

## **Philanthropic Ventures Foundation - *specializing in customized giving for donors***

### **PVF as an Agent for Change**

At PVF we look at all aspects of philanthropy in affecting change. We work with all types of donors – families, individuals, foundations and businesses. We work with all types of non-profits – projects just starting out and not yet incorporated, full-fledge programs, and individuals doing outstanding service work. We work with all kinds of donations - cash, stock, real property.

At PVF we have an “open door” policy, and make the effort to take the time to talk with people, learning about their needs and desires, discovering their passions and supporting their success.

Donors frequently seek us out to discuss their grantmaking, to get excited about charitable giving and find out what is out there and the impact they could have or do have. Similarly, grantees often come to us for advice, to review a grant proposal, discuss fundraising strategies or talk about the vision for their work.

PVF often acts as a liaison, whether it is matchmaking between a donor and grantee, connecting an individual with a project or finding resources for an organization. When we hear about a charitable project that matches the interests of a donor open to suggestions, we let the donor know. When we see an opportunity for collaboration, we act upon it. When we hear one school is looking for certain resources and another has excess, we connect them. When we create new programs that deserve to be expanded, we invite others to use our model, whether it is community foundations throughout the USA, or individuals and foundations in the Bay Area.

At PVF, we try to be dynamic, open and fluid. With our responsiveness and creativity, we tackle charitable needs in the community, with new ideas and new approaches.

### **Disaster Response**

Several days after Hurricane Katrina, PVF President Bill Somerville got on an airplane and went to the Gulf Coast. His purpose was to see the condition of the area, see what was being done and to help. Upon returning home, he wrote an article on the experience, *Observations on the Grantmaking Response to the Hurricane Disaster*, September 18, 2005, which was published in the newsletter of the Northern California Grantmakers, October 2005. (Contact us if you would like to receive a copy).

As a result of the Gulf Coast experience, Bill came up with a Disaster Response Grant Initiative, that PVF launched in November 2005. PVF has identified 10 non-profit groups in the San Francisco Bay Area that do outstanding work in providing services to the poor. In the event of an emergency that threatens the community as a whole, PVF guarantees up to \$25,000 to each of these non-profit agencies to serve the needs of affected people within the first 7 days of the incident.

This initiative has two key components: it encourages non-profit agencies to plan now for potential emergencies and, it makes funding available immediately, at the time of the emergency/disaster, to address needs as they arise. The 10 agencies were selected by PVF based on the clientele they serve - the poor - the agency's outstanding work, and on PVF's long relationship with and confidence and trust in each program's executive director.

If you are interested in supporting this Initiative, make a contribution to PVF, designated for the Disaster Response Grant Initiative. For more information, contact Moira Walsh, Associate Director at PVF.

### **PVF Wish List**

Included in this December 2005 issue of *Progress* is a giving envelope, which sets forth PVF's Wish List for several of the high impact Programs PVF is operating in the Bay Area that would benefit from additional support. In addition, PVF's Wish List includes the option to make an unrestricted gift to PVF or a gift to support PVF's operations. If you have any questions regarding PVF's Wish List, please feel free to contact Moira Walsh at PVF. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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***Moira Walsh*** is the Associate Director of PVF, responsible for donor development, program work and managing foundation operations. Moira has a strong business background, coupled with extensive experience in the non-profit arena. Prior to joining PVF, Moira was a partner at Carr, McClellan, Ingersoll, Thompson & Horn, where she practiced law for 12 years. Moira has led and served on the boards of several non-profit organizations and is a native San Franciscan.

