

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation -
specializing in customized giving for donors.

PVF 2003 Annual Report

When people want to do exciting and significant giving, they turn to PVF. In 2003, PVF gave out over \$5 million in grants to over 1,400 charitable projects. Much of this giving was “customized grantmaking” — Foundation created and administered giving programs for donors.

PVF’s grantmaking is wide-ranging and represents the varied interests of the donors we serve. In 2003 we made grants to support education, arts and culture, environment, community development, health, poverty, youth and international causes. The grants ranged in amount from \$1 Million to \$100. Grants were made predominantly in the San Francisco Bay Area, but also throughout the United States and the world.

PVF’s 2003 Annual Report will be distributed in July 2004. It contains a summary of all grants made, programs we created for donors, programs we initiated in response to community needs, and the spectrum of services we offer. Contact PVF if you have any questions or want extra copies of the Report.

PVF-Initiated Programs

PVF takes the initiative in philanthropy. PVF staff is continually looking for people and projects doing outstanding charitable work in the community. Simultaneously, PVF is in the community observing unmet needs that can benefit from philanthropic support. PVF shares its expertise with donors. The result is programs in the community created and directed by PVF for donors.

An example of a PVF-Initiated Program is the **Juvenile Judges Program**. The Program grew from our observation that a community’s most vulnerable children appear before judges in Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency courts on a daily basis. These judges are in an ideal position to identify critical needs, that if addressed

immediately, can make a profound difference in the life of a child. PVF contacted juvenile judges in the San Francisco Bay Area and offered them discretionary funds to call upon to meet the needs of the youth that appear before them. PVF wrote grant proposals to various foundations to obtain funding for the Program, resulting in consecutive grants from the VanLobenSels/RembeRock Foundation, focused on underserved and at-risk populations.

The Judges’ requests are varied, but rarely have a large price tag:

- \$54 to obtain a bus pass for a 16-year old girl in foster care who had obtained a summer job and enrolled in summer school but had no money for transportation.
- \$25 to activate an emergency cell phone for a mother and daughter living together in a safe, confidential location after being harassed by the father who was recently released serving a prison term for spousal abuse, to provide them with the comfort of a means of communication should an incident arise.
- \$100 to start a savings account for a young man who has struggled with mental health problems throughout his time before the juvenile court, who recently “graduated” from juvenile court and was placed in an adult mental health program. The judge wanted to extend this gesture “to help confirm in the young man’s mind that there are people in the world who care and who keep their promises.”
- \$200 for science camp for a young girl in foster care whose discovery of science caused her to refocus on school and eliminate destructive behavior.
- \$500 to enable a high school junior to go on the Black College Tour. As Judge Edwards writes, “Cory has started to grow up and suddenly is a star. Cory belongs in college.”

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The impact is significant. The judges' ability to identify needs and address them promptly can stop a problem from turning into a crisis. PVF responds to the judges' grant requests immediately, issuing funding within 48 hours.

“PVF has made my job as a juvenile court judge much more satisfying. The support that PVF provides on an individualized basis for the abused and neglected children in my court brightens my day and makes the lives of these children much more livable. I am so thankful for all that PVF does.” - Leonard Edwards, Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Court, Superior Court, Santa Clara County

Now in its sixth year, the impact of the Juvenile Judges Program is becoming well known throughout the country and others are using the PVF model to create similar programs in their own communities. Participating judges are encouraging colleagues throughout the U.S. to partner with donors to create local Juvenile Judges Programs. Several Community Foundations have contacted PVF, interested in establishing a Juvenile Judges Program in their region.

If you are interested in learning more about PVF services or in supporting PVF Initiated Programs please contact Moira Walsh, PVF Associate Director.