The success of the East-West Center is built on effective public-private partnerships. Funding from the U.S. government covers most of the Center’s basic operating expenses, while private funding by individuals, private agencies, foundations, corporations and governments throughout the region sustains the Center’s high quality research, education, training, scholarship, and exchange programs. Increasing private support means the Center is able to continue its best programs and create new initiatives that are making a difference.

In 2009, the East-West Center Foundation sharpened the case for private support, strengthened volunteer support, and prepared for the Center’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. Two especially generous major gifts launched the 50th Anniversary Campaign — a $100,000 gift for special projects, and a million dollar matching challenge from an anonymous friend of the Center.

The EWC Foundation Board of Directors actively engaged in soliciting gifts, managing investments, recruiting effective Board members, strengthening the Center’s brand identity, and building and supporting effective programs, such as the EWC Arts ‘Ohana. Thanks to the generosity of alumni donors, several named scholarships at $25,000, $50,000 and up are making it possible for students to benefit from EWC programs, regardless of need. The EWC Association Alumni Scholarship Fund is a pooled fund for smaller gifts that has distributed more than $150,000 since its creation in 2005, making it possible for 47 students from 16 countries to participate in EWC education programs.

After months of preparation, the Board and more than 700 generous donors and friends launched the Center’s 50th Anniversary celebrations at a kick-off dinner on January 9, 2010 raising some $200,000 for EWC scholarships and education programs. Highlights included moving testimonials by Lynda Bird Johnson Robb, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, former Governor and Chairman of the Board of Governors George Ariyoshi, and presidential sister Maya Soetoro-Ng, and a video created especially for the Anniversary titled “Priceless Legacy.”

Produced in 2009, *The East-West Center at 50: The Case for Support* describes the impact of private giving and outlines the Center’s funding priorities — opportunities to help the Center meet the increasing demands of the next 50 years. Naming opportunities and permanent recognition for all donors of $50,000 or more are among the incentives for strengthening private philanthropy as the Center’s mission of building a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific region becomes more essential than ever.