

Letters to the Editor  
New York Post  
New York, NY

To the Editor:

Your allegation (Mrs. Kerry's Cash Connection, March 9) that an organization called Peaceful Tomorrows has received funding from foundations directed by Teresa Heinz Kerry is flat-out wrong.

The allegation rests on a false assumption—that Heinz Endowments funding of the Tides Center for projects in western Pennsylvania is "fungible", as you state in your article, and so can be redirected to other causes. In fact, by legally binding contract, every penny of our support to Tides has been explicitly directed to specific projects in our region. It cannot legally be redirected and is the exact opposite of "fungible."

The Tides Center provides management and administrative services for short-term and start-up nonprofit activities. Foundations from all across the country—many, like Heinz, with strong centrist agendas—use this service to support a wide array of projects. It is no more accurate to suggest that Heinz supports every one of these projects than it is to suggest that a person who contributes to a specific organization through the United Way supports the agenda of every other United Way beneficiary.

Through Tides we have supported programs to test the career readiness of area high school students, protect Pittsburgh's environment and retain young people in our region—hardly an extremist agenda. Information about every one of our Tides-related grants is readily available in our public filings, annual reports and web site, all of which are notable for their full and open disclosure. Those resources tell the true story of The Heinz Endowments, which has a long and proud history of upholding the highest ideals of American philanthropy.

Sincerely,

Maxwell King  
President