

New Ventures at PVF

PVF strives to continually come up with new and creative approaches in grant making. Here are some of our recent endeavors:

- Added new component to PVF's Community Foundation Grant Making Consulting Program, which has provided on-site consulting to over 265 community foundations in the United States, wherein PVF will conduct full foundation evaluations on all aspects of the foundations' operations, akin to a university or hospital accreditation process.
 - Partnered with Stanford University Medical School to get Medical Residents to work in High School Health Clinics. Soon after, a second partnership with Stanford was formed, placing graduate students of Psychology in High School Health Clinics and the county Juvenile Hall.
 - Created new twist on scholarships, providing people with tool scholarships, giving them a grant upon graduation from trade school to purchase their "tools of the trade." In addition, created scholarship programs providing students with "loan cancellation" grants upon college graduation.
 - Provided Discretionary Grants to non-profit organization executive directors, for example, to the director of Community Impact, an organization on the Peninsula that utilizes volunteers to address needs in the community, to enable the Director to meet critical needs as identified by volunteers at project sites.
- Re-established a program to fund musical instruments in low-income schools grades 5-12. \$3,500 grants buy refurbished instruments. The program is very popular with schools.
 - Set up a method of first responder when a non-profit has an unexpected emergency such as a fire. PVF will cover rent costs while the agency is getting on its feet.

Low Income Housing Program

In partnership with the Saint Francis Center of Redwood City, PVF has created the St. Francis Center Housing Fund, to assist low-income families with first and last month's rent and security deposits. The Saint Francis Center has long been a provider to those in need in the community, providing food, clothing, support and education. Through this Fund, the Center is able to expand its services, providing low or no-interest loans to families in need. Prior to the creation of this Fund, many families were unable to obtain decent housing, because they could not afford first and last month's rent and had no credit rating. These families were often forced to live in sub-standard housing for which they paid top dollar. By example, one family, composed of a mother, father, grandmother, three-year old girl and 6-year-old boy, were all living in one bedroom for which they paid \$1,000/month. This was not a one-bedroom house, it was one bedroom period. With the help of the Housing Fund, this family was able to obtain a two-bedroom apartment for the same price. Not only did the Fund assist with the first and last month's rent, but also with credit references. If you are interested in contributing to the Fund, contact Moira Walsh at PVF.

Youth & Philanthropy

In an effort to bring young people into philanthropy, PVF initiated the idea of placing five Stanford students in Bay Area foundations full-time during the summer. These are called Sand Hill Fellows and the program is run through the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford. PVF finds placements, gives oversight, and follow-up meetings with the students. Twenty students have been placed in foundations through this program. Foundations have gone from reluctant to eager to have such students as interns and in many cases students are offered jobs upon their graduation.

PVF also initiated the Tom Ford Fellowships, which places three graduates of Stanford in any foundation of the student's choice in the country. The student works full-time for eleven months and receives a stipend of \$27,000. Eight students have been Tom Ford Fellows.

This kind of program can be done at any college or university. If a donor would like to initiate such a program, PVF stands ready to make it happen.