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Ted Waitt
CEO, Waitt Family Foundation

As the founder and former Chairman and CEO of Gateway, Inc., Ted Waitt helped revolutionize how people use technology to live, work, and play by being a pioneer in the direct marketing of personal computers. He left Gateway in 2005 to turn his attention to being a full-time philanthropist and entrepreneur.

He has formed two enterprises that are his chief interests: Avalon Capital Group, Inc., a wholly-owned private investment company with diverse interests in technology, energy, finance, and entertainment; and the Waitt Family Foundation and Institutes, nonprofit organizations dedicated to using technology to improve mankind's knowledge through historical and scientific exploration.

Through the Waitt Family Foundation, Waitt has become one of America's 50 most generous philanthropists, according to Business Week. Established in 1993, the Foundation initially focused on domestic violence prevention and community development, knowing that building stronger families and societies will help foster the vision of a better world. The creation of the Waitt Institutes in 2005 --- the Waitt Institute for Historical Discovery, the Waitt Institute for Violence Prevention, and the Waitt Institute for Scientific Breakthroughs --- has allowed the Foundation to broaden its program interests to the global community. Waitt's keen interest in historical discovery of profound importance and public interest led to The Institute for Historical Discovery.

While Waitt is not a scientist, archeologist nor historian, his experience as a highly successful entrepreneur has allowed him to use his knowledge of business and technology to act as a catalyst in the support of world class scientific efforts in the field of historical discovery.

Waitt serves as the Chairman of the Founding Fathers campaign of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, just one of the efforts that he supports in the fight to prevent domestic violence. Waitt was appointed by Congress to serve on the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce and has served on numerous other corporate and philanthropic boards of directors, including the Advisory Council of the National Geographic Society and a Vice Chairman of the Board of the Jonas Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

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