

What Makes PVF Unique?

The mission of PVF is to expand the dimensions of philanthropy. At PVF we do this through a variety of means, such as, grassroots grantmaking, Donor Venture Funds, Designated Funds, international giving, initiating new forms of grantmaking, and consulting at community foundations throughout the United States and the world.

PVF is always striving to develop new approaches in philanthropy. We act as a demonstration foundation, by taking risks, trying out new concepts of grantmaking, and sharing our experiences with others. An example of our **grassroots grantmaking** is the Immediate Response Resource Grants, designed for various donors, wherein direct service providers can request funds and receive a check within 48 hours. We have had such programs for teachers, social workers, child care providers, librarians, health professionals and artists. A teacher in need of resources for her classroom or for a field trip sends in her request by facsimile and receives a response immediately. As one teacher said, “This is such a great opportunity for teachers and students. I’ve never before applied for grant funds because the process has always been extremely time consuming and more trouble than it is worth. Your ‘essentials only’ way of getting funding quickly and efficiently to students has already enhanced many children’s education.” – Adrienne McGuire, 4th grade teacher, Bay View School, Santa Cruz, CA.

Through our **Donor Venture Funds**, we work with donors to customize their giving to meet their desires and interests. PVF’s customized giving has several dimensions: creating a giving plan to match a donor’s interests; creating and running a charitable program on a donor’s behalf; negotiating a grant with a non-profit to add a new component to the services they

already provide; and introducing a donor to an organization or a person working in their area of interest. Mr. Marty Tarshes, long time PVF donor states, “When I wanted to set up a Fund to aid disadvantaged children in memory of my late wife, I naturally thought of PVF. I’ve been grateful for the way the funds are being utilized – much more creatively and effectively than I could have done on my own.”

PVF also supports charitable causes through **Designated Funds**, funds established to serve a specific charitable program to which multiple donors can contribute. PVF acts as the depository to help the programs get started. Some Designated Funds focus on international giving; others focus here in the United States. As a public charity, PVF has more latitude in its giving than, for example, an individual or a private foundation. The Designated Fund provides flexibility to donors to enable them to give with a particular focus.

PVF President Bill Somerville has been **consulting at community foundations** throughout the United States and abroad for the last nine years. This consulting focuses on creative grantmaking, streamlined operations and community impact. Many of the risks and successes of impact philanthropy are discussed. One participant said, “As a relatively new Board member the information shared was of immense value to me. My overall knowledge on how foundations ‘can operate’ really took a giant stride forward. Would like to do this again in a couple of years.” Watertown Community Foundation, South Dakota. Bill has consulted at over 265 community foundations in the last nine years, something no one has ever done before.

The PVF staff is highly experienced in the non-profit arena and spends substantial time in the community

keeping apprised of the programs and people doing outstanding human service work. Donors can take advantage of this knowledge for grassroots grantmaking.

If you are interested in getting more information about the variety of services that PVF offers or have questions, please contact Associate Director, Moira Walsh at 510/645-1890

Holiday Giving

For many years, The Barkley Fund, a Donor Venture Fund at PVF, has made a point of setting aside funding to meet the needs of low-income people for the holidays. Each year, The Barkley Fund designates the amount they want to give for the holidays and then works with PVF to identify the high impact agencies whose clients would significantly benefit from additional support at this time of year. This year, The Barkley Fund allocated \$75,000 for distribution to seven agencies on the Peninsula: Bayshore Child Care Services, Daly City; C.A.L.L. Primrose Center, Burlingame; Catholic Worker Hospitality House, San Bruno; North Peninsula Neighborhood Services, South San Francisco; Samaritan House, San Mateo; Catholic Worker House, Redwood City; and Social Worker Immediate Response Holiday Resource Grant Program, created by PVF to reach foster care children with critical needs during the holidays.

If you are interested in learning more about outstanding agencies in the community for your holiday giving, please contact PVF.

Progress Over the Internet

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