Our Vision: “A Thriving, Just, Healthy, and Equitable Region”

Humboldt Area and Wild Rivers’ new shared vision imagines an inclusive and prosperous future for our four-county region

The Humboldt Area Foundation and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation together are excited to announce our new shared Strategic Vision that will guide our foundation efforts for the next ten years and beyond. The new strategic vision is an assertion of our values as well as a road map to guide how we invest and collaborate across our four-county region.

We envision a generational outcome of: A Thriving, Just, Healthy, and Equitable Region

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

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

Together, these four goals will inform the programmatic and strategic work of the organization. We invite you to discover more by visiting our homepage at hafoundation.org/strategy.

HAF+WRCF say ‘Goodbye’ to Patrick Cleary and Jen Rice, Two of Our Region’s Most Impactful Changemakers

This June, the Foundation says goodbye to two incredible team members who have shaped the way we serve our communities: Patrick Cleary, Director of Community Prosperity and Investments and Jen Rice, Director of Community Strategies.

Patrick Cleary proudly heads into retirement with the close of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Congrats to Patrick and we look forward to working with him as a consultant and as Emeritus Executive Director.

Jen Rice is turning her passion to a graduate program in public policy. We’re very excited to see what projects Jen will be involved with with her new insights and knowledge into the world of organizing, policy making, and more.
Judge Abinanti Joins HAF Board, Brings Focus to Rural and Native Justice Issues

Chief Judge Abby Abinanti of the Yurok Tribe, a longtime advocate for the creation of tribal value-based tribal justice systems, is the newest board member for Humboldt Area Foundation.

“First, I want to thank everyone on the Humboldt Area Foundation’s board for their kind welcome. I am looking forward to working with the board to imagine new ways to support all members of our community. I am excited to begin taking actions that benefit our shared communities for the long term,” says Judge Abby.

“We are beyond thrilled to have Judge Abby join the Humboldt Area Foundation’s board,” says Mary Keehn, chairperson of the HAF board. “Her experience with state and tribal justice systems and her unique approach to community building are going to be tremendous assets as we move forward with the board’s strategic vision. This will be a great benefit for our communities and a big step toward uniting the broad region Humboldt Area Foundation serves.”

Abinanti built the Yurok Tribal Court and its many programs from the ground up. Rooted in traditional cultural values, the cutting-edge court seeks to provide justice and life-changing services to people often failed by the conventional criminal justice system. A retired San Francisco Superior Court Commissioner and lifelong supporter of Native American rights, Abinanti is currently the Chief Justice of the Yurok Tribal Court and a Judge for Joint Family Wellness Courts in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. In these roles, she has positively influenced the lives of many local community members.

COVID-19 Regional Response Fund Updates

In March 2020, HAF+WRCF created the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, which reached more than $3.3 million thanks to our generous funders and donors. Here are some recent highlights from the fund:

In May the fund passed $3 Million in grants given to the community and more than 230 grants have been awarded, including:
- $30,820 for the True North Organizing Network in Del Norte for COVID vaccine outreach
- $5,450 to the Brookings Homeless Task Force for operations
- $40,000 to the Curry Health Network for vaccine staff
- $40,000 to the K'ima:w Medical Center for vaccine clinics
- $18,000 to the Trinity Soup Kitchen for emergency equipment replacement
- $12,400 to Southern Humboldt Housing Opportunities for COVID-19 related shelter

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

July 15 Hansen Family Trust Christian Endowment Fund
This fund awards up to $5,000 to support Christian ministries both local and abroad, with an emphasis on local Lutheran activities.

Sept. 30 Rotary Club of Eureka Glyndon “Sign” and Ruth Smith Endowment Fund
Rotary Club of Eureka is looking to fund significant projects which benefit the greater Eureka community and provide opportunities to visually recognize and honor Sign and Ruth Smith and their generosity. In most years, $25-30 thousand dollars are available for grants.

HAF+WRCF Supports the Community with Grants

- Karuk Tribe of California and Happy Camp Community Action, Inc.: Direct relief to Slater Fire victims $157,500 each
- Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare Foundation: Support for hospital capital campaign $100,000
- Black Humboldt and the NAACP of Eureka: Relief for Black families affected by COVID in Humboldt and Del Norte counties $60,000
- English Express: Expand programs through 2021 $15,000
- Wiyot Tribe: Internet access for remote residents $12,500
- Curry Health Network: COVID vaccine delivery $40,000

Legacy Gifts – Bequests and Planned Giving

Humboldt Area Foundation staff are here to support you and your professional advisor in arranging for a future gift to support the place you love after your lifetime, including the specific charities and causes you care about most. Learn more at hafoundation.org/plannedgiving