When I look back on the past year—my first as Executive Director of PACF—what stands out is initiative. The global toll from COVID-19 remains immeasurable. All over our community many silver linings remind us of the boundless generosity of the human spirit—from nonprofit teams turning on a dime to feed families to our donors digging extra deep to give more.

This past year, PACF granted a total of $1.175 million to 80 nonprofit organizations that do the hard work on the ground in our neighborhoods.

Certain issues have been top of mind this year for us at PACF—mental health, especially among young people; housing insecurity; and recovering from and continuing to navigate the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we paid particular attention to help relieve some of these needs, through our larger, proactive Dave Mitchell Impact Grants.

**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

We granted $30,000 to Children’s Health Council and $20,000 to EPACENTER, an East Palo Alto based youth arts organization, in support of youth mental health and well being efforts in addition to $77,500 to other grantees also addressing mental health.

*Since the onset of COVID-19, 70% of teens have experienced mental health struggles—up from 20% before the pandemic. (Sources: Harris Poll/CDC)*

**HOUSING INSECURITY**

PACF supported United Hope Builders with a grant of $50,000 to help launch their highly practical and innovative approach to providing extremely affordable, permanent housing through manufacturing modular housing and partnering with alternative landowners. In addition, we granted $106,000 to other nonprofits addressing homelessness and housing insecurity.

**VACCINE EQUITY AND COVID-19 RECOVERY**

PACF granted $50,000 to the Ravenswood Family Health Network for their efforts to provide timely, barrier-free vaccinations for East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and surrounding communities. PACF also granted $200,000 to provide immediate relief to the most vulnerable throughout our service area.

It is the constellation of community-based organizations—and the donors who support them—that provides our crucial safety net and fuels resilience for our community.

Now is the time for all of us in the PACF family and beyond to build on this momentum.

With appreciation,

Lisa Van Dusen
Who We Are

The Palo Alto Community Fund (PACF) has served as a critical link between donors and nonprofits in the Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park area for more than 40 years. Believing that we are all stronger when we work together, we pool donor funds and distribute annual grants to local organizations which improve the quality of life for our neighbors, especially those most in need.

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN LOCAL GIVING

Our donors invest in our community through PACF because they know we do a deep dive into our local nonprofits, poring over financial documents, having scores of conversations with nonprofit leaders and visiting their organizations in person. You support many organizations with one donation.

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to financial support, PACF engages regularly with our grantees and other nonprofits to help them connect with each other and local stakeholders. The web of connections among donors, civic leaders, nonprofit leaders and those directly experiencing challenges leads to partnerships and sharing of best practices to ensure services are delivered broadly and efficiently.

OUR FUTURE

We hope you will join us in continuing to invest in grassroots organizations that reflect the communities they serve. We believe this approach addresses persistent inequities and will lead to the best outcome for all of us in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

$2.252M Granted Since April 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS

$825K to 75 nonprofits in FY2021

STRATEGIC ISSUES

$150K in FY2021 to 4 nonprofits supporting Youth Mental Health, Extremely Affordable Housing, and Vaccine Equity

COVID-19 RELIEF

$1.077M to 28 nonprofits in FY2020
$200K to 12 nonprofits in FY2021
Our Grantees

Able Works
AchieveKids
Ada’s Cafe
Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS)
Aim High for High School
All Students Matter
Alta Housing
Animal Assisted Happiness
Art in Action
Avenidas
Beechwood School (California Family Foundation)
Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation
Bring Me A Book Foundation
Canopy
CASA of San Mateo County
CASSY - Counseling and Support Services for Youth
Children’s Health Council
Christmas Bureau of Palo Alto
Climate Resilient Communities
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
CORA - Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse
DreamCatchers
East Palo Alto Academy Foundation
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK)
East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring (EPATT)
Ecumenical Hunger Program
Environmental Volunteers
EPACENTER
Family Giving Tree
Foundation for a College Education
Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)
Gift Card Bank for PAUSD family support
Health Connected
Home & Hope
JobTrain, Inc.
Kafenia Peace Collective
Kara
Karat School Project (KSP)
Kids & Art Foundation
La Comida
Learning Home Volunteers
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
LifeMoves
Live In Peace
Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen
Loved Twice
Magical Bridge Foundation
Menlo Spark
Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County, Inc
One East Palo Alto
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation
Palo Alto Community Child Care
Peninsula Bridge
Peninsula College Fund (PCF)
Peninsula Healthcare Connection
Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.
Pets in Need
Ravenswood Education Foundation
Ravenswood Family Health Network
(South County Community Health Center)
Ready.Set.Excel
Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center
Rise Together Education
Rosalie Rendu Center
San Francisco 49ers Academy
Science is Elementary
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL)
St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room
St. Elizabeth Seton School
Tax-Aid
TeleVisit
The People’s Music School
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley
United Hope Builders
Upward Scholars
Vida Verde Nature Education
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
WeHOPE
Youth Community Service (YCS)
Youth United for Community Action (YUCA)
**Annual Grants**

The cornerstone of PACF’s giving for more than 40 years, our annual grants support local nonprofits that help families, uplift the vulnerable, improve educational opportunities, and enhance community life for our neighbors in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

“All money is good money in a season like this ... but, the way you all gave, dropped off, stopped by... felt much deeper than support for the community. It felt like personal support, it felt like a partnership, it is something I can’t really describe but was desperately needed.”

— *Heather Starnes-Logwood, Executive Director, Live in Peace*

**Emergency Grants**

In response to unforeseen situations that call for immediate action, PACF nimbly raises and deploys resources to help our most vulnerable neighbors through the nonprofits that serve them.

“Thank you for providing a bright spot in a truly dismal year. This generosity lets families know that their neighbors care about them and are thinking of them. What a difference this gift from PACF in support of our Bring Hope Home program makes for families.”

— *Jennifer Cullenbine, Executive Director, Family Giving Tree*

**Dave Mitchell Impact Grants**

In memory of longtime community supporter and philanthropist, Dave Mitchell, these substantial grants are proactively awarded to local nonprofit organizations that demonstrate significant impact in the local community.

“United Hope Builders is honored to partner with PACF to address systemic issues in our marginalized communities, particularly the housing crisis. PACF’s support enables us to create a modular housing plant in East Palo Alto that will soon provide both quality jobs and quality housing for extremely low income families.”

— *Pastor Paul Bains, Founder & Chairman, United Hope Builders*

**Cammie Vail Executive Director Grants**

In honor of our longtime executive director, Cammie Vail, these grants are made to local nonprofit organizations at the discretion of the PACF Executive Director. In fiscal year 2021, four nonprofit leaders were recognized for their leadership, with a focus on climate resilience.

“PACF funded Climate Resilient Communities at the very beginning five years ago to get us started, so receiving this grant now is especially meaningful. Our work helping underserved communities of color become more climate resilient is more crucial now than ever.”

— *Violet Saena, Executive Director, Climate Resilient Communities*
OUR MISSION
The Palo Alto Community Fund focuses on the unique needs of our community and channels charitable giving of local donors to effective organizations that improve the quality of life for everyone in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

“It is really important to me to help those around me—my neighbors—who through no fault of their own do not have the same opportunities as I do. By giving to PACF, I can make one donation with trust that it will be joined with others’ to help everyone in our community”

- Elaine Hahn, Community Leader