MAYA AJMERA

Global Fund for Children

Chair Emeritus, Echoing Green Board of Directors

1993 Global Fellow

BIG BOLD IDEA

Advance the dignity of children and youth around the world by making small grants to innovative community-based organizations working with some of the world’s most vulnerable children and youth, complemented by a dynamic media program that highlights the issues affecting children and celebrates the global society in which we all live.

PERSONAL BIO

Maya Ajmera is the President and CEO of Society for Science & the Public and Publisher of its award-winning magazine Science News. Founded in 1921, the Society works to promote the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. It is best known for its world-class science competitions including the Regeneron Science Talent Search, Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and Broadcom MASTERS.

Maya is a 1993 Echoing Green Fellow. Maya founded The Global Fund for Children (GFC), a nonprofit organization that invests in innovative, community-based organizations working with some of the world’s most vulnerable children and youth. Under Maya’s 18 years of leadership, GFC grew from a vision into one of the largest networks of grassroots organizations working on behalf of vulnerable children. To date, GFC has awarded nearly $40 million to over 700 grassroots organizations in 80 countries, touching the lives of nearly 10 million children.

Maya is also an award-winning children’s book author of over 20 titles, including Children from Australia to Zimbabwe, Faith, and To Be a Kid with over five million readers worldwide. Maya is a 2011 Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute. Her work and life story have been profiled by such media outlets as CNN, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Financial Times, NPR, and many others.

Maya holds an AB from Bryn Mawr College and a MPP from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University.