

May's edition of FundWell is curated by The Wellbeing Project

When we launched FundWell: a Swift Summary of Wellbeing Stuff for Funders, our hope was simple: to create a space to engage more directly with philanthropy on wellbeing and the important role funders can play in helping normalize and create access to wellbeing support across our field.

We also genuinely didn't know how it would go. Would these conversations feel useful? Would there be space for wellbeing alongside everything else funders are navigating? Would it resonate?



Photo Credits: María Fernanda Zúñiga González.
Photo Description: A visual exploration of Fundwell newsletter editions presented through a contemporary mockup composition, combining typography and layout design

Now, as we reach our **40th edition**, we look back at the performance of the past 39 editions: what readers opened, what they clicked on, and which themes sparked the strongest engagement. A few reflections stood out.

First: wellbeing has clearly moved from the margins to strategy. Across many of the strongest-performing editions, wellbeing is showing up less as a "nice to have" and more as part of how philanthropy thinks about leadership, grantmaking, reporting, trust, and long-term impact. Over time, the question seems to have shifted from Should wellbeing matter? to How do we embed it into how we fund, lead, partner, and build institutions?

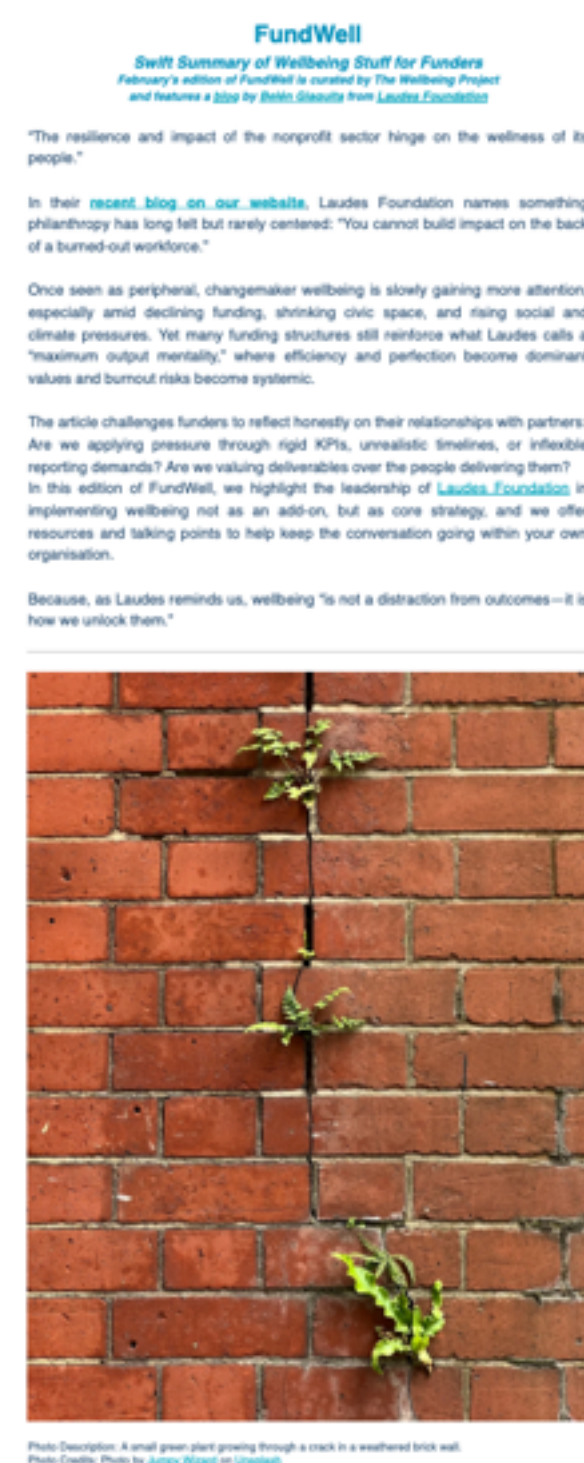
Second: the content people respond to most is often deeply human and a little unexpected. Some of the strongest engagement came from thoughtful questions, emotionally resonant themes, and even playful invitations. That feels meaningful. It suggests funders are looking not only for frameworks and metrics, but also for space to explore wellbeing with curiosity, honesty, and humanity.

And third: there is a growing collective. What started as a small experiment has steadily grown through readers sharing FundWell with colleagues and peers. We hope it has been useful, engaging, and offered a reminder that you are not alone in trying to prioritize wellbeing in your work. Across philanthropy, more people are asking similar questions, sharing ideas, and learning together.

Thank you for being part of the first 40 editions. As we look ahead, we'd love to hear from you: **What would make FundWell even more useful in your work?** Just hit reply.

Reply

Remembering past editions



Wellbeing has moved from a "nice to have" to a core strategic lens in philanthropy — and Laudes Foundation's blog, highlighted in [this FundWell](#) edition, shows exactly what that looks like in practice: shifting from funding outputs to investing in the people delivering them, because resilient impact starts with resilient changemakers.



Play, it turns out, isn't the opposite of rigor — it's the opposite of rigidity, and creating space for it builds the relational trust that no grant application can manufacture. [This FundWell](#) edition on the Fito Network's Philanthropy Playground showed that funders are hungry for space to explore with curiosity and humanity, not just frameworks and metrics.

When 45 leading foundations gathered at the Global Hearth Summit and left a shared lunch admitting grief, fatigue, and purpose out loud, it said something important: funders are hungry for spaces where they don't have to figure this out alone. That collective — curious, honest, growing — is exactly what [FundWell](#) has been trying to nurture from the start.



Coming Up

Funders + Wellbeing Learning Group is coming to Boston! We'll be at the [GEO 2026 National Conference](#) if you will be there come to our panel on Monday June 1st at 11AM: **Sustaining Civil Society: Practical Funder Approaches to Wellbeing**. Or if you are in Boston, connect with us and send an email to dana@wellbeing-project.org



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