

The Palo Alto Community Fund grows, sustains, and uses its endowment and other donated funds to support the work of new and existing nonprofit organizations serving the greater Palo Alto area. **Spring Newsletter 2013**

In 2012 the Fund awarded over \$329,000 to 38 local nonprofit GRANTEES

Arts & Culture

Art In Action
Mural Music & Arts Project
TheatreWorks

Community Development & Social Services

CORA
Downtown Streets Team
JobTrain

Education

AbleWorks
AchieveKids
Bring Me A Book
DreamCatchers
East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy
Family Connections
Foundation for a College Education
Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo

Music in the Schools Foundation
Peninsula College Fund
Vida Verde

Environment

Canopy

Health, Mental Health & Disabilities

Adolescent Counseling Services
Arbor Free Clinic
Breast Cancer Connections
CASSY
East Palo Alto Youth Court
KARA
MayView Community Health Center
Peninsula HealthCare Connections

Housing & Nutrition

Ecumenical Hunger Program
Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Shelter Network

Senior Services

Avenidas
Stevenson House

Youth & Families

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area
Edgewood Center for Children and Families
InnVision
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
Saint Francis of Assisi Teen Success
Youth Community Service

For nonprofit websites and grant descriptions see:
www.paloalocommfund.org/pgs/grants2012.html

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A Look At a 2013 PACF Grant Recipient And How It Opens Doors for Kids

Last September, Shawn Sears was standing in a garden at the Palo Alto Community Fund grants reception revealing a startling reality.

He is founder, along with his wife, Laura, of the San Gregorio based Vida Verde Nature Education - a 12-year-old outdoor program for underserved youth. Both are former public school teachers.

"Many students live 20 minutes from the ocean and yet, at 10-years-old haven't seen or tasted it," he said. "Many have never hiked in the hills or looked up at a redwood canopy."

And then Sears detailed a heart-warming new agenda for such youngsters.

"Right this moment, 24 fourth graders from Mr. Jake Ban's class in East Palo Alto are in the redwoods on the coast, finishing their team cleanup of the dishes from a dinner they cooked themselves with ingredients from our educational organic farm where they spent half their day today."

Sears described how they would then hike to a meadow, begin their first ever campfire experience, sing camp songs, bond, eat s'mores and go to sleep in tall Native American teepees.



Students at Vida Verde Nature Education have new experiences when they participate in the three-day camp.

"They need a lot of rest tonight," he continued, "because they woke up at 7:30 a.m. and also spent four hours at the ocean where many of these 10-year-olds glimpsed the Pacific for the first time, made discoveries together in tide pools and wet their ankles in the salty surf."

It was the kind of tale that Hollywood might script for a feel-good movie, but Vida Verde is real and so is the \$25,000 in grants that PACF has provided over the past three years to help provide a free, overnight, three-day outdoor environmental education for some of the 700 underserved Bay Area students who attend each year. This year's grant brought an entire class from East Palo Alto's Ravenswood School district.

Vida Verde's philosophy is to create a foundation of support and encouragement that will inspire positive attitudes and self-confidence and through the experience, enhance classroom learning and improve science scores. It also works to increase students' environmental awareness and promote team work and personal responsibility. The organization's post-program questionnaires to teachers and parents have supported the success of its effort.

Vida Verde is just one of the 38 organizations doing inspiring and critically needed work, that received PACF grants this year. In all, \$330,000 went to local non-profits, most of whom had a representative at the garden event where Sears briefly spoke. The impact of these grants is immeasurable.

Said a fourth grade teacher, "Every day I get to watch my students grow so much in three days. They are forever changed by their time at Vida Verde - smarter, braver and more empowered to make changes in their world."

What greater gift for the giver? Thank you, PACF donors!



At Vida Verde students try something new every day.

In the words of a child:

*"Thank you for making Vida Verde exist: I learned that a banana slug has a hole on the side of its head and with it can do three things: Make scat, breathe and have babies! Something that I learned about myself is that I am brave because I faced through the spiders and went on the alone hike. I will never forget my experience at Vida Verde, especially when we went hiking with the goats. Thank you for making Vida Verde change my life.
P.S. I made cheese at home."*



Partnering in the Community with Canopy

On Saturday January 26th, over 50 volunteers gathered at Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto to plant 26 trees as part of Canopy's Healthy Trees, Healthy Kids! initiative. The project is designed to enhance neighboring school and playground yards by planting shade trees.

The Palo Alto Community Fund (PACF) supported this project and was pleased to join Canopy and Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) in sponsoring the hands-on work day.

Canopy supplied all the trees and expertise to implement a new "DRiWater" system which allows trees to be planted without having to provide irrigation. PACF Executive Director, Cammie Vail (at right in photo) joined PACF board members Nitesh Dullabh and his family (left) and Catherine Crystal Foster for hands-on experience benefitting the community.

Save the Date — SEPT 18

Save September 18, 2013, for our fall reception to thank our generous donors who contributed to the Funding Our Future Campaign, and to honor our 2013 grantees. The celebration will be from 5:30 - 7 PM on the Stanford Campus. An invitation will follow.

PACF is Going Green!

REGISTER your email with PACF for future e-news communications! We want to stay in contact, but reducing our mailing and printing costs helps us give more to the community. In the future we hope to use email for newsletters and important announcements. Please go to our website, www.paloaltocommfund.org and click on **"KEEP IN TOUCH"**. **Go-Green!**

Please look for your remit envelope enclosed with this issue. Your charitable donation strengthens our ability to award grants in our local community.

President's Message

We know this is a special place. My family and I are so fortunate to have lived here since 1965. One characteristic that makes it special is in this community's generosity and its desire to help Palo Alto and our neighboring areas. Here the collaborative work to make things better has included all sectors—individuals, companies, governments and nonprofits.



Since its founding in 1979, Palo Alto Community Fund has become an important part of the effort and our board, donors and volunteers are enthusiastic about their contributions in the community. The Palo Alto Community Fund grants both endowment and other donated funds to respond to the needs of new and established nonprofit organizations. We started from a small financial base, but in recent years we

PACF Financial Summary Jan-Dec 2012

Beginning of Year Net Assets	\$ 4,494,202
Revenue	
Total Contributions	451,918
Total Foundation Grants	50,000
Achilles Fund Distribution	18,995
Net Investment Income	476,141
Total Income	\$ 997,054
Expenses	
Grants & Program Service Expenses	364,954*
Management & General Expenses	25,009
Fundraising Expenses	22,799
Total Expenses	\$412,762
Change in Net Assets	584,292
End of Year Net Assets	\$ 5,078,494

* Includes \$329,100 in grant awards to 38 nonprofit organizations.

The Palo Alto Community Fund administers the Palo Alto Centennial 1994 Fund and advises the Billie Achilles Palo Alto Fund for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

have been able to grant more than \$300,000 each year to new and established nonprofit organizations. We support programs for youth and families, adults and seniors in eight focus areas in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park. We choose our grants carefully, to try to make the biggest difference possible.

The needs continue to exceed our capability. We are currently reviewing more than 80 grant applications and will turn down more of the applications than we grant, with many turndowns coming from deserving groups. In the last few years, our leadership and committed volunteers have successfully raised funds to get us within reach of our **\$2M Funding our Future Campaign** goal. But we need more money in order to do more good. I invite you to join me in making another gift to the Palo Alto Community Fund. Together we can continue to expand opportunity for all and to strengthen our community.

— David Mitchell, PACF President