

Curry County, Oregon



Del Norte County, California

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Stronger
Together



Humboldt County, California



Trinity County, California

Dear friends, neighbors, and colleagues,

For nearly five decades, the Humboldt Area Foundation — joined since 2004 by the Wild Rivers Community Foundation — has proudly served the counties of Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte in California and Curry County in Southern Oregon. The Foundation also honors the territories of 27 Native American nations, reservations, rancherias, and their descendants. This service area represents remote, rural, and tribal areas that are bound together by land, water, history, and circumstance. This region is a nearly 10,000 square-mile area that is simultaneously challenging, remarkable, evolving, enduring, and beautiful — and is home to about 200,000 individuals who we are entrusted to serve.

Our family of affiliates and supporting organizations also shares this commitment to our extraordinary places: the Native Cultures Fund, Humboldt Health Foundation, Equity Alliance of the North Coast, Trinity Trust, Redwood Region CORE Hub, and other programs deliver resources to places, purposes, and peoples. Service to these communities lies at the heart of our values.

This region is defined in numerous ways that our foundation and affiliates are devoted to serve.

These lands harbor precious natural ecosystems. Containing 24 lakes and 13 rivers, Curry County is 18% water. Del Norte County is also 18% water, with 19 lakes and five major rivers — four of which flow through Humboldt County with its 110 miles of Pacific coastline, 12 watersheds, five lagoons, and two lakes. Trinity County has four lakes and shares Trinity River with the adjacent Humboldt County. We are stitched together by these bodies of water, and are linked to the Pacific. These bodies are sacred, wild, scenic, and recreational. They are the basis of life here, flowing through the history of the place, feeding the redwood trees, the salmon, the farms, and generations of people. Klamath, Eel, Mad, Mattole, Smith, Chetco, Rogue, and Sixes are just some of the evocative names of these rivers, which connect jurisdictions and cultures, times and places, species and ways of living.

Local Tribes include the Yurok Nation, the most populous in the state, as well as the Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Wiyot, and Tolowa Dee-Ni' nations. There is a strong revitalization of Native cultures, languages, and traditions in the region, including a nationally regarded Native American Studies program at the region's California Polytechnic Institute, Cal Poly Humboldt. In addition, in 2018, the City of Eureka became the first U.S. government entity in history to voluntarily and unconditionally restore Native lands; Dulutwat Island, a sacred place, was returned to the Wiyot Nation. And while we invest in

this remarkable renaissance, we recognize our institution and others like it must reconcile the legacy of systematic genocide and ongoing harm to our Indigenous peoples before honest healing can occur.

Immigrants brought their cultures and dreams here — and yet were subjected to the harshness of the boom-and-bust and extractive resource cycles, which have extracted more than just wealth from people and place. But the souls of those who endured were etched into our cuisines, music, arts, literature, philosophy, and shared identity. And thus, we reflect Hmong and Lao, Chinese, Salvadoran, Mexican, and dozens of other cultural influences. Moreover, much of the region is now a sanctuary for a significant number of California's migrant and undocumented workers, given its agriculture and service industries that feed and care for tens of millions of beings.

Today, our service area has emerged as a hub of dairy and agricultural production for the region — including a transitioning cannabis industry. Its largest employers are governments, nonprofits, and retail services. The art and music produced here is nationally acclaimed. Our region's Tribes are leading internationally-recognized ecological, equity, and revitalization efforts. There are tremendous opportunities to work together to blend these skills, ideas, and interests to ensure that our economy serves our people in a just and equitable way and provides for each family's thriving, health, and inspiration.

For our region, we hope this shared history and vision may move us in time, energy and resources for all.

With appreciation,
Mary Keehn,
Chair, Board of Directors



Bryna Lipper,
Chief Executive Officer



Regional Quick Facts

Total Regional Population: 198,580

Curry County 22,925
 Del Norte County 27,812
 Humboldt County 135,558
 Trinity County 12,285

Median Income By County

Curry \$46,396
 Del Norte \$45,258
 Humboldt \$45,528
 Trinity \$38,497

Approximate Area: 10,478 square miles

Percent of Region Under Federal Ownership

Curry 65% of total acreage
 Del Norte 69.3% of total acreage
 Humboldt 34% of total acreage
 Trinity Majority under public ownership, % unknown

Sources:

California Center for Rural Policy
 Center for Economic Development, CSU Chico
 Native Cultures Fund
 Trinity County Resource Conservation District
 U.S. Census



Native Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge that the HAF+WRCF Service Region is located on unceded territory and is the traditional ancestral homeland of Indigenous nations. We share a deep gratitude and respect for our Indigenous communities. We take this opportunity to thank and honor the original caretakers of the lands that Indigenous people continue to cherish and protect, as elders have instructed the young through the generations. The following is an incomplete list of the Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations who have occupied this region since time immemorial:

1. Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
2. Big Lagoon Rancheria
3. Blue Lake Rancheria
4. Chilula Tribe
5. Chimariko*
6. Chit-dv-ne’*
7. Coquille*
8. Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation

9. Karuk Tribe
10. Lassik*
11. Nomlaki
12. Nongatl*
13. Nor El Muk Wintu Nation
14. Resighini Rancheria
15. Round Valley Indian Tribes
16. Shasta Costa*
17. Sinkyone
18. Sovereign Nation of Elk Valley Rancheria
19. Takelma*
20. Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation
21. Trinidad Rancheria
22. Tsnungwe Council
23. Tututni*
24. Wailaki
25. Whilkut
26. Wiyot Tribe
27. Yurok Tribe

*Denotes tribes with descendants only.

The Foundation pays voluntary honor taxes to the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation and the Wiyot Honor Tax Fund in recognition that our properties sit on their unceded homelands. For more information, visit tolowa-nsn.gov and honortax.org

Philanthropy By Region

Giving to the Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation is an investment in your community. This dedicated giving is the reason why the Foundation was able to grant more than \$6.4 million in 2020 and \$6.2 million in 2021.

Gifts to the Foundation from Our Generous Donors

Generous donors from our four-county region supported the Foundation with gifts totaling \$4,101,298 in 2020 and \$3,628,181 in 2021. We actively invest our portfolio regionally, nationally and globally to heighten the impact our donors can make. Thank you!

2021
Total Regional Gifts to the Foundation
 \$3,628,181

Curry County **Humboldt County**
 \$4,524 \$3,045,506

Del Norte County **Trinity County**
 \$567,555 \$10,595

2020
Total Regional Gifts to the Foundation
 \$4,101,298

Curry County **Humboldt County**
 \$2,400 \$4,062,725

Del Norte County **Trinity County**
 \$27,027 \$9,145

Grants from HAF+WRCF to Our Four-County Region

HAF+WRCF donors are dedicated to improving the lives of everyone in our four-county region and beyond. The information below indicates the distribution of HAF+WRCF grants from 2020 and 2021 within our 10,000-square mile service region.

2021
Region Wide Total
 \$6,418,385

Curry County **Humboldt County**
 \$272,627 \$4,977,377

Del Norte County **Trinity County**
 \$770,576 \$397,803

2020
Region Wide Total
 \$6,204,386

Curry County **Humboldt County**
 \$154,790 \$5,089,786

Del Norte County **Trinity County**
 \$579,443 \$380,365

**This table represents gifts to the Foundation made by residents of our four-county service region during the calendar year 2020-2021. This table does not include gifts from and grants to outside our service region*

Regional Impact: Investing over \$6.4M in Curry, Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity

Since 1972, Humboldt Area Foundation has been serving Humboldt and Trinity counties as a central hub for philanthropic organizations in the region; as well as a community facilitator, organizer, and capacity builder. Together, we can accomplish what a single entity cannot.

Annually, the Foundation distributes millions in grants and scholarships and convenes around 1,500 people for training on leadership, racial equity, and cultural empowerment through programs such as the Redwood Region CORE Hub, the Equity Alliance of the North

Coast, the Native Cultures Fund, Building Healthy Communities, and other initiatives.

Established in 2004, Wild Rivers Community Foundation has served a vital and unique role in the region as an affiliate of Humboldt Area Foundation. The Foundation serves Del Norte as well as the surrounding Tribal communities in Northern California and Southern Oregon's Curry County. Now acting as one regional community foundation, HAF+WRCF support a mission of generosity, leadership, and inclusion.

2021

\$6,418,385

1134 total grants & scholarships made

HAF+WRCF made significant contributions to our region's students with more than 400 scholarships. The Foundation also operates the affiliate grantmaking

organizations, the Humboldt Health Foundation and the Trinity Trust, both of which made significant contributions to our community in 2021.

Humboldt Health Foundation

\$229,878

210 total grants made

Native Cultures Fund

\$779,294

Includes \$733,333 to support Native-Led fire response

Trinity Trust

\$98,020

29 total grants made

Scholarships

\$876,047

419 total scholarships

Disaster Response & Resilience Fund: Building Stronger Communities Together

In 2021, the Foundation established the Disaster Response & Resilience Fund to help communities before and after disasters strike.

Our generous funders and donors have supported the fund with more than \$1.1 million, which has provided critical resources during disasters beginning with the recent fire season. In collaboration with regional partners in Humboldt, Trinity, Del Norte, and Curry counties, the grants are made on a rolling basis to nonprofits, charitable organizations, and public agencies that prepare for and respond to disasters in our region.

So far, the fund has granted out \$892,000 throughout the region to Tribal nations, nonprofits, first responders, and others who are serving those impacted by wildfires. One of those organizations is the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), which received \$400,000 to build the capacity regional of Tribes and volunteer fire departments. One of their key strategies is to increase the year-round fire response capacity in rural communities in a way that provides jobs, advances racial equity, and grows a well-trained cadre of department and community member responders, all while strengthening infrastructure, organizational sustainability, and growing partnerships.

“*The fire response capacity grant will help the NCRP and its regional and local partners — including tribes, fire service providers, and community groups — to document the capacity needs of groups working to make our communities, watersheds and forests resilient to wildfire. Once the assessment is completed, it will be used to inform priority investments in the short-term, amplify the need for long-term investments, and drive action on the land and in communities.*”

– **CYBELLE IMMITT,**
North Coast Resource Partnership

Highlights from a Year of Disaster Response & Resilience

- ▶ Through December 2021, a total of 44 grants have been made, totaling over \$1.8 million.
- ▶ Nearly \$600,000 in grant funding was distributed in support of impacts from the 2020 wildfires including the August Complex, Slater/Devil Fire, and the Red Salmon Complex, with the majority of funds supporting Karuk Tribal residents who lost their homes.
- ▶ \$500,000 was granted this year in support of fire resilience, including grants to support cultural fire and Indigenous-led fire management. Grants were made to the Karuk Tribe Eco-Cultural Revitalization Trust, the Cultural Fire Management Council, and the Hoopa Fire Department.
- ▶ More than \$2.2 million has been raised to support our communities thanks to the generosity of local donors and our philanthropic partners. These include the League of California Community Foundations, the California Community Foundation, the California Wellness Foundation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the California Endowment, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, Global Giving, Tides Foundation, the Berg Foundation, and anonymous partners.

Partnering with Community to Support Indigenous-led Fire Management

"Everything here has a spirit and everything here is connected in our circle of life. And fire is a main ingredient of keeping that in balance and it's been out of balance for so long that it's reflecting on our people now," - Rick O'Rourke, Yurok Tribal Member and Firefighter.

O'Rourke was speaking in 2009, but his words remain true in 2022. For more than 100 years, official fire policy has prevented or limited Native Tribes in California from using the traditional practice of cultural burning to maintain the health of the region's forests.

In fact, respondents to a 2009 survey by the Building Healthy Communities initiative named the prohibition of cultural fire as the top issue impacting the community's overall health and wellbeing. Margo Robbins, the executive director of the Cultural Fire Management Council summed up the community's response by saying "We need to put fire back on the land." After years of community organizing, the first controlled cultural burn in over 100 years was held in Weitchpec, Calif. in 2013. This was only the beginning of a revitalization of cultural burning that continues to this day.

Over the last year, the Foundation has been honored to play a role in helping restore the practice of cultural burning to our region. Last spring, HAF+WRCF partnered with the Cultural Fire Management Council, the Karuk Tribe Ecocultural Revitalization Trust, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and expert cultural fire practitioners from across the community to explore ways to support traditional fire management.

Toward the end of the 2021 fire season, the Cultural Fire Management Council, the Karuk Healthy Country Project, and the Hoopa Fire Department's Cultural Fire Program each received grants of over \$165,000 to enhance and expand Indigenous-led fire management, with a specific focus on cultural burning.

Cultural burning is an ancient tradition practiced for generations by our region's native Tribes. Practitioners use their holistic knowledge of their ancestral homelands to create burn conditions that act in accordance with natural cycles, maximizing the health and vitality of the ecosystem's flora and fauna.

Now, as policy makers look for solutions to the West's

Continued on next page



Intentionally-set burns like these in Orelans, Calif. from 2017, are one way Indigenous-led fire management can improve communities' resilience to wildfire. Photo credit Stormy Staats. Photo provided by the Karuk Tribe.

Partnering with Community to Support Indigenous-led Fire Management



Several large wildfires raged last year in the Klamath National Forest, leaving lasting changes the landscape. Stock photo.

Continued from page 7

increasing fire disasters, the practice of cultural burning is experiencing a resurgence. Part of the effort to enhance indigenous-lead fire management involves increasing the number of experts who can practice cultural burning and other techniques. Another aspect of the approach involves supporting changes to existing policies that block Native Tribes from practicing their traditional ecological knowledge.

To that end, the Foundation was one of many local supporters of California State Senate Bill 332, which limits liability for burn practitioners if their work results in fire suppression costs. The bill's passage was a critical step in supporting cultural burning and it should make it easier for practitioners to obtain insurance and burn permits. Of course, there are still many policy changes needed to realize the Cultural Fire Management's Council's goal of restoring fire to the land.

Sidebar: Barriers to Cultural Burning & Indigenous-Led Fire Management Persist

In the 2020 *Good Fire Report* (*Sarah A. Clark, Andrew Miller, and Donald Hankins for the Karuk Tribe*), Indigenous cultural burning practices are defined as separate and distinct from other fire management practices, including prescribed burns. A cultural burn (sometimes referred to as "traditional fire") is the purposeful use of fire by a cultural group, carried out in the context of traditional law. Cultural burns are a necessary process of life. The responsibility of practicing cultural burning has been passed down through generations with each generation mindful of the impacts on its descendants.

Thus the reasons for cultural burning are broad, and encompass many goals, including wildlife habitat improvement, stewardship of cultural plants, water stewardship, and spiritual fulfillment.

The report also indicates that in contrast, prescribed burns are based on prescriptions derived from models that determine the condition for fire, which include an environmental impact analysis, a burn plan, and a smoke management plan. Those last two items — burn and smoke plans — represent significant barriers to the practice of cultural burning. Importantly, current California air-quality regulations treat cultural burns as a stand-alone source of emissions, instead of viewing a cultural burns as an intervention effort. Cultural burns in fact serve to reduce emissions by mitigating the thousands of metric tons of emissions generated by large-scale wildfires.

Policy changes and a growing understanding of the importance and value of cultural burning will be necessary before Native Tribes regain true sovereignty and control over their ancestral homelands.

Disaster Response in Trinity: Supporting Those Hit Hardest by Historic Wildfires



Trinity River in Northern California before the 2021 wildfires. Photo by Susan Vineyard

With residents of Trinity County suffering the brunt of 2021's summer of devastating wildfires, many agencies and community groups, along with countless volunteers worked tirelessly to support their communities through back-to-back historic disasters. HAF+WRCF was honored to provide grants to organizations that lead critical disaster response efforts and are working to strengthen the community's ability to respond to future disasters.

The grants included \$1,200 to the Down River Volunteer Fire Department to purchase 20 cots for volunteers and fire evacuees; \$20,000 to Trinity Community Food Outreach, Inc. to assist evacuees and fire survivors; \$19,500 to the Trinity Center Community

Services District to purchase an automatic external defibrillator (AED), a blood pressure monitor and fire suppression equipment; \$26,400 to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department for wildfire-fighting equipment and tools for new volunteer firefighters; and \$10,000 to the Salyer Community Services District to assist with an unexpected hike in insurance bills related to the Monument Fire.

"We continue to support our communities from the aftermath of recent fires and support local efforts to be prepared for and have resources available for immediate deployment in response to future disasters," said Keytra Meyer, HAF+WRCF's Deputy Director of Advancement and Philanthropic Innovation.

New CORE Hub Initiative Plots Course to Resilient, Decarbonized Future

In September, HAF+WRCF launched the **Redwood Region Climate & Community Resilience Hub**, a community-based initiative that coordinates regional experts and supports use of their knowledge to address climate adaptation.

The CORE Hub helps convene dialogues and distribute resources to communities as they work to reorganize and relocate built and natural systems in concert with human needs. The CORE Hub also documents these processes, so that local communities, Tribal nations, and other rural regions can develop a recipe for decarbonized resilience.

De-siloed regional capacity is needed to achieve decarbonized resilience across the systems that matter most: air, water, food, energy, land use, transportation, and communication, among others. The CORE Hub is poised to act swiftly to address the growing climate emergency through community engagement, providing technical assistance, while centering equity and justice.

The CORE Hub is currently working on exploring community benefits for offshore wind energy, advising policy-makers on local interests and context. CORE is engaging vulnerable and historically marginalized communities, promoting accurate information and public awareness, and elevating considerations for federal leasing to the U.S. Department of the Interior and California regulators.

In the coming months and years, CORE Hub aims to support a pipeline of climate mitigation and adaptation projects through technical support, capacity building, financial investments, public safety resources, and policy guidance. In particular, the partnership aims to focus on ways to realize justice and equity in the climate transition.

COREHub

Redwood Region **Climate & Community Resilience (CORE) Hub**



The City of Arcata during an exceptionally high tide, sometimes referred to as a "king tide," in Feb. 2020. Photo courtesy of Cal Poly Humboldt.

Rural areas can adapt and manage against impacts, improve local economies and quality of life, zero out their own carbon footprint, and help the planet cool.

We invite you to learn more the Redwood Region CORE Hub by visiting redwoodcorehub.org

Celebrating 10 Years of Building Healthy Communities in Del Norte County

For a decade, the community has chosen the Wild Rivers Community Foundation to serve as the “hub” of the Building Healthy Communities Initiative. In October of 2021, the community celebrated ten years of success in working together with local residents to create meaningful change in the places that shape our children, our neighborhoods, and our schools. Over a decade ago, the community came together around a shared vision: that our children should dream about their futures, and that those dreams should be framed by family, health, safety, economic security, education, and hope.

With support from the Foundation and funding from The California Endowment, the Building Healthy Communities partnership includes thousands of people and hundreds of organizations dedicated to improving community outcomes. Focus areas include:

- ▶ Early childhood literacy.
- ▶ Youth engagement and meaningful opportunities for career and education.
- ▶ Resiliency.
- ▶ Community organizing.
- ▶ Growing a local healthcare workforce.
- ▶ The health of the nonprofit sector.
- ▶ Daily access to healthy, affordable food.
- ▶ Growing economic opportunities for a vibrant local food economy and driving a cultural shift around food.

Youth are empowered. Over the past decade, youth have hosted town halls for local elections and worked with administrators to revise the Del Norte Unified School District’s bullying policy. Youth advocated for salad bars at every school, led trash clean-ups, and successfully petitioned schools to use compostable lunch trays to cut down on waste. Youth organized to get safe gym equipment at Sunset High School and a new basketball hoop at Community Day. Students even organized to make

Building Healthy Communities

it harder to access unlocked alcohol in grocery stores, influencing a policy that was later adopted by retailers across the county. These same youth are now graduating college with degrees in social work; serving as elected officials; working as journalists and storytellers; running a local youth media network; working within our local judicial system and public safety agencies; starting technology and design companies, and keeping essential daycares and pre-schools open. They love these places, and have careers that they care about.

Local businesses opened their doors to employ youth, working with nonprofits and the school district to create meaningful first-job experiences. As a result, College of the Redwoods became a summer hub of activity, hosting years of work-based learning and career exploration programs with the Youth Training Academy. In the healthcare sector, business leaders and schools successfully created an LVN-to-RN bridge program at CR, creating a clear path for more local people to become much-needed nurses.

Participants in the Building Healthy Communities program helped move the needle on food access, too. Now residents can find community gardens at nearly every school; meals are provided year-round to those in need, and farmers’ markets are serving as sources of health and wellbeing for all ages.

Initiatives, partnerships, and a sense of trust have been built across the communities, and there is still more work to be done to truly meet the **guarantee that growing up in Del Norte and Tribal Lands fosters lifelong success and health for all.**

To get involved with programs and initiatives or to request case studies and data from Building Healthy Communities, visit wildriverscf.org/bhc or email us at info@wildriverscf.org.

Also, stay tuned for our full-length documentary, debuting this spring, which will featuring local people working to beat the odds and build a healthy community.

Curry Town Halls Shed Light on Community's Concerns About COVID Pandemic

In the fall of 2021, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to surge in Curry County, HAF+WRCF hosted two successful virtual community town halls to facilitate collaboration and share pandemic-related information among Curry County community partners, leaders, and residents.

The impetus for the town halls was born of comments gleaned from multiple one-on-one conversations between HAF+WRCF staff members, and community members who were concerned about the lack of information as well as the spreading of inconsistent information about the pandemic.

"Through our partners' collective commitment to provide a space where leaders could address issues of concern with accurate real-time information and share their perspective on the surge, we were able to have very successful events," said Amy Jester, Program Director for Policy, Advocacy and Civic Leadership at HAF+WRCF. "We had hundreds of views during the town hall and the weeks following."

Planning meetings for the first event included 15 leaders from county, city, and Tribal governments, school districts, healthcare organizations, faith communities, and the Oregon Health Authority. As the main facilitator, HAF+WRCF invited the community to attend the town halls via social media posts and press releases, also provided in Spanish. Both town hall meetings featured ESL and Spanish interpreters and were streamed live on WRCF's Facebook page and Youtube.

The first virtual town hall on September 22 featured a panel of representatives from the medical and public health community, the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, school districts, and faith leaders. The presentation's theme was "Coronavirus: What you need to know." Panelists included Virginia Williams, CEO of Curry Health Network; Dorothy Wait, Director of Community and Family Wellness Services for Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation; Danna Drum, Strategic Partnership Lead for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA); and school superintendents David Marshall (Brookings), Steve Perkins (Port Orford), and Eric Milburn (Gold Beach). The panelists presented information and answered questions from the public.

The second town hall on October 27 ("Coronavi-



HAF+WRCF hosted two Virtual Town Hall Meetings for Curry County residents. The meetings were streamed on the Foundation's Facebook and YouTube pages, and have been viewed by hundreds of residents since September.

rus: What happens after a positive result?") included a panel of representatives from community-based organizations who focused on what residents could do if they had COVID-19 or may have been exposed to it. The panel also highlighted the important role of community-based organizations in pandemic response and the wraparound services they have been providing to residents.

Panelists at the second town hall included Curry County Commissioner Court Boice; Olivia Davis and Pamela Winebarger of Brookings Harbor Community Helpers; Beth Barker-Hidalgo of the Curry Homeless Coalition; Father Bernie Lindley of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church; and OHA officials Dr. Tom Jeanne, Dolly England, and Danna Drum. Each representative provided updated local infection and vaccination rates, discussed available services, and answered the public's questions. After the meeting, Commissioner Boice lauded the group's efforts, saying, "What a great job WRCF (and HAF) pulled off again."

The success of the fall Zoom events has spurred the planning for a third town hall, scheduled for April 25, 2022, focused on COVID vaccines and related health information for parents and caregivers of young children. It will also address what the next phase of the pandemic means for Curry County communities as the virus becomes endemic.

COVID-19 Regional Response Grants: Partners & Donors Help Build \$3.3M Response Fund

When the COVID-19 pandemic came to our region, our amazing donors leapt into action, asking what they could do to help the community. Hundreds of donors became the original supporters of the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, which launched in March 2020. Alongside the fund, the Foundation created the Community Response Team to support critical community needs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Between March 2020 and March 2022, the Foundation provided over 200 grants totaling more than \$2.7 million in grant funding. What made this possible? The generous support of our donors and philanthropic partners. More than 250 individuals and foundations

contributed a total of \$3.3 million to the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, which has helped thousands in our region.

Beyond the generous financial support, the Foundation's Community Response Team owes its success to a remarkable group of people and organizations that spoke up and became receptive to our outreach efforts. During COVID-19, it became clear that one appropriate role for a community foundation is to serve as a centralized organization for people and funders to contribute during a time of crisis. This role proved effective due to our knowledgeable and diverse community members. Thank you!

Highlights from the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund

218 Grants & \$2.7 Million in grant funding

Top Funding Priorities

- \$385k for Food Security
- \$360k for Housing Vulnerability
- \$305k for Health
- \$143k for Technology & Connectivity

By Region

- \$195,158 Curry County
- \$386,117 Del Norte County
- \$1,990,480 Humboldt County
- \$245,089 Trinity County



Further Reading

Read the full COVID-19 Report at hafoundation.org/covid19

Growing Partnerships to Address Racial Equity in our Region

Centro Del Pueblo: A Key Community Partner Rallies for Indigenous Immigrant Support

In 2017, community members came together to support the rights of an often-hidden population in our region. That vision became Centro del Pueblo (CDP), a community organization founded to support the indigenous migrant communities in rural Humboldt County, California. Centro del Pueblo is also a key partner for the Humboldt Area Foundation & the Wild Rivers Community Foundation as the Foundation embarks on a new 10-year strategic mission that holds racial equity as a central tenant.

From its beginnings, CDP has grown from a volunteer-run organization to a robust organization that's building an ecosystem of support for undocumented and immigrant families and individuals, primarily from the global south.

"CDP has stood out as an organization we can look to keep us connected to some of our most vulnerable community members," said Michelle Carillo, Director of Programs, Strategy & Community Solutions at the Foundation.

HAF+WRCF has been in the fortunate position to help CDP grow its capacity as a community organization. In 2020, HAF+WRCF provided \$74,000 in grant funding to Centro del Pueblo to support the group's winter food drive and help build staff capacity. Funding was provided by HAF+WRCF's Covid-19 Community Response Fund, which was generously supported by community members and philanthropic partners alike. (See page 10 of this report to read more about the Foundation's philanthropic funding and outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic.)

In 2021, HAF+WRCF provided Centro Del Pueblo with an additional \$9,000 from the Disaster Response & Response Fund to help get rapid relief to elders in need of food and other essentials as winter storms ravaged the region. Through the storm response, Centro Del Pueblo forged new partnerships with other community organizations like Two Feathers Native American Family Services and the Area 1 Agency on Aging to expand the service network for the region's immigrant indigenous



population. (See page 6 of this report for more information on the Disaster Response & Resilience Fund.)

"The partnership with Humboldt Area Foundation has been vital for Centro," says Brenda Perez, Centro Del Pueblo executive director. "Supporting our staff and team has allowed us to dedicate more time to our work. In the context of the pandemic, our partnership helped us take advantage of opportunities to help more people," says Perez.

In January 2022, HAF+WRCF renewed its support of Centro Del Pueblo's work with \$40,000 in grant funding. The funding was a combination of sources, including \$10,000 in funding from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and a portion from the Foundation's own discretionary grantmaking budget.

According to the group's 2020 findings, Centro Del Pueblo has helped more than 2,300 individuals, including more than 960 youth and 52 indigenous families. Its outreach activities have included food distribution, COVID-19 economic relief for immigrants; a trilingual-information campaign for COVID-19 prevention in Spanish, Zapoteco, and Mixteco; rent forgiveness campaign and eviction prevention team, which provided donations, mediation, translation; and free community activities like kayaking, theater, painting, and music.

To learn more about Centro Del Pueblo, visit cdpueblo.com or facebook.com/centrodelpueblo.

Eureka NAACP: Boosting Black Families & Beyond

The Eureka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has worked to make the North Coast a more welcoming community to Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) families and individuals since 1952. In the last year, the group has worked with numerous agencies and individuals to support Black and Brown families during the pandemic.

That's why HAF+WRCF was proud to support the Eureka NAACP with a \$50,000 grant for general operating support and to help award the chapter's first-ever Educational Fellowship to Dionna Ndlovu. Since launching the fellowship, the chapter launched a major redesign of its website and hosted virtual celebrations for Kwanzaa and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Sharrone Blanck, the president of the Eureka NAACP, says the support helps nonprofits like the NAACP focus on their mission instead of fundraising.

"Thanks to HAF's investment in the Eureka NAACP, we're free to focus on things like being able to support Black-owned businesses and creating a community space," says Blanck.

“ Thanks to HAF's investment in the Eureka NAACP, we're free to focus on things like being able to support Black-owned businesses and creating a community space . ”
 – SHARRONE BLANCK,
 Eureka Branch of the National Association of Colored People

Because of HAF+WRCF's generous donors, it's possible to fund nonprofits like the Eureka NAACP. The added support has given Eureka NAACP the financial capacity to partner with local community organizations and support "Black families where they are," says Blanck.

To learn more about the Eureka NAACP, visit eurekanaacp.org.

Donor Impact: Investing in Social Justice & Our Community

Since 2017, a group of anonymous Humboldt Residents has met monthly to learn about social justice philanthropy. After four years of closely working together, the group has given \$680,000 to 22 nonprofit organizations, including Cooperation Humboldt, Centro Del Pueblo, Black Humboldt and the Yurok Tribal Court. "We have formed strong bonds within the group and support many of the organizations by forming cooperative relationships," says the circle's founding member. "We have been so inspired by the work they accomplish."

Supported by Ron White, HAF+WRCF's Senior Advisor on Racial Equity, Leadership & Empowerment, the Donor Circle comprises 13 Humboldt County residents who share a vision of our region as a community that meets the basic human needs of all of its members: a community in which all people are treated with dignity, and have a sense of belonging.

"Working together we have all found that collaboration within the group, the organizations we fund, and HAF has been more impactful than the sum of the parts," the Donor Circle writes.

"We are dedicated to using our collectively donated funds to more effectively impact the root causes of racism, climate change, poverty, hunger, and the lack of opportunity for children, families, and elders in Humboldt County. We seek out nonprofits that work collaboratively with other nonprofits and those they serve and are most impacted by the issues they are addressing."

You can learn more about supporting the Donor Circle and other ways to make positive change in our community by contacting HAF+WRCF's Donor Services Office at 707-267-9903 or donorservices@hafoundation.org.

A Newly Reorganized Foundation to Better Serve Our Region

In 2020, we set out to create a new organization that would be positioned to serve the most vulnerable among us, combining our strengths into a shared vision for our region.

We have combined nine separate departments into four teams including our Strategy, Program, and Community Solutions Team, the Finance and Administration Team, the Advancement & Philanthropic Innovation Team and finally the Executive, Culture, and Public Policy Team. Leaders from our staff were reassigned and realigned to best emphasize their talents and passions. And we've expanded, adding staff to support our growth in pursuit of our strategic goal areas, as you'll see below.

A Thriving, Just, Healthy and Equitable Region

Together, the Humboldt Area Foundation and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation are excited to announce our new shared Strategic Vision, which will guide our Foundation's efforts for the next ten years and beyond. The new strategic vision is an assertion of our values as well as a road map to guide how we invest and collaborate across our four-county region. We envision a generational outcome of: A Thriving, Just, Healthy and Equitable Region.

This vision will be animated by four specific, decade-long goals:

Racial Equity
Thriving Youth and Families
Healthy Ecosystems and Environment
A Just Economy and Economic Development

Together, these four goals will inform the programmatic and strategic work of the organization. As we embarked on this strategic direction, we created a new organizational structure to enable our vision. Our new organization will empower our staff to utilize their many skills in direct service across Trinity, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties in California and Curry County in Oregon.

A New Vision & New Goals to Better Serve our Region



Defining Our Goals

Racial Equity

Transforming our institutions and structures to address the outcome gaps across every indicator of success, from infant mortality to life expectancy, that have been created by hundreds of years of racial oppression.

Thriving Youth & Families

Investing in the future by creating a safe, healthy place where generations of families can grow and have the chance to succeed – where everyone has the chance to experience support and success in their community and reach their greatest potential.

Healthy Ecosystems & Environments

Using traditional knowledge and cutting-edge science to clean our water, purify our air, maintain our soil, adapt to a changing climate, and provide sustainable sources of food, energy, water, and transportation.

A Just Economy & Economic Development

Bolstering economic development to create opportunities for each person in our region to have a dignified, productive, and creative life unencumbered by poverty or exploitation.

Our Tools and Resources

For the past generation, HAF+WRCF and our family of organizations have been recognized in California, and across the nation, for our innovative work and approaches. From incubating grassroots organizations, to leadership development and training programs, to local loan and impact investment portfolios, our community foundation has long-supported capacity building, bolstered social and financial infrastructure, and provided philanthropic advice essential to the wellbeing and progress of our region.

With this new strategy, we will continue to evolve our approaches to best serve the region. Some of the most important ways are:

- ▶ Donor & Fund Development
- ▶ Grant Funding
- ▶ Loans
- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Networks & Convening
- ▶ Policy & Advocacy
- ▶ Programs
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Capacity Building
- ▶ Leadership Training
- ▶ Philanthropic Partnerships
- ▶ Public/Private Partnerships

HAF+WRCF thanks the philanthropic partners that have supported our programs and initiatives in 2021.



Annually the Foundation publishes a yearbook featuring the wonderful and vital work of individual donors and fund holders. Through hundreds of individual, family funds and donations, their impact is told through this special document which will be released in Summer 2022.

The following philanthropic funders generously provided support for the Foundation in 2021.

Aspen Institute
Berg Foundation
Blue Shield of California
Borealis Philanthropy
California Community Foundation
California Foundation for Stronger Communities
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
Footprint Foundation Inc.
Global Giving
Gordon Elwood Foundation
County of Humboldt Headwaters Community Investment Fund
League of California Community Foundations
Oregon Community Foundation
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Patricia D. & William B. Smullin
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Rockefeller Foundation
Roundhouse Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
The James Irvine Foundation
The Tides Foundation
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
West Family Foundation
Anonymous Funders

Total Assets

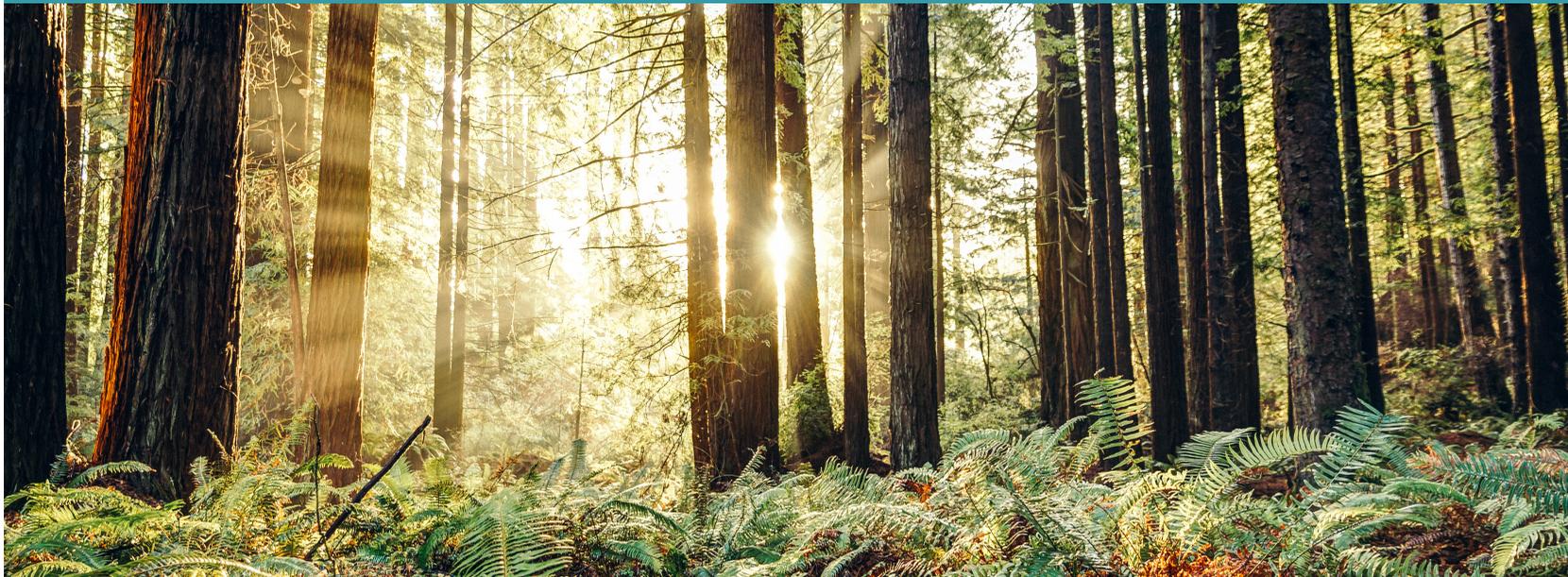
2021 \$184,770,188
2020 \$164,396,319

Total Grants

2021 \$8,284,373
2020 \$7,508,086

Total Gifts and Grant Revenue

2021 \$10,022,332
2020 \$11,078,884



Take a Deeper Dive

We invite you to take an in-depth look at our financial reports by visiting hafoundation.org/financials

(Figures above represent unaudited financial data for calendar years ending Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021.)

Investment Performance

HAF+WRCF operates three investment pools, the Long-Term, Socially Responsible and Medium-Term Investment Pools. From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, the Long-Term Investment Pool had an annual return of 13.6% and three-year returns of 17.5%. For that same period, the Socially Responsible Investment Pool had a 13.8% annual return and, and since its inception in 2019, a 17.4% return. Finally, the Medium-Term Investment Pool saw an annual return of 6.7% and three-year annual returns of 10.10%.

HAF Long-Term Pool

Ending Market Value	\$133,787,047
Annual Return	13.6%

A full copy of the audited financial statement is available at hafoundation.org/audit or by calling 707-442-2993.

These abbreviated financial reports are unaudited.

HAF Socially Responsible Pool

Ending Market Value	\$30,612,632
Annual Return	13.8%

HAF Medium-Term Pool

Ending Market Value	\$4,443,801
Annual Return	6.7%

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Cash & Investments	\$179,502,414	\$159,288,088
Other Assets	\$5,267,773	\$5,108,231
Total Assets	\$184,770,188	\$164,396,319
Liabilities	\$41,077,195	\$34,782,446
Net Assets	\$143,692,993	\$129,613,873
Net Assets and Liabilities	\$184,770,188	\$164,396,319

About Our Investments

Long-Term Investment Pool

The Long-Term Investment Pool is HAF's largest and oldest portfolio, with \$134 million in assets as of December 31, 2021. This portfolio holds most of HAF's endowed funds and is more traditionally managed than the other pools. Included in the Long-Term Pool is a sub allocation of the fixed income portfolio of up to 5% of assets to be used for local impact investments.

These assets are and will continue to be managed internally with the assistance of local lenders and community development financial institutions (CDFI's). To date, HAF has lent over \$7 million to local nonprofit agencies and government entities through this program, earning a return equal to the return on the fixed income portfolio as a whole.

Medium-Term Investment Pool

Created in 2011, the Medium-Term Investment Pool is designed more for capital preservation and investments with a three- to five-year time horizon. This portfolio had \$4.4 million in assets as of December 31, 2021, including HAF's operating reserves.

Socially-Responsible Investment Pool

HAF has established the Socially Responsible Investment Pool for use by HAF donors who seek to make investments that address climate change, sustainability, and other social issues, and maintain good governance practices. The Socially Responsible Investment Pool invests with fund managers whose security selection and portfolio construction processes focus on companies with high sustainability

ratings, positive economic development, attention to renewable resources and good governance. Holdings in the pool are regularly reviewed to ensure they are meeting sustainable investment practices. As of December 31, 2021, this portfolio had \$30.6 million in assets. In fiscal year 2020-21, the HAF board moved all of its discretionary funds (approximately \$14 million) into this pool.

How to Support Our Community

Help strengthen our community through charitable giving. There are many ways to give back, whether you make a gift today or work with the Foundation to establish a legacy gift that supports the community many years to come.

Start a Fund

Our team is available to support you and your family through the process of establishing a fund that serves your short and long-term philanthropic goals. A number of fund types are available, including Donor Advised Funds. Our development team will help you decide which fund type or blended portfolio best serves your specific needs and objectives.

Ways to Give

Cash

Gifts of cash can provide a valuable tax deduction. They can go toward supporting the Foundation's work in the community, or can be made to specific fund(s) of your choosing. To learn more, visit HAFoundation.org/Donate.

IRA

Individuals age 70½ and older can direct up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA tax-free to operating charities through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). Ask your IRA administrator to make a qualified distribution to Humboldt Area Foundation. Important: IRA distributions cannot be directed to a Donor Advised Fund.

Stock

By making a gift of appreciated stock, you can maximize your gift and avoid paying capital gains tax. You may receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the stock. Contact us for stock transfer instructions.

Planned Giving

Contact us to discuss planned giving options including leaving a bequest gift in your will or trust, Charitable Remainder Trusts, and other legacy gift options.

Contact the Advancement & Philanthropic Innovation Team



Gina Zottola
Vice President,
Advancement
& Philanthropic
Innovation



Keytra Meyer
Deputy Director,
Advancement &
Philanthropic
Innovation



Laurel Dalsted
Director, Donor
Relations &
Development

**Contact the Advancement & Philanthropic
Innovation Team to learn more about
supporting the Foundation
donorservices@hafoundation.org
707-267-9903**

Grants for Our Community

We provide numerous grants in communities throughout our 4-county region, thanks to the generosity of our many donors, fundholders, affiliates, and funding partners.

Every year we conduct several competitive grant rounds that match our strategic goals of racial equity, just economic development, healthy ecosystems and environment, and thriving youth and families. Our grants aim to minimize vulnerability and increase equity to strengthen institutions, providers, and leaders across our rural and native lands.

For example, in 2021, HAF+WRCF awarded 62 grants of \$500 to \$2,000 through the Holiday Funding Partnership Grant Program that ensures the holiday season is special for those facing housing and food insecurity. A total of \$71,115 was disbursed to charitable organizations and projects that supply food, clothing, and other basic needs to youth, seniors, and low-income families in our 4-county region.

Some of our grant programs include:

The Summer Youth Program Mini Grants supports Humboldt, Del Norte, and Curry County nonprofits that serve youth through programs, activities, and events offered between June 1 and September 1.

The Native Cultures Fund (NCF) was created to support Native arts, cultural revitalization, and cultural transmission between generations. It supports artists, culture bearers, and educators from the Tolowa/Dee-ni' Nation peoples near the Oregon border, inland to the Paiute and Shoshone Nations along the Nevada border, and south to the Chumash peoples of the Santa Barbara area.

Disaster Response & Resilience Fund grants supports residents of Humboldt, Trinity, Del Norte, and Curry counties, as well as adjoining Tribal lands during current and future disasters, including fires, earthquakes, flooding, and other natural and man-made disasters. Grants are made to nonprofit agencies, public benefit organizations (schools, government agencies, etc.), charitable organizations and groups with a qualified fiscal sponsor.

Contact the Community Solutions Team



Lindsie Bear
Vice President;
Strategy, Program
& Community
Solutions



Michelle Carrillo
Deputy Director,
Programs &
Community
Solutions



Rachel Montgomery
Program Officer,
Community
Solutions



Keri Mosey
Program Officer,
Community
Solutions

Learn more about our grants at:
hafoundation.org/grants

For more information, send an email to
grants@hafoundation.org

Board of Directors 2021

Abby Abinant Chief Justice, Yurok Tribal Court
David Finigan Business Owner, Finigan Real Estate
Zuretti Goosby Retired Field Rep.,
California Senate District 2
Christina Huff President of the Board,
Humboldt Health Foundation
Charlie Jordan Board Secretary, Owner/CEO
Kinetic Koffee, Inc.

Mary Keehn Board Chair, Founder, Cypress Grove Inc.
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Raquel Ortega Board Vice Chair, District Director,
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Dennis Rael CEO, Los Bagels

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Sara Dronkers Chief of Staff
Lindsie Bear Vice President, Strategy, Program
& Community Solutions

Sarah Millsap Vice President, Finance & Administration
Gina Zottola Vice President, Advancement
& Philanthropic Innovation

Connect With Us

Humboldt Area Foundation
363 Indianola Road
Bayside, CA 95524
(707) 442-2993
www.hafoundation.org
info@hafoundation.org

Wild Rivers Community Foundation
990 Front Street
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 465-1238
www.wildriverscf.org
info@wildriverscf.org



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