

35 years of *creative* grantmaking



2025 Report



philanthropic
ventures
foundation

A Year in Review



A Bias for Action

It feels like every day, we experience seismic tremors and shifts in the fabric of the world that we thought we knew and was stable. This means uncertainty is the new normal. Amidst all this sudden change of policies and funding, we saw that food insecurity is not some distant issue over there. It is a daily and worsening reality for our neighbors, families, and friends. There are many local organizations that are working tirelessly to ensure that no one goes hungry but the more chaotic the times, the greater the need. It's not in PVF's DNA to sit aside.

We are wired for immediate response. When like-minded and generous partners like Oakland Thrives are ready to roll up their sleeves and just 'do' in moments of crisis, like the eve before SNAP benefits were frozen for the first time, we act fast. PVF opened the Alameda County Rapid Response Food Resilience Fund within 48 hours and distributed \$1M in grants to grassroots organizations who do the good and hard work of delivering food directly to those in need.

Beyond food insecurity, as all the needs have grown, so have we. In 2025, PVF and our fund partners distributed \$43.5M in grants. We're grateful every day to get to do the work we do. We have a bias for action. It's always been in our DNA and we will promise to preserve and hold tight, this most important value.

- James Higa, Executive Director



Image courtesy of the artist, Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, and the Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Project

2025 Grants and Disbursements

1991-2025 Total Grants and Disbursements: \$324,684,606

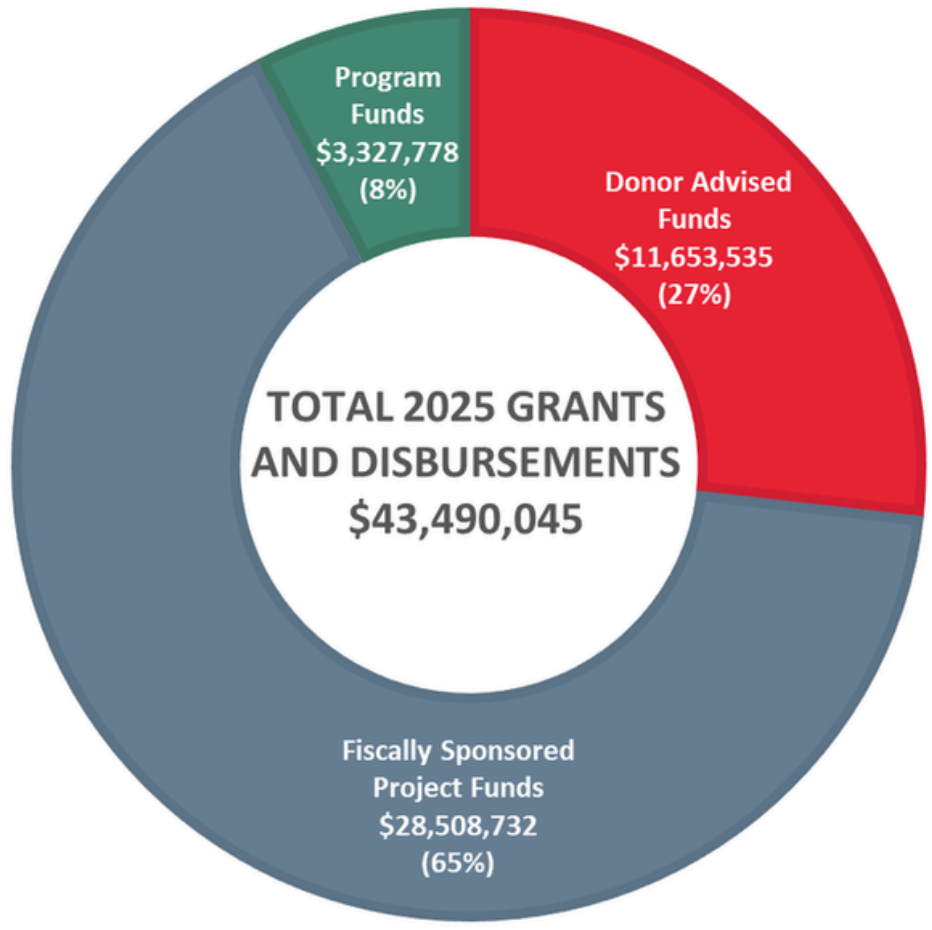




Image courtesy of Oakland Technical High School

Programs

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:

Emily Benatar Foundation
Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Fdn
The California Endowment
David & Lucile Packard Fdn
Eucalyptus Foundation
Flora Family Foundation
GIRLBOSS Foundation
Walter & Elise Haas Fund

Heising-Simons Foundation
Hellman Foundation
Herbst Foundation
Susan Byrd Fund
The Lurie Foundation
Maxwell|Hanrahan Foundation
Meta Local Community Fund
John & Marcia Goldman Foundation

Peery Family Foundation
Sand Hill Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Sobrato Philanthropies
Thomas J. Long Foundation
United Way Bay Area
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

"Your contribution has made a significant impact on the quality of education and care that we are able to provide to our students. The smiles, laughter, and progress we witness in our classroom every day are a testament to the difference your generosity has made in the lives of these children."

- Special Education Teacher in Contra Costa County



Image courtesy of Spring Valley Elementary

Program Distributions

In 2025, we administered the following programs in partnership with our donors:

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Alameda County Rapid Response Food Resiliency Fund	Alameda County	Rapid response grants to community partners in Alameda County, CA for food distribution to residents affected by the SNAP funding cuts.	\$998,900
Buck Mini Grants	Northern California	Grants for public school teachers to enhance instruction.	\$45,114
Childress Family Foundation Scholarship	Lakewood, CA	Scholarships to recognize student athletes at Mayfair High School and support their college education.	\$34,700
Christopher Wellington Moore Memorial Scholarship	Oakland, CA	Scholarship to support a graduating senior in Oakland, CA pursuing a bachelor's degree in music or education.	\$5,000
Environmental Science Resource Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to enhance environmental science curriculum. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and the Susan Byrd Fund.	\$314,673
Excursion Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for TK-12th grade public school teachers to take students on one-day field trips. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and the Eucalyptus Foundation.	\$247,840
Grace Scholarships	United States	Undergraduate scholarships to international students from Zimbabwe to attend U.S. college universities.	\$145,220
Heising-Simons Foundation Education Program Rapid Response Fund	United States	Grants to support Heising-Simons Foundation Education program grantees during a critical moment for the early learning and care field, and the communities they serve.	\$792,000
Judy Macias Young Leaders College Fund	Half Moon Bay, CA	Supports graduating Half Moon Bay High School female students with scholarships and mentorships.	\$7,500
Mathematics Resource Grants	Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers to enhance their math lessons for preschool-3rd grade students. Supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation.	\$15,490



Images courtesy of Pescadero Elementary

Program Distributions

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Opportunity Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for middle school students to participate in extracurricular activities. Supported by the Susan Byrd Fund.	\$98,713
Safety Net Programs	Bay Area, CA	Support for food insecurity, housing, health and mental health, and emerging needs.	\$128,946
Science Resource Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to enhance science instruction in the classroom through.	\$13,757
Social Worker/CASA Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants to support the needs of foster youth as requested by Social Workers and Court Appointed Special Advocates.	\$83,103
Special Education Resource Grants	Alameda & Contra Costa Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers and therapists serving TK-12th grade students with moderate to extensive needs. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation	\$60,710
Technology, Engineering & Design Thinking Resource Grants	Alameda & San Mateo County, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to support STEM curriculum in their classrooms. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation.	\$85,519
Tom Ford Fellowships	United States	Fellowships for Stanford University students to intern at foundations. Supported by the Sand Hill Foundation.	\$150,607
Visiting Artist in the Classroom Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to have an artist visit their classrooms. Supported by the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation and the Eucalyptus Foundation.	\$82,915
Various Other Programs	--	--	\$17,071

2025 Program Distributions: \$3,327,778

"As a refugee, accessing funding for higher education is one of the biggest challenges I have faced. Without the ability to work, saving money for college was nearly impossible. When I received the Grace Scholarship, it was truly a dream come true, as it allowed me to focus on my studies without the constant worry of financial instability." - Grace Scholarship Recipient



Image courtesy of Forest & Tree

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 2025, we administered the following donor advised funds:

Albert J. Horn Philanthropic Fund
Peter & Jane Carpenter Fund
Colby & Sonali Giving Fund
Cole Wilbur Fund
Childress Family Foundation
Doberstyn Fund
Esperanza Fund
Farmhill Scholarship Fund
Gerber-Doyle Fund
Barbara Jean & Allen L. Grimm Fund
Horizons Unlimited Fund
Hellman-Breslau Fund

Issac Yunhu Lee Memorial Fund
Katchadourian Family Fund
Lurie Family Fund
Maloney Family Fund
Margaret Lamping Fund
Medvin Fund
Millar-Montrose Fund
Orr Family Fund
Pasturel Family Fund
Peery Family Fund
Jason & Lisa Peery Fund
James & Ursula Williams Fund

Petersmeyer Fund
Purcell Family Fund
Relfe Fund
Roxy Fund
Mike Scott Fund
Task Rabbit for Good
Vodafone Americas Foundation
Waverley Fund
Whitehouse-Heffernan Family Fund
Williams Family Fund
Yochum-Otani 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

2025 Donor Advised Grants: \$11,653,535

“At PVF, we recognize the potential of the philanthropic dollar and seek to maximize its impact by responding creatively to requests and community needs. When we discover outstanding people doing outstanding charitable work, we take the opportunity to develop relationships, make introductions to donors and invite donors to tackle new giving programs. Donors benefit from our philanthropic expertise, extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community and experience in turning ideas into action.”

Alameda County Rapid Response Food Resilience Fund

We began PVF to do something different — to bring joy, simplicity, trust and effectiveness to grantmaking. We knew the answer was not more — more paper, more procedures, more obstacles, more time. We place high trust in outstanding individuals and programs, demonstrate flexibility and creativity in grant-making, and take the initiative in providing funding when it is needed.

When SNAP – the federal government’s food assistance program – was frozen on November 1, 2025 for the first time since it began over six decades ago, a group of donors reached out to PVF to administer an immediate response fund. In Alameda County alone, 166,000 residents rely on SNAP funding each month to purchase food. While the Alameda County Community Food Bank and its 370+ partner organizations immediately stepped up to bridge the gap, they could not do it alone. Within 48 hours, PVF opened the Alameda County Rapid Response Food Resilience Fund.

The Alameda County Rapid Response Food Resilience Fund was open to any Alameda County nonprofit that was distributing food to SNAP recipients, with a priority for neighborhood-based organizations serving children, elders, immigrants, and people with disabilities and organizations who were intentionally partnering with other organizations to build upon existing capacity and infrastructure wherever possible.

A total \$1M in grants up to \$15,000 were distributed to 75 grassroots organizations who were and continue to do the good and hard work of delivering food directly to those in need.

PVF’s ability to respond quickly is made possible by the trust and confidence of our community and we were honored to have been a part of this initiative.



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

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

"Alameda County Rapid Response Food Resilience Fund funding helped us prioritize equitable access by reaching seniors, families with children, and individuals experiencing housing instability or fixed incomes. By stabilizing our food assistance operations during critical periods, the Rapid Response Food Resilience Fund directly contributed to improved food security and reduced stress for over 1,000 community members during times of crisis. 86% of these recipients reported to be within the 0-30% of AMI [Area Median Income] and 44% ages 55 and older." - The Davis Street Community Center, Inc. in San Leandro



Designated Fund Disbursements

In the spirit of expanding philanthropy and promoting outstanding charitable work, PVF serves as the fiscal sponsor for projects that do charitable work, but do not yet have their tax exempt status. 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

In 2025, we administered the following designated funds:

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
15 Percent Pledge	United States	Advocates for and supports Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to achieve equity by partnering with retailers to diversify their shelves and commit 15% of their purchasing power to Black-owned businesses.	\$3,862,449
3Ls The Academy	Oakland, CA	Committed to helping children break cycles of poverty by providing them with opportunities for literacy in their own neighborhoods.	\$241,631
Aide Au Zanskar - USA	India	Project to support the Lamdon Model High School in the Zanskar region of Kashmir, India.	\$5,440
ACTAI Global	International	Supports environmental conservation and economic empowerment via entrepreneurship.	\$54,124
Afghan Refugee	United States	Charitable initiative that seeks to support and empower Afghan refugees in the United States.	\$80,221
Agency By Design Oakland	Oakland, CA	Aims to redefine what learning looks like in schools through maker-centered education.	\$405,707
API Giving Project	Bay Area, CA	Aims to strengthen Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the Bay Area through local investments in community-led programs.	\$26,655



Image courtesy of Forest & Tree

Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Archaeology in Action	Peru	Mission is to promote hands-on research and teaching in scientific archaeology.	\$184,208
Artist Corporations Foundation	United States	Mission is to promote and grow the economic, cultural, and social power of artists and creative people.	\$10,000
Bay Area Border Relief	Bay Area, CA	Aims to assist immigrating families and the nonprofit agencies that support them with immediate urgent needs.	\$26,211
Beatitude House Catholic Worker	Guadalupe, CA	Serves the working poor of Guadalupe, CA through food, clothing, medical clinic, hospitality, and advocacy.	\$20,580
Bergstrom Foundation	International	Supporting reproductive health internationally.	\$1,967,309
Better Earth	United States	Mission is to foster a deeper culture of hope, altruism, and collective action by inspiring and empowering individuals and communities to create a better world for present and future generations.	\$33,165
Bonterra Jumpstart	United States	Mission is to provide grantmakers with a comprehensive fundraising capacity building program to support their nonprofit partners to engage community, diversify revenue and sustain impact.	\$84,650
Breaking the Mold	United States	Works to inspire white men to interrupt inequality and advance equity.	\$65,105
Bright Minds	Nigeria and Cameroon	Dedicated to educating and empowering girls in Nigeria and Cameroon.	\$157,489
Building Belonging	United States	Mission is to build a world where everyone and everything belongs by identifying the design principles of the world we desire and refine them in shared practice.	\$153,630
Civic Design Studio	United States	Mission is to build beautiful, connected and humane public spaces that are citizen led and community driven.	\$232,580



Image courtesy of Toledo Institute of Development and Environment, Belize

Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Coralus (formerly SheEO)	United States	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.	\$83,440
CreativeMornings	United States	Aims to be in community creating virtual and in-person spaces where humans, regardless of their geography, identity or ability, can build the skills, courage and connections they need to live a creative life.	\$937,878
Catholic Worker House	Bay Area, CA	Assistance to the poor through housing, food, and education programs.	\$442,000
Delta Education Collective	Uganda	Charitable initiative whose mission is to revolutionize the quality of primary education available to all children.	\$217,969
Direct Impact Africa	Zambia	Creates economic self-sufficiency and empowerment amongst rural African villagers by fostering co-op based community owned projects.	\$110,120
E1 For Change	Oakland, CA	Mission is to inspire, engage, and connect communities through the transformative power of visual art and culture.	\$14,700
Forest & Tree	Oakland, CA	Provides young people in grades TK-12 with outdoor learning experiences away from the four walls of a traditional classroom in order to develop a stronger sense of self, community and connection with the natural world.	\$246,654
Generative Art Foundation	United States	Aims to promote and elevate generative art and creative coding as a meaningful artistic practice.	\$65,636
Generosity in Action	International	Supports educational and health projects in communities identified by travelers to developing countries.	\$29,513
Giving Gap	United States	A robust digital platform that centralizes the nation’s Black-founded nonprofits to make it easy for you and your organization to connect with them.	\$722.518



Image courtesy of State of Black Design

Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
H2Open Doors	International	Mission is to provide safe drinking water to rural areas of emerging countries, reducing infant mortality and improving community health.	\$23,150
Hate is A Virus	United States	Movement to combat the xenophobia and racism against Asian Americans fueled by COVID.	\$220,310
Hella Heart Oakland	Oakland, CA	Giving circle that supports mental health and wellness initiatives to improve the conditions of Asian/Asian American women and girls -- and immigrants -- in Oakland.	\$16,971
I Am Abundant	United States	Poetry collection and research project that reclaims and reimagines narratives of mixed heritage, centering African American and Japanese identities to inspire belonging, solidarity, and healing.	\$10,644
IDEAL	Bay Area, CA	Fosters innovative teaching and learning through creative arts-based practice that cultivates liberatory learning spaces.	\$135,801
Institute for SEL	United States	Mission is to empower educators, young people, and parents to transform their schools into caring, inclusive communities. IFSEL envisions a world where empathy abounds and all people thrive.	\$79,879
Isiain Foundation	Bay Area, CA	Aims to dismantle racism and bring an overt change by using art, education, information and media to liberate those most impacted by systemic racism.	\$50,768
Jackie Speier Foundation	San Mateo County, CA	Supports solutions to the issues of the feminization of poverty in San Mateo County, with projects like the Baby Bonus Project.	\$440,801
Jorge Villarreal	Latin America & the Caribbean	Increases the availability of women's health services to the highest possible number of women in Latin America and the Caribbean.	\$60,440
Legacy Land Project	Pasadena, CA	Mission is to restore dignity and support the recovery and rebuilding of the Dena community following the 2025 Eaton wildfire.	\$460,015



Image courtesy of the Lesedi School and Clinic

Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Lesedi Schools and Clinic	Zimbabwe	Mission is the prevention or relief of poverty in Zimbabwe through education, training, and healthcare.	\$620,160
Manzanita Works	San Mateo County, CA	Directs financial resources where most needed to support workers and workers' families.	\$102,942
Maui Organizers	Maui, HI	Supports local Maui community organizers and resources leaders for continued community care through disaster recovery and healing.	\$15,978
Meta Local Community Fund	San Mateo County, CA	Grants to support non-profit programs providing services to the local community. Supported by Meta.	\$100,000
Neurodivergent Youth	United States	Mission is to uplift and empower neurodivergent youth, fostering a world where their unique strengths and perspectives are celebrated.	\$5,000
New Light Wellness	Bay Area, CA & International	Strives to create safe spaces, empower narrative change, offer wrap-around wellness resources steeped with language access and cultural humility.	\$110,988
Non Stop Bhangra	Bay Area, CA	Mission is dedicated to celebrating and sharing Punjabi music, dance, and culture, while fostering cross-cultural exchange through dynamic, community-driven events.	\$24,500
Oakland High PTO	Oakland, CA	Fosters relationships and builds community among the Oakland High parents & caregivers, teachers, staff and students to facilitate resources to address the highest needs of the school.	\$9,211
Oakland Thrives Rise East	Oakland, CA	A 10-year collective effort to make deep and lasting improvements in the health and well-being of children and families in East Oakland.	\$11,613,111
Oakstop Effect	Oakland, CA	Focuses on increasing social inclusion and curating accessible environments for BIPOC professionals in Oakland.	\$514,010
Ohana Family Resource	Ashland, OR	Provides curriculum, trainings, and support to parents and teachers to build strong physical and neural foundations needed to nurture resiliency and regulation in children.	\$66,371



Image courtesy of Project Luangwa

Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Peninsula Welcome Circle	Peninsula, CA	Mission is dedicated to providing refugees with a welcoming, safe and supported start in America.	\$20,090
Perennial Sunflower Project	United States	Supports the movement of white men who are committed to sharing and building power with marginalized people and communities.	\$574,968
Plastic Free Fridays	United States	Mission is to reduce the use of single-use plastic by raising awareness and inspire communities to work towards a systemic change on a corporate and policy level.	\$25,862
Project Luangwa	Zambia	Community empowerment through the benefits of tourism, by improving education and gender equality in the Luangwa Valley.	\$120,240
Reckon With	United States	Envisions a country where the truth about our history of racial inequality is confronted, and racial justice is realized.	\$195,210
Resilia Academy	United States	Strengthens the capacity of nonprofit organizations and leaders who are on the front lines of the world's most important issues.	\$79,870
Resiliency Project	United States	Mission is to cultivate individual and collective resilience by supporting communities of care, generosity, belonging and wellbeing.	\$71,473
Sherlyn Chew Music	Bay Area, CA	Mission is to support music education for Chinese music groups.	\$7,600
Student Integrated Predictive Analytics (SIPA)	California	Mission is to adopt the California Community Colleges Vision for Success, an initiative of the California Community of Colleges due to academic and/or student persistence issues.	\$78,629
State of Black Design	United States	Aims to foster inclusivity and promote the advancement of Black designers, while creating spaces for cultural expression, dialogue, and professional growth.	\$140,686



Image courtesy of Bhangra and Beats Night Market

Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Sustainable Future Outdoor Academy	Bay Area, CA	Aims to teach young people how to lead sustainable lives and influence their families, schools and communities to do the same.	\$121,996
Tafika Fund	Zambia	Charitable initiative whose mission is to sustainably uplift the Mwanya community in Eastern Zambia.	\$27,536
Toledo Institute for Development & Environment	Belize	Engages stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of all.	\$36,178
Turning Basin Labs	Bay Area, CA	Aims to develop a platform and infrastructure to support low income workers in the Bay Area.	\$73,485
Universal Pre-Kindergarten	California	Campaign to inform key audiences about investments being made in early education that expand programs and create new opportunities, including implementation of UPK in California.	\$1,148,233
We Are Enough	United States	Aims to grow women’s wealth, especially women of color, and educate women how and why to invest in women owned and led businesses.	\$268,396
Women on Boards	United States	Aims to increase the number of women serving on the boards of successful, privately held consumer companies.	\$124,753
Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Project	United States	Aims to inspire grassroots activism and education, to connect organizations and communities to each other, and to “build bridges, not walls”.	\$58,224
Various Other Designated Funds	--	--	\$172,761

2025 Designated Fund Disbursements: \$28,508,732

“There are many, many, many ways that PVF has given the Catholic Worker House in San Mateo County invaluable 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.” - Lawrence Purcell, Catholic Worker House



Foundation Staff

James Higa
Executive Director

Savannah Lira Winters
Program Manager

Kari Jo Bliss
Accountant

Dawn Hawk
Chief Operating Officer

Aly Quiroz-Perez
Grants Administrator

Lourdes Clark
Database Administrator

Sheryl Young
San Mateo County Program
Director

Cayman Bentley
Gifts Administrator and Social
Media Manager

Andrea Smith
Program and Communications
Associate

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Director, Generosity in Action

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Director of Estate & Gift Planning,
Rosewood Family Advisors, LLP

James Higa
Executive Director, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Bill Somerville
Founder, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Kamba Tshionyi
Director of External Relations, Vice Provost for
Undergraduate Education and Haas Center for Public
Service

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

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
1222 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, CA 94612
t: (510) 645-1890 | info@venturesfoundation.org