

Stories of Hope

Wild Rivers
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

2019 / 2020
DONOR YEARBOOK



Our Message to You

I arrived at Humboldt Area Foundation and took over my position as CEO in August 2019, shortly after the start of the new fiscal year. The board, staff, and I were excited about what lie ahead: creating a community-driven strategic plan, investing in systems and infrastructure, reassessing the best ways to support our entire region, and engaging with the many generous donors devoted to this special place.

We were making many positive strides toward a reinvigorated HAF and Wild Rivers Community Foundation, our affiliate in Crescent City, when COVID-19 began its first reach into California in March 2020. Like many of your businesses, schools, and organizations, we rapidly shifted course and were faced with a test as old as time: to adapt to the great uncertainty before us. In doing so, we also embraced an old adage: never let a crisis go to waste.

We mobilized our staff to reconnect with hundreds of people and organizations in the four counties we serve: Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity in California, and Curry County Oregon. Our aim was to understand and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable with grants, technical assistance, and coordination across sectors. We raised record-breaking funds from national philanthropy and local donors. This could not have happened without the generosity and support of our local donors and fund holders. The yearbook is a testament to their commitment to this special place we all call 'home.'

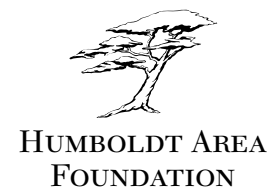
During those first six months, thousands of hours and millions of dollars were invested in caring for our communities. Then, when the wildfires broke out, our rapid-response team mobilized once again to aid those who were evacuated, at health risk, or lost their homes. And again, we did it in partnership with philanthropy, donors and other community leaders.

While it was—and continues to be—a challenging time for all, the acute health and social inequity faced by people of color required us to recognize and respond to the disparities. We announced and began taking immediate action focused on eight commitments devoted to racial equity, safety and belonging.

Our model of response, service, equity, and deep connection with our most vulnerable was a pivot point for HAF and our affiliates. The multiple crises of 2020 gave us a renewed purpose and a platform for the future. In our new form, we will be ready to serve and stabilize our region in great times of need, as well as empowering our region to solve some of the deep, systemic challenges exposed during the past year. This vision for our—and YOUR—foundation, promises a stronger, healthier, more just recovery. It is a vision of us, in service together, for whatever may come our way.



BRYNA LIPPER
Chief Executive Officer



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COVID-19 Regional Response Fund

Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) and our affiliate, Wild Rivers Community Foundation (WRCF), launched the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund to address the immediate and emerging needs of our region's most vulnerable residents—from mitigation to eventual recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

The fund makes grants on a rolling basis to nonprofits, charitable organizations and public agencies across Trinity, Humboldt, Del Norte and Curry counties and has directed grants to date toward organizations serving first responders and healthcare providers; seniors; low-income families and youth; geographically isolated residents; disabled individuals and those with underlying conditions; veterans; resident facing housing or food insecurity; Native Americans and at-risk communities of color; and those with limited healthcare resources.

The word “emergency” contains the word “emerge,” and that’s no coincidence.

In helping our community address the countless challenges of COVID-19, we’ve seen our community in a new light—learning things we could not have possibly known, and earning a deeper appreciation for things we already knew. Here are some of the themes that have

A good decision made quickly is better than a perfect decision made slowly. HAF & WRCF adjusted our typical grantmaking process to move fast, entrusting our personal and professional networks to identify the greatest areas of need, and then entrusting our grantees to do what’s right with the funding they received.

A clear process is important, but flexibility is vital. HAF & WRCF sought unrestricted funding for the short-term to increase the options available to help those in need. We plan to continue the same approach into 2021 and beyond, while promising the same level of accountability and transparency we’ve always provided.

Although money and systems and logistics are important, this is all about people—The people HAF & WRCF employs as staff, leaders, and volunteers; the people in our most vulnerable communities; the people our community has elected to positions of power; and the people in our schools, nonprofits, and community groups who have shown us a deep understanding of their community’s needs.

\$3,247,953

Amount raised from individual gifts, private foundations and philanthropic contributions as of June 30, 2020

17

Number of staff members—roughly half of the organization—that comprised the CRT response team, which has connected with over 500 individuals and organizations to assess their needs, capacity, plans and challenges.

\$1,274,882

Funds disseminated to schools, nonprofits, tribes, and community organizations as of June 30, 2020—nearly three times the amount that HAF and WRCF would typically distribute in a similar time period

It’s not all about money—sometimes it’s about knowledge and expertise. HAF & WRCF convened a workshop with retired public-health professionals to help nonprofits learn how to provide essential services while reducing the risk of spreading disease.

It’s important to share stories of challenges and successes. If you want people to make a difference, you need to provide them with accurate, up-to-date information. In rural regions, our newspapers and radio stations are lifelines to many and provide essential local context, so we shared our stories and, in many cases, extended grants to ensure that they could do their jobs effectively.

The more connected communities are through personal relationships and cultural infrastructure, the better able they are to weather any storm. Rural communities like ours often boast more tight-knit connections, and our Hmong, Lao, Native and Latinx neighbors proved that every day.

This emergency is not over. The pandemic isn’t yet under control. Natural disasters here—and everywhere—are becoming more frequent, more deadly and more costly. And the impacts of these events will always hurt certain communities more than others. We must find ways to strengthen civic connections and promote smarter, more inclusive public policies for the next 25, 50, 100 years.

While many of the grants provided through the fund have been focused on addressing immediate needs, HAF & WRCF recognize the value of addressing larger, more systemic issues that have become even more evident throughout the pandemic. Here are just a few we are committed to tackling together into the future:

Local Self-Sufficiency. Although our coast is known for its farms, dairies and cattle ranches, the pandemic has made it incredibly difficult to process those goods and move them efficiently. HAF & WRCF have begun looking at possible solutions that might disrupt our dependency on external food-supply chains and find more ways to help our industries better serve our own residents—strengthening both in the process.

Access to Information.

At a time when information is lacking or, worse, misinformation is spread on social-media channels, we’re supporting local journalism: HAF & WRCF created the Community Voices Coalition to elevate stories of the most vulnerable people, and invest in the long-term health of local media. The coalition, anchored by mediapartners Access Humboldt and the North Coast Journal, has already

106

Number of grants administered across Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Curry counties as of June 30, 2020

generated multiple stories covering vulnerable and underrepresented communities, highlighting the pandemic’s disproportionate impact on our Latinx community.

Health-care Infrastructure. The coronavirus exposed gaps in the number of health-care workers, the amount of equipment, and more broadly, emergency preparedness. Forced to delay non-urgent procedures, hospitals and clinics struggled to generate enough revenue to survive. HAF & WRCF have been investing in health-care infrastructure by focusing on health careers and supporting the university and community college with creating a nursing program.

Donors

The impact of the **COVID-19 Regional Response Fund** would not have been possible without the immediate outpouring of gifts from the following donors and funders. In a time of financial uncertainty for many, the generosity seen in response to the pandemic reminds us of our shared values and our collective strength. This selfless dedication to supporting those in need gives us confidence that together we can continue building resilient and thriving communities no matter what may come our way. Reflects gifts received between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020.

57 Anonymous Donors

The Angel Fund
Robert Ayers
Maggie Banducci
Diane Blackberry
Blue Shield of California
Richard & Sally Botzler
Nancy & John Bridenbaugh
Amy Bruce
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
The Carrillo-Patrick Family
CEO's Discretionary Grant Fund
Chris Luna & Luis Chabolla
Becky Chambers & Berglaug Asmudardottir
Wesley & Cindy Chesbro
Community Foundation of Mendocino County
Gail Coonen
Jennifer Curtis
Donor Circle Fund
Mike & Sara Dronkers
Elk Head Inspiration Fund
Daniel Faulk
Dave Finigan
Footprint Fund
Elizabeth Frink
Chris Frolking & Margaret Nulsen
Julie Fulkerson (Creative Sustainability Fund)
Jana Ganion
Jason Garlick
Mary Gelinis & Roger James
Margot Genger
Giles F. Horney Jr. Fund

Michael Goldstein
Zuretti & Brenda Goosby
The Gordon Elwood Foundation
Andrew Guzman
Anne Hartline
John & Rita Harvey
Wendy Heard
Amber Hoffman
Homeless Student Advocacy Group Fund
House & Garden Inc
Joyce Houston
David & Annie Howell
Christina Huff
Humboldt Health Foundation
Humboldt Lyme Awareness Group Fund
Rachel Humphrey
Jeanette Hurst
Nancy Ihara
George Ingraham
Janssen Family Fund
Amy Jester
Charlie Jordan
Mary Keehn
Keehn Family Trust Fund
Ann King
James Kloor
Cat Koshkin & Patrick Cleary
League of California Community Foundations
I. Lee & Larry Bravo
Ali Ong Lee & Family
Joselyn Lindsey
Ralph Lindstrom
Bryna Lipper
Kathryn Lobato
Bill & Helen Love

The Lurtz/Gleye Family
Lain MacDonald
Mary Mallahan & David Bazard
Matsen Insurance Brokers - Wendy David
John & Jackie McBeth
Susan & Scott McDougall
Marc McGowan
Janine Melzer
Pam Mendelsohn
Keytra Meyer
Lorraine B. Miller Wolf
Sarah Millsap
Sandra Milunich
Sylvia Mitchell
Jillian Moore
Mark & Dina Moore
Lisa Morris
Seferino (Sef) Raul Murguia Memorial Fund
Nesbitt Family Fund
Rebecca Nielsen
Jenis Openshaw
Jenifer Pace
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Marilyn Page & James Test
Marylyn & Tim Paik-Nicely
Paik-Nicely Ohana Legacy Fund
Janice Parakilas & Roy Baker
Patricia & William Smullen Foundation
Charles & Anna Pedrazzini Private Charitable Foundation
Gene & Claire Perricelli
Corin & Sarah Pilkington
Janet Pomerantz
Premier Foundation Fund

The Rael-Falkenthal Family
Redwood Regional Rotary Disaster Relief Super Fund
Jennifer Rice
Ron & Jan Ross Family
Jerry Rubin MD
Rubin-Devons Family Fund
David & Kimberly Ryan
Michelle Schuiteman & Jose Marin Jarrin
Mary E. Shanahan
Silicon Valley Nelson Fund
Emily Sinkhorn
Monica Sperling
The Stamos-Young Family
Trish Stefanik
Stella Navis Fund
Susan & Jim Stephenson
Emma Stokes
Colin Teurfs
David & Gail Turner
Randy & Heather Turner
Ronald & Nancy Turner
Brenda Urueta
Terry Uyeki
Jeffrey Van Gemert
Vera P. Vietor Trust
Vrem Family Charitable Fund
George Waller
Janet Werren & Willard Foote
Christopher Whitworth & Janet Macedo Whitworth
M. & C.K. Yanke
Michael Yanke
Gina Zottola
Jared & Lisa Zystro

Featured Grants



Curry Coastline Neighbors: Delivering for Our Seniors - \$7,000

Seniors are among the most vulnerable people during the coronavirus pandemic because of threats to their physical health and the isolation caused by shelter-in-place mandates. With support from the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, the Curry Coastline Neighbors launched a free food and medicine delivery system to ensure that any seniors in need have access to all of life's necessities for the duration of the pandemic.

"HAF's generosity enabled our nonprofit to waive membership fees, deliver more food, and make extra calls to combat isolation across our community. Thank you for being a light in the darkness."

- COASTLINE NEIGHBORS



The Karuk Tribe: Increasing Food Security & Resilience - \$20,000

The Karuk Tribe invested funds provided by the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund to start a farm to increase local food production to meet the greater need for food during the pandemic and provide valuable employment opportunities for its people. The farm's first harvest was deemed a huge success, providing enough food to support all tribal members in need.

"... thanks to volunteer efforts and financial resources from HAF, we planted an amazing farm, and we hope to continue it for years to come."

- CHOOK CHOOK HILLMAN



Trinity Community Food Outreach: Responding to Unprecedented Levels of Need - \$25,000

Trinity County Food Outreach received funds to build an all-weather addition to its facility, so volunteers can prepare food for distribution without being exposed to the elements. The organization is now better equipped to serve as many as 3,000 people a month—a quarter of the county's population—in the wake of the economic downturn created by the pandemic.

"With your generous donations and snow. Thank you."

- JEFFRY ENGLAND, Food Bank Director



Del Norte Mission Possible: Providing for the Homeless - \$20,000

Mission Possible is focused on developing solutions to address the growing homeless epidemic in Del Norte county. With support from the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, the organization's director, Daphne Cortese-Lambert, has continued to meet the needs of a growing number of people experiencing homelessness, offering food, clothing, showers and essentials. And she takes every opportunity to forge relationships with the recipients so she can help them cope with deeper issues including drug use and domestic violence.

"Everyone deserves a shower and a chance."

- DAPHNE CORTES-LAMBERT, Mission Possible Director



A Humboldt Area Foundation Affiliate Serving Del Norte and Curry Counties

Wild Rivers Community Foundation promotes and encourages generosity, leadership and inclusion to strengthen our communities.

All Children Read and Succeed Fund \$29,189



The All Children Read and Succeed Fund, established in 2012 by Jim and Gail Griggs, supports early childhood literacy in Del Norte County. The vision and inspiration is that every child in Del Norte County

will be a proficient reader. The fund targets tutoring programs to all children who are not at proficient levels for English Language Arts in the first, second, and third grades. (2012)

Beachfront Park Labyrinth Fund \$5,624



The Beachfront Park Labyrinth Fund was established to promote and facilitate construction of the labyrinth including related landscaping and unforeseen

projects connected to the labyrinth. The labyrinth will provide space for community, as well as being a tourist destination, attracting walkers worldwide. The point of a labyrinth is to enjoy the journey. All you have to do is follow the path. There are no wrong turns nor dead ends. There is only the opportunity to make the experience yours. Whether it is walking with your dog, jogging, dancing, navigating with an aid or wheelchair, or contemplative reflective walking, all will enjoy the benefits of a labyrinth overlooking the ocean. The installation of the labyrinth is in conjunction with Crescent City's Beachfront Park Master Plan. The labyrinth will bring people to our community to enjoy all that Beachfront Park offers. (2018)

Ed and Barbara Brattain Memorial Fund \$55,548



Ed and Barbara believed that sometimes a little financial help can assist someone to achieve a life-changing goal that will enrich their life or

improve their personal or family's well-being. Thus, this fund is intended to benefit those in Curry and Del Norte counties who may need that little extra amount to successfully complete a goal and is specifically for those who demonstrate that they have worked hard and are committed to obtaining their specific goal, but who need extra support to successfully accomplish it. (2010)

Brattain Family Student Enrichment Fund \$54,178



The Brattain Family Student Enrichment fund is intended for K-12 public

school students in Curry and Del Norte counties. The fund objective is to supplement a student's school-sponsored activities by assisting with the payment of fees and costs. The target student is one with the desire to excel in a school program or activity, but who does not have the financial means to participate. Examples of this could be fees or uniform costs for a sport activity; travel expenses for a school-sponsored event that the student is involved in; fees for additional educational materials to enrich the student's knowledge and education, etc. (2007)

Toni Brixey Memorial Fund \$16,283



A lifelong resident of Del Norte County and a 30-year employee of Seaside and Sutter Coast Hospitals in nursing and administration, Toni Brixey was

passionate about making a difference in the lives of others. She had an uncanny ability to make every situation better and to inspire others to do the same. When she unexpectedly passed away in 2010, her family, friends, coworkers and community were able to channel the love she had engendered in the community by establishing a memorial fund in her honor. Toni's memory will live on forever, supporting the region's health. (2011)

Brookings Harbor Community Helpers Food Bank Fund \$134,005



The Brookings Harbor Community Helpers Food Bank, DBA: Brookings Harbor Food Bank serves the

residents of Curry County from the Oregon-California border north to Pistol River. Food boxes, available once a month for individuals and families, are provided in a "shopping style" format that encourages clients to select items that will provide balanced meals and eliminate potential food waste. Also available five days a week are "daily supplements" to help reduce hunger. The number of individuals and families within the community that have to make difficult choices about how to allocate their limited funds for food, shelter, and other necessities is very high. The efforts of the food bank's volunteers, supported by the generous donations by the Brookings Harbor community, are helping reduce food insecurity. (2015)

Cal-Ore Life Flight N661TC Flight Team Memorial Scholarship Fund \$20,835



On July 29, 2016, a Cal-Ore Life Flight air medical plane crashed in

northern California while transporting a patient to care. There were no survivors. In addition to the patient, there were three Cal-Ore Life Flight personnel on board: Pilot Larry Mills, Flight Nurse Deborah Kroon, RN, CCRN, and Certified Flight Paramedic Michelle Tarwater, FP-C, NREMT-P. To honor the fallen crew members who gave their lives being of service to others, a memorial scholarship fund has been established to support education for aviation, flight nursing, and flight paramedics in Curry and Del Norte counties. (2016)

Caldwell & Sund Family Trust \$37,771



Kevin Caldwell and Donna Sund-Caldwell moved to Crescent City from Southern California in 1984. Both family physicians, they decided that Del Norte County was a great place to live and to raise their three children, Marisa, Dylan, and Connor,

who have now all successfully moved on to college educations. Kevin and Donna continue to operate their own family medicine practice, Redwood Medical Offices. Throughout the years, they have been involved in the local community in innumerable ways, with a focus on providing cultural and academic opportunities that create a nurturing environment for their own children, as well as all children of the area. This endowment has been created to ensure financial stability in this continuing community participation and enrichment. (2006)

NEW Covid-19 Regional Response Fund \$4,666



The COVID-19 Regional Response Fund will support urgent community needs identified by our regional partners. The fund will make

grants on a rolling basis to nonprofits, charitable organizations and public agencies meeting the immediate needs of residents in Trinity, Humboldt, Del Norte and Curry counties. The Fund's priority is vulnerable communities and the organizations that support them. Currently, this includes organizations and service providers serving first responders and healthcare providers; seniors; low-income families and youth; low-access residents; individuals with underlying conditions; disabled; veterans; homeless, housing or food insecure; Native Americans; at-risk communities of color; and those with limited or no healthcare resources. (2020)

Crescent City Historical Preservation Cemetery Fund \$4,666



Our county's citizens are getting older and their loved ones want a beautiful resting place for them. The Crescent City Cemetery has at times been in disrepair due to poor funding for maintenance.

There are currently four organizations operating at the cemetery: Catholic Church, Odd Fellows, Masonic Lodge, and the Del Norte Veterans. All donations go toward maintaining the appearance of the whole cemetery as needed. (2016)

Dean Cantwell Memorial Scholarship Fund \$20,307



Dean Cantwell grew up in Iowa and moved to Crescent City in 1992. He retired from a career as a contractor building major subdivisions in the Monterey and Santa Cruz area during the housing development boom. After spending years working in relatively affluent communities as a laborer, albeit a successful one, Dean developed a passion for

helping young people improve themselves through education. Dean began contributing each year to Rotary's annual Third Grade Dictionary Program—whereby each 3rd grader in Del Norte County is given their own dictionary—and through Rotary's annual award of scholarship monies to deserving high school students. As the years passed, Dean developed a dream to create a four-year scholarship award to one deserving young person from Del Norte. Tommy and Donna Sparrow have honored and fulfilled Dean's most precious wish by making this scholarship a reality. (2013)

Barb & John Cary Family Fund \$14,089



John and Barbara Cary moved to Curry County from Southern California in 2000 for work. They met their sophomore year of college at Northern Illinois University in

DeKalb, IL. Both were working in food service at the time. Coming full circle upon retirement, both became active volunteers addressing food insecurity within the community. Food insecurity affects people of all ages—from children, to working families, to seniors. Barb is an OSU accredited Master Gardener who has applied her training and knowledge related to vegetable gardening to various growing and nutrition initiatives. She is most proud of her ongoing summer "hands on" vegetable growing and education program for local pre-school children. The Cary Family Fund is established to support charitable organizations within Curry County with an emphasis on food insecurity. (2015)

CASA – Del Norte Endowment Fund \$10,366



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Del Norte was established as an independent

program in 2002 to be a powerful voice for the abused and neglected children of Del Norte County. Their mission is to support and assist children in the juvenile dependency program by providing well-trained volunteers to advocate objectively in the child's best interest. CASA Advocates provide a consistent and important one-on-one advocacy, which can make a lifetime difference to each child. CASA Advocates work with the child, the family, juvenile court, and supporting agencies to ensure each child is placed in a safe, permanent, and loving home where they have the opportunity to fulfill their potential. In 2005, CASA of Del Norte received an anonymous donation to open an endowment fund. The purpose of the fund is to support ongoing recruitment, screening, and operation in the form of daily support to the CASA volunteer advocates. (2005)

Wayne Roberts & Kevin Hartwick Catch It Fund \$3,458



The "Catch It" Fund was established by local rodeo enthusiasts with the vision of enhancing and expanding programs and

opportunities within the region for youth and their families. This fund is intended to support and benefit local youth activities and agricultural pursuits directly or indirectly related to the Del Norte County Fair. (2006)

Circle of Change Endowment and Expendable Funds \$38,348



Women of the Wild Rivers region have come together to form a giving circle with combined resources in order to support local charitable causes and

enrich the lives of the members of our community by contributing funds to build and grow cultural, economic, and educational programs within the region. The endowment fund is intended to provide a perpetual annual gift to the region for various projects and programs including those providing support to women, children, seniors, the arts, and economic development. The expendable fund will support regional programs and projects as chosen by the members of the circle throughout the year. The expendable fund focuses on issues affecting women, children, seniors, the arts, and economic development. (2008)

Coulson Family Fund \$17,087



The Coulson Family Fund was established in 2013 by Betty and Walter Coulson and their children. Walter got his start in logging and loved the industry.

The Coulson Family Fund supports charitable work in our region by addressing changing needs as they arise. (2013)

Curry Health Network Equipment Fund \$8,087



Curry Health Network consists of their hospital, Curry

General Hospital, and a series of clinics in Brookings, Gold Beach, and Port Orford, OR. It also includes their well-equipped new clinic setting at Curry Medical Center in Brookings. This fund has been set up to support the procurement of new equipment for the hospital and its outlying clinics. (2012)

Annual Holiday Partnership Grants

Wild Rivers Community Foundation funders provided \$25,000 in Holiday Partnership grants in December to 21 nonprofit organizations, agencies and churches that provided thousands of Curry and Del Norte children and families with much-needed food, clothing and other services.

“These grants support the work of many amazing organizations in our community that serve those who really need help, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said WRCF Director Gina Zottola. “We are so blessed by these community efforts, and these partnerships will touch more than 5,000 lives.”

This is the 13th year that WRCF has awarded holiday grants ranging from \$250 to \$2,500. The grants — funded by donations from family trusts, foundations, businesses and individuals — support programs that provide children with winter coats or Christmas presents, and holiday food for hungry families. The grants also supply

warm clothes for struggling veterans and the homeless, and support services for abused or neglected children.

The Brookings Elks Lodge #1934 used their grant to provide needy individuals and families with Christmas food baskets that provided a full meal and included a turkey. The Elks also received funding or in-kind donations from the Brookings Presbyterian Church, Salvation Army, U-Haul and community food drives. They anticipate serving about 1,500 people.

“With COVID-19, we expect an increase in the number of requests as some families are still struggling with limited employment and other challenges,” said Elks Lodge volunteer Johanne Broberg. “We will have a drive-up basket distribution on Dec. 19-20 here at the lodge, and follow all the (COVID-19) protocols.”

Similarly, the Boys and Girls Club of the Yurok Tribe in Klamath, used their grant to host a drive-up event during which families picked up a wrapped gift for children and food supplies to help with holiday dinners. They hoped to provide gifts for 100 children and meals for about 100 families. “We would usually host a holiday family gathering and dinner for our club members, but due to COVID-19, we will not be able to do so this year,” said club Director Harold Jones.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Del Norte applied its grant to a Holiday Gift Giving/Making Memories program to support about 86 children placed in homes due to abuse or neglect, said Executive Director Christine Slette. Children received a warm blanket, stocking hat, a book and gift certificate donated by local businesses.

“The holiday season can be an especially difficult time of year for foster children because they have been separated from their families—they may feel anxiety, depression or anger,” Slette said. “This year, due to COVID-19, we’re anticipating an increase in those mental issues and more.”

A majority of the grants awarded this year came from donations to the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, established in March by WRCF and Humboldt Area Foundation.

“These grants support the work of many amazing organizations in our community that serve those who really need help ...”

- GINA ZOTTOLA,
Director, Wild Rivers Community Foundation



Volunteers and staff at the Del Norte Child Care Council hand out pre-packaged food and arts and crafts supplies to families during a street-side giveaway event in December, 2020. Vehicles full of people lined up for three hours to collect the items, many of which were provided, in part, by a Holiday Partnership grant.

2020 HOLIDAY PARTNERSHIP RECIPIENTS

Brookings Elks Lodge #1934
Christmas food baskets

Bicoastal Media, Brookings/Crescent City Coast for Kids

Brookings Harbor Community Helpers, Inc. Snack pack program

Brookings Harbor High School Youth Transition Program

Brookings Presbyterian Church Thanksgiving celebration

California Tribal Tanf Partnership, Crescent City
Winter holiday program

CASA of Del Norte, Crescent City Holiday gift giving

The Common Good, Inc, Port Orford Holiday baskets

Christian Help of Gold Beach Holiday food and gift baskets

First Baptist Church of Crescent City Giving Tree program

Family Resource Center of the Redwoods, Crescent City
Winter Break meal program

Hmong Cultural Center of Del Norte, Crescent City
Christmas Wishes program

Marine Corps League Det. #578, Brookings Toys for Tots program

Del Norte Mission Possible, Crescent City Support for homeless

Redwood Family Worship Center, Crescent City
Home Missions program

The Arc of Curry County, Brookings Holiday gift drive

Chetco Activity Center, Brookings
Holiday Meals on Wheels project

Curry County Veterans' Service Office
Curry County, winter weather kits

Del Norte Child Care Council, Crescent City
Christmas Project Give Away

Curry Child Abuse Intervention Center (Wally's House), Gold Beach
Gift cards for victims' families

Boys and Girls Club of the Yurok Tribe, Klamath
Christmas food baskets

Del Norte Area Fund

\$41,337

Del Norte Area Fund was established in 1988 with an initial gift provided by the late George and Millie Merriman. It was their hope that a foundation patterned after Humboldt Area Foundation could be established for Del Norte County. Fund income is designated for projects in the Del Norte area. (1988)

Del Norte Area Youth Fund

\$62,228



This advised endowment fund, a component fund of the Del Norte Area Fund, was established with proceeds from the Kid Town project in

Crescent City. It is intended to provide support for projects related to youth throughout Del Norte County. (2001)

Del Norte Child Care Council Fund

\$18,971



The Del Norte Child Care Council is a private nonprofit corporation established in 1980. Its

mission is to provide and support services that promote and encourage quality care, education, and healthy growth and development of all children and families in the Wild Rivers community. The agency provides childcare, referrals to services, childcare training, school age and preschool childcare centers, traffic safety and car seat training, and supervised visitation and other child abuse prevention activities. The council is governed by a volunteer board of directors and audited annually. Contributions to this fund will assist the council in expanding and supporting its activities and services to the children of the Wild Rivers community. (2005)

Del Norte County Historical Society Fund

\$37,184



Del Norte County Historical Society was established in 1951 by a group of citizens who wanted to record the rich history of Crescent City and Del Norte County. In 1965 the Society opened its museum in downtown Crescent City and took over operation and maintenance of Battery Point Lighthouse for the county through an agreement with the US Coast Guard. The board of the historical society set up a fund with Wild Rivers Community Foundation in 2006 to bolster support for these and related efforts. The fund provides support for the museum's research facility and the ongoing operations of both the museum and the lighthouse. Other financial support for the society's efforts

comes in the form of volunteer labor, memberships, entrance fees, and sales of books and other items at both facilities. (2006)

Del Norte County Public Library Discretionary Fund

\$10,712

The Del Norte County Public Library Discretionary Fund provides general support to the library to enhance learning and ensure access to information throughout the library's service area. This fund was established to enable the board of directors for the library, as fund advisors, to explore new ways to advance the library's mission. (2006)

Del Norte Library Foundation Fund

\$191,208



The foundation was established in 1997 to ensure that the Del Norte Library will continue to meet the needs of the community in the future.

Income from this endowment directly supports the library by purchasing needed items and enhancing library services. (1997)

Del Norte Senior Center Endowment Fund

\$34,250



The Del Norte Senior Center Endowment Fund was established as a means of supplementing the

funds received by the Del Norte Senior Center from federal and state grants in order to carry out its programs for Del Norte County seniors. The ultimate goal of the endowment fund is to ensure the long-term continuation and expansion of the many life-enriching and supporting programs for seniors through the senior center. The programs involve the three essential elements of healthy living for seniors: nutrition, health maintenance and socialization. This planned giving program will support the senior center in providing these services for generations to come. (2005)

Maritess Faith Demoret Memorial Fund

\$32,330



Originally from Pensacola, FL, Tess moved to Gasquet, CA in 2009 with her husband Robert Sewell. A deeply spiritual person, she had a strong connection with the natural world and a profound impact on the

lives of the many people who loved her. Tess planned on returning to school to earn her MSW before she passed away in an auto accident at the age of 31. It was her dream to help children who are abused and

create a kinder, more loving world. This fund was established to carry on her dreams and protect the children who cannot protect themselves. Please help us honor her memory and carry on her dreams by helping this very righteous cause. (2011)

Duncan Family Fund

\$31,785



The Duncan Family Fund, established in 2005 by Anne Marie and Gregory Duncan, benefits

children by supporting programs and projects in the Wild Rivers region. (2005)

Education For Life HMong Scholarship

\$8,594



"It takes a whole community for a student to achieve education for life," shared the Rev. Dr. Paul Joseph T.

Khamdy Yang. With that vision, in honor of Dr. Yang, to bridge the Hmong-American community and larger communities, and to support our Del Norte County Unified School District students' future in higher education, HMong American National Development Services established the Education for Life HMong Scholarship on May 12, 2014. With the magnificent support of many community members, HANDS was founded by three Del Norte High School students: Jeremiah Yang, Jonathan Yang, and Destiny Yang. The Education for Life HMong Scholarship is to be given to one recipient of HMong decent, and one out of the two recipients must be female. Thank you for your extravagant generosity for our children our future now. Education for life. (2015)

G. Russell Field Scholarship Trust Fund

\$144,290



G. Russell "Russ" Field, a photographer for the US Navy and a longtime resident of Smith River, died on February 10, 1998, leaving his estate to Humboldt Area

Foundation for the creation of the G. Russell Field Scholarship Trust Fund. A memorial endowment fund, the annual net income provides scholarship awards to graduating seniors of Del Norte High School planning to attend four-year accredited colleges or universities and pursue courses of study in fields other than theology and chiropractic medicine. His trustee, Joan Field, confirmed that Russ denied himself a great deal in order to be able to create this fund to help young people, "our hope for the future." (1999)

A Gift of Kindness in Times of COVID-19

Former Zoom executive and school teacher launch effort to put technology in the hands of low-income students.

Amidst the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic comes an inspirational story of giving that brings hope to students and teachers of the small, rural Redwood Elementary School in Northern California.

"For all the students at Redwood Elementary School, and across the nation, we can do so much when we work on a common cause and make this world a better place. We can really change things," said Greg Holmes, former elementary school teacher and former Vice President of Worldwide Sales for Zoom.

Holmes is the seed donor for the new Redwood School Technology Fund created by Wild Rivers Community to quickly provide devices and related technology to students so they could attend classes remotely and stay connected to their teachers, classmates and their school.

The fund was spearheaded this summer by Redwood School teacher Debi Long who, after reaching out to Holmes, received a \$10,000 donation from him to launch the fund. There are about 540 students enrolled in the school, half of which come from low-income households.

"When we left school in March, all my kids did not have access to the internet or devices. They couldn't be a part of their class," Long said.

"My one wish for this year is for my students to have a device. My students need them to connect to me and my classroom, and the other kids."

Long-term, the fund will support the creation of a "STEAM" Lab for Redwood students to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts. There is space at the school for the lab, but little funding to create and supply it, said Long.

"Our kids are eager to learn in an engaging environment, and we really want to foster that drive and curiosity by creating a STEAM lab," she said.

Help support the students at Redwood Elementary School by sharing this story and spreading this message of kindness.

Watch the video at youtu.be/-h3gi6EoVlg

Learn more about the fund and how to give at: wildriverscf.org/Giving/Make-a-Gift-Today/



Orchestrating Music Education and a Performing Arts Center for Del Norte County



“This isn’t just going to help the high school, but the whole community.”

- DAN SEDGWICK
Music Director at Del Norte High School

WRCF funders Nick and Lisa Rail continue their effort to boost music experience for the community.

After donating 100 musical instruments to Del Norte County schools and retrofitting the stage lighting at Crescent Elk Middle School in 2020, Nick and Lisa Rail have planted the seed for a performing arts center at the high school by pledging \$1 million to get the project started.

“One thing everyone wants is a modern well-equipped place to rehearse, perform and enjoy the arts — a performing arts center built on the high school campus,” Rail told the Del Norte Unified School District board of directors in July. “The students’ education requires it, the community needs it, and that’s why I’m here — to introduce some ideas on how this project could be achieved.”

Rail, a successful California music retailer who attended Del Norte schools in the 1950s and 60s, and his wife, Lisa, established a fund with Wild Rivers Community Foundation in 2018. The Rail’s mission is to ensure that no child is denied the opportunity to play music, with focus on providing and repairing quality band instruments for all elementary, junior and high school music programs.

The couple is now working closely with the school district, community organizations and WRCF on efforts to build a performing arts center, and plan to launch a fundraising campaign in 2021 to obtain grants and private donations. Rail also plans to establish an endowment for facility maintenance.

The initial goal of the proposed center is to seat 800 people and serve as a venue for student activities and community organizations like Lighthouse Repertory Theatre, the Del Norte Association of Cultural Awareness and the Community Concerts Association. For-profit uses would come third, Rail said.

“If we want to book the Rolling Stones, then they have a shot at it,” he said. “But otherwise, if the students have a performance, they have priority.”

Dan Sedgwick, music director at Del Norte High School, called the proposed performing arts center a game changer.

“This isn’t just going to help the high school, but the whole community,” he said. “We all know what graduation’s like when it rains. It would truly amazing to have the facility to house events like this. It’ll just be amazing.”



In the week leading up to Christmas, volunteers with the DNATL Community Food Council busily packed boxes full of canned and dry goods, turkeys and other food items to provide a holiday feast for those in need throughout Del Norte County.

“We’re always busy during the holidays, but the need is nearly three times the normal because of COVID,” said Andrea Lanctot, food program coordinator for the food council.

With help from a grant from Wild Rivers Community Foundation and Humboldt Area Foundation, the council served nearly 600 families that, under non-COVID-19 circumstances, would normally have attended a Community Thanksgiving Dinner. That event was cancelled because of pandemic restrictions, and the newly formed Del Norte Food Security Task Force (consisting of a variety of nonprofits, churches and public agencies) joined with the Pacific Pantry to provide food boxes for Christmas. The boxes were distributed to Del Norte Mission Possible, Our Daily Bread Ministries, Rural Human Services, the Del Norte County Veterans Service office, the Yurok Tribe and the Del Norte Senior Center.

“There are so many organizations – so many people – that have made this possible,” said Amanda Hixon, director of the DNATL Community Food Council. “The need to help people, especially during this pandemic, is extremely high, and we’re so glad that we can do what we can do.”

To learn more about efforts to combat food insecurity in Del Norte, visit the Pacific Pantry at the Family Resource Center at 494 Pacific Ave., Crescent City, or visit www.dnatlfood.com.



“... the need is nearly three times the normal because of COVID.”

- ANDREA LANCTOT
Food Program Coordinator for the Food Council

Community Food Council Provides Christmas Food Boxes

Friends of Brookings-Harbor Aquatic Center

\$3,252



Friends of the Brookings-Harbor Aquatic Center is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the

development of a sustainable community aquatic center to enhance access to year-round fitness and recreational programming that will promote wellness and improve quality of life for every member of our community regardless of age, fitness level, or physical capabilities. We believe an indoor aquatic center offering active recreation and fitness programs affords countless avenues to address community wellness needs including concerns about health (obesity and chronic diseases), the economy (job creation), and society in general (after-school activities and opportunities for the disabled and seniors to remain active despite physical limitations). (2011)

Friends of the Del Norte County Fair Fund

\$6,818



This fund was the long-term vision of community partners and the 41st District Agricultural

Association Board. The fund's purpose is to finance special projects which will ultimately enhance the community's overall use of our fairgrounds and support current and future projects and activities at the Del Norte County Fair. (2006)

Friends of the Family Resource Center

\$3,369



The first Family Resource Center (FRC) in Del Norte County was established in Crescent City to provide a warm, inviting, and accessible place where families can enjoy a variety of enriching activities and connect with many support services, from community resource and referral services to school readiness programs. Centrally located in a neighborhood near schools and outdoor play fields, the FRC provides a safe, neutral, and supportive environment that offers family fun activities, birthing classes, playgroups, parent support groups, nutrition education, early developmental screenings, books, games, and resources for check-out, parents and educator trainings, meeting space for partners, a children's garden, story times, movement and music, art and

science activities, and parent education classes. The FRC is so valuable that First 5 Del Norte has committed to provide long-term financing to ensure the site is a permanent resource for the community. However, to expand activities and programs to serve more families, and to meet current needs for children and youth, the FRC needs new financial community support. (2015)

Friends of the Langlois Public Library Fund

\$41,539



The Friends of the Langlois Public Library opened their fund to support the work of the

Langlois Public Library. As an organization, they hope to grow their funds and use them for future library construction. This library plays an important role in the small community, providing Langlois with a central meeting place for many. (2011)

Friends of the Wonder Bus

\$11,074



The Wonder Bus is a mobile book and toy lending library. The Wonder Bus travels throughout Del Norte County

offering enriching early literacy programs at preschools, apartments, elementary schools, and community events. The Wonder Bus also serves Del Norte's outlying, isolated communities. This collaborative effort provides accessible and responsive library and early literacy programs and services, educational resources for parents, siblings, and caregivers, and skill-building tools to Del Norte's children ages 0-8. First 5 has funded the staffing of the Wonder Bus for many years. However, the current demand exceeds the resources needed to expand programs that help our children prepare for kindergarten and become successful readers in school. With community support of donations to this fund, the Wonder Bus will be able to serve more children and to provide new books and educational programs to Del Norte children. (2014)

Vivian & Leonard Goodwin Endowment Fund

\$11,747



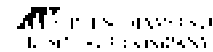
The Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery is a nonprofit ecological project working to increase and

perpetuate the native runs of steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Smith River, which is the last free-flowing river in California. The fish hatchery was built in 1968 entirely with donated funds, labor, and materials. The property was donated and the hatchery sits at the confluence of Dominie and Rowdy creeks. The Vivian & Leonard Goodwin Endowment Fund was established to benefit the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery.

Mr. Goodwin, who founded the fund, passed away on August 16, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Vivian. (2006)

Green Diamond Resource Company Fund

\$19,931



The Green Diamond Resource Company

Fund, established in 2005, will consider grant requests for fisheries and wildlife habitat restoration, forestry/habitat education, and research. (2005)

Richard Hanson and Bonnie Cushman Memorial Fund

\$114,025



Richard Hanson and his sister Bonnie (Hanson) Cushman were lifelong residents of Fort Dick.

They both loved people and served the community in their own ways. Bonnie was always very proud of Richard's many years of service as chief of the Fort Dick Volunteer Fire Department. This fund was set up in their honor to continue lifting up the community they loved by supporting the bravery and dedication of the Fort Dick Volunteer Fire Department. The fund will aid them in acquiring new machinery and equipment, maintaining their buildings, and other such needs that arise. (2016)

Zach Hegelmeyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

\$16,162

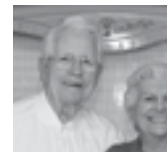


Zachary Warren Hegelmeyer died unexpectedly on Feb. 15, 2018, while surfing in Bali, Indonesia. Zach was born in Riverside, on Nov. 11, 1991, to David and Michele Hegelmeyer. Soon

after, the family moved to Crescent City where Zach grew up. Zach excelled at team sports, playing baseball and basketball for Del Norte High. He attended George Fox University where he continued playing baseball and graduated cum laude. Zach moved to Bend, Oregon in 2013, bought a house around the corner from his parents and worked as a bartender and brand ambassador for 10 Barrel Brewing. He loved walking his girlfriend's dog, Ike, along the Deschutes River and snowboarding on Mt. Bachelor. Zach was a passionate young man who loved adventure and devoted a fierce intensity to his work, relationships and fun. He was known for his charisma, sincerity and goofy sense of humor. Zach's Christian faith inspired him to value loyalty, fairness and compassion; he was quick to include outsiders and encourage those who doubted themselves. (2018)

Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund

\$3,368,470



When Gildard Hess was 19 years old he moved from Iowa to Oakland, CA. Though Gil had only completed one quarter of college before

taking a job as a welder for a sheet metal manufacturing business, he became the owner and built the business from a few people to over 150 employees. Another of Gil Hess' innovative achievements is his patented design of the baggage carousel, which is still used today in airports around the world. Married for 55 years, Gil and Ann Hess enjoyed great success in life and in business. In 1970, Gil and Ann retired to Del Norte County. Gil felt strongly about supporting students who may not shine in an academic setting, but who share his visionary thinking and entrepreneurial spirit. Therefore, the Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund is primarily dedicated to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in Del Norte students. (2013)

Dr. Janis C. Heuser Feline Fund

\$15,092



The Dr. Janis C. Heuser Feline Fund was established in 2014 to support the total loving care and keeping of cats and kittens, including medical care, spay, neuter, a permanent shelter for

abandoned cats, and a retirement center. This endowment fund will support the work in Gold Beach and central Curry County for providing complete and loving care and keeping of cats and kittens. Dr. Janis C. Heuser has been serving the needs of cats and kittens in Curry County for over 27 years. The endowment fund will continue her work now and in the future to provide ongoing support for cats and kittens in Curry County. (2014)

Amy Kaufmann Memorial Fund

\$14,407



Amy Kaufmann loved life. She enjoyed hiking, wilderness camping, snowboarding, mushroom hunting, fishing, rafting the Smith River, traveling, playing softball, and she loved her job working at Dr. Peter Tardiff's

veterinary office. Amy loved all animals, especially her dog "Green." Amy was very concerned about the welfare of family pets and the alarming rate of unwanted pets and the uncontrolled pet population. Part of the problem can be attributed to the limited financial resources of some pet owners. The Amy Kaufmann Memorial Fund was established after Amy's life was tragically taken on January 25, 2010, at the age of 26. Amy was very actively involved in the free spay and neuter clinics in Crescent City and the Del Norte Humane Society's K9 Olympics

fundraiser. Amy's Fund was created to be used in perpetuity for the spaying and neutering of Del Norte County cats and dogs. (2010)

Noel & Margaret LaCombe Fund

\$728,690



Mr. and Mrs. LaCombe, long-time residents of Crescent City, established this fund to provide scholarships to Del Norte High School

graduating seniors. Noel and Margaret did not have the opportunity to further their education. Mr. LaCombe passed away in 1992 and Mrs. LaCombe, in January of 1998. (1991)

Let the Music Play Fund

\$1,009



The Let the Music Play Fund was established in 2014 to support charitable work in the region with an emphasis on music and the arts for middle school students. Specifically, Act 1 of Let the Music Play Fund helped to support the purchasing of musical instruments for the music program at Smith River School. This fund will continue to serve as a vehicle to support music and the arts for our middle school students throughout Del Norte County and adjacent tribal lands. (2014)

Lighthouse Repertory Theatre Performing Arts Center Building Fund

\$13,458



The Lighthouse Repertory Theatre Performing Arts Center Building Fund will provide the theater group

the home it needs and a community arts center available for public use. Since LRT was founded in 1978, it has performed dozens of musicals, dramas, and comedies for thousands of people in a school auditorium. The Lighthouse Repertory Theatre is organized to foster and produce the best obtainable and most adaptable plays of the living theater for the entertainment and benefit of the community. (2005)

Martinelli Family Trust Fund

\$5,811



The Martinelli Family Trust was set up in 2005 by Thomas and Robin Martinelli. It was

their intention to have this trust focus on the needs of children, the elderly, and the disadvantaged of our community. Their initial funding of the trust will be used to help those in need of temporary housing, food, and on occasion, emergency pharmaceutical assistance. Hopefully, future funding will target

various projects in the Wild Rivers community. (2005)

Maureen McHugh Martinelli Spirit of Buona Ventura Memorial Endowment Fund

\$17,775



Spirit and Charity. These words capture the life and essence of Maureen McHugh Martinelli.

Established in 2007, the Maureen McHugh Martinelli Spirit of Buona Ventura Memorial Endowment Fund will support St. Bonaventure School's annual Maureen McHugh Martinelli Spirit Day and promote social justice and charity through matching student support of Heifer International. (2007)

No Hungry Kids – Wild Rivers Coast

\$5,824



No hungry kids is the goal of this fund. Set up with the assistance of community partners, children's nutritional needs will be addressed

by providing meals and improving food security for children, primarily during the summer. This is to be accomplished through the coordination and facilitation of existing resources and contributions. (2008)

North Jetty Cats Plus Endowment Fund

\$13,098

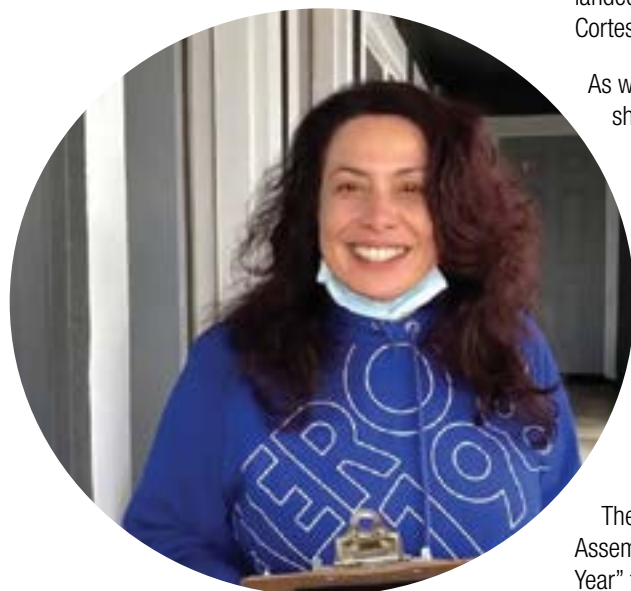


The North Jetty Cats Plus Endowment Fund was established in 2005 to provide for the total care and keeping of cats and

kittens in Curry County, OR including medical care, spaying, neutering, and shelter. As an endowment fund, the capital will remain intact and the interest income will provide ongoing support to North Jetty Cats Plus. Over the past 13 years North Jetty Cats Plus has medically treated, spayed/neutered, and adopted into loving homes nearly 4,000 cats and kittens. This fund was established by Ursula Elliot and Janis C. Heuser, DVM to financially guarantee the medical and loving care demonstrated in the past will continue and expand in the future. Long-term goals include providing ongoing support for a feline retirement center, shelter, boarding facilities, and a cat cemetery where cats can be laid to rest with gratitude and love. (2005)

Del Norte Mission Possible Named “Nonprofit of the Year”

Assembly member Jim Wood recognizes organizations’ efforts to help the homeless.



Daphne Cortese-Lambert, director of the **Del Norte Mission Possible** in Crescent City, has witnessed firsthand the positive influence the nonprofit has made in the lives of numerous homeless people.

“It truly is a community effort,” Cortese-Lambert said. “We couldn’t do it without our community partners and supporters who join together to make this program a success.”

Del Norte Mission Possible was established in 2019 to provide shelter, case management, and connection to support services for the homeless. It is managed by Cortese-Lambert and a volunteer board of directors. The nonprofit works closely with individuals, city and county agencies, other nonprofits and churches to develop locally-based solutions that address the growing homeless epidemic.

In one week in July, Cortese-Lambert talked with 125 homeless people and offered at least 162 various services such as food, clothing, showers and basic essentials, she said. The showers, located at Coastal Inn and Suites in Crescent City, “had 30 participants in one month and continues to be an excellent opportunity for relationship-based case management,” she said.

Her daily experience with homeless people is full of challenges, such as dealing with a recent drug overdose, domestic violence and COVID-19 issues. However, there are many successes, such as man who recently landed a new job and a place to live after receiving guidance from Cortese-Lambert.

As with many nonprofits, Del Norte Mission Possible works on a shoestring budget and is dependent on receiving help from many community partners. Wild Rivers Community Foundation has been a constant collaborative thinking partner, serving as a much-needed conduit for resources and has supplied deep technical assistance since its inception.

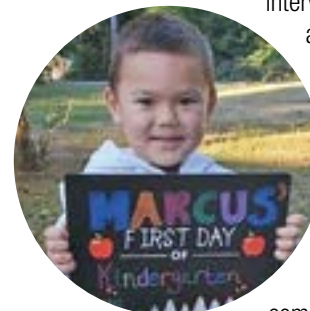
In early 2020, the nonprofit received \$15,000 in grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund established by Wild Rivers Community Foundation and Humboldt Area Foundation. The money helped supplement the shower program and helped address the need for increased services and management support during the pandemic.

The success of Del Norte Mission Possible inspired California Assembly Member Jim Wood in August to name it “Nonprofit of the Year” for his district, which includes Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Sonoma counties.

“Under the dedicated leadership and commitment of Ms. Cortese-Lambert and the support of community partners and generous donors, people in Del Norte County have access to the support they need to improve their circumstances,” Wood said.

When 5-year-old Marcus Grant graduated pre-school and started kindergarten in September, 2020, it marked a milestone for the “**3READ23 Literacy Initiative**,” a program designed to ensure that all third-grade students in Del Norte County and Tribal Lands are reading at third grade level by 2023.

Marcus was among a group of local preschoolers identified by the literacy initiative soon after its launch in 2016. The initiative, sponsored by The California Endowment and Building Healthy Communities, was developed by educators, business and community leaders, parents and nonprofits. A select group of community partners called the Core Design Team took a deep dive into the school district’s low student test scores. The team, assisted by the consulting firm ThinkPlace, began an 18-month journey of empathy



interviews. They synthesized the information and produced a “journey map” that not only revealed the community’s story of literacy but guided their efforts to create solutions and system changes to achieve the third-grade literacy goals.

“When we began, the realization that over 60 percent of children in our community were not prepared for kindergarten struck a nerve for me,” said team member Melodee Mitchell, executive director of the Del Norte Child Care Council. “This was an area I was compelled to improve for our littles, they deserved a better start to their education”

Establishing good reading skills is more than just learning the ABCs. It starts with families having access to quality books, understanding the importance of reading every day, attending the right preschool or daycare, having support for day-to-day life, and other critical skills to be successful in kindergarten. It also starts with giving pre-school teachers and daycare staff information, resources and encouragement to help children prepare for kindergarten.

During the past four years, the Core Development Team’s efforts have:

- Raised the awareness of and quality of child care through increased participation in quality care programs, parental knowledge, and choice of preschool opportunities.
- Boosted teacher/provider enrollment boosts in programs such as First 5 Quality Counts, DNCCC Education Network, and Early Head Start for Family Child Care.
- Created preschool professional development opportunities.
- Promoted the Family Resource Center’s involvement groups and “Parent Cafe” to provide parents with resources and help them feel connected.
- Created a free “Ready4K” texting program that provides parents

3READ23

Literacy Initiative Setting Up Our Littles for Success

with daily tips and information to help their children be ready for kindergarten. (When COVID-19 pandemic closed schools, this text program was rapidly expanded and texts went out to families of pre-K through fourth grade students to assist them in learning at home.)

- Brought back the Wonder Bus, a mobile library that serves all of Del Norte County (thanks to a collaboration among First 5 Del Norte, Del Norte Child Care Council and other community partners).
- Distributed to parents and children more than 800 “Ready for Kindergarten” backpacks filled with school readiness supplies and resources.
- Supported “Breakfast in the Classroom,” a program in several elementary schools that provide children the fuel they need to succeed.

There is still plenty to be done to insure the success of our children and, in the fall of 2020, the members of the 3READ23 Core Design Team rededicated themselves to building on their success.

The team includes community leaders and partners such as Amira Long, executive director of the Family Resource Center of the Redwoods; Angela Glore, director of First 5 Del Norte; Cynthia Barcelo, Latino health coordinator at Open Door Community Clinic; Melodee Mitchell, director of the Del Norte Child Care Council; Lisa Howard, teacher coordinator for the Del Norte Unified School District; Michelle Carrillo, director of BHC; and Jessica Ortiz, core design team coordinator.



Dr. Cecilia M. Patton, DC, Scholarship Fund

\$12,558



Ann Bolger established this scholarship in honor of her daughter Dr. Patton. Ann Elizabeth Bolger, a Chicago native, fell in love with Crescent City after her

daughter moved here in 2004. Dr. Cecilia Marie Patton loves to see people get well through chiropractic, particularly with Chiropractic BioPhysics (CBP), a method of spine analysis and treatment. She supports CBP NonProfit, a brilliant group of doctors and researchers who work tirelessly to advance chiropractic science and effectiveness. As an Advanced Certified CBP practitioner, Dr. Patton achieves spine realignment results that are unique and different for people compared to what traditional chiropractic allows. With her mother's love of education and Dr. Cecilia Patton's first-hand knowledge and experience they wish to encourage students who are interested in becoming Healers to pursue the study of the chiropractic profession and/or fields of study that are integral to the chiropractic profession. (2017)

Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Curry County Fund

\$61,543

In response to physician shortages, the Wild Rivers Community Foundation established the Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Curry County Fund. The fund helps recruit medical doctors by offering a medical school loan repayment plan in yearly increments for each year served in Curry County, up to a maximum of 4 years. Applicants must serve in a needed field of medicine in Curry County for at least 2 years to qualify. (2008)

Del Norte Physicians' Recruitment & Retention Fund

\$353,574



This fund was started in 2007 by several community-minded businesses, organizations and individuals. It was established with the goal of promoting

health care in Del Norte County by recruiting and ultimately retaining physicians for this area. (2007)

Physicians' Community Fund

\$161,096



Income from the Physicians' Community Fund, an advised fund, is available for distribution to North Coast nonprofit organizations to serve humanitarian, cultural, educational, or charitable purposes. (1995)

Nick and Lisa Rail Music Fund

\$48,875



The Nick and Lisa Rail Music Fund was established in 2018 to support music and the arts in Del Norte County, focusing first and foremost on music education in public

schools, especially instrumental. Immediate goals are to improve the scope and quality of band instruments for all of the elementary, junior high and high school music programs. Ongoing goals are to continue building this inventory and providing the resources to maintain it. The long term goal is the construction of a performing arts center on the high school campus. The arts are alive and well in Crescent City, yet there isn't a proper stage anywhere in the county for groups to perform. The school district and community at large deserves a modern venue to showcase the talents of our youth, whether band, choir, dance, or theater. The Rails welcome your help in achieving this goal. (2018)

Ray "Buck" Rosendahl Memorial Pet Assistance Fund

\$6,050



In 2004, Buck and his bride Tracie began an amazing and life-changing journey together in beautiful Gold Beach, OR. There they opened and developed Woof's Dog Bakery and Pet Supplies, a holistic pet nutrition center. With two locations on the southern Oregon Coast, they touched many lives while making meaningful friendships along the way. Ray "Buck" Rosendahl left this earth on February 17, 2016, at his home with family and friends by his side after battling cancer. He was 71 years young. "Buck" will not be forgotten. The Ray "Buck" Rosendahl Memorial Pet Assistance Fund was established in 2016 in his honor to provide support for the total care of animals in Curry County, OR. (2016)

R. Baird & Jane Rumiano Family Fund

\$54,544



Baird and Jane Rumiano have lived in Crescent City for most of their adult lives. They raised their two boys, Joby and Tony, in Del Norte. Both attended

local schools and completed their college education at Humboldt State University. Del Norte and Humboldt counties have been good to the Rumianos. They wish to give back to the community by way of this fund intended to build financial stability, community participation, and enrichment by supporting athletics, scholarships,

training for volunteers and volunteerism, and other programs supporting self-sufficiency in the people, the natural resources, and the beauty of our area. Baird is owner of Rumiano Cheese Company and Jane has been a high school tennis coach and instructor for over 30 years and still continues her love of the game. (2009)

Philip & Beth Schafer Fund

\$41,111

Longtime residents of Del Norte County, Philip and Beth Schafer have been avid supporters of the community and have established a fund to support needs as they arise in Del Norte County. (2008)

Search & Rescue Endowment Fund

\$22,563



A young child with autism, Colin Buchanan was lost along the North Fork of the Smith River in 2004 while hiking and fishing with his father. When the Del Norte County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team received the call, they immediately recognized the severity of the situation for Colin, who is nonverbal and unable to call out for help. Search and Rescue responded quickly and the child was picked up by a helicopter 30 minutes before nightfall. Colin Buchanan's family established this fund to provide ongoing support to Search and Rescue for everyone in Del Norte County. They are a skilled team of committed community volunteers, providing ground searches, technical rescues, swift water rescues, and dive rescues in coordination with the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office. As the fund advisors, the Search and Rescue Board of Directors makes recommendations for expenditures. (2005)

Smith River Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Restoration Fund

\$12,367



This fund supports habitat restoration projects and related planning and education within the Smith River watershed. The Smith

River is legendary for its native salmon and steelhead. These fish have always been a part of the culture and human habitation within the watershed, beginning with Native Americans thousands of years ago to the local community and tourists visiting the watershed today. This fund represents the collaboration of three entities:

Green Diamond Resource Company, Del Norte County's largest private landowner; Smith River Alliance, a watershed organization founded in 1980 that is active in river and fish restoration projects; and the Smith River Advisory Council, an independent group of representatives from public and private entities with a shared interest in watershed habitat restoration projects. (2005)

South Fork/Big Flat Expendable Fund

\$57,897



The South Forth/Big Flat Expendable Fund was established by Bob Steven in memory of John and Mildred Nickelsen. Bob felt blessed to

be able to continue John and Mildred's legacy by giving back for the betterment of Del Norte County. Del Norte County was built on industry, and John's career that he loved was tied to the timber industry. At Bob's direction, this fund supports charitable work in Del Norte County to address changing needs as they arise. (2016)

South Fork / Big Flat Endowment Scholarship Fund

\$18,051



Siblings John and Mildred Nickelsen learned the true meaning of grit at a very young age. Losing their father in an accident when they were kids

forced them to face the adult world early on. This challenge in their youth made them strong and they both led successful, fulfilling lives. John and Mildred were firm believers in education and that one should never stop learning and developing. They were true examples of what can be accomplished through determination, hard work and commitment even in the face of adversity. In memory of John and Mildred, the South Fork/Big Flat Scholarship Endowment Fund was established by Bob Steven in 2018. At Bob's direction, scholarships from this fund will be awarded in Del Norte and Curry counties to support students pursuing science, professional and industrial careers. (2018)

Ted Souza Memorial Fisheries Fund

\$6,151



The Ted Souza Memorial Fisheries Fund was established by the Friends of Del Norte to commemorate a dedicated life of serving as a longtime board

member and treasurer. Ted was an avid outdoorsman with a true love for the Smith River. He was a fisherman who committed his life to saving and restoring our historic salmon and

steelhead runs on the Smith River. Ted worked hard to keep state fishing regulations commensurate with the decline in fish runs. He supported laws like no bait fishing and catch and release only policies. With his youthful energy and pragmatic outlook, Ted stayed actively involved in local environmental issues into his 90s, an inspiration to us all. Ted's personal motto was: "It is OK to grow older, just don't get old." These funds will be used to further Ted's interests in fisheries' habitat restoration and scientific research to help further the health of salmon and steelhead populations on the Smith and other local rivers. (2017)

Eileen A. Tardiff Memorial Fund

\$18,280

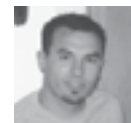


Eileen Tardiff was a loving wife and mother of nine children. She was active in her local community before her diagnosis and struggle with dementia that

resulted in her death in 2005. Through her illness, her family learned of the pressing need in the community for assistance in matters involving senior citizens. They established this field of interest fund in her memory to help ensure that seniors in our community receive the assistance they need. (2004)

Dustin Weber Memorial Fund

\$167



Dustin was 25 years old, adventurous, had a dazzling smile, and was loved by all. He enjoyed hiking with his dad and riding his mountain bike. He was

a graduate of Mountain View High School in Bend, OR. Dustin moved to Klamath, CA in February of 2011 to fix up a house that was given to him by his grandmother on Requa Hill. On March 11, 2011, Dustin and some friends went down to the mouth of the Klamath to take pictures of the waves from the tsunami. Dustin was hit by a large surge wave while his back was turned and was swept out to sea. His body was removed in April, four hundred miles north in Astoria, OR. He may be gone but never forgotten. October 5, 1985–March 11, 2011. (2012)

Wild Rivers Community Fund

\$29,374



The Wild Rivers Community Foundation promotes and encourages generosity, leadership, and

inclusion to strengthen our communities. It works to keep local capital within the Wild Rivers region. This fund was established to provide opportunities

for general discretionary giving to support the Wild Rivers region. (2005)

Wild Rivers Health Forever Fund

\$16,779



As physicians who have raised their families in Del Norte County, they believe quality, accessible healthcare is essential to the future of

the Wild Rivers coast of northern California and southern Oregon. The Wild Rivers Health Forever Fund is dedicated to preserving, improving, and expanding healthcare services for the residents and visitors of the region. Fund goals include the addition of chemotherapy, kidney dialysis, cardiology, primary and specialty care physicians, nurses, and physician assistants. Simply, the commitment is to help local residents receive quality, affordable healthcare without having to leave the area. (2013)

WILD RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS:

John Babin

Kara Miller

John Rush

Monica Sperling

David Finigan

Alan Nidiffer

Megan Curtis

Generous Gifts

Keep Crescent City Childcare Center from Imminent Shutdown



Three Crescent City nonprofit childcare centers were on the brink of shutting down in January 2021— victims of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic — when they received a \$20,000 grant to prevent staff layoffs and stay open for 49 children and their families.

“It was that dire of a situation,” said Melodee Mitchell, director for the Del Norte Child Care Council, a community partner with Wild Rivers Community Foundation. “These families are working families and this would have directly impacted their ability to work — and we would have had to lay off employees who would be forced to draw unemployment.”

The grant allowed the three centers — at Mary Peacock Elementary, Little School of the Redwoods, and Redwood Elementary — to operate until April, 2021. The grant was provided by the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund created in March by WRCF and Humboldt Area Foundation. (See related story on page 2.)

Keri Mosey, coordinator for WRCF’s Nonprofit Alliance, heard of the potential closures and encouraged Mitchell to apply for the grant.

“Through our relationship with these community groups we are building a powerful, trusted network of support that makes it easier to lift one another up as we all try to get through these difficult times,” said Mosey.

Mitchell said the lack of financial assistance from the state or federal governments has left childcare facilities across the state scrambling to keep their doors open. Many of these centers, like the three in Crescent City, are solely dependent on enrollment fees to operate. Making matters more difficult, COVID restrictions reduced the number of the children that can occupy any given center, while at the same time the closure of all Del Norte Unified School District classrooms has significantly increased the demand for child care.

“While other industries have received support from Congress to ensure they can remain open during the pandemic, child care has yet to see meaningful investment,” Mitchell said. “This is a critical industry that supports economic recovery and family financial stability. With lower enrollment rates, less revenue, and increased expenses, child care providers cannot hang on much longer. Many have already permanently closed.”

Heidi Bachman, director of the childcare center at Redwood Elementary, said parents who currently enroll their children at that center are still working at places such as Sutter Coast Hospital, Pelican Bay State Prison, Del Norte Unified School District, a local petroleum company, and Del Norte County offices.

“Parents were stressing out about what they will do if we shut down. These families and these kids need us and this grant is a tremendous gift.”

- **HEIDI BACHMAN,**
Director of the Childcare Center
at Redwood Elementary



Philanthropic Partnerships

Leveraging Resources to Create Impact and Opportunities

Wild Rivers Community Foundation (WRCF) is honored to collaborate with so many diverse philanthropic partners throughout the year to address community needs as they arise in Del Norte and Curry counties.

WRCF believes in the power of partnerships and in the power of people coming together with a united focus and a shared purpose. We engage in these partnerships to build scale and impact that we otherwise alone could not obtain. The collaborative partnerships helped to leverage dollars and impact for Curry and Del Norte County in many diverse ways including the following: Keeping the doors of a veteran-serving organization open, Disaster and Resilience Preparedness facilitation and support, training volunteers to work with foster youth as advocates, provide snacks for after school programs, provide support for sack lunches for Veterans, funding to purchase a new steam table to keep food warm for seniors, support for community theatre and the arts, funding to support literacy through the purchase of books to children in Klamath, and funding Career Technical Education opportunities and projects as presented by youth.

WRCF Partnership Grants

WRCF facilitates two grant rounds each year to support nonprofit organizations, service clubs, schools, tribal governments and faith-based institutions that are providing valuable services to our citizens in the Wild Rivers Region. The following grant rounds would not be possible without the commitment and collaboration of our partners and donors.

Holiday Partnership Grants: This collaboration with our partners supports those institutions and organizations that help provide holiday meals, warm clothing, shoes, and even toys for children who might not otherwise receive them during the holidays providing much needed hope.

Summer Youth Mini Grants are awarded to organizations that provide fun, safe, enriching and healthy activities for children and teens during the summer months when they are not in school. A variety of activities, from acting classes to sports to art camps, offer personal growth and are available throughout Del Norte and Curry counties.

Since its inception WRCF has awarded more than \$3 million in grants and scholarships in Del Norte and Curry counties. Our partnerships and collaborations with private funders, donors, businesses and other foundations help us to leverage dollars to powerfully impact the communities we serve. Thanks to our partners for their generosity and commitment to our communities.



OUR PARTNERS

John G. Atkins Foundation
 Brattain Family Trust
 The California Endowment
 Coos Curry Electric Cooperative
 Arthur R. Dubs Foundation
 Gordon Elwood Foundation
 The Ford Family Foundation

Gil and Ann H. Hess Fund
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 Red Sky Roofing
 South Fork / Big Flat Endowment Fund

St. Joseph's Hospital Humboldt
 Patricia D. and William B. Smullin Foundation
 Dale and JoAnn Thomas Charitable Fund
 West Family Foundation

What is Planned Giving?

It may sound fancy, though really, planned giving is simple.

What is planned giving?

Making a plan to make a charitable gift in the future

Why is it important?

The tax code offers different incentives at major life events: marriage, inheritance, sale of a business or investment property and end of life

Some examples of planned giving are:

- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Bequests
- Life Estates
- Charitable IRA Rollover
- Donations of Appreciated Assets

How do you get started?

Your CPA or estate planning attorney can help you decide what is best for you or for more general information, you can **contact Gina Zottola at Wild Rivers Community Foundation at 707-465-1238.**

Legacy Society

Wild Rivers Community Foundation thanks all those who have included a gift for charitable work in their will or living trust. The following are Wild Rivers Community Foundation's Legacy Society members whose gifts will support work they value for future generations. If you would like to join the Legacy Society, please call Donor Services at 707-465-1238. You can join and be listed or remain anonymous.

- John & Ellen Babin
- Gary & Becky Blatnick
- Dan & Kathy Brattain
- Jon P. & Patrica A. Brunsing
- William & Maureen Follett
- Anne Glidden
- Kevin & Gayle Hartwick
- Dr. Janis C. Heuser
- Chester & Lynda O'Neill
- R. Baird & Jane Rumiano
- Mike Souza
- Tom & Toni Stewart
- Patricia Vernelson
- Dennis & Becky Wood

GIVE A GIFT

The **Wild Rivers Community Foundation** and **Humboldt Area Foundation** have been built on the generosity of thousands of community members who believe in giving back to the communities they love. This yearbook illustrates the tremendous impact of that generosity, and reminds us that by working together we can overcome the interconnected challenges we face and build a more prosperous future.

Step 1

Decide **WHEN** you want to make your gift

Make your gift today, make a monthly contribution, or include a gift in your will.

Step 3

Choose **WHERE** your gift will be directed

- Give to the **COVID-19 Regional Response Fund** to address the unique challenges posed by the pandemic
- Give to the **Emergency Disaster Response Fund** to support your neighbors impacted by wildfires and other unforeseen disasters
- Give to the **Humboldt Area Foundation Opportunity Fund** to address constantly changing needs and capitalize on new opportunities identified by our community
- Give to a fund listed in this yearbook
- Give to a fund you create

Step 2

Identify **HOW** you would like to make your gift



Step 4

Reach out for guidance on your gift

Call our Donor Engagement team at **707-465-1238** to discuss your goals and maximize the impact of your gift on our community's future.

Professional Advisors

Professional advisors play a critical role in stewarding our community's generosity and we welcome the opportunity to work together. Throughout this yearbook, you'll find hundreds of examples of ways we've married the passions and financial goals of individual donors with the needs of our community. By combining your expertise and understanding of your clients' goals with our local knowledge and flexible giving options, we can make the most of your clients' gift for generations to come.

To learn more about collaborating with the Wild Rivers Community Foundation and Humboldt Area Foundation, visit wrcf.org or call 707-465-1238.

Wild Rivers Community Foundation Board of Directors



John Babin
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
BROOKINGS LAW OFFICE



Meagan Curtis
FINANCIAL ADVISOR,
EDWARD JONES



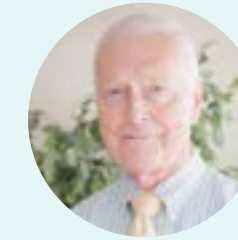
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In 2019 / 2020 Wild Rivers Community Foundation
gave **\$508,499** representing **104** grants
and **12** scholarships.

We received
94 gifts from the community
totaling approximately
\$297,146.

*Wild Rivers Community Foundation, an affiliate of
Humboldt Area Foundation and serving all of
Del Norte and Curry counties, promotes and encourages
generosity, leadership and inclusion to
strengthen our communities.*

wildriverscf.org

Visit us on Facebook



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