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East Palo Alto **Social Venture Fellowship**

As part of PVF's continuing efforts to address community needs in East Palo Alto, PVF has created the East Palo Alto Social Venture Fellowship Program. PVF has called upon Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service, to assist in administering the Program and providing oversight to the Fellow.

The Fellowship is available to Stanford students to implement an innovative project that addresses economic, environmental, educational, and/or social needs in East Palo Alto. The Fellowship is a 12-month project and includes a \$10,000 stipend, to be used primarily to fund the project. This is one among many initiatives of PVF in East Palo Alto.

Anatomy of a Teacher Resource Grant

PVF has provided grants up to \$500 to public school teachers in the San Francisco Bay Area for the last seven years. Currently, PVF is operating the Science Teacher Resource Grants Program to support K-12 Science and Conservation education in seven Bay Area counties.

The following is an actual teacher grant request that describes the process and the substance of the Program.

Jim Broadstreet, 6th grade Highland Elementary (Richmond) school teacher requested \$472 from PVF's Science Resource Grants Program to purchase fossils to use to teach his 6th graders about paleontology and fossils. After learning the subject matter, the 6th graders would then teach five 2nd grade classrooms about fossils. In his request, Mr. Broadstreet writes, "The world of paleontology gives the students a window into how a love of learning in Science can lead to a profession."

PVF received the teacher's request on December 21, 2004. It was reviewed, approved and a check was issued to Mr. Broadstreet that same day.

Soon after, Mr. Broadstreet reported to PVF on the use and impact of the grant. "Our project was a great success based on observations, teacher feedback, 2nd grade student responses and 6th grade student reflections. Second grade students were excited to be taught by the older students. My 6th graders were amazed by their own success. All 6th and 2nd graders were given a few fossils to take home. These became their cherished possessions."

As part of the project, the 2nd grade teachers served as evaluators of the 6th grade students' teaching. Second grade teacher Leslie Minarik writes: "I was amazed and so very proud. The 6th grade students did such an outstanding job. They had obviously mastered the subject matter and were well prepared to teach it. The 2nd grade students really look up to their new teachers and learned a great deal of information about fossils."

In a poignant “reflection letter” written by 6th grader Rebecca on her experience teaching the 2nd graders, Rebecca writes:

When I walked through the door of the classroom I was real nervous. Then I saw all those anxious little second graders waiting for us to teach something new, I felt more relaxed. I gave a lesson about what a fossil was. Then I showed them some fossils we had brought and their eyes brightened! They all were like ‘Wow!’ I felt real good that I was making a difference with their learning. I think that my teaching was pretty good because I went over things a lot so they could understand me. When we split them up into groups of three kids I had these two that spoke Spanish. When I spoke English they looked at me like I was crazy. So I spoke to them in Spanish. All the kids were asking lots of smart questions and were real interested. I feel like I made a difference.

The Teacher Resource Grants Program not only provides teaching tools and resources to improve the quality of education and expose students to new and exciting concepts, but also boosts teacher morale and inspires them to create new lesson plans and be excited about teaching. The quick turnaround time adds substantial value to the Program, getting funding where it is needed when it is needed.

Any donor can start a Teacher Resource Grants Program. It can be a single school, district wide, focused on music, science, art, whatever. Contact Moira Walsh at PVF if you are interested.