The Power of Giving Where You Live

2021 – 2022 Impact Report

Palo Alto Community Fund
MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We at the Palo Alto Community Fund (PACF) are proud to celebrate the incredible work of our 2022 fiscal year—one of our biggest years yet for both local impact and giving from the community! Through the generosity of our donors, we awarded 97 grants totaling more than $1.7 million (45 percent more than last year) to organizations serving Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park.

We are all part of the solution
Giving where you live offers a powerful antidote to feeling overwhelmed, powerless, and out of control in the face of immense upheaval throughout our state, country, and world. At PACF, we frame, find, fund, and foster solutions that contribute to the steady march towards lasting positive change. We can each be part of the solution, right here and now, by sharing our time, attention, and financial resources—we all contribute a piece to the puzzle.

The opportunity to reimagine
Our local nonprofit community continues to seize opportunities to collectively design our future in bold ways. We see tiny nonprofits having an outsized impact, and our anchor organizations partnering to provide vital services. With the fortifying sense that we are all in this together, we can solve issues locally. We are moving the needle on expanding access to local, affordable, high-quality childcare, closing gaps in educational opportunities, increasing food and housing security, and equipping a new generation of mental health providers.

The power of giving where you live
When you give where you live, you can see the impact of your generosity everywhere you look. The Palo Alto Community Fund aggregates your donations and shines a light on the organizations we support, creating a powerful ripple effect of impact. Because PACF is place-based and here for the long term, we have developed meaningful relationships throughout the community—listening and collaborating as a true partner and lifting up the voices of the community results in solutions that work.

Thank you for reimagining a positive future for our whole community through the power of giving where you live.

With gratitude and cause for celebration,

LISA VAN DUSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SIGRID PINSKY, BOARD PRESIDENT
Who We Are
For 45 years, the Palo Alto Community Fund has singularly focused on finding and supporting effective nonprofit organizations that provide essential services and programs in Palo Alto, East Palo, and Menlo Park. Grants are made possible through the generosity of hundreds of local donors. We believe that working together to address local issues and craft collaborative solutions makes us all stronger. By pooling donor contributions to provide financial and other resources, PACF supports the local organizations that improve the quality of life for our neighbors—especially those most in need—both for today and tomorrow.

The Power of Local Giving
From giving students a bright future to caring for our elders, the Palo Alto Community Fund invests in many areas of need to raise up our entire community. Through a thoughtful, rigorous process, we give directly to on-the-ground nonprofits that are doing the vital work—right here in our community—to improve the quality of life for all in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park. We have been establishing deep roots here for more than 45 years. PACF makes it easy to give where you live with confidence.

Trust-based Philanthropy
The Palo Alto Community Fund works alongside local nonprofit leaders as partners in addressing persistent inequities—living our commitment to trust-based philanthropy. We give unrestricted funds, we simplified our grant process to be more nonprofit-friendly, and we regard our grantees as experts in their own fields. And for the first time this year, we awarded 15 multi-year grants. We strive to be curious, transparent, and responsive as we accompany our nonprofit community through evolving circumstances.

Community Engagement
In addition to financial support, the Palo Alto Community Fund helps our grantees and other nonprofits connect with each other, key stakeholders, and additional resources. This web of connections among donors, civic and nonprofit leaders, and those directly experiencing challenges leads to sharing best practices, collaboration, and better outcomes.

Looking Forward
Palo Alto Community Fund is poised to build on the palpable momentum we have created together. We hope you will continue to invest in the immediate and long term well being of our community through PACF. Through the sustained commitment of our donors, we can continue to support the grassroots and anchor organizations that are so critical to those they serve—and therefore to us all.

“I believe in the Palo Alto Community Fund because of its thoughtful grantmaking and the importance of those resources for our community beyond the dollars. PACF’s unique role in framing issues and fostering collaboration amplifies the work of these nonprofits many times over.”

— BRUCE GEE, DONOR AND PAST PACF PRESIDENT

Annual Grants
These grants are the steady engine and broad brush of our grantmaking. General operating support grants are based on applications submitted each year by nonprofit organizations working in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park.

Dave Mitchell Impact Grants
In memory of longtime community leader Dave Mitchell, these substantial grants are proactively awarded to elevate local nonprofit organizations in the community doing transformational work, driving systems-level change related to key issues.

Cammie Vail Executive Director Grants
These grants provide our Executive Director an opportunity to recognize and reward local nonprofit organizations that are of significant importance to the community.

Other Grants
These grants represent a nimble response to critical needs faced by our community.
OUR GRANTEES

AbilityPath (formerly Gatepath affiliated with Abilities United) •
Able Works •
Acknowledge Alliance •
Ada’s Cafe •
Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS) •
All Five •
Animal Assisted Happiness •
Art in Action •
Avenidas •
Beechwood School (California Family Foundation) •
Buena Vista Partners •
Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation (BBAF) •
Canopy •
CASA of San Mateo County •
Center for Excellence in Nonprofits (CEN) •
Children’s Health Council Inc. •
Christmas Bureau of Palo Alto •
Climate Resilient Communities •
Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) •
Cooline Team of East Palo Alto •
Counseling and Support Services for Youth (CASSY) •
Downtown Streets Team •
DreamCatchers •
East Palo Alto Academy Foundation •
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) •
East Palo Alto Senior Center •
East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring (EPATT) •
East Palo Alto YMCA •
Eastside College Preparatory School •
Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) •
Elevate Community Center •
Environmental Volunteers •
EPACENTER •
Foundation for a College Education (FCE) •
Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) •
Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo •
Gunn Senior High School Foundation •
Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco •
Health Connected •
Home & Hope •
Housing Choices Coalition for Persons with Developmental Disabilities •
Institute for Families and Nannies •
Jasper Ridge Farm •
JobTrain •
Kara •
Karat School Project •
Kepler’s Literary Foundation •

- ANNUAL - DAVE MITCHELL IMPACT - MULTIYEAR - CAMMIE VAIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - OTHER

Kids & Art Foundation •
Latino Music Education Network •
Learning Home Volunteers •
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County •
Live In Peace •
Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen •
Loved Twice •
Mannakin Theater & Dance •
National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT) •
Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto •
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County •
Omnware Networks •
P.I.E.F.E.S.T. (Pacific Islanders Encouraging Fun Engineering Science & Technology) •
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation •
Palo Alto Community Child Care •
Palo Alto Players •
Palo Alto University •
Parents Helping Parents •
Peninsula Bridge •
Peninsula College Fund •
Peninsula Healthcare Connection •
People’s Music School •
Positive Alternative Recreation Teambuilding Impacting Program (PARTI) •
Ravenswood Classroom Partners (formerly All Students Matter) •
Ravenswood Education Foundation •
Ravenswood Family Health Network •
Rebuilding Together Peninsula •
Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center •
Rise Together Education •
Rosalie Rendu Center •
San Francisco 49ers Academy •
Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) •
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL) •
St. Elizabeth Seton School •
Tax-Aid •
TeleVisit •
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley •
Thrive, The Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County •
United Hope Builders •
Upward Scholars •
Via Services •
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired •
WeHOPE •
Women’s Achievement Network and Development Alliance (WANDA) •
Youth Community Service (YCS) •
ZiRu Dance •
Annual Grants to 88 organizations
Dave Mitchell Impact Grants to 5 organizations
Second year of Multiyear Grants to 15 organizations
Cammie Vail Executive Director Grants to 3 organizations
Other Grant to 1 organization

$1.7 Million +

PACF awarded over $1.7 million in FY 2022. Increase of 45 percent year over year. Over $10 million granted since 1979.

97 Grants

Distributed 97 grants—a record number—to nonprofit organizations serving Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park.

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

*2020 includes $1 million in special Immediate Needs COVID-19 relief grants for 28 organizations.

Long-Term Impact

For the first time, PACF granted 15 Multiyear Grants, with the goal of providing a longer funding runway for the nonprofit recipients.

“YCS has been serving youth for 30 years. PACF is special because it’s made up of community members—a number of whom were part of YCS as youth themselves. It’s really valuable to have a granting organization that is so based in the community.”

— MORA OOMMEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE (YCS)
THE ISSUES

Mental Health

Escalating needs are increasingly exacerbated by an extreme shortage of mental health professionals in our community. Many of our applicants this past year listed Mental Health as their primary focus area. They cited the current shortage of mental health professionals and an underdeveloped provider pipeline among their most crucial challenges.

Palo Alto University – The training ground for mental health professionals. PAU develops confident, competent, and compassionate professionals who are at the forefront of mental and behavioral health, making everyday differences in the lives of others and investing in just, inclusive communities.

“The shift PACF made from program specific funding to general operating support really lets us know that the whole organization trusts the work we’re doing. This gives us the opportunity to use those funds where we need them most; which right now is in support of our food rescue program to fill in the gaps.

— Miriam Yupunqui, Executive Director, Nuestra Casa

Food Security

1.5 million people—and growing—face hunger and food insecurity in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Despite 2020 statistics showing food insecurity across California ranging from 10 to 12 percent, the 2021 annual Silicon Valley Pain Index compiled by San José State University’s Human Rights Institute found that nearly double that figure (21 percent) of households in Silicon Valley are food insecure.

Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen – The backbone for prepared and hot meals in our service area. To grow capacity, Loaves & Fishes is building a strategically located kitchen and increasing their fleet of trucks to deliver hot and other prepared meals—all with zero waste. Loaves & Fishes partners with other organizations to create multiple avenues to ensure anyone in need of a meal has dignified access to nutritious and quality food, allowing them to focus on other needs.
Education Equity

School districts in our service area differ dramatically in teacher salaries, directly affecting their ability to attract and retain qualified teachers. High teacher turnover in the Ravenswood City School District, with 40 percent of teachers leaving within five years, dramatically affects the quality of education. Ravenswood City School District students are 99 percent of color, 53 percent English language learners, 93 percent living below the federal poverty line, and 43 percent housing insecure or homeless.

RAVENSWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION – Seeking to structurally change a challenged school district. The Ravenswood Talent Initiative is a new public-private partnership spearheaded by Ravenswood Education Foundation that seeks to retain, reward, recruit, and develop excellent teachers in order to improve student outcomes in the Ravenswood City School District.

Housing Security

The cost of housing in our area continues to skyrocket. The median home price according to Redfin March 2022 Market Insights is $3.4 million in Palo Alto, $3 million in Menlo Park, and $1.1 million in East Palo Alto. This has led to families doubling, tripling, and quadrupling up in homes and apartments, and an exodus of longtime residents. Often the line between housed and homeless is very thin.

UNITED HOPE BUILDERS – Innovative approach to the supply side of low cost housing. UHB is dedicated to disrupting generational poverty through extremely affordable housing that empowers communities. Building a factory in East Palo Alto to create prefabricated modular steel homes, UHB works with alternative landholders to keep the Bay Area inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Affordable, Quality Child Care

One of the biggest reasons cited for women leaving the workforce is the lack of quality, affordable childcare. The pandemic exacerbated this already acute need. California enacted new, higher standards for early childhood education (Preschool to 3rd grade), requiring school districts to offer free education for all four-year-olds (Transitional Kindergarten) by the 2025-26 school year. This creates both opportunities and challenges for childcare providers.

PALO ALTO COMMUNITY CHILD CARE – Multi-faceted care and enrichment beyond the school day for age 0 through 5th grade. PACCC is reconfiguring their quality services to meet new state mandates for care while further enhancing age-appropriate services for a wide range of local families.

We FUND

more and more—providing financial support to a larger number of organizations, at increasingly higher levels, in larger dollar amounts, and this year, through multi-year funding.

We FOSTER

and strengthen connections among nonprofits and other organizations, leaders, resources, and ideas so that we work collaboratively and build on each other’s knowledge and capabilities.
“Wow—look at the work that is being done here! It feels so personal knowing we can make a difference in our own backyard with PACF.”

— SUE KRUMBEIN, PACF DONOR

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.

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