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Kaplan Honored For Philanthropy

Leonard Kaplan, the founder of **Kay Chemical Company**, was honored for his work in creating the **Wealth and Giving Forum** at *PAM's Fourth Annual High-Net-Worth Industry Awards*.

Family Group Of The Year — Leonard Kaplan



Leonard Kaplan

The Kay Chemical Company founder took his personal belief—that affluent individuals should use their wealth in their lifetimes to help others—and turned it into a movement. Just about one year ago, **Leonard Kaplan** launched the *Wealth & Giving Forum* when he gathered approximately 65 ultra-affluent families from around the country at a meeting at the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia. Dedicated to increasing the charitable contributions of the ultra-affluent and to facilitating the most effective means of their giving, the forum has almost doubled in size and increased its mandate.

The goal of the forum is to create an atmosphere where through peer learning and sharing high-net-worth individuals can make better decisions about how much of their wealth is allocated to philanthropy and discuss new approaches, such as venture philanthropy and social entrepreneurship.

Kaplan, who made his fortune selling cleaning chemicals to the food service industry, is now looking into making the forum more formalized so that the group can respond more proactively to expressed areas of

interest, said **Glen Macdonald**, forum president. The forum has begun holding regional gatherings focused on individual topics and may formalize membership as well as expand leadership beyond Kaplan and create a board of directors. “We are finally on the map with these families. We are entering our second stage,” said Macdonald, noting the forum is reaching about 125 families. The forum will hold its third gathering this fall.

Earlier this year, the group held regional lunches in San Francisco, Atlanta and Chicago featuring **Jeffrey Sachs**, director of the Earth Institute at **Columbia University** and special advisor to UN Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**. Sachs, who is known for his work on eliminating extreme poverty, spoke to about 25 mostly new families at each gathering and did a book signing, said Macdonald, adding the forum is putting together an initiative to raise private and public money to address extreme poverty. Sachs had been a featured speaker at the large April gathering along with **Queen Noor** of Jordan. It will look at topics such as youth/education, how to involve children in philanthropy and how to get the most from private foundations at its smaller gatherings.

WEALTH & GIVING FORUM