

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

### **New Concept in Charitable Giving: Philanthropic Lead Trusts**

Many donors are familiar with the term, charitable lead trust, in which a donor sets aside a portion of their wealth for a given period of time, with the income going to charity. PVF has come up with a twist on the term: Philanthropic Lead Trusts. The concept is to provide sustained funding to established non-profit organizations over a set period of time.

Foundations, businesses and individual donors are often dedicated to specific non-profit organizations in their communities. Despite the fact that the donor supports the non-profit group year after year, a lot of energy is spent both by the donor and the non-profit agency on requests for continued funding, concerns about sustained funding and the unspoken, when the funding will stop.

With a Philanthropic Lead Trust the donor sets aside a portion of its money, the income from which is paid to the non-profit group for a set period of time, say five or ten years. Donors would target well-established agencies, with strong leadership, an active board of directors, a solid reputation in the community, and an outstanding executive director.

The arrangement enables an agency to rely on sustained funding over a period of time, while providing the donor with an exit strategy. Paperwork and staff time is significantly reduced for both the donor and the grantee as the reapplication process is eliminated. Because the "Trust" terminates after a period of time, the agency knows up front what funding is in place. With the time limit, the donor can rotate lead trust grants to other outstanding organizations.

PVF President Bill Somerville will be speaking on his newly coined concept at the Endowments and

Foundations Symposium in New York City, November 9 -11, 2004. He has also introduced the concept to numerous community foundations through PVF's Grant Making Consulting Program. If you are interested in more information on this topic or in establishing such a Lead Trust, contact Bill Somerville at PVF.

### **Immediate Response Grants to Support Special Education**

Made possible through funding from The Thomas J. Long Foundation, PVF created the Special Education Resource Grants Program to improve the education of special education students.

Launched at the beginning of the school year, PVF has been flooded with requests and has already issued over 150 grants.

I know I am blessed but I believe these children are the best. In my thirty years of teaching special education this is the first time I have ever seen a grant offered specifically for 'my kids'. Thank you for providing this opportunity and for your 'essentials only' way of getting needed funding quickly and efficiently to these students.

- Thomas Kirks, Special Day Class,  
Kindergarten, Beverly Hills  
Elementary, Vallejo, California

Through the Program, East Bay public school teachers serving special education students are eligible to apply for grants up to \$500, for classroom resources, educational field trips, and professional development. Teachers' requests are sent to PVF by facsimile, on school letterhead, approved by the school principal. PVF responds to the requests within 48 hours, with a grant check, if approved.

"Recognizing that teachers know what is best for their students, and yet acknowledging their busy schedules, PVF has created a streamlined application process in

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which funding requests are one-page in length and are responded to immediately.” – PVF Associate Director Moira Walsh.

PVF has been operating Teacher Resource Grants Programs in the Bay Area for the last 6 years. In years past, grants have focused on a variety of subjects such as science, conservation, music and art.

PVF specializes in creating customized giving programs for donors. To make a donation to support Teacher Resource Grants or for more information on the Special Education Resource Grants Program, contact Moira Walsh at PVF.

### **Invitation to Accompany PVF Staff on Non-Profit Agency Site Visits**

The PVF staff is constantly out in the community, visiting charitable projects that it is funding or visiting new charitable programs in the area. PVF believes in minimizing the paperwork required of non-profit agencies applying for grants and instead creating relationships with grantees, which include regular face-to-face contacts.

We invite donors to accompany us on these site visits. If you are interested in getting to know more about a particular organization, a Bay Area community, or an issue, let us know. We can arrange a field trip to suit your interests or can inform you of our calendars should you want to accompany us on a site visit.