

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

PVF's Consulting Services to Foundations on Creative Grantmaking

Made possible through a series of grants from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, PVF President and Executive Director Bill Somerville has been providing expertise to community foundations throughout the United States, since 1991, through PVF's Grantmaking Consulting Program. The focus of the consulting is creative grantmaking and operational effectiveness.

In many ways, PVF acts as a "living lab," initiating projects and trying out new ideas to address community needs, and then sharing its "data," or new project ideas, approaches, successes and pitfalls with community foundations throughout the United States.

Thus far, Bill has consulted at 315 community foundations nationwide, bringing 44 years of experience in the non-profit arena, as well as a unique knowledge base as the only individual to have consulted at 315 plus community foundations.

In the last several months, Bill's consulting has taken him to a variety of regions, including Wichita Community Foundation, Kansas; Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Iowa; Golden Belt Community Foundation, Kansas; Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, Pennsylvania; and Community Foundation of South Wood County, Wisconsin.

A board member from the Golden Belt Community Foundation described the services: "The consulting was very relevant to our concerns. We feel that we received more help to create new visions that we ever thought possible."

In addition to the foundation consulting work, an integral part of PVF's services is strategizing with donors on their customized giving plans. PVF works with individuals, families and businesses to maximize their charitable giving.

Meng Scholarship Program at PVF

The brother-sister team, Charles Meng and Connie Meng, were motivated to give back to the community to support those seeking financial independence, specifically those pursuing vocational careers and training. In response, PVF created the Charles and Connie Meng Scholarship Program making scholarships available to young adults to pursue their vocational goals at community colleges and trade schools. After the death of the donors, PVF received additional funding to keep the program going strong. Now in its ninth year, PVF has made hundreds of scholarships to deserving applicants. In 2005 alone, 69 students received scholarships totaling \$34,500.

This Program reaches a diverse group of candidates, men and women of all ethnicities. It includes those who are immigrants and U.S. born; single parent heads of households; young students just starting out, and those re-entering school. The training they are engaging in is also diverse, and includes nursing, welding, machinists, mechanics, carpentry, cosmetology, and child care.

Recently, a young woman who had received a scholarship to attend Oakland's Laney Community College wrote "I am writing to tell you how your grant has helped me to pursue my vocational goal. I have used the money to pay for college fees and text books as I pursue my degree in Nursing. Without your support this would not have been possible. I am now on the doorsteps of my dream." She further writes: "I have been in this country 3 ½ years and have a great deal of hope for my future and the opportunities before me."

Another scholarship recipient writes: "Being a hairstylist has been my dream since I was young. I am currently attending classes in Cosmetology 5 days a week and retain a 4.0 GPA, work at a restaurant evenings and weekends, and care for my mother. I want to thank you for providing this opportunity to people who work, the exhausted, the run down and determined." The Meng Scholarship Program has supported thousands of hard working individuals pursue careers as they move toward solid employment and self-sufficiency.

PVF Wish List

PVF is seeking funding for several of its long term immediate response grants programs that support direct service providers –teachers, librarians and social workers – to meet critical needs:

Teacher Resource Grants

Special Education Resource Grants

Social Worker Resource Grants

Librarian Resource Grants

We welcome contributions of any amount. Contributions can be sent to PVF with an indication of the program you would like to support. If you would like more information, feel free to contact Moira Walsh, PVF Associate Director. Tel 510/645-1890 or email mwalsh@venturesfoundation.org

***Moira Walsh**, is 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.*

