

## **PVF Program to Assist Non-Profits in the Bay Area**

With support from the Sand Hill Foundation, PVF has created the Non-Profit Effectiveness Assistance Program. This unique program gets retired people to consult and work with non-profit organizations in such areas as strategic planning, donor development, accounting, legal issues, and organizational effectiveness. The program is designed to provide non-profits with access to an experienced and talented pool of consultants that these agencies could not otherwise afford, or possibly locate. PVF finds the consultants and pays for their services. PVF is currently working with 14 non-profit organizations through this Program.

## **Literacy as Anti-Violence Tool**

There are many youngsters who go through school without learning how to read and write. Most literacy programs focus on students in kindergarten through third grade, but there are students in high school as well who have never learned these skills. The inability to read affects all areas of life, as well as the student's ability to understand and grasp other academic subjects. These students face the challenges and demands of school and society without the necessary reading skills. As a result, many develop a set of personal coping mechanisms to keep their poor reading skills hidden, such as disruptive behavior in the classroom, or truancy. Low self-esteem is a by-product and can lead to asserting oneself in inappropriate, sometimes violent ways.

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## **Working with Juvenile Court Judges to Fund the Critical Needs of Children**

Bill Somerville, Judge Leonard Edwards of Santa Clara County, and Commissioner Patricia Bresee of San Mateo County, have co-authored an article entitled "Community Foundations and the Juvenile Court – a New Relationship."

The article describes the long standing relationship that PVF has developed with Juvenile Court Judges in the Bay Area in funding the needs of children at critical intervention points, and urges community foundations to form similar relationships with judges. As stated by Judge Edwards and Commissioner Bresee, a community's most vulnerable children appear before Juvenile Court Judges on a daily basis. Thus, judges are in an ideal position to identify children with special needs that if addressed immediately could make a big difference in the life of a child, at minimal cost.

PVF provides discretionary funding for judges which is used to pay for such things as eyeglasses, dental work, reunification with a sibling for the holidays, summer camp, tickets to a sporting event, or a warm jacket. The article was featured in the November-December 1999 issue of the magazine Today, published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. If you would like a copy of the article, visit our web-site at [www.venturesfoundation.org](http://www.venturesfoundation.org) or give us a call. If you are interested in contributing to the Juvenile Court Judges Program, contact Moira Walsh at PVF. PVF is willing to fund Juvenile Judges anywhere in the Country.

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PVF has created several literacy programs. The One-on-One Reading Project in East Palo Alto is a tutoring program in which elementary school students in the Ravenswood School District are teamed up, one-on-one, with 90 volunteer tutors from Stanford University. This is one of the largest programs of its kind in the west.

PVF initiated the Bay Area High School Newspaper Support Program which brings together 20 public high schools from the Bay Area in an effort to support high school newspapers and journalism programs and develop reading, writing and business skills in youth. Bay Area businesses, whose focus is the teen market, advertise in the newspapers, reaching 35,000 students. The advertising revenue is disbursed among the participating schools to sustain the newspapers and journalism programs and to purchase critical supplies for newspaper production.

PVF has also created various programs at McClymonds High School in Oakland, including the Reading Improvement Project. This program addresses the needs of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students reading below grade level to develop and improve reading and writing skills. At PVF, we see these programs not only as ways to develop fundamental and critical skills in youth but also as an anti-violence tool. If you are interested in supporting one of these programs, contact PVF.