John G. Davies has served as president and Chief Executive Officer of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation since June 1988. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is a community foundation that serves Southern Louisiana. During the past 20 years, the Foundation helped to organize and provide leadership to the Louisiana Pan American Commission and provided funding and technical support to institute Local Education Funds throughout the greater Baton Rouge area. It brought housing intermediary Local Initiatives Support Corporation to Baton Rouge and launched Plan Baton Rouge, a master planning process to revitalize the city center along New Urbanism principles that has drawn more than $1.5 billion in new investments. More recently, the Foundation raised more than $45 million for hurricane relief in response to Katrina, launched a mental health initiative to care for hurricane sufferers, rehabilitated the Capitol House Hotel through its Wilbur Marvin Foundation, conducted regional planning across South Louisiana through its offshoot planning division and created two community foundations.

During Mr. Davies’ tenure, the Foundation has grown from $5 million to more than $533 million in assets, and has awarded more than $230 million in charitable grants. Mr. Davies is board chair of the Wilbur Marvin Foundation. He also serves on the advisory committee of the David Rockefeller Center of Latin American Studies at Harvard University. Mr. Davies grew up in Latin America as the son of an American diplomat stationed in Lima, Peru. He attended the University of North Carolina at Asheville.