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By

focusing on the arts, early-childhood development, and parks and green spaces have been discontinued.

Blank, who turned 80 last year, has signed the Giving Pledge, which is a commitment to give away at least half of his wealth. *Forbes* estimates that Blank has amassed \$7.7 billion.

The Blank foundation does not have an endowment; instead its founder puts money in every year for the organization to give away.

Last year, the philanthropy made about \$100 million in grants and is expected to meet that mark this year, according to Fay Twersky, who took over as president of the foundation in 2021 after serving in leadership roles at the Hewlett and Gates foundations. That makes Blank one of the biggest grant makers in the south, joining the ranks of the Duke Endowment and the Robert M. Woodruff Foundation, which made about \$175 million and \$165 million in grants, respectively, in 2021.

Vj g'pgy "utcvgi { 'tghgew'i tgcvt "lpr w'ltqo 'Ctj wt "Dncpna'uqp "Mgpp{ and his wife, Nancy, as well as daughter Dena Kimball and her husband, Josh, Twersky said.

Over the past several years, the family members got together several times a year to learn more about topics the philanthropy might focus on. They read essays, listened to podcasts, and heard from experts on climate change, mental health, civic engagement, and other topics.

Blank and his family have been active in philanthropy for decades. They have supported a wide range of causes, including education, healthcare, and the environment. Blank's family has a long history of giving back to the community.

historically Black neighborhood from leaving as real-estate prices surge. Youth-development grants will support groups that provide job training, apprenticeships, and accreditation for people ages 14 to 24. And environment aid will encourage the development and use of renewable energy.

The foundation is still devising its approach on advancing democracy as well as how it will promote mental health and wellness.

In an interview, Twersky, who was involved in the formation of the New Pluralists, a fundraising collaborative that supports efforts to bring people of opposing viewpoints together, stressed that the foundation will try to support various approaches to solve problems.

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about the benefits of clean energy. But it had also supported research by the Hoover
Institution, a conservative think tank, on creating a market for renewable energy.

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made some awards that signal its approach. Among them: a \$500,000 grant to the
Carter Center to ensure landmark mental-health legislation signed into law in 2022 in
Georgia helps as many state residents as possible.

Blank, who is also owner of the Atlanta Falcons football and Atlanta United soccer
teams, has had a long relationship with former president Jimmy Carter, said Paige
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on the mental health of people from all walks of life.

The Carter Center will use \$500,000 over the next year to publicize the availability of
mental-health services and track consumer reaction, particularly among women and

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The idea, said Alexander, is to compare how mental-health policy affects city and rural residents differently and then to create marketing plans based on those findings statewide.

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Before joining the *Chronicle* in 2013, Alex covered Congress and national politics for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. He covered the 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns and reported extensively about Walmart Stores for the Little Rock paper.