

New Board Chair

PVF welcomes John P. Carver as its new Board Chairperson effective June 2001. Mr. Carver has been a member of the PVF Board of Directors since 1995. The Board and staff is immensely grateful to outgoing Chair, Albert J. Horn, for his commitment and dedication to the Foundation and is honored to have Mr. Horn continue on as a Board member.

New School for Low-Income Families

When a donor came to us indicating that she wanted to reach the poorest of the poor, we contacted a number of individuals and agencies that do outstanding work in the community to find out what is most needed in their work with the poor. Their unanimous response: education and housing.

PVF requested proposals from these agencies on how they would work with the poor in these areas. From these proposals, a decision was made to fund the efforts of the Saint Francis Center in Redwood City, California to start a new school for low-income Hispanic families, serving students grades kindergarten through third. Sister Christina Heltsley, formerly a school superintendent, will direct the new school and Sister Susan Ostrowski will be the teacher.

The school started in September 2001 with full enrollment of 15 children. The students

live in neighboring apartment buildings and most of the families are well known to the Saint Francis Center through the Center's existing food and clothing banks and ESL Programs. For all students, English is their second language. The school guarantees that at the time of graduation, each third grader will be reading at eighth grade level.

PVF Teams Up with Peninsula Fire Dept: Job Opportunities for Minority Youth

The fire chief in Menlo Park, California has come to PVF for program ideas on how to motivate minority youth in the community to pursue jobs in the fire department.

In response, PVF designed a new program called the After School Cadet Program for high school students. Retired firefighters selected by the Fire Chief will work with high school students after school at the firehouse, providing hands on experience and job training in fire technology. The Program will expose students to job opportunities and job training, with the goal being jobs for youth within the fire department. Students would be eligible for academic credit for their participation. Scholarships will be available for students to attend the College of San Mateo to enable them to complete fire technology coursework, which is the primary avenue to becoming a firefighter. Eventually, fire technology courses will be offered in East Palo

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Alto and other local communities, further extending accessibility to jobs and job training, through College of San Mateo extension courses. This is one of several programs PVF is introducing in East Palo Alto to address the needs of that area.

September 11 Relief Efforts

There are a multitude of funds and organizations helping with the relief efforts associated with the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Many donors interested in making a donation have contacted PVF with questions or for guidance. PVF has conducted considerable research on the various funds and organizations, the dollars raised, groups being assisted and methods for disbursement. Feel free to contact Bill Somerville or Moira Walsh if you are interested in this information.

PVF Annual Report Year 2000

PVF distributed \$5 million in grants in the year 2000. PVF's Annual Report sets forth all grants given, including a brief description of the purpose of the grant, grantee and amount. If you are interested in receiving a copy of PVF's Annual Report Year 2000, we would be happy to mail one to you. Call or send us an e-mail message with your name and mailing address, telephone 510/645-1890 or e-mail at info@venturesfoundation.org.