

## **THE RIGHT AMOUNT AT THE RIGHT TIME**

### **At-Risk Youth**

Through PVF's Juvenile Judges Program local juvenile court judges are given access to funding to meet the special needs of the children that appear before them. Judges call upon funds for such things as eyeglasses, karate classes, psychotherapy and clothing. Judge Leonard Edwards of Santa Clara County participates in the Program and is an expert at identifying needs and filling them. His most recent request was for \$40 for a thirteen-year-old boy, Josh, to "adopt" a donkey at Redwing Horse Sanctuary, a place that cares for abused and neglected animals. Josh was removed from his mother's care when she became homeless and her only means of shelter was her car. Josh was moved to a group home where he is having a difficult time being separated from his mother. Josh is an animal lover. On his weekly visits to his mom they go to Redwing Horse Sanctuary. With this grant Josh has adopted his favorite donkey "Niner." According to the Deputy District Attorney, "This is the one thing that will keep him going." PVF has distributed over \$30,000 through the Juvenile Judges Program. Each grant, although small, can make an enormous impact in the life of a child.

### **Housing**

Estella Cuevas, a single Latina mother with five young children needed \$14,000 to save her house (a mobile home in East Palo Alto) from foreclosure. Apparently the foreclosure

proceedings began as a result of her ex-husband's actions. Through the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, PVF made a \$5,000 grant to Ms. Cuevas and she raised the balance of \$9,000 through "prayers, working overtime and salary advances from her two jobs". (She is a janitress for two different office-cleaning companies). Ms. Cuevas said, "Since I was so lucky to get the \$5,000 from Philanthropic Ventures, I had to do my share. I just had to." The staff at the EPA Law Project said they have never seen a bigger smile than that of Ms. Cuevas when she came into their office with the news that she had managed to get all of the money together to save her home. Ms. Cuevas and her five children avoided homelessness and are now proud owners of their first home.

### **Education**

Since October 2000, PVF has given \$275,000 to over 600 teachers in the Bay Area through its Science Resource Grants Program. Grants of up to \$500 are issued in a day and are for science materials, projects and field trips. PVF has received considerable feedback from teachers, students, and parents on the impact of the Program. Eileen Perkins, Kindergarten teacher at Daves Avenue School, Los Gatos received a \$400 grant to purchase science materials for the study of life cycles, water, weather and light. "It was a delight to be able to have more hands on activities for the Kindergarteners. Much is said about the need to help educators and education. PVF has done that." Arin Murrell, 1st grade teacher at Live Oak School, Santa Cruz received \$380 for

science texts, prisms, magnetism kits, and magnifying glasses. “My students use these materials on a daily basis and they will continue to support learning in my classroom for years. PVF’s grant process was simple and straightforward. I was amazed at how fast they responded.” The Program introduces students to a wide variety of topics, broadening their understanding of science. The second grade teachers at Christopher Columbus School in Daly City took their students to the San Francisco Zoo. “Many of our students had only seen these animals on television or in photographs. Having the opportunity to see the animals with their own eyes will be an unforgettable experience for each student.” – Lisa Ramson, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. For teachers Barbara Lane and Alice Hutchinson, at Quail Hollow elementary in Ben Lomond the Program was their answer to burnout. “We would like to thank PVF for its support of science in the classroom. We find ourselves excited again about teaching science.”

At PVF our mission is to expand philanthropy, whether it be demonstrating new ways to make an impact or introducing giving opportunities to donors. If you are interested in supporting any of these existing programs or starting your own, contact Moira Walsh, Assistant Director at PVF 510/645-1890.