30 years of creative grantmaking

2020 Report
A Year in Review

We Are Our Brother’s Keeper

These are challenging times, but we are up to it.

For example, we had the idea to give money outright to people in need, and now some big foundations are doing likewise. Thus, we give money to nonprofit programs that serve the poor and they in turn can give direct cash to help families with rent, food, etc.

We are proud to be in the vanguard and regard it as business as usual; Philanthropic Ventures Foundation is over 30 years old.

We continue giving special grants to teachers and social workers on a 48 hour turnaround basis. Actually hundreds of grants, and the recipients love it.

Donors are doing a lot of giving in these times and PVF is busy. It is heartening to see that people care. We customize giving for donors - in one case creating an awards program for young women of courage.

It is warming to see the resilience of the people in nonprofits that we work with. They just double their efforts in serving people in need.

We are our brother’s keeper and that is what Philanthropic Ventures Foundation stands for.

We are honored to be associated with a spectrum that covers outstanding community workers as well as those in need who we stand by.

We also ferret out start-up programs and people with ideas to serve others. The whole process of discovery is the basis of our work. In other words, we don’t wait for the mail.

- Bill Somerville, Founder

No Education Like Adversity

What a crazy year it has been. 2020 will go down in history as the year of not one, but multiple black swan events. Who amongst us could have imagined a COVID pandemic raging through our cities, systemic racism boiling over, a divisive election, and a shuttered economy inflicting unbearable burdens upon us? All at the same time.

Benjamin Disraeli, former Prime Minister of the UK said, “There is no education like adversity”. In this year of unprecedented adversity, PVF has learned so much.

We learned from our neighbors who live along side us that you are essential, not ancillary workers. All of you. Our lives depend in the most fundamental ways on what you do day in and day out.

We learned from our grantees that they will rise to any unforeseen challenges with unimagined bold ideas. ALAS launched a co-op of mask makers and a Friday lunch program for farmers. Eat.Learn.Play is building a decentralized food delivery network of Oakland restaurants to feed our frontlines. Growing the Table is applying cutting edge geographic information system mapping to help minority owned regenerative farms reach food banks and markets better. Our voice based remote learning initiative with smart speakers will help close the remote learning gap. The 15% Pledge and GiveBlck are giving voice to and lifting up black owned businesses and non-profits.

We learned from our donors that there is a world full of good hearts and thoughtful minds who have leaned in even stronger to give more this year than in any other year.

We learned from our grantees that they will rise to any unforeseen challenges with unimagined bold ideas. ALAS launched a co-op of mask makers and a Friday lunch program for farmers. Eat.Learn.Play is building a decentralized food delivery network of Oakland restaurants to feed our frontlines. Growing the Table is applying cutting edge geographic information system mapping to help minority owned regenerative farms reach food banks and markets better. Our voice based remote learning initiative with smart speakers will help close the remote learning gap. The 15% Pledge and GiveBlck are giving voice to and lifting up black owned businesses and non-profits.

Most of all we learned that we can place our hope and confidence in the spirit of kindness that brings and binds us together, rather than the differences that divide us. And for this, we are grateful to each and everyone of you.

- James Higa, Executive Director
2020 Grants

1991-2020 Total Grants: $170,740,434

Donor Advised Funds $6,034,752 (47%)

Designated Funds $4,026,339 (32%)

Program Funds $2,233,937 (18%)

Safety Net Funds $384,106 (3%)

“PVF made over 500 grants totaling $3.5 million in the first 6 weeks of the Covid pandemic. We have doubled down on our core principles of immediate response and radical invention in this COVID-19 emergency. How have we approached grant making in these unprecedented times? We are focusing on what we do best.” - James Higa, Executive Director
We aspire to transform philanthropy and make it more responsive and collaborative to meet the needs of our community. We identify needs that can be met with philanthropic support, and then we devise program ideas to help tackle the issues head on. From this drive to address unmet needs came the idea of immediate-response grants, in which we provide funds within a 48-hour turnaround. We have established a variety of immediate-response grant programs, benefiting teachers as well as social workers and juvenile court judges who work with youth in foster care.

Foundations, individual donors, and businesses partner with PVF to establish unique immediate-response grant programs because of our grassroots giving expertise. We have created and administered programs for the following donors:

- The Barkley Fund
- Brit + Co.
- The Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Foundation
- The California Endowment
- David L. Klein Jr. Foundation
- David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- Eucalyptus Foundation
- Facebook
- Flora Family Foundation
- GIRLBOSS Foundation
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- Hellman Foundation
- Herbst Foundation
- Hutto-Patterson Charitable Foundation
- Joseph & Vera Long Foundation
- Lampert Byrd Foundation
- Maxwell-Hanrahan Foundation
- Peery Foundation
- Robert Half International Inc.
- Sand Hill Foundation
- San Francisco Foundation
- Thomas J. Long Foundation
- United Way Bay Area
- van Loben Sels/RembeRock Foundation
- The Westly Foundation
- Y&H Soda Foundation

We are open to new ideas and are ready to tackle pressing issues. Are you interested in setting up a customized giving program?

Please contact:
Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer
dhawk@venturesfoundation.org
(510) 645-1890

“The funding you provide for these kind of essential activities is an amazing gift and such a wonderful thing for youth in foster care.”

– Donna Warnken-Brill, CASA Volunteer, Contra Costa County
## Program Grants

In 2020, we administered the following programs in partnership with our donors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Resource Grants</td>
<td>Santa Clara &amp; San Mateo Counties, CA</td>
<td>Grants for public school teachers to enhance K-8th grade art programs. Supported by the Westly Foundation.</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Area Inspire Awards</td>
<td>Alameda, San Francisco, &amp; San Mateo Counties, CA</td>
<td>Awards for 18-30 year olds to launch innovative projects to create positive changes within their communities.</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science Resource Grants</td>
<td>Alameda County, CA</td>
<td>Grants for public school teachers to enhance TK-12th grade environmental science curriculum. Supported by the Lampert Byrd Foundation.</td>
<td>$27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursion Grants</td>
<td>Alameda &amp; San Mateo Counties, CA</td>
<td>Grants for public school teachers to take K-5th grade students on field trips. Supported by the Geballe Family.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Local Community Fund</td>
<td>Belle Haven &amp; East Palo Alto, CA</td>
<td>Grants to support non-profit programs providing services to the local community. Supported by Facebook.</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Scholarships</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Undergraduate scholarships to international students to attend American colleges.</td>
<td>$78,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heising-Simons Foundation Language Access Fund</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Grants for Heising-Simons Foundation education grantees to provide meaningful access to and engagement with communities who speak languages other than English.</td>
<td>$190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heising-Simons Foundation Responsive Fund for Grantee Communications</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Grants for Heising-Simons Foundation grantees to pilot new communications ideas or expand/enhance existing communications projects.</td>
<td>$380,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Grants</td>
<td>Santa Clara &amp; San Mateo Counties, CA</td>
<td>Grants for public school teachers to enhance their math lessons for TK-3rd grade students. Supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation.</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Donor Teacher Resource Grants</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA</td>
<td>Grants for public school teachers to enhance instruction.</td>
<td>$33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peery Programs</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Grants for Peery Foundation grantees and staff to support basic immediate needs and mental health care.</td>
<td>$784,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Hill &amp; Tom Ford Fellowships</td>
<td>Stanford, CA</td>
<td>Fellowships for Stanford University students to intern at foundations. Supported by the Sand Hill Foundation.</td>
<td>$165,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I can only describe the feelings of appreciation expressed by the youth and myself for the grant. The ability to bring back some normalcy of having a change of clothes, along with the knowledge that someone cares is priceless. We appreciate the gift of your grant.”

- Eileen Chin, CASA Volunteer, San Mateo County
2020 Program Grants: $2,233,937

“Thank you for having a vision, believing in our kids and our community, and for being so supportive! We did something amazing together and it is so great for kids and families.”

- Principal Sara Rich, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
Donor Advised Funds

We think of our donors as investors, people who see philanthropy as investments in positive change.

When people want to do exciting giving, they turn to PVF. PVF offers a variety of services to individuals, families, businesses, and foundations through Donor Advised Funds. We make grants to charitable projects that donors recommend, consult and strategize with donors on their giving plan, and help them navigate through the world of nonprofit programs. Donors benefit from our philanthropic expertise, extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community, and experience in turning ideas into action.

In 2020, we administered the following donor advised funds:

Anonymous III Fund  Gerber-Doyle Fund  Relfe Fund
Anonymous IV Fund  Barbara Jean & Allen L. Grimm Fund  Mike Scott Fund
Albert J. Horn Philanthropic Fund  Horizons Unlimited Fund  Somerton Foundation Fund
Bailard Foundation Fund  Hellman-Breslau Fund  Task Rabbit for Good
Bergstrom Foundation Fund  Katchadourian Family Fund  TruLove Cares Fund
Peter & Jane Carpenter Fund  Lurie Family Fund  Waverley Fund
Carver Family Fund  Maloney Family Fund  Whitehouse-Heffernan Family Fund
Josh Childress Foundation  Margaret Lamping Fund  Wienholz Fund
Cohen Charitable Fund  Medvin Fund  James & Ursula Williams Family Fund
Doberstyn Fund  Orr Family Fund  Cole Wilbur Fund
Esperanza Fund  Pasturel Family Fund  Women of Courage Award
Facebook Fund  Peery Family Fund  Yochum-Otani Fund
Farmhill Scholarship Fund  Jason & Lisa Peery Fund  YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Fund

Are you interested in setting up a Donor Advised Fund?

Please contact:
Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer
dhawk@venturesfoundation.org
(510) 645-1890

2020 Donor Advised Grants: $6,034,752

“Thanks to the Grace scholarship, I get to enjoy my experience at school, attend classes, and grab opportunities without stressing about any the gaps in financial aid. The Grace has made it possible for me to be a part of a beautiful program that is molding me into a change maker.”

- Uchechukwu Ogbonna, Grace Scholarship Recipient
PVF places high trust in outstanding individuals and programs, demonstrates flexibility and creativity in grant-making, and takes the initiative in providing funding when it is needed. These grants, made without applications and based on trust, are unique in the grantmaking sector.

Our ability to respond to community needs on a discretionary and immediate basis is made possible by bequests and gifts to PVF’s endowment and by undesignated gifts from donors. PVF is proud to have their confidence.

Would you like to learn how you can support PVF’s endowment?

Please contact:
James Higa, Executive Director
jhiga@venturesfoundation.org
(510) 645-1890

2020 Safety Net Grants: $384,106

“Thanks to PVF we now have a refrigerator and freezer donated which will help us provide emergency food for the community. ALAS with PVF is working hard to make sure that our community is not alone. Thank you PVF for being there for our community!”

- Dr. Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, Executive Director/Founder of Ayudando Latinos A Soñar (ALAS)
In the spirit of expanding philanthropy and promoting outstanding charitable work, PVF serves as the depository for projects that do not yet have their tax exempt status but do charitable work.

PVF’s Designated Funds allow multiple donors to receive a tax deduction for contributing to a charitable program. A Designated Fund provides donors with flexibility, enabling them to target support for innovative ideas. PVF manages the funds and prepares financial reports for the program leaders.

Are you interested in setting up a Designated Fund? Please contact: Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer dhawk@venturesfoundation.org (510) 645-1890

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Percent Pledge</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Charitable initiative created with the goal of advocating for and supporting Black-owned businesses and Black entrepreneurs.</td>
<td>$33,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Au Zanskar - USA</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Project to support the development and functioning of the Lamdon Model High School in the Zanskar region of Kashmir, India.</td>
<td>$10,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency by Design Oakland</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA</td>
<td>Aims to redefine what learning looks like in schools through maker-centered education.</td>
<td>$196,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Bay Area PPE</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA</td>
<td>Network of local fabricators, artists, community groups volunteering to create and distribute open-source medical supplies to protect our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.</td>
<td>$56,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All in Alameda County</td>
<td>Alameda County, CA</td>
<td>Aims to reduce poverty and eliminate food insecurity in Alameda County.</td>
<td>$582,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda Innovations</td>
<td>Alameda County, CA</td>
<td>Designed to spur innovative ideas that address the needs of the adult reentry population and reduce recidivism.</td>
<td>$42,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALMA Philanthropy</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>An online giving platform that empowers modern philanthropists to make an impact by making it easy to give to and connect with the causes and nonprofits they care about.</td>
<td>$268,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>API Giving Fund</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA</td>
<td>Strengthening Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the Bay Area through local investments in community-led programs.</td>
<td>$6,690</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Corporate startups choose PVF as their fiscal depository because no other foundation can move so fast or be as flexible. Skincare line Cocokind chose PVF to hold their grant program, providing grants to female-identifying entrepreneurs in the health, wellness, and sustainability industries quickly and efficiently. Pictured above is Social Cipher, a previous Cocokind Impact Foundation Awardee.” - James Higa, PVF’s Executive Director
## Designated Fund Grants

In 2020, we administered the following designated funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Area Border Relief, Estamos Contigo</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA &amp; McAllen, TX</td>
<td>Aims to assist immigrating families and the nonprofit agencies that support them with immediate urgent needs.</td>
<td>$64,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Worker Program</td>
<td>Redwood City, Half Moon Bay, &amp; San Bruno, CA</td>
<td>Assistance to the poor through housing, food, and education programs.</td>
<td>$134,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocokind Impact Foundation</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Aims to provide financial grants to female entrepreneurs in health, wellness, and sustainability industries who are focused on creating social impact through business.</td>
<td>$29,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code the Change</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Helps computer scientists use their skills for social change and to help make social change an integral part of computer science culture.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Transformation Fund</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Strengthens conflict literacy in progressive movement organizations through funding, research and organizing.</td>
<td>$192,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal City Pilgrimage Committee</td>
<td>Crystal City, TX</td>
<td>Seeks to promote dialogue, relationship building and education about the Crystal City Internment Concentration Camp.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Pueblo Unido</td>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Aims to create sustainable, enriching exchange programs between public school students and educators on the mainland and in Puerto Rico.</td>
<td>$67,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FabCity Bay Area</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA</td>
<td>Regional arm of a global initiative where cities invest in local production, using new sustainable manufacturing technologies in city centers.</td>
<td>$31,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frick Parent Engagement</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>Aims to build parent and caregiver engagement and participation at Frick Impact Academy.</td>
<td>$6,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generosity in Action</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>Supports educational and health projects in communities identified by travelers to developing countries.</td>
<td>$577,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRLBOSS Foundation</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Aims to empower the next generation of female entrepreneurs within the creative community.</td>
<td>$20,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GiveBlck</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Movement to showcase Black-founded nonprofits and to make it easy for you and your organization to connect with them.</td>
<td>$46,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hate Is A Virus</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Movement to combat the xenophobia and racism against Asian Americans fueled by COVID-19.</td>
<td>$18,804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“There are many, many, many ways that PVF has given the Catholic Workers in San Mateo County invaluable funding and personal support. When all is said and done, just as important as the money has been the TRUST that PVF has given to each and all of us!! I have told many people that [PVF is] the only Foundation with whom I feel comfortable.”

- Lawrence Purcell, Catholic Worker House
# Designated Fund Grants

2020 designated funds continued:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hella Heart Oakland</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>Supports mental health and wellness initiatives of Asian/Asian American women and girls in Oakland - and immigrants - through an act of collective and pooled giving.</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice Literacy Fund</td>
<td>Alameda County, CA</td>
<td>Supports educational needs of youth at Oakland Unified School District libraries and the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center.</td>
<td>$7,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lapacho Fund</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Supports Paraguayan NGO’s working in the fields of education, the arts, health, job creation and poverty alleviation.</td>
<td>$45,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries Without Borders</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>Committed to expanding access to information for underserved communities and families.</td>
<td>$39,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Foundation</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Aims to end workplace sexual harassment.</td>
<td>$10,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SheEO</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Aims to democratize venture capital and create a new economic model of radically generous women creating change through local communities and impact through global scale.</td>
<td>$819,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicon Valley Next</td>
<td>Bay Area, CA</td>
<td>Seeks to develop the next generation of nonprofit leadership in Silicon Valley through a “shared talent pool” model.</td>
<td>$58,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Future Outdoor Academy</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>Aims to teach young people how to lead sustainable lives and influence their families, schools and communities to do the same.</td>
<td>$108,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toledo Institute for Development and Environment</td>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Engages stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of all.</td>
<td>$72,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workologie</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Leverages the power of education, culture and creativity to build inclusive workplaces and keep distributed workforces activated and engaged.</td>
<td>$6,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various other designated funds with low activity</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>$384,795</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020 Designated Fund Grants: $4,026,339

“PVF supported the efforts of our organization to serve everyone in our region and one of the most vulnerable populations: agriculture workers and their families to whom we are grateful for being the anchor for us to have food on our tables. We are thankful for their trust since the early days when we had just started.”

- Puente de la Costa Sur (PUENTE)
Our Team

Foundation Staff

James Higa  
Executive Director

Savannah Lira  
Program Officer

Bill Somerville  
Founder

Aly Quiroz-Perez  
Program Associate

Dawn Hawk  
Chief Operating Officer

Kari Jo Bliss  
Bookkeeper

Sheryl Young  
San Mateo County Program Director

Ashley Murphy  
Bookkeeping Assistant

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Colburn S. Wilbur, Chair  
Former President, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Bill Somerville, President  
Founder, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Alicia Aguirre  
Council Member, Redwood City; Professor, Cañada College

Jackie Speier  
US Representative, 14th District of California

Duncan Beardsley  
Director, Generosity in Action

Adrienne J. Tissier  
Former Supervisor, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

James R. Cody  
Director of Estate & Gift Planning, Rosewood Family Advisors, LLP

Moira C. Walsh  
Managing Attorney, Office of the San Francisco City Attorney

James Higa  
Executive Director, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation