



#### **Our Strategic Goals**

Racial Equity
Thriving Youth & Families
Healthy Ecosystem & Environment
A Just Economy & Economic Development

Humboldt Area Foundation

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### **Quarterly Newsletter, Spring 2024**

### **Grant supports Klamath Boys & Girls Club activities**



Photo by HAF+WRCF

Children gather around Klamath Club Manager Harold Hones, middle, to celebrate receiving a \$25,000 HAF+WRCF grant in March, 2024. The Klamath Boys and Girls Club of the Yurok Tribe will use a \$25,000 strategy grant from HAF+WRCF for operational expenses that include cultural field trips, supplies and activities for local children.

The club's primary goal is to give youth the educational and social skills they need to become empowered adults, according to club Manager Harold Jones.

The club serves 25 young people a day in Klamath and 10 young people a day in the Humboldt County location of Ke'pel. In the summer, the program expands its hours and membership capacity, through partnerships and interns, and expands to seven hours a day, five days a week.

The Klamath facility offers exercise stations, a pool table and other table

"We appreciate the support of HAF+WRCF and this grant will go a long way in helping us provide safe, positive experiences for our youth."

Harold JonesClub Manager

games. There are also weekly classes, tutoring services, and other specialized scholastic opportunities.

HAF+WRCF's strategy grant prowgram, funded by its generous donors, is designed to assist groups and projects in Humboldt, Del Norte, Curry, and Trinity counties, furthering a healthy, just and equitable region where community members and families can thrive.

### Humboldt groups issue clear message about wind energy

In April, officials with CORE HUB, Brookings Institute and Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District sent an important message to policy makers as state and federal governments make critical decisions about developing offshore wind energy in the Humboldt Bay region.

"It's time to end mega-project malpractice once and for all," stated CORE Hub Executive in Residence Katerina Oskarsson, writing an opinion piece with Linnea Jackson, general manager for the Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District, and Xavier de Souza Briggs, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The editorial begins, "Across the country, the push to rapidly deploy renewable energy infrastructure—especially in the form of big "utility-scale"

projects—is colliding with local concerns and, in some cases, creating fierce battles in court. While the need to reform and accelerate permitting for these projects has garnered most of the attention, that need obscures an underlying problem: The conventional approach to developing energy infrastructure won't be good enough."

The CORE Hub is a community organization headquartered at the HAF+WRCF office in Bayside, CA, with a mission to help solve the climate emergency, and act with urgency to transition our built and natural systems to become both decarbonized and resilient at the same time. Learn more at redwoodcorehub.org.

Read the full editorial online at bit.ly/corehubmessage.



Photo by HAF+WRCF

"These choices will tell us whether we are on a business-as-usual 'low road' path or a sustainable and inclusive 'high road" one that benefits the local energy-producing community."

- Katerina Oskarsson

### **Emmerson funds for Arcata Fire District, SoHum Health**

Arcata Fire District and Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare Foundation (SoHum) have received grants totaling \$1.16 million from the Orvamae Emmerson Endowment Fund, a component of HAF+WRCF.

Arcata Fire District will receive \$910,000 over seven years toward the purchase of a new fire engine, while SoHum Health will receive \$250,000 over five years toward the building of a new hospital in Garberville.

"This is exactly how Orvamae wanted her money to be spent," said Edith (Edy) Vaissade, former HAF board member and close friend of Emmerson. "She'd be so happy with the impact that her endowment is having in the community."

The endowment fund was established in 2007 in memory and honor of the long-time Arcata resident, who passed away on December 20, 2006. Emmerson was inspired to create the fund because she once needed emergency



Submitted photo

Arcata Fire District will use its grant to make payments on a new fire engine, replacing an existing one that is 15 years old.

workers in Arcata. She noted in her trust that she was especially interested in supporting the Arcata Volunteer Fire Department and the Arcata Police Department, and efforts to treat and prevent arthritis and heart disease.

Regarding the health grant, SoHum Outreach Manager Chelsea Brown said, "We are grateful for the funding from the Orvamae grant and the support of HAF for believing in this project. It will help make our dream of a new hospital a reality for the residents who often get left out."

Aging infrastructure and new state seismic building codes that take effect in 2030 spurred the replacement of Garberville's current 9-bed hospital, which serves about 10,000 residents and tourists, Brown said. SoHum is currently in the design phase of the \$40 million-plus project, with plans to break ground on a new site in 2026 and open the facility in 2029. The hospital will have eight emergency beds, 15 acute inpatient beds, and services

such as radiology, ultrasound, mammography, and a mobile MRI unit. she said.

Arcata Fire District will use its grant to retire a 15-year-old fire truck and make payments on a new one that costs approximately \$906,000, said Fire Chief Justin McDonald. The truck, which will be delivered in about 29 months, will feature Orvamae Emmerson's name on it, he said.

"The generosity and support of Orvamae and HAF is absolutely amazing. It's nice not to have to worry as much about funding for things like this," he said.

In recent years, Emmerson endowment grants have been used by the Arcata Volunteer Firefighters' Association to remodel several fire houses, the Arcata Police Department for equipment and community programs, and Open Door Community Health Centers to help construct and operate a new community health center.

### HAF+WRCF's annual investment review and peformance

On March 14, HAF+WRCF hosted our Annual Investment Review with Angeles Investment Advisors, LLC, at the Bayside office.

Attendess heard from HAF+WRCF's finance and donor relations staff as well as Anna McGibbons, CFA, Senior Managing Director with Angeles Investments Advisors.

The presentation included an overview of investing, a review HAF+WRCF's investment portfolio, discussion of performance during the past year, and examples of how investing supports great work in our communities.

Read the annual investment report at bit.ly/Investmentreview2024.

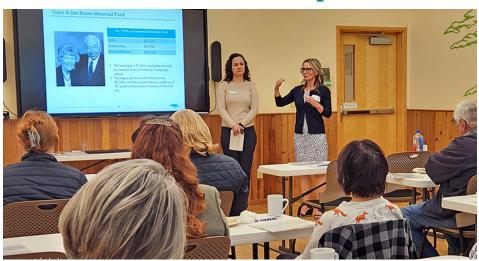


Photo by HAF+WRC

Laurel Dalsted, HAF+WRCF's Donor Relations & Development Director, and Anna McGibons, CFA, Senior Marketing Director for Angeles Investment Advisors, share the Foundation's latest financial data with donors.

## Grant helps HAPI build Chinatown monument in Old Town Eureka

Humboldt Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI) has received a \$25,000 strategy grant from HAF+WRCF toward the building of a monument near Eureka's waterfront in Old Town as part of its ongoing Chinatown project.



Submitted ph

HAPI board members want to remember and recognize the violent expulsion of Chinese people in 1885.

"The goal of the monument is to remember and recognize what happened to the Chinese population in our area," said HAPI steering committee member Sheri Woo. "The HAF+WRCF grant is the first significant funding for our project, bringing us to about two-thirds of the

way to meeting our \$254,000 goal."

The monument, designed to tell the history of Chinese people in the area and the violent Chinese Expulsion of 1885, is planned for the city-owned corner of E and First streets. The monument design includes a Chinese moon gate, landscaping, and a river "timeline" with stones marking significant points in the history of the area's Chinese people from 1865 to present day.

Woo said HAPI has raised more than \$125,000 itself, along with a commit-

ment from the city of Eureka to cover liability insurance costs and maintenance of the corner property. Donations can be made to HAPI at its website www.inkpeople.org or through a Go-FundMe campaign.

"It is a real joy and privilege to support HAPI with fund-

ing as part of the eight commitments HAF+WRCF has made regarding race, safety and belonging in the region," said Rachel Montgomery, HAF+WRCF's Program Officer for Programs & Community Solutions.

HAF+WRCF's strategy grant program, funded by its generous donors, is designed to assist groups and projects in Humboldt, Del Norte, Curry, and Trinity counties.

"HAPI has done phenomenal work in a short amount of time to build strong connections among the Asian-American, Pacific Islander, and Desi immigrant communities in Humboldt County, as well as highlighting their historic and ongoing contributions and challenges with the wider community in Humboldt County and beyond," Montgomery said..

# Independent Living plans new interview room for clients

The Tri-County Independent Living office in Crescent City will soon open a multi-purpose interview and sensory room for clients, staff, and community members thanks to a \$6,000 Strategy Grant from HAF+WRCF.

"We are grateful for the grant and the support of other local agencies such as Rural Human Services and SMART Workforce that will make this all possible," said Sequoia Commins, site supervisor for Tri-County Independent Living's Del Norte County office. "It's great to see it go from just an idea several months ago to reality so guickly."

The nonprofit's mission is to promote the philosophy of independent living, to connect individuals with services, and work to create an accessible community, so that people with disabilities can have control over their lives and full access to the communities in which they live.

The Crescent City office is located at 286 M Street, Suite C, formerly occupied by WIC.

For more information about Tri-County Independent Living visit www.tilinet.org/delnorte, or call Commins at 833-866-8444, ext. 705.

### Building cultural connections in our community



Photo by HAF+WRCF

HAF+WRCF CEO Bryna Lipper, middle, and Boardmembers David Finigan and Raquel Ortega with the Hmong painting.

In March, HAF+WRCF hosted leaders from the Hayfork Hmong Community to discuss ways the two organizations could build cultural connections throughout our four-county region.

Our Board of Directors and CEO Bryna Lipper were presented with this incredible painting depicting Lao village life. The Foundation thanks the Hmong Community for this generous gift.



Photo by HAF+WRCI

Sequoia Commins, site supervisor for Tri-County Independent Living's Del Norte County office.

### Humboldt County's Eli Pence joins HAF+WRCF board

In January, HAF+WRCF welcomed its newest board member: Eli Pence, sociologist, trans activist, and academic advisor at Cal Poly Humboldt.

"We are excited to welcome Eli as a new board member," said Charlie Jordan, Chair of HAF+WRCF's board of directors. "He brings his experience in education and sociology to the board and provides representation of the LGBTQ+ community, which furthers our ability to serve all within our area." Pence, who grew up in Branscomb, California, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Mills College in 2005 and a Master's Degree in Sociology from Cal Poly Humboldt in 2010. For the last 10

years he has worked as a lecturer at



Photo by HAF+WRCF

the university with emphasis on ethnic and women's studies. He also serves as an academic advisor with Humboldt's TRIO Student Support

Services Program, helping low-income, first-generation students gain success in college and beyond.

Before joining the university, Pence was the Student Research Program Director at the California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP), where he created a research program for low-income and indigenous middle and high school students that combined com-

munity service, college readiness and self-efficacy.

"It is an honor to be able to leverage my privilege and connections to help our local communities in real, material ways," Pence said. "I'm so excited to support amazing social justice initiatives and programs, as well as represent the interests of the queer-trans community in my service."

When he's not teaching, advising and grant writing at the college level, he volunteers as a steering committee member for the Eureka Bike Kitchen and, previously, for Food For People, the Humboldt County food bank. His personal interests include road cycling, hanging out with his dogs, and doing yard work.

### Humboldt launches diversity, equity, inclusion pilot program

Congratulations to the County of Humboldt's Office of Human Resources, which recently received a HAF+WRCF Strategy Grant of \$15,000 to launch a pilot program this year to achieve its strategic goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

HAF+WRCF Strategy Grants support organizations and projects that decrease vulnerability, increase equity and further a healthy, just, and equitable region where families can thrive.

The county's Awareness-Based Leadership
Program and Pilot Supervisor Academy is designed
and led in part by Jeremy
Michael Clark, Ph.D., the
county's Organization Development and Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion Manager and
an expert in organizational
development, and Crystal
Henson, DEI administrative



Photo by HAF+WRCF

Officials with the county's Office of Human Resources are using the \$15,000 grant to train staff about diversity, equity and inclusion.

analyst, with the support of County Administrative Officer Elishia Hayes and Human Resources Director Zach O'Hanen.

Dr. Clark created the program to help the county achieve its strategic goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and in response to what Clark describes as a workforce that was hungry for these skills.

"This program is here because of staff who've been saying 'Hey, we really want to learn and grow.' We're in a very incredible position where staff really want this kind of training," says Clark.

County staff who supervise other employees will take part in the new program that combines skills-based training with emotional and cultural intelligence, and leadership development. Supervisors were selected as the first cohort because of their broad reach within the community. Through the county's 21 departments, supervisors interact daily with thousands of county staff, residents, and community leaders.

The pilot program is designed as a three-part journey. Part one focuses on self-discovery, part two helps staff set personal goals as a supervisor and explores emotional and cultural intelligence and their applications in the workplace, and part three culminates with self-reflection. Staff participants will also take part in a pre-and postintercultural competence test, which will highlight how much participants have improved their cultural intelligence levels after completing the program.