

The Philanthropy 50: Americans Who Gave the Most in 2007



Thomas M. and Stacey Siebel

Rank: 12

Total amount committed in 2007: \$156.6-million

Location: Woodside, California

Source of wealth: Technology

Biggest beneficiary: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Other key beneficiaries: Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation, Meth Project Foundation, Siebel Scholars Foundation, and Salvation Army

Donors' background:

Mr. Siebel founded Siebel Systems, a San Mateo, Calif., software company that merged with the Oracle Corporation in 2006. He is currently chairman of First Virtual Group, a Palo Alto, Calif., holding company for agribusiness, commercial real-estate, and investment-management firms.

Mr. Siebel, 55, and his wife, Stacey, pledged \$100-million to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The money will be used to endow science and engineering research, graduate fellowships, and professorships.

Some of the money--a portion of which will come to the university as a bequest after the Siebels' deaths--may help pay for a new bioengineering building, but the Siebels and university officials have not yet worked out any of the details about the building or about a payment schedule for the remainder of the pledge. The couple said they made the pledge to help kick off the university's capital campaign, which hopes to raise \$2.25-billion by 2011.

Mr. Siebel earned three degrees at the university: a bachelor's degree in history in 1975, and master's degrees in business administration in 1983 and in computer science in 1985.

In addition, the Siebels donated \$36.8-million to the Thomas and Stacey Siebel Foundation, in Palo Alto, Calif., which the couple established in 1996. The money will be used to support conservation, education, and youth groups, as well as organizations that prevent drug abuse and help homeless people. Some of the money will also support stem-cell research.

The couple also gave \$10.7-million to the Meth Project Foundation, in Missoula, Mont., to support the Montana Meth Project, an organization Mr. Siebel founded that works to fight methamphetamine use; and \$4-million to the Siebel Scholars Foundation, in Palo Alto, Calif., which the Siebels started in 2000. The foundation awards \$25,000 grants to graduate students studying business and computer science.

The Siebels also gave \$2-million to the Salvation Army, in Alexandria, Va., to provide food and shelter for homeless people; \$1-million to the Menlo School, in Atherton, Calif.; \$1-million to Princeton University, in N.J., for environmental programs; and \$1-million to the Robin Hood Foundation, in New York, to build a new facility for St. John's Bread and Life, a soup kitchen in New York.

They also gave \$30,000 to Stanford University, in Calif., for scholarships; \$30,000 to the Menlo Charity Horse Show, in Atherton, Calif.; \$10,000 to the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, in Calif.; \$3,871 to the Yellowstone Art Museum, in Billings, Mont.; and \$1,000 to St. Simons Land Trust, in St. Simons Island, Ga.

Mr. Siebel serves on boards of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, a public-policy and international-affairs research center in Stanford, Calif.; the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, in California; the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Engineering; and the University of Illinois Foundation, in Urbana.

About These Data

The giving figures listed for each individual are based on donations announced to date by the donors or their beneficiaries. In cases of bequests, most of the figures are estimates because the wills have not been settled. For news of gift announcements in 2008, visit the [America's Top Donors database](#).