



Jennie Curtis is the founding executive director of the Garfield Foundation. Opening its doors in 2001, she worked with the trustees to define areas of interest then helped to further refine its grant making program over the ensuing years. In 2003, Jennie proposed that Garfield Foundation apply a systems thinking approach to at least one sector to better understand, and solve, a specified entrenched problem and to build stronger collaborative partnerships

within the philanthropic and advocate communities. The selected project, advancing renewable energy in the United States' Midwest evolved into the [RE-AMP Network](#) now a coalition of 140 organizations collaborating to drastically, and equitably, reduce global warming pollution. To replicate RE-AMP's successful systems framework and network approach for solving complex problems, in 2012 the Garfield Foundation established its Collaborative Networks (CN) Program. In 2014, the [Cancer Free Economy Network](#) (CFEN) was initiated using the CN framework and today is a U.S. nation-wide network of public health, medical, labor, and environmental justice advocates that are tackling toxic chemical exposures that cause cancer and other diseases. In May 2021, Jennie accepted the international [Catalyst 2030](#) award presented to the Garfield Foundation "in recognition of its thoughtful and equitable manner in supporting systems transformation." While her tenure with the Garfield Foundation has concluded, Jennie continues to advise the CFEN and RE-AMP networks and other systems change leaders in the philanthropic and non-profit sectors.

Before joining the Garfield Foundation, Jennie coordinated a donor advised fund at the Marion Foundation. Prior to that, Jennie spent ten years managing humanitarian refugee relief programs for International Rescue Committee in Pakistan, Thailand, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. From 1985-1987 she served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand.

Jennie graduated from Western Michigan University and holds a Master's degree from the School for International Training with a concentration in organizational development and management. Jennie is passionate about environmental issues and keenly interested in systemic approaches to solving entrenched social, environmental and public health dilemmas. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast enjoying hiking, camping and meandering explorations with her Labrador, Theo. Jennie lives in Colorado.