

The Newsletter of the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

By Moira C. Walsh, Associate Director

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PVF Grants and Donations in 2002

PVF distributed approximately \$4 million to over 1,600 charitable causes in the year 2002. Grants were made to a variety of sectors including education, arts and culture, environment, community development, healthcare, international causes, youth and anti-poverty. Grants ranged in amount from \$150,000 to \$250. PVF received donations in the year 2002 from individuals, families, businesses and foundations exceeding \$4.6 million.

Stanford Traveler's Group Generosity in Action

Stanford University's Travel/Study Program has recently started the Stanford Traveler's Fund at PVF to enable them to give to worthwhile projects they visit on their international travels. On many trips, particularly to third world countries, alumni see first hand how their dollar could significantly assist a community or village, and they want to help. Funding projects on the spot can foster misconceptions, is not always feasible, and provides no system for follow through. Handling contributions through a designated fund established at PVF addresses these concerns.

Stanford has developed a system in which projects of interest are identified, reviewed, and then funded through gifts made to PVF, designated for the Stanford Traveler's Fund at PVF. In turn, PVF sends acknowledgement to the donor of their tax-deductible contribution and simultaneously, informs the Stanford Travel/Study Program of the donation. Typically, the donor designates a specific project they would like to support and the Stanford Travel/Study Program facilitates getting the project initiated and eventually completed.

Projects funded include getting school supplies for a small village in the Amazon, clothing for an orphanage in Burma and building a water well to furnish a small village in Zambia with clean water.

Stanford Travel/Study not only works with local guides and tour operators to verify the funds are being utilized for the stated purpose but also works closely with other educational travel organizations who visit the same places and can verify the new projects are in place.

Perhaps there is a travel group that you belong to, such as your *alma mater*, church, or your local symphony, that is interested in establishing a similar type of fund to support identified charitable causes. If so, feel free to contact Moira C. Walsh, at PVF for more information.

Poor Economy Creates Increased Community Need

Low-income individuals and non-profit organizations are being hit from all sides. State funding has been drastically cut due to budget deficit. Corporations have tightened their belts and their budgets when it comes to charitable giving. Foundations and individuals have reduced their giving as a result of the declining stock market. Appreciated stock is scarce. And yet, the more the economy suffers, the greater are the needs in the community.

In response to this, many PVF donors have stepped forward. PVF has also stepped forward with its own endowment funds. One donor has provided discretionary funds to a Peninsula high school principal to meet the critical needs of students and their families. So far, the principal has used the

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money to get counseling for a student who was a victim of sexual abuse, to relocate a family experiencing domestic violence and to get vaccinations for students to enable them to attend school. Another donor is increasing his support of the American Dream Scholarship Program at Canada College, to enable low-income families to send their children to college. A third donor donated hundreds of blankets, cots and sleeping bags to homeless shelters as well as discretionary funds to agencies serving the poor to assist with food and shelter. A fourth donor is investing in a health clinic to ensure that unmet health needs are addressed. Several donors have contributed to PVF's endowment to support PVF's grantmaking activity.

At PVF, we are hearing about and seeing how basic needs are going unmet. If you are interested in discussing funding opportunities, please contact us. Thank you to all PVF donors for your generous support and commitment to philanthropy.