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Form **990-PF**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Private Foundation
or Section 4947(a)(1) Nonexempt Charitable Trust
Treated as a Private Foundation

Note. The foundation may be able to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

OMB No 1545-0052

2009

For calendar year 2009, or tax year beginning 01-01-2009 , and ending 12-31-2009

G

Check all that apply

☐ Initial return

☐ Initial return of a former public charity

☐ Final return

☐ Amended return

☐ Address change

☐ Name change

Use the IRS label. Otherwise, print or type. See Specific Instructions.	Name of foundation THE SPARKS FOUNDATION		A Employer identification number 23-7029788		
	Number and street (or P O box number if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 775 RIDGE LAKE BLVD No 450		B Telephone number (see page 10 of the instructions) (901) 766-4412		
	City or town, state, and ZIP code MEMPHIS, TN 38120		C If exemption application is pending, check here ☐		
H Check type of organization ☒ Section 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation ☐ Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust ☐ Other taxable private foundation		D 1. Foreign organizations, check here ☐		2. Foreign organizations meeting the 85% test, check here and attach computation ☐	
I Fair market value of all assets at end of year (from Part II, col. (c), line 16) \$ 12,846,442		J Accounting method ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual ☐ Other (specify) (Part I, column (d) must be on cash basis.)		E If private foundation status was terminated under section 507(b)(1)(A), check here ☐	
				F If the foundation is in a 60-month termination under section 507(b)(1)(B), check here ☐	

Part I Analysis of Revenue and Expenses (The total of amounts in columns (b), (c), and (d) may not necessarily equal the amounts in column (a) (see page 11 of the instructions))		(a) Revenue and expenses per books	(b) Net investment income	(c) Adjusted net income	(d) Disbursements for charitable purposes (cash basis only)
Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, etc , received (attach schedule)				
	2 Check ☒ if the foundation is not required to attach Sch B				
	3 Interest on savings and temporary cash investments	48,096	48,096		
	4 Dividends and interest from securities.	144,000	144,000		
	5a Gross rents				
	b Net rental income or (loss) <u>-18</u>				
	6a Net gain or (loss) from sale of assets not on line 10	-1,241,472			
	b Gross sales price for all assets on line 6a <u>11,015,492</u>				
	7 Capital gain net income (from Part IV, line 2)		0		
	8 Net short-term capital gain				
	9 Income modifications				
	10a Gross sales less returns and allowances				
Operating and Administrative Expenses	b Less Cost of goods sold				
	c Gross profit or (loss) (attach schedule)				
	11 Other income (attach schedule)	62,388	14,400	0	
	12 Total. Add lines 1 through 11	-986,988	206,496	0	
	13 Compensation of officers, directors, trustees, etc	0	0	0	0
	14 Other employee salaries and wages				
	15 Pension plans, employee benefits				
	16a Legal fees (attach schedule)				
	b Accounting fees (attach schedule)	5,000	0	0	0
	c Other professional fees (attach schedule)				
	17 Interest	1,400	1,400	0	0
	18 Taxes (attach schedule) (see page 14 of the instructions)	4,252	4,252	0	0
	19 Depreciation (attach schedule) and depletion				
	20 Occupancy				
	21 Travel, conferences, and meetings	908	0	0	0
	22 Printing and publications				
	23 Other expenses (attach schedule)	115,270	115,270	0	0
	24 Total operating and administrative expenses. Add lines 13 through 23	126,830	120,922	0	0
	25 Contributions, gifts, grants paid	910,056			910,056
	26 Total expenses and disbursements. Add lines 24 and 25	1,036,886	120,922	0	910,056
	27 Subtract line 26 from line 12				
	a Excess of revenue over expenses and disbursements	-2,023,874			
	b Net investment income (if negative, enter -0-)		85,574		
	c Adjusted net income (if negative, enter -0-)			0	

Part II Balance Sheets		Attached schedules and amounts in the description column should be for end-of-year amounts only (See instructions)	Beginning of year	End of year	
			(a) Book Value	(b) Book Value	(c) Fair Market Value
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing			
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments	694,682	5,103,570	5,103,570
	3	Accounts receivable ▶ _____ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶ _____			
	4	Pledges receivable ▶ _____ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶ _____			
	5	Grants receivable			
	6	Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons (attach schedule) (see page 15 of the instructions)			
	7	Other notes and loans receivable (attach schedule) ▶ _____ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶ _____			
	8	Inventories for sale or use			
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges			
	10a	Investments—U S and state government obligations (attach schedule)			
	b	Investments—corporate stock (attach schedule)	6,623,859	3,924,437	3,924,437
	c	Investments—corporate bonds (attach schedule).			
	11	Investments—land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ _____ Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶ _____			
	12	Investments—mortgage loans			
	13	Investments—other (attach schedule)	427,355	521,418	521,418
	14	Land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ _____ Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶ _____			
15	Other assets (describe ▶ _____)	4,545,608	3,297,017	3,297,017	
16	Total assets (to be completed by all filers—see the instructions Also, see page 1, item I)	12,291,504	12,846,442	12,846,442	
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses			
	18	Grants payable			
	19	Deferred revenue			
	20	Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons			
	21	Mortgages and other notes payable (attach schedule)			
	22	Other liabilities (describe ▶ _____)			
	23	Total liabilities (add lines 17 through 22)	0	0	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Foundations that follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☐ and complete lines 24 through 26 and lines 30 and 31.				
	24	Unrestricted			
	25	Temporarily restricted			
	26	Permanently restricted			
	Foundations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☒ and complete lines 27 through 31.				
	27	Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds	6,269,939	6,269,939	
	28	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, bldg , and equipment fund	0	0	
	29	Retained earnings, accumulated income, endowment, or other funds	6,021,565	6,576,503	
	30	Total net assets or fund balances (see page 17 of the instructions)	12,291,504	12,846,442	
31	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances (see page 17 of the instructions)	12,291,504	12,846,442		

Part III Analysis of Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances		
1	Total net assets or fund balances at beginning of year—Part II, column (a), line 30 (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year’s return)	1 12,291,504
2	Enter amount from Part I, line 27a	2 -2,023,874
3	Other increases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶ _____	3 2,578,812
4	Add lines 1, 2, and 3	4 12,846,442
5	Decreases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶ _____	5 0
6	Total net assets or fund balances at end of year (line 4 minus line 5)—Part II, column (b), line 30	6 12,846,442

Part IV

Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income

(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (e g , real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs MLC Co)		(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo , day, yr)	(d) Date sold (mo , day, yr)
1a	See Additional Data Table			
b				
c				
d				
e				
(e) Gross sales price		(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) (e) plus (f) minus (g)
a	See Additional Data Table			
b				
c				
d				
e				
Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69			(i) Gains (Col (h) gain minus col (k), but not less than -0-) or Losses (from col (h))	
(i) F M V as of 12/31/69		(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col (i) over col (j), if any	
a	See Additional Data Table			
b				
c				
d				
e				
2	Capital gain net income or (net capital loss) { If gain, also enter in Part I, line 7 If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 7 }			2 -1,241,472
3	Net short-term capital gain or (loss) as defined in sections 1222(5) and (6) If gain, also enter in Part I, line 8, column (c) (see pages 13 and 17 of the instructions) If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 8 }			3

Part V

Qualification Under Section 4940(e) for Reduced Tax on Net Investment Income

(For optional use by domestic private foundations subject to the section 4940(a) tax on net investment income)

If section 4940(d)(2) applies, leave this part blank

Was the foundation liable for the section 4942 tax on the distributable amount of any year in the base period? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," the foundation does not qualify under section 4940(e) Do not complete this part

1 Enter the appropriate amount in each column for each year, see page 18 of the instructions before making any entries			
(a) Base period years Calendar year (or tax year beginning in)	(b) Adjusted qualifying distributions	(c) Net value of noncharitable-use assets	(d) Distribution ratio (col (b) divided by col (c))
2008	755,375	15,107,223	0 050001
2007	966,113	17,481,120	0 055266
2006	678,968	16,384,289	0 041440
2005	842,801	15,532,671	0 054260
2004	330,877	6,717,964	0 049253
2	Total of line 1, column (d).		2 0 250220
3	Average distribution ratio for the 5-year base period—divide the total on line 2 by 5, or by the number of years the foundation has been in existence if less than 5 years		3 0 050044
4	Enter the net value of noncharitable-use assets for 2009 from Part X, line 5.		4 11,861,171
5	Multiply line 4 by line 3.		5 593,580
6	Enter 1% of net investment income (1% of Part I, line 27b).		6 856
7	Add lines 5 and 6.		7 594,436
8	Enter qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4.		8 910,056
If line 8 is equal to or greater than line 7, check the box in Part VI, line 1b, and complete that part using a 1% tax rate See the Part VI instructions on page 18			

Part VIExcise Tax Based on Investment Income (Section 4940(a), 4940(b), 4940(e), or 4948—see page 18 of the instructions)

1a		Exempt operating foundations described in section 4940(d)(2), check here ☐ and enter "N/A" on line 1				
		Date of ruling or determination letter _____ (attach copy of letter if necessary—see instructions)				
b		Domestic foundations that meet the section 4940(e) requirements in Part V, check here ☒ and enter 1% of Part I, line 27b		1	856	
c		All other domestic foundations enter 2% of line 27b. Exempt foreign organizations enter 4% of Part I, line 12, col (b)				
2		Tax under section 511 (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only. Others enter -0-)		2	0	
3		Add lines 1 and 2.		3	856	
4		Subtitle A (income) tax (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only. Others enter -0-)		4	0	
5		Tax based on investment income. Subtract line 4 from line 3. If zero or less, enter -0-		5	856	
6		Credits/Payments				
a		2009 estimated tax payments and 2008 overpayment credited to 2009	6a	10,000		
b		Exempt foreign organizations—tax withheld at source	6b			
c		Tax paid with application for extension of time to file (Form 8868)	6c			
d		Backup withholding erroneously withheld	6d			
7		Total credits and payments. Add lines 6a through 6d.		7	10,000	
8		Enter any penalty for underpayment of estimated tax. Check here ☐ if Form 2220 is attached.		8		
9		Tax due. If the total of lines 5 and 8 is more than line 7, enter amount owed		9		
10		Overpayment. If line 7 is more than the total of lines 5 and 8, enter the amount overpaid.		10	9,144	
11		Enter the amount of line 10 to be Credited to 2010 estimated tax ☒	9,144	Refunded ☒	11	0

Part VII-AStatements Regarding Activities

1a	During the tax year, did the foundation attempt to influence any national, state, or local legislation or did it participate or intervene in any political campaign?		Yes	No
		1a		No
b	Did it spend more than \$100 during the year (either directly or indirectly) for political purposes (see page 19 of the instructions for definition)?			No
	If the answer is "Yes" to 1a or 1b, attach a detailed description of the activities and copies of any materials published or distributed by the foundation in connection with the activities.			
c	Did the foundation file Form 1120-POL for this year?	1c		No
d	Enter the amount (if any) of tax on political expenditures (section 4955) imposed during the year: (1) On the foundation ☒ \$ 0 (2) On foundation managers ☒ \$ 0			
e	Enter the reimbursement (if any) paid by the foundation during the year for political expenditure tax imposed on foundation managers ☒ \$ 0			
2	Has the foundation engaged in any activities that have not previously been reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities.	2		No
3	Has the foundation made any changes, not previously reported to the IRS, in its governing instrument, articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or other similar instruments? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes	3		No
4a	Did the foundation have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	4a		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?	4b		
5	Was there a liquidation, termination, dissolution, or substantial contraction during the year? If "Yes," attach the statement required by General Instruction T.	5		No
6	Are the requirements of section 508(e) (relating to sections 4941 through 4945) satisfied either: • By language in the governing instrument, or • By state legislation that effectively amends the governing instrument so that no mandatory directions that conflict with the state law remain in the governing instrument?	6	Yes	
7	Did the foundation have at least \$5,000 in assets at any time during the year? If "Yes," complete Part II, col (c), and Part XV	7	Yes	
8a	Enter the states to which the foundation reports or with which it is registered (see page 19 of the instructions) ☒ TN			
b	If the answer is "Yes" to line 7, has the foundation furnished a copy of Form 990-PF to the Attorney General (or designate) of each state as required by General Instruction G? If "No," attach explanation .	8b	Yes	
9	Is the foundation claiming status as a private operating foundation within the meaning of section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5) for calendar year 2009 or the taxable year beginning in 2009 (see instructions for Part XIV on page 27)? If "Yes," complete Part XIV	9		No
10	Did any persons become substantial contributors during the tax year? If "Yes," attach a schedule listing their names and addresses	10		No

Part VII-A

Statements Regarding Activities (continued)

11	At any time during the year, did the foundation, directly or indirectly, own a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," attach schedule (see page 20 of the instructions).	11		No
12	Did the foundation acquire a direct or indirect interest in any applicable insurance contract before August 17, 2008?	12		No
13	Did the foundation comply with the public inspection requirements for its annual returns and exemption application? Website address WWW.SPARKSFOUNDATION.COM	13	Yes	
14	The books are in care of ROBERT SPARKS Telephone no (901) 766-4412 Located at 775 RIDGE LAKE BLVD SUITE 450 MEMPHIS TN ZIP+4 38120			
15	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-PF in lieu of Form 1041 —Check here ☐ and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.	15		

Part VII-B

Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required

File Form 4720 if any item is checked in the "Yes" column, unless an exception applies.			Yes	No
1a	During the year did the foundation (either directly or indirectly) (1) Engage in the sale or exchange, or leasing of property with a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No (2) Borrow money from, lend money to, or otherwise extend credit to (or accept it from) a disqualified person?. ☐ Yes ☒ No (3) Furnish goods, services, or facilities to (or accept them from) a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No (4) Pay compensation to, or pay or reimburse the expenses of, a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☒ No (5) Transfer any income or assets to a disqualified person (or make any of either available for the benefit or use of a disqualified person)?. ☐ Yes ☒ No (6) Agree to pay money or property to a government official? (Exception. Check "No" if the foundation agreed to make a grant to or to employ the official for a period after termination of government service, if terminating within 90 days). ☐ Yes ☒ No			
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 1a(1)–(6), did any of the acts fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4941(d)-3 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see page 20 of the instructions)?. Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here. ☐	1b		No
c	Did the foundation engage in a prior year in any of the acts described in 1a, other than excepted acts, that were not corrected before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2009?. ☐	1c		No
2	Taxes on failure to distribute income (section 4942) (does not apply for years the foundation was a private operating foundation defined in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5))			
a	At the end of tax year 2009, did the foundation have any undistributed income (lines 6d and 6e, Part XIII) for tax year(s) beginning before 2009?. ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes," list the years 20 ____, 20 ____, 20 ____, 20 ____			
b	Are there any years listed in 2a for which the foundation is not applying the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) (relating to incorrect valuation of assets) to the year's undistributed income? (If applying section 4942(a)(2) to all years listed, answer "No" and attach statement—see page 20 of the instructions).	2b		
c	If the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) are being applied to any of the years listed in 2a, list the years here 20 ____, 20 ____, 20 ____, 20 ____			
3a	Did the foundation hold more than a 2% direct or indirect interest in any business enterprise at any time during the year?. ☐ Yes ☒ No			
b	If "Yes," did it have excess business holdings in 2009 as a result of (1) any purchase by the foundation or disqualified persons after May 26, 1969, (2) the lapse of the 5-year period (or longer period approved by the Commissioner under section 4943(c)(7)) to dispose of holdings acquired by gift or bequest, or (3) the lapse of the 10-, 15-, or 20-year first phase holding period? (<i>Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine if the foundation had excess business holdings in 2009.</i>).	3b		
4a	Did the foundation invest during the year any amount in a manner that would jeopardize its charitable purposes?	4a		No
b	Did the foundation make any investment in a prior year (but after December 31, 1969) that could jeopardize its charitable purpose that had not been removed from jeopardy before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2009?	4b		No

Part VII-B

Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required (continued)

5a	During the year did the foundation pay or incur any amount to			
	(1) Carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (section 4945(e))?	☐ Yes	☒ No	
	(2) Influence the outcome of any specific public election (see section 4955), or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive?	☐ Yes	☒ No	
	(3) Provide a grant to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes?	☐ Yes	☒ No	
	(4) Provide a grant to an organization other than a charitable, etc , organization described in section 509(a)(1), (2), or (3), or section 4940(d)(2)? (see page 22 of the instructions).	☐ Yes	☒ No	
	(5) Provide for any purpose other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals?	☐ Yes	☒ No	
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 5a(1)–(5), did any of the transactions fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53.4945 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see page 22 of the instructions)? Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here.			5b
c	If the answer is "Yes" to question 5a(4), does the foundation claim exemption from the tax because it maintained expenditure responsibility for the grant? <i>If "Yes," attach the statement required by Regulations section 53.4945–5(d).</i>	☐ Yes	☐ No	
6a	Did the foundation, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	☐ Yes	☒ No	
b	Did the foundation, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? <i>If "Yes" to 6b, file Form 8870.</i>			6b
				No
7a	At any time during the tax year, was the foundation a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	☐ Yes	☒ No	
b	If yes, did the foundation receive any proceeds or have any net income attributable to the transaction?			7b

Part VIII

Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors

1 List all officers, directors, trustees, foundation managers and their compensation (see page 22 of the instructions).				
(a) Name and address	(b) Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (If not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account, other allowances
ROBERT D SPARKS	TRUSTEE	0	0	0
775 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD	2 00			
SUITE 450				
MEMPHIS, TN 38120				
2 Compensation of five highest-paid employees (other than those included on line 1—see page 23 of the instructions). If none, enter "NONE."				
(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$50,000	(b) Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account, other allowances
NONE				
Total number of other employees paid over \$50,000.				0

Part VIII

Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors (continued)

3 Five highest-paid independent contractors for professional services (see page 23 of the instructions). If none, enter "NONE".		
(a) Name and address of each person paid more than \$50,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		
Total number of others receiving over \$50,000 for professional services.		0

Part IX-A

Summary of Direct Charitable Activities

List the foundation's four largest direct charitable activities during the tax year. Include relevant statistical information such as the number of organizations and other beneficiaries served, conferences convened, research papers produced, etc.	Expenses
1	
2	
3	
4	

Part IX-B Summary of Program-Related Investments (see page 23 of the instructions)	
Describe the two largest program-related investments made by the foundation during the tax year on lines 1 and 2	Amount
1	
2	
All other program-related investments. See page 24 of the instructions.	
3	
Total. Add lines 1 through 3.	0

Part X

Minimum Investment Return (All domestic foundations must complete this part. Foreign foundations, see page 24 of the instructions.)

1	Fair market value of assets not used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc , purposes		
a	Average monthly fair market value of securities.	1a	10,819,600
b	Average of monthly cash balances.	1b	1,222,198
c	Fair market value of all other assets (see page 24 of the instructions).	1c	0
d	Total (add lines 1a, b, and c).	1d	12,041,798
e	Reduction claimed for blockage or other factors reported on lines 1a and 1c (attach detailed explanation).	1e	0
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to line 1 assets.	2	0
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	12,041,798
4	Cash deemed held for charitable activities Enter 1 1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see page 25 of the instructions).	4	180,627
5	Net value of noncharitable-use assets. Subtract line 4 from line 3 Enter here and on Part V, line 4	5	11,861,171
6	Minimum investment return. Enter 5% of line 5.	6	593,059

Part XI

Distributable Amount (see page 25 of the instructions) (Section 4942(j)(3) and (j)(5) private operating foundations and certain foreign organizations check here ☒ and do not complete this part.)

1	Minimum investment return from Part X, line 6.	1	593,059
2a	Tax on investment income for 2009 from Part VI, line 5.	2a	856
b	Income tax for 2009 (This does not include the tax from Part VI).	2b	
c	Add lines 2a and 2b.	2c	856
3	Distributable amount before adjustments Subtract line 2c from line 1.	3	592,203
4	Recoveries of amounts treated as qualifying distributions.	4	0
5	Add lines 3 and 4.	5	592,203
6	Deduction from distributable amount (see page 25 of the instructions).	6	0
7	Distributable amount as adjusted Subtract line 6 from line 5 Enter here and on Part XIII, line 1.	7	592,203

Part XII

Qualifying Distributions (see page 25 of the instructions)

1	Amounts paid (including administrative expenses) to accomplish charitable, etc , purposes		
a	Expenses, contributions, gifts, etc —total from Part I, column (d), line 26.	1a	910,056
b	Program-related investments—total from Part IX-B.	1b	0
2	Amounts paid to acquire assets used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc , purposes.	2	
3	Amounts set aside for specific charitable projects that satisfy the		
a	Suitability test (prior IRS approval required).	3a	
b	Cash distribution test (attach the required schedule).	3b	
4	Qualifying distributions. Add lines 1a through 3b Enter here and on Part V, line 8, and Part XIII, line 4	4	910,056
5	Foundations that qualify under section 4940(e) for the reduced rate of tax on net investment income Enter 1% of Part I, line 27b (see page 26 of the instructions).	5	856
6	Adjusted qualifying distributions. Subtract line 5 from line 4.	6	909,200
Note: The amount on line 6 will be used in Part V, column (b), in subsequent years when calculating whether the foundation qualifies for the section 4940(e) reduction of tax in those years			

Part XIII

Undistributed Income (see page 26 of the instructions)

		(a) Corpus	(b) Years prior to 2008	(c) 2008	(d) 2009
1 Distributable amount for 2009 from Part XI, line 7					592,203
2 Undistributed income, if any, as of the end of 2008					
a Enter amount for 2008 only.				0	
b Total for prior years 20____, 20____, 20____			0		
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2009					
a From 2004.					
b From 2005.					74,565
c From 2006.					58,818
d From 2007.					121,831
e From 2008.					4,264
f Total of lines 3a through e.		259,478			
4 Qualifying distributions for 2009 from Part XII, line 4 ▶ \$ 910,056					
a Applied to 2008, but not more than line 2a				0	
b Applied to undistributed income of prior years (Election required—see page 26 of the instructions)			0		
c Treated as distributions out of corpus (Election required—see page 26 of the instructions). . .		0			
d Applied to 2009 distributable amount.					592,203
e Remaining amount distributed out of corpus		317,853			
5 Excess distributions carryover applied to 2009 (If an amount appears in column (d), the same amount must be shown in column (a).)		0			0
6 Enter the net total of each column as indicated below:					
a Corpus Add lines 3f, 4c, and 4e Subtract line 5		577,331			
b Prior years' undistributed income Subtract line 4b from line 2b.			0		
c Enter the amount of prior years' undistributed income for which a notice of deficiency has been issued, or on which the section 4942(a) tax has been previously assessed.			0		
d Subtract line 6c from line 6b Taxable amount—see page 27 of the instructions . . .			0		
e Undistributed income for 2008 Subtract line 4a from line 2a Taxable amount—see page 27 of the instructions				0	
f Undistributed income for 2009 Subtract lines 4d and 5 from line 1 This amount must be distributed in 2010					0
7 Amounts treated as distributions out of corpus to satisfy requirements imposed by section 170(b)(1)(F) or 4942(g)(3) (see page 27 of the instructions)		0			
8 Excess distributions carryover from 2004 not applied on line 5 or line 7 (see page 27 of the instructions)		0			
9 Excess distributions carryover to 2010. Subtract lines 7 and 8 from line 6a		577,331			
10 Analysis of line 9					
a Excess from 2005. . . .					74,565
b Excess from 2006. . . .					58,818
c Excess from 2007. . . .					121,831
d Excess from 2008. . . .					4,264
e Excess from 2009. . . .					317,853

Part XIV

Private Operating Foundations (see page 27 of the instructions and Part VII-A, question 9)

1a

If the foundation has received a ruling or determination letter that it is a private operating foundation, and the ruling is effective for 2009, enter the date of the ruling.

b

Check box to indicate whether the organization is a private operating foundation described in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5)

☐ 4942(j)(3) or ☐ 4942(j)(5)

2a	Enter the lesser of the adjusted net income from Part I or the minimum investment return from Part X for each year listed	Tax year	Prior 3 years			(e) Total
		(a) 2009	(b) 2008	(c) 2007	(d) 2006	
b	85% of line 2a					
c	Qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4 for each year listed					
d	Amounts included in line 2c not used directly for active conduct of exempt activities					
e	Qualifying distributions made directly for active conduct of exempt activities Subtract line 2d from line 2c					
3	Complete 3a, b, or c for the alternative test relied upon					
a	"Assets" alternative test—enter					
	(1) Value of all assets					
	(2) Value of assets qualifying under section 4942(j)(3)(B)(i)					
b	"Endowment" alternative test— enter 2/3 of minimum investment return shown in Part X, line 6 for each year listed. . . .					
c	"Support" alternative test—enter					
	(1) Total support other than gross investment income (interest, dividends, rents, payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), or royalties)					
	(2) Support from general public and 5 or more exempt organizations as provided in section 4942(j)(3)(B)(iii).					
	(3) Largest amount of support from an exempt organization					
	(4) Gross investment income					

Part XV

Supplementary Information (Complete this part only if the organization had \$5,000 or more in assets at any time during the year—see page 27 of the instructions.)

1

Information Regarding Foundation Managers:

a

List any managers of the foundation who have contributed more than 2% of the total contributions received by the foundation before the close of any tax year (but only if they have contributed more than \$5,000) (See section 507(d)(2))

b

List any managers of the foundation who own 10% or more of the stock of a corporation (or an equally large portion of the ownership of a partnership or other entity) of which the foundation has a 10% or greater interest

2

Information Regarding Contribution, Grant, Gift, Loan, Scholarship, etc., Programs:

Check here ☐ if the foundation only makes contributions to preselected charitable organizations and does not accept unsolicited requests for funds If the foundation makes gifts, grants, etc (see page 28 of the instructions) to individuals or organizations under other conditions, complete items 2a, b, c, and d

a

The name, address, and telephone number of the person to whom applications should be addressed

ROBERT D SPARKS
775 RIDGE LAKE BLVD SUITE 450
MEMPHIS,TN 38120
(901) 766-4600

b

The form in which applications should be submitted and information and materials they should include

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION, CONTACT, DIRECTORS, TAX STATUS, PROJECT INFORMATION, AMOUNT REQUESTED, TAX-EXEMPT CERTIFICATION, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PROJECT BUDGET, LIST OF DONORS

c

Any submission deadlines

MARCH 31 AND OCTOBER 31

d

Any restrictions or limitations on awards, such as by geographical areas, charitable fields, kinds of institutions, or other factors

AREAS OF INTEREST INCLUDE EDUCATION, ARTS, HANDICAPPED, AND RELIGION, GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS INCLUDE TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI, OKLAHOMA, AND THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS, TAX-EXEMPT, ONE GRANT PER YEAR, CURRENT ON ALL REPORTS FOR PRIOR GRANTS, WILL NOT CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR FEDERATED CAMPAIGNS, SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS, OR ORGANIZATIONS WHO DISCRIMINATE BASED ON RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN, SEX, CREED, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Part XV

Supplementary Information (continued)

3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a Paid during the year See Additional Data Table				
Total			3a	910,056
b Approved for future payment				
Total			3b	0

Enter gross amounts unless otherwise indicated

Part XVI-B Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt Purposes

Form **990-PF** (2009)

Part XVII Information Regarding Transfers To and Transactions and Relationships With Noncharitable Exempt Organizations

1	Did the organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following with any other organization described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3) organizations) or in section 527, relating to political organizations?		Yes	No
a	Transfers from the reporting foundation to a noncharitable exempt organization of			
	(1) Cash.	1a(1)		No
	(2) Other assets.	1a(2)		No
b	Other transactions			
	(1) Sales of assets to a noncharitable exempt organization.	1b(1)		No
	(2) Purchases of assets from a noncharitable exempt organization.	1b(2)		No
	(3) Rental of facilities, equipment, or other assets.	1b(3)		No
	(4) Reimbursement arrangements.	1b(4)		No
	(5) Loans or loan guarantees.	1b(5)		No
	(6) Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations.	1b(6)		No
c	Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, other assets, or paid employees.	1c		No
d	If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," complete the following schedule. Column (b) should always show the fair market value of the goods, other assets, or services given by the reporting foundation. If the foundation received less than fair market value in any transaction or sharing arrangement, show in column (d) the value of the goods, other assets, or services received.			

[illegible]

2a Is the foundation directly or indirectly affiliated with, or related to, one or more tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3)) or in section 527? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If "Yes," complete the following schedule		
(a) Name of organization	(b) Type of organization	(c) Description of relationship

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer or fiduciary) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge			
*****		2010-11-11	*****
Signature of officer or trustee		Date	Title
Paid Preparer's Use Only	Preparer's Signature MICHAEL K WAGES CPA	Date	Check if self-employed ☒
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP code		Preparer's identifying number (see Signature on page 30 of the instructions)
	CANNON WRIGHT BLOUNT PLLC 756 RIDGE LAKE BLVD SUITE 100 MEMPHIS, TN 381209420		EIN 12-3456789 Phone no (901) 685-7500

Additional Data

Software ID: 09000028

Software Version: 2009.04050

EIN: 23-7029788

Name: THE SPARKS FOUNDATION

Form 990PF Part IV - Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income - Columns a - d

(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (e g , real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs MLC Co)	(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo , day, yr)	(d) Date sold (mo , day, yr)
PASSTHROUGH-HBI PRIVATE EQUITY FUND II LLLP	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-HBI PRIVATE EQUITY FUND II LLLP	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-HORIZON MULTI-STRATEGY FD LP	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-HORIZON MULTI-STRATEGY FD LP	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-POWERSHARES DB AGRICULTURE FD	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-POWERSHARES DB COMMODITY INDEX TRACKING FD	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-POWERSHARES DB COMMODITY INDEX TRACKING FD	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-THE BLACKSTONE GROUP LP	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-THE BLACKSTONE GROUP LP	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PASSTHROUGH-TALF FUND LP	P	2009-07-14	2009-12-31
MSDW 058753	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
MSDW 058753	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
MSDW 058754	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
MSDW 058754	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
MSDW 058795	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
MSDW 058795	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
MSDW 031081	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
MSDW 031081	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
MSDW 051864	P	2009-06-02	2009-06-02
PERSHING LLC 012375	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012375	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012383	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012383	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012391	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012409	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012409	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012417	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
PERSHING LLC 012417	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
LONGLEAF PARTNERS	P	2008-12-31	2009-12-31
FIRST CLEARING #6939	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31

Form 990PF Part IV - Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income - Columns e - h

(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) (e) plus (f) minus (g)
		277	-277
		25,035	-25,035
		22,236	-22,236
		66,798	-66,798
		1	-1
		5	-5
		43	-43
		2	-2
		1	-1
2,200			2,200
342,401		311,721	30,680
361,563		447,253	-85,690
66,290		54,169	12,121
124,757		177,480	-52,723
259,660		245,354	14,306
529,729		766,270	-236,541
235,161		267,108	-31,947
1,419,030		1,749,291	-330,261
8,547		8,232	315
14,801		23,476	-8,675
90,660		199,962	-109,302
77,371		84,777	-7,406
238,901		356,222	-117,321
2,355		8	2,347
28,058		42,579	-14,521
91,036		184,977	-93,941
72,254		110,386	-38,132
19,291		33,505	-14,214
546,904		598,705	-51,801
21,807		19,441	2,366

Form 990PF Part IV - Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income - Columns i - l

Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69			(l) Gains (Col (h) gain minus col (k), but not less than -0-) or Losses (from col (h))
(i) FM V as of 12/31/69	(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col (i) over col (j), if any	
			-277
			-25,035
			-22,236
			-66,798
			-1
			-5
			-43
			-2
			-1
			2,200
			30,680
			-85,690
			12,121
			-52,723
			14,306
			-236,541
			-31,947
			-330,261
			315
			-8,675
			-109,302
			-7,406
			-117,321
			2,347
			-14,521
			-93,941
			-38,132
			-14,214
			-51,801
			2,366

Form 990PF Part IV - Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income - Columns a - d

(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (e g , real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs MLC Co)	(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo , day, yr)	(d) Date sold (mo , day, yr)
PENSON FINANCIAL #0417	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
PENSON FINANCIAL #9124	P	2009-01-01	2009-12-31
POWERSHARES AGRICULTURE FUND BASIS ADJUSTMENT	P	2008-03-18	2009-09-30
POWERSHARES COMMODITY FUND BASIS ADJUSTMENT	P	2008-03-18	2009-09-30
Capital Gains Dividends	P		

Form 990PF Part IV - Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income - Columns e - h

(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) (e) plus (f) minus (g)
6,139,387		6,131,654	7,733
310,634		329,996	-19,362
5,276			5,276
6,641			6,641
778			778

Form 990PF Part IV - Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income - Columns i - l

Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69			(l) Gains (Col (h) gain minus col (k), but not less than -0-) or Losses (from col (h))
(i) F M V as of 12/31/69	(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col (i) over col (j), if any	
			7,733
			-19,362
			5,276
			6,641
			778

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a Paid during the year				
BRIARCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 6000 BRIARCREST AVE MEMPHIS, TN 38120		501(C)(3)	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	100,000
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES8701 LEEDS ROAD KANSAS CITY, MO 641291680		501(C)(3)	GENERAL FUNDS	7,556
LEBONHEUR CHILDRENS MEDICAL CENTER850 POPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TN 38105		501(C)(3)	BUILDING CAMPAIGN	100,000
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY 400 S MONROE STILLWATER, OK 74076		501(C)(3)	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SCHOLARSHIPS	1,250
PATHWAYS FOR LITTLE FEET8 GREENWAY PLAZA STE 1000 HOUSTON, TX 77046		501(C)(3)	GENERAL FUNDS	10,000
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH6400 WOODWAY HOUSTON, TX 770571699		501(C)(3)	BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING	10,000
SECOND BAPTIST SCHOOL FOUNDATION6363 WOODWAY SUITE 840 HOUSTON, TX 77057		501(C)(3)	SECOND FUND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	20,000
UNION UNIVERSITY1050 UNION UNIVERSITY DRIVE JACKSON, TN 38305		501(C)(3)	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN- PIONEER MISSIONS PROJECT	200,000
STREETS MINISTRIES430 VANCE AVENUE MEMPHIS, TN 38126		501(C)(3)	GENERAL FUNDS	250
NATIONAL WATERWAYS FOUNDATION801 N QUINCY STREET STE 200 ARLINGTON, VA 22203		501(C)(3)	EDUCATIONAL & RESEARCH PROGRAMS	10,000
OLE MISS M-CLUB ALUMNI CHAPTERPO BOX 1848 UNIVERSITY, MS 386771848		501(C)(3)	SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	1,000
TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITYPO BOX 5111 COOKEVILLE, TN 38505		501(C)(3)	ATHLETIC ASSOC CAPITAL PROJECTS	250,000
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATIONPO BOX 249 UNIVERSITY, MS 38677		501(C)(3)	ATHLETIC CAMPAIGN	125,000
JOE FOSS INSTITUTE14415 N 73RD ST SUITE 109 SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260		501(C)(3)	genERAL FUNDS	40,000
SIRE24161 SPRING DRIVE HOCKLEY, TX 77447		501(C)(3)	GENERAL FUNDS	20,000
Total  3a				910,056

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
Name and address (home or business)				
a Paid during the year				
CENTRAL TEXAS DACHSHUND RESCUE7301 RR 620 N AUSTIN,TX 78726		501(C)(3)	GENERAL FUNDS	5,000
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH6410 WOODWAY DRIVE HOUSTON,TX 77057		501(C)(3)	FACULTY ENDOWMENT FUND	10,000
Total ▶ 3a				910,056

TY 2009 Accounting Fees Schedule

Name: THE SPARKS FOUNDATION

EIN: 23-7029788

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
ACCOUNTING FEES	5,000	0	0	0

**TY 2009 Investments Corporate
Stock Schedule**

Name: THE SPARKS FOUNDATION
EIN: 23-7029788

Name of Stock	End of Year Book Value	End of Year Fair Market Value
CORPORATE STOCK ACCOUNTS	3,924,437	3,924,437

TY 2009 Investments - Other Schedule

Name: THE SPARKS FOUNDATION

EIN: 23-7029788

Category / Item	Listed at Cost or FMV	Book Value	End of Year Fair Market Value
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS	FMV	521,418	521,418

TY 2009 Other Assets Schedule**Name:** THE SPARKS FOUNDATION**EIN:** 23-7029788

Description	Beginning of Year - Book Value	End of Year - Book Value	End of Year - Fair Market Value
HBI PRIVATE EQUITY FUND II LLLP	91,185	66,921	66,921
CREDIT SUISSE GTAA GLOBAL MACRO FUND LP	915,137	853,851	853,851
NR CATTLE CREDIT	3,413,984	2,155,583	2,155,583
HORIZON MULTI-STRATEGY FUND LP	125,302	220,662	220,662

TY 2009 Other Expenses Schedule**Name:** THE SPARKS FOUNDATION**EIN:** 23-7029788

Description	Revenue and Expenses per Books	Net Invest ment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursement s for Charitable Purposes
MSDW FEES	59,934	59,934	0	0
BANK FEES	45	45	0	0
MANAGEMENT FEES	2,497	2,497	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	52,563	52,563	0	0
POSTAGE	39	39	0	0
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	174	174	0	0
PASSTHROUGH	18	18		0

TY 2009 Other Income Schedule**Name:** THE SPARKS FOUNDATION**EIN:** 23-7029788

Description	Revenue And Expenses Per Books	Net Invest ment Income	Adjusted Net Income
PASSTHROUGH-HORIZON MULTI-STRATEGY FUND LP	458	458	
passthrough-credit suisse gtaa global macro fd lp	12,173	12,173	
PASSTHROUGH-POWERSHARES DB COMMODITY INDEX TRACKING FD	706	706	
PASSTHROUGH-POWERSHARES DB AGRICULTURE FD	615	615	
PENSON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC	448	448	0
FEDERAL EXCISE TAX REFUND	47,988		47,988

TY 2009 Other Increases Schedule**Name:** THE SPARKS FOUNDATION**EIN:** 23-7029788

Description	Amount
UNREALIZED GAINS IN INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	2,435,668
BOOK INCOME FROM K1S IN EXCESS OF TAX INCOME	140,637
NON DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED	2,507

TY 2009 Taxes Schedule

Name: THE SPARKS FOUNDATION

EIN: 23-7029788

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
FOREIGN TAXES	4,252	4,252	0	0