

FOUNDATION FOCUS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Turning Passion into Action



SLOCCF 10th Anniversary

The end of this year is a milestone for the Community Foundation as we approach our tenth anniversary serving the San Luis Obispo County community. The tremendous impact the organization has had in only 10 short years shows that the residents of San Luis Obispo County were ready for a community foundation -- an organization that facilitates philanthropy and helps donors turn their passion into action.

In 1998 we started with a vision of strengthening the community through an enduring source of charitable funds. Our volunteers, donors and staff have worked relentlessly to realize the vision. First and foremost, we Grant: assisting local nonprofit organizations by making grants and providing support services. Second, we Gather: structuring and focusing philanthropic efforts of local individuals and families. Last, we Grow: creating enduring sources of support by building endowments. The endowment is now at more than \$27 million.

With 10 years behind us, 2008 is the year to celebrate our community and look to the coming years and what we can accomplish together. As we celebrate we will also reflect on our past experiences as an organization. Some of our earliest funds, such as the Dorothy Ross Memorial

Scholarship Fund and the Alfred and Diane Fritz Endowment Field of Interest Fund, have been some of our most successful, proving that since our beginnings, the community has taken a vested interest and continues to support our mission today. In a broader sense, since our creation a decade ago, the Community Foundation has impacted the community in a multitude of areas, blanketing San Luis Obispo County's diverse population, interests and needs, and reflecting the interests of our donors.

Education, health and human services, youth programs, the arts, environmental needs, historical preservation and more have all been impacted through the foundation's focused community giving. To date, the Community Foundation has grown to over 200 diverse funds and distributed over \$12 million in grants to the community.

If the last 10 years have taught us anything, we've learned that there is so much more that can be done to create a stronger, unified, thriving community. The Community Endowment will be a focus for us moving forward; this fund

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directs grants to the areas of greatest need in our community, changing as those needs change, in perpetuity. A gift to this fund will ensure a true legacy in supporting the people and places of San Luis Obispo County.

We look forward to working with all of our donors and volunteers as we grow to even further heights, providing an enduring source and ensuring a bright future for San Luis Obispo County.



Mozart Festival



Ring! Ring! Wake Up Call!
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Left: Marta Peluso, Executive Director Arts Obispo; Alissa Maddren, Program Director; Rudolf Budginas, Composer; Cynthia Anthony, SLOCCF Program Associate; Steve Bland, Arts Obispo Board Member; Anet Carlin, Theatre Artist; Rich Ward, Musician; and Molly McKiernan, Choreographer Right: Deyo Dancers

Inspiring Impact in the Arts

Authentic, period costumes for local performers, innovative dance instruction to local elementary-school students, folk art with the homeless, and administrative and technological assistance to art organizations are all specific ways the Community Foundation's Art Inspires! program has impacted the artistic community in the last three years.

Local artists and art organizations have received funding from the program through a three-year grant received by the Community Foundation through The James Irvine Foundation's Communities Advancing the Arts Initiative. Grants to individual artists were distributed in collaboration with ARTS Obispo to motivate and support new works by local artists.

Art Inspires grants helped:

- Create an International Choir Festival.
- Fund free Shakespeare in the Park.
- Support an opera involving a professional opera company and a children's choir.
- Fund a new electronic database for a local music organization.
- Provide money for a film festival to expand its operations.

Although the Communities Advancing the Arts program of the Community Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation is coming to a close, SLOCCF is committed to continuing to serve the arts. Grants will be made through the Art Inspires! Fund for the Arts, and the newly created Holser Educational Fund for the Performing Arts, an endowed fund. Both funds will be able to inspire the arts and all of us forever.

For more information on Art Inspires! visit www.sloccf.org/apply-grant-artinspires.htm.

Women's Legacy Fund



Amber Kennedy, SARP Crisis Services Coordinator & Jennifer Adams, Executive Director

The Women's Legacy Fund's 5th year luncheon focused on elder care, rape prevention and recovery, and other social environment issues. The event was held on September 27, 2007, at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion and featured keynote speaker Katie Tamony, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of *Sunset* magazine. The ceremony honored local organizations and members of the community for their women's advocacy and \$6,950

was awarded to four groups for their efforts.

Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens, Sexual Assault Recovery & Prevention Program (SARP), SLO Legal Services and Transitional Food & Shelter all received funding for their contribution to the community.

Additionally, the first Isabel P. Ruiz Humanitarian Award was presented to Marisela Garcia, a teacher and volunteer from Paso Robles. Ms. Garcia was recognized for her unfaltering efforts to better the community, specifically the Latino population, through education and family services.



Mary Illingsworth, Paul and Bridget Reedy from Jack's Helping Hand; Cal Poly Volunteer Instructor, John Lee; and PWAAA Founder, Beverly Gingg

Paul Wolff Accessibility Advocacy Award

Two members of the community and two local organizations were honored for their efforts to create accessibility in San Luis Obispo County at the Paul Wolff Accessibility Advocacy Awards ceremony held July 26, 2007, at the Clark Center for Performing Arts in Arroyo Grande. Jack's Helping Hand Inc., Avila Lighthouse Suites, Cal Poly volunteer instructor John Lee, and Dr. Roya Javadpour, Cal Poly engineering professor, were recognized for their work at creating a barrier-free community. In addition to their recognition, the ceremony featured a performance by actress and comedian Geri Jewell, who was born with cerebral palsy.

Environmental Awards



Environmental Activists Dirk & Bonnie Walters; Barbara Carey/Oceano Community Center; Dani Nicholson/Pacific Wildlife Care; Former Supervisor Ruth Brackett; and Barbie Dugan/ Pacific Wildlife Care; Paul Wolff/Congregation Beth David

and the Environmental Achievement of the Year award went to Pacific Wildlife Care and Barbie Dugan. The awards are funded through a donor advised endowment created by Ann and Lou Robinson.

Growing Together Fund



Established in 2001, the Growing Together Fund seeks to bring awareness, respect and assistance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population in San Luis Obispo County. The fund has distributed over \$80,000 in grants to local organizations addressing LGBT issues and is currently campaigning to raise \$375,000 to ensure a permanent source of local funding.

General Grants

The Community Foundation granted a total of \$162,569 to a diverse group of nonprofits in this year's general grant cycle. The grants were distributed to 25 local organizations, representing a wide array of community needs.

American Red Cross: \$4,500 to develop an "In-House" training program for disaster volunteers and local trainers.

Assistance League of SLO County: \$5,000 to support 63 children receiving new school appropriate outfits, backpacks and books.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of SLO County: \$9,487 to provide mentors for at least 20 children now on the waiting list.

Cal Poly Corporation on behalf of the Central Coast Performing Arts Center Commission: \$3,200 to assist the "Pedals & Pipes" educational program for 2,800 students.

Casa Solana: \$5,980 to replace mattresses as well as flooring in the kitchen and bathrooms, in two residential facilities.

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of SLO County: \$10,000 to support core operating costs to assign trained advocates for children under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Dependency Court.

Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens: \$2,000 to the "Purple Band Program" helping facilitate the appropriate and timely care of those affected with Alzheimer's and other dementia related diseases.

The Community Foundation honored local citizens making a positive contribution to the environment. The winners of the 2007 Environmental Awards were honored and chosen for their contributions and impact to local environment and ecology on June 1, 2007, at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens. The recipients of the Environmental Initiative award were Oceano Community Center, Congregation Beth David of San Luis Obispo, and the San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens. The Sustained Environmental Contribution award honored Dirk and Bonnie Walters

and the Environmental Achievement of the Year award went to Pacific Wildlife Care and Barbie Dugan. The awards are funded through a donor advised endowment created by Ann and Lou Robinson.

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Central Coast Natural History Association: \$9,655 to purchase fundraising software and equipment to advance and improve the organization's capacity to fundraise.

Children's Health Initiative of SLO: \$9,000 to provide health insurance coverage for six low-income children and leverage matching funds for an additional six children.

Community Counseling Center: \$7,500 to support core operating costs for short-term, non-crisis, and low-cost counseling services.

El Paso de Robles Pioneer Museum: \$10,000 to meet ADA standards and improve access for the disabled and elderly through upgrades.

Environmental Center of SLO: \$7,500 for the "Community School Garden Program" educating at-risk youth about respect for the planet, sustainable gardening, and water conservation.

Friends of Hapitok: \$1,850 to expand capacity for therapeutic intervention and communications and marketing.

Hospice of San Luis Obispo: \$5,000 to pilot a new staff position, "Crisis Intake Counselor."

Nonprofit Support Center of Santa Barbara County: \$8,000 to support capacity building trainings and programs for nonprofit organizations in San Luis Obispo County.

Pacific Wildlife Care: \$5,500 to institute a centralized data management system to improve member tracking, wildlife injury and illness tracking, and communications with supporters and volunteers.

June - October '07 2 New Funds Established

SAN LUIS OBISPO WIND ORCHESTRA GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

The fund was established to support the operations and activities of the SLO Wind Orchestra, Inc. to carry out its mission and charitable work.

YEAGER SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

This fund was established to provide scholarship support to Coast Union High School students intending to major in Physics, Geology, Math, Engineering, Chemistry or Computer Sciences.

Partnership for the Children of SLO County: \$10,000 to "Clinica de Tolosa" to support the provision of dental visits for uninsured and underinsured children.

People's Self-Help Housing: \$5,000 to the "Education Enhancement Program" at Canyon Creek Apartments to improve academic performance of youth residents.

SLO AIDS Support Network: \$4,000 to the first annual "Hepatitis C Symposium" to increase the capacity and quality of medical care for people living with Hepatitis C.

SLO County Child Abuse Prevention Council: \$5,815 to develop and implement a pilot program to educate adolescents about the long-term consequences of alcohol, tobacco and drug use during pregnancy.

SLO Legal Alternatives: \$6,600 to "Senior Legal Services" core operations to provide legal service for low-income seniors.

SLO Literacy Council: \$5,000 to support core operations to recruit and train tutors and improve the basic English language skills of adult learners.

Transitional Food & Shelter, Inc.: \$9,482 to the "Motel Voucher/Apartment Program" for disabled or ill homeless.

Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo: \$6,500 to support the Emergency Shelter Program for domestic violence victims and their children.

Woods Humane Society: \$6,000 to expand community outreach and humane education programs for youth.

