



Orvamae Emerson's Legacy of Generosity

On Sept. 30, HAF+ WRCF staff had the honor of attending a “push-in” ceremony, joining Arcata Fire District firefighters, board and community members as they pushed the District’s new 2026 Pierce Enforcer engine into its bay. The engine was funded by a grant from the Orvamae Emerson Endowment Fund, a component fund held at the Foundation. According to Arcata Fire's press release, the truck is an important investment in emergency response and will primarily support crews as they protect homes and businesses but is also equipped to respond to medical emergencies and rescues.

Orvamae, a long-time resident of Arcata, passed away December 20, 2006, leaving a generous gift from her estate to further her charitable intentions. During her lifetime Orvamae was an engaged member of the community, active in Humboldt Sponsors, the Ingomar Club, Baywood Golf & Country Club and the Cattlemen's Association. She noted in her trust that she was especially interested in supporting the Arcata Fire District, Arcata Police Department, and the treatment and prevention of arthritis and heart disease. In the 20 years since her passing, the fund has supported numerous investments in community safety and healthcare, continuing a legacy of generosity for generations to come.



Arcata Fire District firefighters, board and community members, and HAF+WRCF staff participate in the 'push in' ceremony.
Photo courtesy of the Arcata Fire District, photo credit Jose Quezada.

FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

Fall is often a season of gratitude, generosity, and coming together, whether going back to school or planning holiday events. This season has also brought growth to our own organization. We are delighted to welcome several new members of our team: **Geena Talley**, Program Manager for the Native Cultures Fund; **Melodie Meyer**, Senior Program Officer for Tribal and Indigenous Partnerships with CORE Hub; and **Amanda Staack**, Senior Program Officer for Programs and Community Partnerships. Each brings valuable expertise, fresh perspectives, and a deep commitment to serving our region. We are excited about the contributions they will bring in the months ahead.

We are also pleased to welcome **Layla Richardson** to our Board of Directors and look forward to the insight and perspective she brings from the Eel River Valley and to the ways her leadership will help strengthen our connection to the communities we serve. We hope you will join us in welcoming her and others at our annual Donor Holiday Party on November 5.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, I encourage you to find opportunities to connect, volunteer, and give back in whatever ways are meaningful to you. Whether through supporting a local nonprofit, lending a hand to a neighbor, or participating in community events, each act of service helps strengthen the bonds that make our region resilient. Thank you for being part of this work and for helping build a healthier, more connected community for all.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sara Dronkers'.

Sara Dronkers,
Chief Executive Officer

HAF+ WRCF Staff Photo Day, Sept. 28 2026



Photo Credit: Beau W Saunders Photography

Please join us in welcoming these new funds, established between July 1 2026 and September 30, 2026:



Brunson Family Fund

Ron and Nancy Brunson were proud members of the Blue Lake community where they raised their two sons, Randy and Kevin. Ron was the Postmaster for Blue Lake and Nancy was a home economics teacher. It was important for them to provide healthy activities for children in their community. Their family will be remembered fondly in Blue Lake for their kindness and generosity.



Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) Fund

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) has advocated for the science-based protection and restoration of Northwest California's forests, rivers, and wildlife since 1977, with an integrated approach combining public education, citizen advocacy, and strategic litigation. This fund provides a stable funding basis for EPIC to help protect our environment into perpetuity.



Veda Raskin Award Fund

This award was created to honor Veda Lucy Raskin, a radiant soul whose light, kindness, and spirit continue to inspire all of us who knew her, and even those who didn't. In her memory, we created the Veda Awards, a youth recognition program through Six Rivers Pony Club that celebrates young equestrians who embody the same courage, compassion, and deep love for horses that Veda carried so effortlessly.

Visit hafoundation.org/funds to view our searchable fund list.

To learn more about how to create a fund with a current gift, through your will or trust, or for your organization, contact donorservices@hafoundation.org or call 707-324-3501.



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YEAR END GIVING

GIVING
TUESDAY

It's time to start planning for the end-of-year giving season! We hope you'll join us in supporting the many non-profit organizations that keep our communities strong on **Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1)** and beyond.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as December 31 draws near:

Board of Directors

Christina Huff, Chair
Alan Nidiffer, Vice Chair
Dina Moore, Secretary
Judge Abby Abinanti
Sharrone Blanck
David Finigan
Dr. Keith Flamer
Alex Ozaki-McNeill
Marylyn Paik-Nicely
Eli Pence
Dennis Rael
Layla Richardson
Aristea Saulsbury
Michael T. Sullivan

Chief Executive Officer

Sara Dronkers

Vice Presidents

Sarah Millsap
Pimm Tripp-Allen
Gina Zottola

- Several federal changes related to charitable giving went into effect for 2026, including a provision that allows non-itemizers to deduct up to **\$1,000 (\$2,000 married filing jointly)** and establish a new floor for charitable deductions for itemizers.
- Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) limits for 2026 are **\$111,000 per individual** for those 70 ½ or older. While QCDs cannot be added to a Donor Advised Fund, they can be used to donate to any non-donor advised fund held at HAF+WRCF, or directly to any qualified public charity.
- Gifts of appreciated stock must be received in the charity's **account by December 31**, be sure to initiate transfers early. Contact us for stock transfer instructions.

For more information and planning tips, visit our website! Our 2026 Year End Giving guide is available at hafoundation.org/yearendgiving

This information is not tax, legal or financial advice. Always consult with your own tax, legal or financial advisors.

GRANT SPOTLIGHT



Ciencia Para Todos, a bilingual STEM education program based at Cal Poly Humboldt, was one of 28 recipients of Humboldt Health Foundation's Community Health Grants this year. The program, which serves Spanish-speaking youth and families, also received additional grant support from HAF+WRCF for a total of \$9500. Founded by Latino students at Cal Poly Humboldt in 2020, Ciencia Para Todos removes language, cultural, and representation barriers while celebrating multilingualism as a strength. Their programs help young people and families see themselves in science, environmental stewardship, and higher education while creating pathways to STEM learning in schools, libraries, parks, and community spaces.