

PROGRESS

The Newsletter of the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

April 1996

The Excitement of Giving

Below are listed recent grants by the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation which depict the excitement of philanthropic giving.

- ◆ In Brisbane a group of 7th and 8th grade students received \$2,000 to give out. This is part of a continuing effort by the Foundation to orient young people about philanthropy.

The students granted money for buying recycling bins for bottles and cans, for each teacher to have \$50 for classroom items, for students to participate in an Outward Bound type ropes course.

- ◆ In Redwood City a teacher created an intergenerational program wherein older people come to the school and do 1:1 reading and tutoring with elementary school children.

Since this kind of effort has tremendous potential in schools and is not widely used, the foundation offered to buy enough of the teacher's time so she could write a "how to" manual on the program for other teachers to use.

- ◆ In San Jose, a Hispanic man with a small business that puts art work on cars and who also hires gang youth was offered funds on a matching basis; the youth customize bicycles and auction them off and the foundation matches the auction price. The money goes to expand their efforts.

Citizen Giving

All of the granting depicted on this page was made up of small amounts of money. We call this citizen giving i.e. finding worthy programs where a small amount of money can have impact.

We have always felt that it isn't how much you give; it is how thoughtfully you do the giving. It is also a matter of good timing; all of these grants were initiated by the Foundation staff and the money was given as soon as it was needed - no delays for application submittal, processing, etc.

- ◆ In San Jose a lawyer who works in a program serving youth was given \$2,000 to use to meet the emergency needs of her clients. Such funding allows the staff to spend less time on emergencies and focus more on bigger issues.
- ◆ A dance instructor is working with women in jail. The Foundation offered funding for one year scholarships for any women the instructor chooses to take dance instruction after release from jail.
- ◆ Half Moon Bay now has a Coastside Youth Directory which was an idea of the foundation staff and which was funded by the Foundation.

It is 60 pages of resources available to youth from employment to eating, counseling to clubs, entertainment to tutoring. This directory is the first of its kind for San Mateo County.

- ◆ A donor wanted to give his car and asked the Foundation to help. We found an agency that was delighted to receive the car. They sold it and benefited from the income.

Stringers and Philanthropy

The Philanthropic Ventures Foundation uses community members to help it find outstanding people to fund. These resource persons are similar to stringers at magazines except they aren't paid.

The Foundation staff regularly contacts newspaper journalists to inquire about outstanding programs the journalists might have come across. With each referral, the Foundation staff follows through by contacting the program, getting further information, and usually making a site visit.

Donors, public officials, and retired persons are recruited to contact the foundation about programs they have seen. In addition, the Foundation has always had interns who bring new insight, ideas, and awareness to the Foundation staff.

We feel that one of the quality functions in foundation work is the ability to find outstanding grassroots professionals and offer them assistance. This contrasts with merely responding to what comes in the mail.

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation provides professional services to individuals, businesses, and Foundations for philanthropic giving. PVF is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) public charity organization.

For Information call (510) 645-1890

Assistance to Private Foundations

The Philanthropic Ventures Foundation is a public charity and as such has special latitude in grantmaking. The foundation has been called on by the Gerbode, Hewlett, and Packard foundations to assist them in their grantmaking.

In serving these foundations, grants have been made to nascent programs that do not yet have their 501(c)(3) status, to international programs, and to programs that need extra oversight which PVF offers.

The Foundation has also assisted new programs in getting started by receiving funds for their support, by acting as an advisor to the founders of the programs, and by counseling board members when questions arise.

Cultural Directory

The Philanthropic Ventures Foundation had the idea for a youth directory for the rural Half Moon Bay area. Now the Foundation has proposed creating a Cultural Directory for San Mateo county. Such a directory, modeled on a similar publication in San Francisco, would be available to all school teachers showing what is available for school presentations (listing over 300 programs).

Both directories are a first for the areas they serve and both are produced by the Community Information Project of the Peninsula Library System through funding from the Foundation.

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