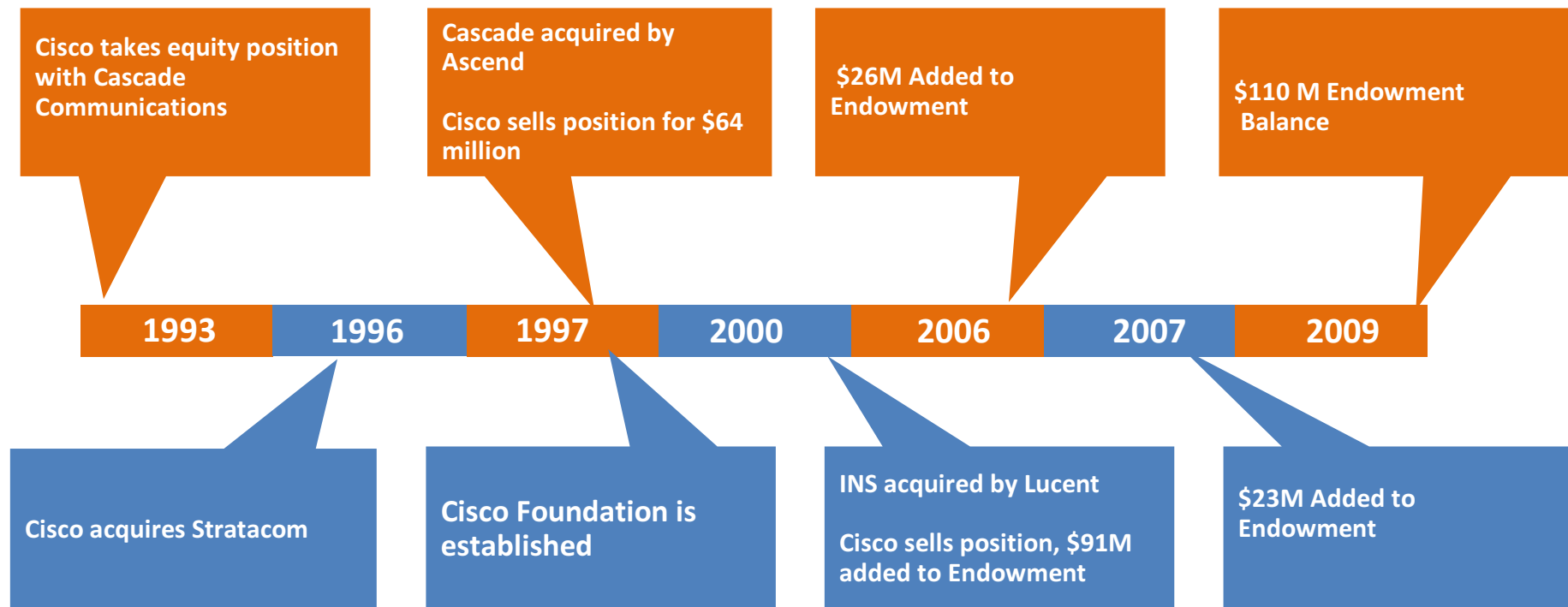


- Snapshots: History & Evolution
- Establishing grantee criteria
  - Current Criteria
  - General process
  - Challenges / Learnings
- Finding suitable grantees
- Developing application
- Assessing grantees



Cisco has contributed US\$45 million (about RMB 300 million) over three years to aid the rebuilding effort, with a focus on improving healthcare and education in earthquake-damaged areas.

# Origins and History



# Snapshot: Early Activities and Focus



## **1992 Transactional: Community Relations**

- United Way
- “Adopted” a local School
  - Volunteering
- President’s Special Discretionary Fund
  - Sponsorships, events, responsive / reactive
- Managed by one person in Human Resources
- Informal application process



The MIND Research Institute enables elementary and secondary students to reach their full academic and career potential.

# Snapshot: Early Activities and Focus



## **1993-96: Community Development**

- Second Harvest Food Bank partnership
  - Funding, volunteers, donated food, food sorts
- City Year – “Peace Corps for the US”
- Continued support for schools
  - Costano School
  - Wilcox High School



Second Harvest Food Bank is the primary source of donated, surplus, and purchased food for nonprofit agencies.

# Snapshot: Early Activities and Focus



## 1997 -2003

Corporate Development → Community Investment

- Foundation created
  - Employee matching, direct grants
- Staffing team
- Competitive analysis, benchmarking
- Strategic direction set
  - Product, People, Dollars
- Aligning to Cisco's Core Competency / Value-add
- Objective: Making a difference
- Formal, paper-based, application process



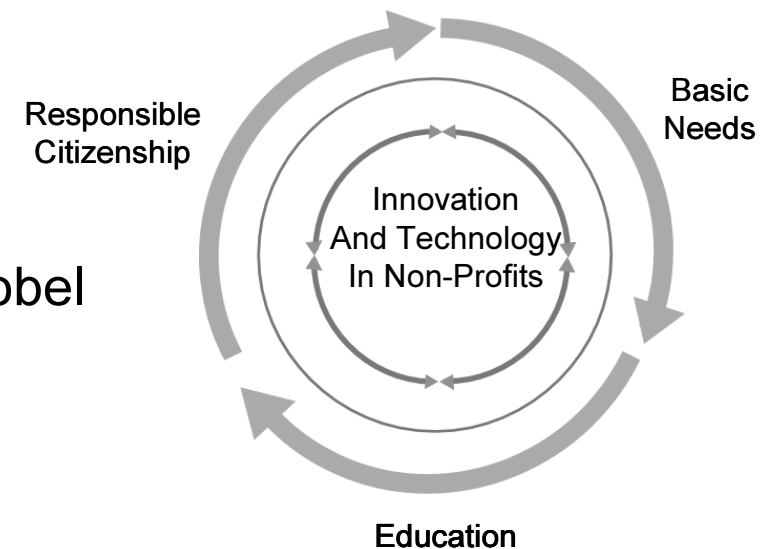
TechSoup.org offers nonprofits a one-stop resource for technology needs by providing free information, resources, and support.

# Alignment



## 1997 -2003

- Analysis of Employee Matching gifts
  - Led to first issue area definitions
    - Responsible Citizenship
    - Basic Human Needs
    - Access to Education
- Technology and Innovation in Nonprofits
  - NetAid, Network for Good, SPLC, Nobel
- No more sponsorships, etc.
- 2002 e-enabled applications
- By invitation only





# Criteria



## 1997 -2003

- Corporate funding vs. Foundation funding
  - Potential business benefit to Cisco
  - Executive requests / commitments
  - Universities/schools (potential business conflict)
- Criteria
  - Significant social problem with unmet need
  - Innovative approach with potential for broad impact
  - Path to sustainability
  - Outstanding leadership
  - Fit with Cisco approach and values



In 2001, the Cisco Foundation launched the global hunger relief campaign. Every year since then, Cisco has united to provide donations to the world's best hunger relief organizations.



# Current Criteria



## 2004+ Public Benefit Investment

- Three focus areas only, with technology at core
- Social venture
- Incubate
- Cycle of innovation
- Replicable, Sustainable, Scalable
- Serving underserved
- 2008 “Open” online application



NetHope's mission has a clear focus: to be a catalyst for collaboration among international humanitarian organizations.

# Current Cisco Foundation Focus Areas



- Critical Human Needs
  - Investments in organizations that address basic needs of underserved communities
- Economic Empowerment
  - Encouraging individual entrepreneurship and innovation among underserved populations through technology solutions impacting economic empowerment
- Education
  - Support the creation and deployment of Internet solutions which enable primary school-age children to master a baseline of educational knowledge in mathematics, literacy, science, engineering, and technology

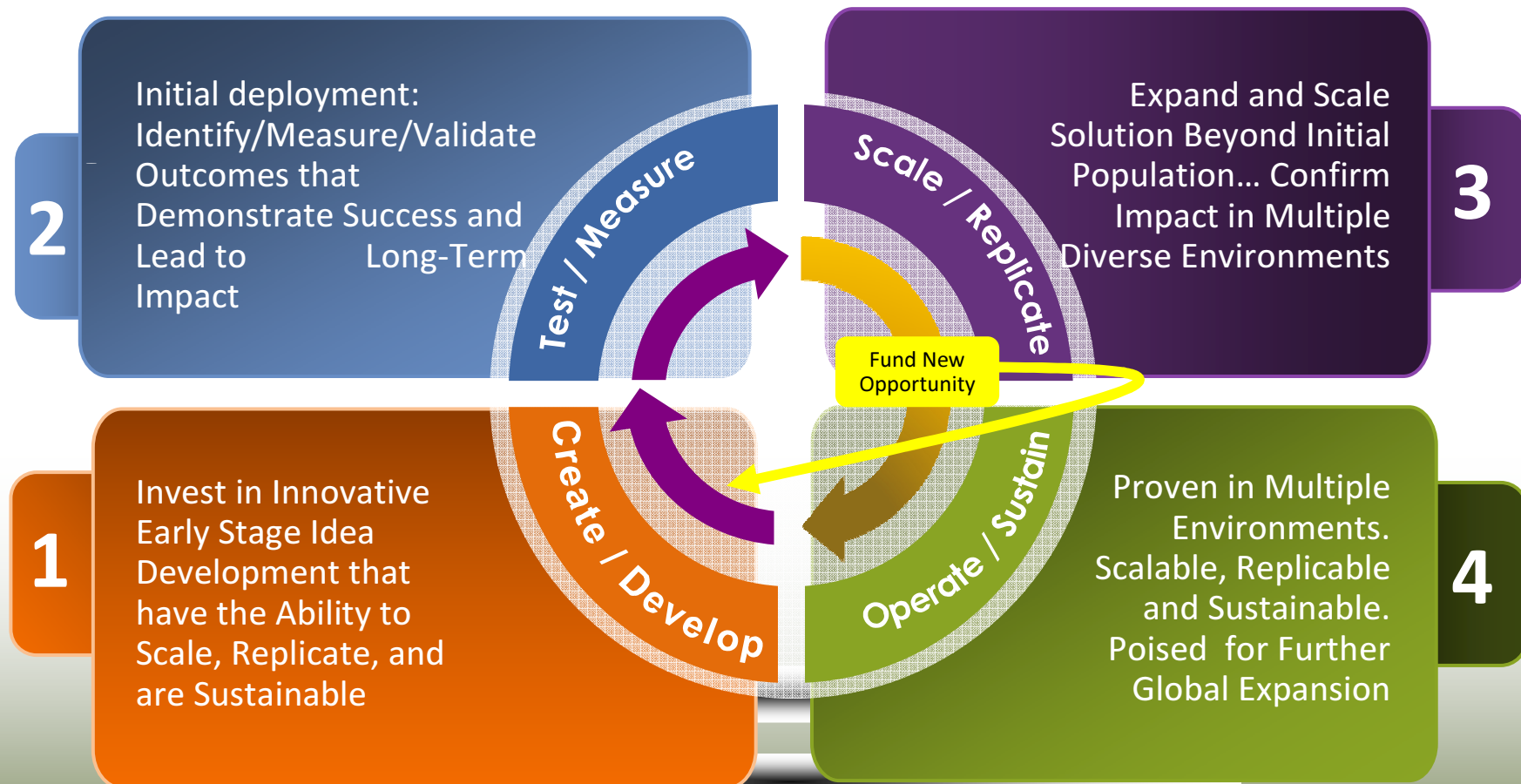


# Typically Ineligible



- **Politics**
- **Religion**
- **Athletics**
- **Lobbying**
- **Advocacy**
- **Governments**
- **Events (tables)**
- **Cause marketing / advertising**
- **Sponsorships / scholarships**
- **Pass-through / re-granting**
- **Schools / education institutions**
- **Hospitals / medical institutions**
- **Purchase hardware or software**
- **Fulfilling obligations**

# Program/Solution Development Strategy



Identify, develop and incubate “innovative” solutions that align with our goals and objectives

# Foundation Evolves with Cisco



Direct sales

Channel distribution

Transaction

Interaction

Command / Control

Collaboration

Ind. Accountability

Established Metrics



# General Process

- All paper process → online
- Invitation only → “Open”/Self-qualifying
- Disparate due diligence → Single vendor
- Where needed, donor advised fund partners
- Approval paths coded by
  - Issue area
  - Geography
  - Dollar amount of request
  - Program type



Grameen Foundation helps the world's poorest, especially women, improve their lives and escape poverty through access to microfinance and technology.

# Challenges / Learnings



- Giving directly to schools
- Global vs. local priorities
- Resources to cover Global



Teachers Without Borders aims to close the global education divide



# Finding suitable grantees



## Depends on funder:

- Stage of development: responsive vs. strategic
- Defined program goals / institutional goals
- Issue areas
- Geographic emphasis
- “Invitation only” or “open”
- Funding level
- Duration of commitment
- Field vs. HQ inputs



# Developing applications



- Ask questions related to:
  - Criteria / qualifications
  - Program applicability
    - Overview & detailed description
  - Strategic alignment (mission, vision, goals)
  - Timeline
  - Partnerships / other funders
  - Financials (project & organization)
  - Theory of change
  - Metrics for impact
  - Policy certifications
- Assign appropriate approval path(s)



# Assessing Grantees



- Evaluate based on the same factors:
  - Initial due diligence against criteria
  - Program applicability
  - Strategic alignment
  - Financials
  - Deliverables
  - Metrics for impact



