Stories of Hope

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

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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.

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.’

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

Humboldt Area Foundation
Wild Rivers Community Foundation

DESIGN
Carson Park Design
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 evolved from our work with local community leaders, elected officials, business leaders and the people in our schools, nonprofits, and community groups who have shown us a deep understanding of their community’s needs.

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.

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, misinforma- tion 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 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 universi- ty and community college with creating a nursing program.

Although money and systems and logistics are important, this is all about people—The people HAF & WRCF employ 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

$1,274,882
Funds disseminated to schools, nonprofits, tribes, and community organizations as of June 30, 2020—nearly three times the amount that HAF & WRCF would typically distribute in a similar time period

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.

106
Number of grants administered across Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Curry counties as of June 30, 2020
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.

**Donors**

57 Anonymous Donors
The Angel Fund
Robert Ayers
Maggie Banducci
Dianna Black
Blue Shield of California
Richard & Sally Botzler
Nancy & John Birdenbaugh
Amy Bruce
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
The Carrillo-Patrick Family
CEO’s Discretionary Grant Fund
Chris Luna & Luis Chabolla
Becky Chambers & Berglau
Amduradottir
Wesley & Cindy Chesbro
Community Foundation of Mendocino County
Gail Coonen
Jennifer Curtis
Donor Circle Fund
Mike & Sara Dronkers
Elk Head Inspiration Fund
Daniel Faulk
Drew Finigan
Footprint Fund
Elizaet Frink
Chris Frokia & Margaret Nuelsen
Julie Fukerson (Creative Sustainability Fund)
Jana Gianion
Jason Garlick
Mary Gelinas & Roger James
Margot Genger
Giles F. Homey Jr. Fund
Michael Goldstein
Zuretti & Brenda Gooby
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
Dwight & Annie Howell
Christina Huff
Humboldt Health Foundation
Humboldt Lyme Awareness Group Fund
Rachel Humphrey
Jeanette Hurst
Nancy Ilara
George Ingraham
Janssen Family Fund
Amy Jester
Charlie Jordan
Mary Keeth
Keeth Family Trust Fund
Ann King
James Kloor
Cat Koshkin & Patrick Cleary
League of California Community Foundations
I. Lee & Larry Bravo
Ali Ong Lee & Family
Joseylin Lindsey
Ralph Lindstrom
Brynna Lipper
Kathryn Lubato
Bill & Helen Love
The Lurtz/Gleye Family
Lain MacDonald
Mary Mallahan & David Bazard
Matten Insurance Brokers - Wendy David
John & Jackie McBeth
Susan & Scott McDougall
Marc McGowan
Janine Meizler
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
Jens Oenepen
Jennifer Pace
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Marilyn Page & James Test
Marylyn & Tim Paik-Nicely
Paik-Nicely Ohana Legacy Fund
Jairio Parakkals & Roy Baker
Patricia & William Smullen Foundation
Charles & Anna Pedrazzini
Private Charitable Foundation
Gene & Claire Perricelli
Corry & Sarah Pikington
Janet Pomerantz
Premier Foundation Fund
The Raas-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 Schulteman & 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
Randall & Heather Turner
Ronald & Nancy Turner
Brenda Ureula
Terry Uyeki
Jeffrey Van Gemert
Vera F. Victor Trust
Vreem Family Charitable Foundation
George Walker
Janet Wenner & Willard Foote
Christopher Withworth & Janet MacDonald Withworth
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

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 homelessness 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

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
Ed and Barbara Brattain Memorial Fund $95,546

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’s 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 resources to participate. Examples of this could be fees or uniforms for a sports activity; travel expenses for a school-sponsored event; or the student is involved in; fees for additional educational materials to enrich the student’s knowledge and education, etc. (2007)

Toni Brisey Memorial Fund $16,283

A lifelong resident of Del Norte County and a 30-year employee of Siskine and Sutter Coast Hospitals in nursing and administration, Toni Brisey was passionate about making a difference in the lives of others. She had an uncanny ability to make everyone feel special and to inspire others. To ensure that Toni’s memory lives on, the fund has been established to support education for aviation, flight nursing, and flight paramedics in Curry and Del Norte counties. (2016)

Cal-Ore Life Flight N6817C Flight Team Memorial Scholarship Fund $20,835

On July 29, 2016, a Cal-Ore Life Flight air medical plane flew into an ocean gorge in northern California while transporting a patient to a hospital. There were no survivors. In addition to the patient, there were three Life Flight personnel on board: Pilot Larry Mills, Flight Nurse Deborah Holland RN, Cocoa, and Certified Flight Paramedic Michele Tanzer, FP-C, NREMT-P. To honor Toni’s fallen crew members, family and friends of the crew members have established the Toni Brisey Memorial Fund 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 raise their three children, Marna, Dylan, and Connor, who have now all successfully moved on to college educations. Kevin and Donna continue to operate their own family practice group, 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)

Brookings Harbor Community Helpers Food Bank Fund $114,005

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 Klamath, and provides balanced meals and eliminate potential food waste. Also available five 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 Brookings Harbor Community will continue to provide space for community, as well as being a tourist attraction. (2006)

The COVID-19 Regional Response Fund will support urgent community needs, identified by our regional partners. They will make grants on a rolling basis to nonprofits, charitable organizations and public agencies meeting the immediate needs of individuals and families in Curry and Del Norte 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; food insecurity; and those in crisis – risk communities of color; and those with limited or no healthcare resources. (2020)

Crescent City Historical Preservation Endowment Fund $4,666

On July 29, 2016, a Cal-Ore Life Flight air medical plane flew into an ocean gorge in northern California while transporting a patient to a hospital. There were no survivors. In addition to the patient, there were three Life Flight personnel on board: Pilot Larry Mills, Flight Nurse Deborah Holland RN, Cocoa, and Certified Flight Paramedic Michele Tanzer, FP-C, NREMT-P. To honor Toni’s fallen crew members, family and friends of the crew members have established the Toni Brisey Memorial Fund to support education for aviation, flight nursing, and flight paramedics in Curry and Del Norte counties. (2016)

CASA – Del Norte Endowment Fund $16,089

Our county’s citizens are getting older and their loved ones want a beautiful place to be remembered. The Crescent City Cemetery has always 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 funds go toward maintaining the appearance of the whole cemetery as needed. (2016)

Coulson Family Fund $17,087

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 provides consistent and important one-on-one advocacy, which can make a lifetime difference to each child. CASA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to encourage a 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 training of the volunteers. The fund is used to support the CASA Volunteer Advocates. (2005)

Dean Cantwell Memorial Scholarship Fund $32,307

Dean Cantwell grew up in Iowa and moved to Crescent City in 1992. He retired from a career as a contractor building major highway projects in Monterey and Santa Cruz areas during the housing development boom. After retiring, Cantwell worked 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 Rotaract’s annual Third Grade Dictionary Program— whereby each 3rd grader in Del Norte County is given their own dictionary—and through Rotaract’s fund of scholarship monies to local 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 County. Tony 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 to work. They met their semi-retirement age of 60 during their careers at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill. Both were working in food service for 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 aspects of programming 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)

Custer County Fair. (2006)

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Coulson Family Fund $17,087

The Coulson Family Fund was established in 2013 by Kevin and Lucy 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. (2019)

Curry Health Network Equipment Fund $8,087

Curry Health Network consists of the Brookings General Hospital, and a series of clinics in Brookings, Gold Beach, and Port Orford. 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 outpatient clinics. (2012)
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

2020 HOLIDAY PARTNERSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Brookings Elks Lodge #1934: Christmas food baskets
- BioCostal Media, Brookings/Crescent City: Coat 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: 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 program
- 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

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.
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 Memering. 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 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
$16,971
The Del Norte Child Care Council is a private, non-profit 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 child care referrals, services to 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 operation 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 Public Library Discretionary Fund
$10,712
The Del Norte 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 Del Norte Library Foundation was established in 1997 to ensure that the Del Norte Public 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. (2006)

Marinette Faith Demorest Memorial Fund
$32,330
Originally from Pensacola, Fl., Tess moved to Gazquet, 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 M.S.W 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
$5,594
“it takes a whole community for a student to achieve education for life,” shared the Rev. Dr. Paul Joseph J. 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, HMONG 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 extra support generously for our children our future. 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 daughter, 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)

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/-h3gi6EoVIg
Learn more about the fund and how to give at: wildriverscf.org/Giving/Make-a-Gift-Today

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.
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.

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

RCF 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 a 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.”

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

- ANDREA LANCOT
Food Program Coordinator for the Food Council

Community Food Council Provides Christmas Food Boxes

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

- ANDREA LANCOT
Food Program Coordinator for the Food Council

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.

WILD RIVERS FUNDS
Friends of Bridges-Harbor Aquatic Center
$1,252

Friends of the Bridges-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 opportunities 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).

(2017)

Friends of the Del Norte County Fair Fund
$5,818

This fund was the long-term vision of community partners and the 4-H titled Agricultural Association. The fund’s purpose is to finance projects that will ultimately enhance our community’s overall quality of life and continue to support current and future projects and activities at the Del Norte County Fair. (2004)

Friends of the Family Resource Center
$3,369

The 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 other support services. The FRC provides many free resources and referral services to school readiness with many support services, from community programs to after-school programs in Del Norte County.

(2012)

Friends of the Laplois Public Library
$410,095

The Friends of the Laplois Public Library opened their fund to support the work of the Laplois 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 Laplois 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 school, and community events. The Wonder Bus also serves Del Norte’s isolated, outliers 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 ever-growing children ages 0–8. First 5 has funded the staffing of the Wonder Bus for many years. However, the current demands exceed the resources needed to expand programs that help our children prepare for kindergarten and become successful learners in school. With community support of donations to this fund, the Wonder Bus will be able to serve more children and to provide new machinery and equipment, maintaining their buildings, and other such needs that arise. (2016)

Zach Hegmeyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
$1,009

Zachary Warren Hegmeyer died unexpectedly on Feb. 16, 2018, while surfing in Bali, Indonesia. Zach was born in Trinidad, Colorado, on June 1, 1991, to David and Michele Hegmeyer. Soon after, the family moved to Crescent City where Zach grew up. Zach worked for teams party, 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 dog’s trail, the, along the Deschutes River and snowboarding at Mt. Bachelor. Zach was a passionate young man who loved life. He had a lighthearted 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)

Vivian & Leonard Goodwin Endowment Fund
$11,747

The Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery is a nonprofit ecological project working to increase and perpetuate the natural rate of steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Smith River, which is the last free-flowing river in California. The hatchery was built in 1968 entirely with donated funds, labor, and materials. The property was donated and the hatchery sits at the confluence of Domey 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, Vivian. (2006)

Green Diamond Resource Company Fund
$13,917

The Green Diamond Resource Company, 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
$14,025

Richard Hanson and his sister (Barane Cushman) were lifelong residents of Fort Dick. They both loved people and served the community in their own ways. Barane was always very proud of Richard's many years of service as assistant 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 continuing to purchase the fire engine or new machinery and equipment, maintaining their buildings, and other such needs that arise. (2017)

The Let the Music Play Fund
$1,009

The Let the Music Play Fund was established in 2014 to support charitable projects in the region with an emphasis on music and the arts for middle school students. Specifically, Act 1 of The 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. (2013)

Dr. Janis C. Heuser Feline Fund
$17,069

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 homeless 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 its work now and extend the future for ongoing support for care of kittens and cats in Curry County. (2016)

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 working as a radiologic technologist at Dr. Peter Tarditi’s veterinary office. Amy loved animals, especially her dog “Green.” Amy also pointed out the value of family and pets and the alarming rate of unneutered 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 was tragically taken on January 25, 2010, at the age of 26. Amy was very actively involved in the free spay and neuter clinics of 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
$728,890

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. LaComber passed away in 1992 and Mrs. LaCombe, in January of 1996. (1991)

No hungry kids is the goal of this fund. Set up with the assistance of community partners, children’s nutritious meals will be added 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)

Lighthouse Repertory Theatre Performing Arts Center Endowment Fund
$13,458

The Lighthouse Repertory Theatre Performing Arts Center building will provide the theater group the home it needs and a community arts center asset available for public use. Since LRT was founded in 1979, it has performed dozens of musicals, dramas, and comedies for thousands of people in a school and professional 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 Fund 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. The current purpose of the trust will be used to help those in need of temporary housing, food, and on occasions, emergency medical assistance. Hopefully, future funding will target various projects in the Wild Rivers community. (2005)

Maureen Mcogh Martineelli Spirit of Buena Vista Memorial Endowment Fund
$17,775

Spirit and Charity. These words capture the life and essence of Maureen Mcogh-Martineelli. Established in 2007, the Maureen Mcogh Martineelli Spirit of Buena Vista Memorial Endowment Fund will support St. Bonaventure School’s annual Maureen Mcogh-Martineelli Spirit Day and provide support for scholarships and matching student support of Heifer International. (2007)

No Hungry Kids – Wild Rivers Coast
$7,754

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. LaComber passed away in 1992 and Mrs. LaCombe, in January of 1996. (1991)

North Jetty Cats Plus Endowment Fund
$11,098

The North Jetty Cats Plus Endowment Fund was established in 2005 to provide for the total care of the cats on Nov. 11, 2003, to expand in Curry County, OR including medical care, spaying and neutering, food, and other responsibilities. (2005)

WILD RIVERS FUNDs
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 a man who recently landed a new job and a place to live after receiving guidance from the 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.

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 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:

• Distributed $800 “Ready for Kindergarten” backpacks filled with school readiness supplies and resources.
Dr. Cecilia M. Patton, DC, Scholarship Fund
$12,558

Ann Bolger established this scholarship in honor of her daughter Dr. Patton and her husband, Dr. Elizabeth Bolger. A Chicago Chiropractor, he is known for his love for Crescent City after her daughter moved here in 2004. Dr. Cecilia Marie Patton loves to see her daughter working in the field of chiropractic, particularly with Chiropractic BioPhysics (CBP), a method of spine analysis and treatment. The CBP is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that is based on the principles of traditional chiropractic care. 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 concert practitioners. The scholarship is an integral part of the chiropractic profession and its fields of study that are integral to the chiropractic profession. (2017)

Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Curry County Fund
$51,545

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 years increments for each year served in Curry County, up to a maximum of 4 years. Applicants must sign a service agreement to repay the loan. The fund is available for Curry County for at least 2 years. (2008)

Del Norte Physicians’ Recruitment & Retention Fund
$353,574

This fund was started in 2007 to retain and recruit businesses, organizations and individuals to the Del Norte County Community. 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
$18,106

Income from the Physicians’ Community Fund, an endowed 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
$45,879

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 a performance 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 Rail’s welcome your help in achieving this goal. (2018)

Ray “Buck” Rosendahl Memorial Pet Assistance Fund
$5,050

In 2004, Buck and his bride Tracie began an amazing and life-changing journey together in beautiful Gold Beach, OR. There they opened a pet store and developed West’s Dog Bakery and Pet Supplies, a holistic pet nutrition center. With two locations on the southern Oregon Coast, they have helped many people live with their pets while making meaningful friendships along the way. Ray “Buck” Rosendahl left this world on February 17, 2016, at his home with family and friends by his side after battling cancer. He was 71 years young. “Buck” will be forever remembered. 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
$14,044

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 promoting local arts, music and culture. (1996)

This fund supports habitat restoration projects and related planning and education within the Smith River watershed. The Smith River is imperative for its native salmon and steelhead. These fish have always been a part of the culture and human habituation within the watershed, beginning with Native Americans thousands of years ago to the local community and visitors 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 Expandable Fund
$18,051

The South Fork Big Flat Expandable Fund was established by Bob Stiven in memory of John and Mildred Ritcherson. Bob felt blessed to be able to continue John and Mildred’s legacy by giving back to the people of Del Norte County. Del Norte County was built on industry, and John’s career that he was lost to the tide in 2004. The fund supports charitable work in Del Norte County to address changing needs as they arise. (2016)

South Fork / Big Flat Endowment Scholarship Fund
$1,167

Siblings John and Mildred Nickeson learned the true meaning of grit at a very young age. Losing their father in an accident when they were kids forced them to be to be a part of the world early on. This challenge in their youth made them strong and both led successful, fulfilling lives. John and Mildred continued to support their children in education and that one should never stop learning and developing. They are 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 Stiven in 2016. All Bob’s dedication, 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 long-time board member and treasurer. Ted was an active member and officer 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 isOk to grow older. Just don’t get old.” The fund will be used to further Ted’s interests in fisheries’ habitat restoration and scientific research to further the health of salmon and steelhead populations on the Smith and other local rivers. (2002)

Eileen A. Tartidf Memorial Fund
$16,309

Eileen Tartid was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She was active in her local community before her diagnosis with dementia that resulted in her death in 2005. Through her influence, family, friends and the learning of the 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. (2014)

Dustin Weber Memorial Fund
$1,167

Dustin was 25 years old, adventurous, had a dashing 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 Klamath Falls, OR. Dustin moved to Klamath, CA in 2005 to take a job as a bartender. He was killed in a car accident in 2011 to fix up a house that was given to him by his grandfather in Rogue 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 recovered in April, four hundred miles north in Astoria, OR. His memory has gone but never forgotten. October 5, 2011–March 11, 2012. (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 enrichment to help our neighbors receive quality, affordable healthcare without having to leave the area. (2013)
“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

“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
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.
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.

Decide WHEN you want to make your gift

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

Identify HOW you would like to make your gift

Cash
Real Property
Stock
Other Assets

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

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, Brooking’s Law Office
- Meagan Curtis, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
- David Finigan, Real Estate Owner/Broker
- Kara Miller, Board Chair
- Alan Nidiffer, Financial Services, New York Life
- John Rush O.D., Eye Center of Gold Beach
- Monica Sperling, Registered Nurse

Wild Rivers Community Foundation Staff

- Gina Zottola, Director, Wild Rivers Community Foundation
- Michelle Carrillo, Initiative Director, Building Healthy Communities
- Anna Lor, Administrative Assistant, Wild Rivers Community Foundation and Building Healthy Communities
- Keri Mosey, nonprofit Alliance Facilitator
- Rodelita Cotanay, Initiative Coordinator, Building Healthy Communities
- Sandra Milunich, Executive Assistant, Wild Rivers Community Foundation
- Scott Graves, Strategic Communications Manager, Wild Rivers Community Foundation and Building Healthy Communities
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
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