



Under the Oak

The Newsletter of the Yolo Community Foundation
 Matching the philanthropic interests of donors with the needs and opportunities
 of the Yolo County community

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2006

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From YCF Board President, Margaret Burns

Hello and Holiday Greetings,

Around the holidays, I always try to watch the old Boris Karloff version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at least once, sometimes more.

Why? Because I love the part when the Whos, down in Whoville, wake up and have no presents, no feast, no fantooflers — not a crumb — and still they sing, "Christmas is ours to grasp, as long as we have hands to clasp."

Giving to others is a habit. The more you practice that habit, the better it feels and the more you are comfortable with it. To give of your talents, your time or your money is a worthwhile practice that ends up giving you great joy, while also bring-

ing about tangible benefits for others. We have stories in this newsletter of people who have that habit and who are passing it on to future generations.

Gary Snyder said it best in his book, Practice of the Wild —

An ethical life is one that is mindful, mannerly, and has style. Of all moral failings and flaws of character, the worst is stinginess of thought, which includes meanness in all its forms.

Our donors exhibit the opposite — boundless generosity. Thank you, all of you, who have had trust to give to others.

Grants awarded to 7-12 grade teachers

Each year, grant making through our Partners for Education Fund reminds us how effective small amounts of money can be when put in the right hands.

As usual, the small grants were limited to \$500, but for this year's round the program targeted Yolo County teachers of grades 7-12. Out of 72 applications received from teachers in Clarksburg, Davis, Winters, West Sacramento, and Woodland, a total of 61

were awarded funding.

Applicants requested financial support to complete modest but necessary links to meet comprehensive educational goals. Grants spanned the range of school subjects and activities, including updating wall maps to reflect the contemporary boundaries of nations in the news; buying new and repairing old musical instruments; and covering the cost of art supplies, books, com-

puter software, and scientific models to enhance instruction. The limited

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YCF continues to grow!

We are delighted to welcome **Dan Dowling to the ranks of our Founders' Circle.** Dan is a Davis resident and his gift is made in honor of his son, Andrew Dowling, a local real estate broker. Thank you, Dan!

Mary Stephens De Wall, retiring Yolo County Librarian, has established **the Yolo County Library Staff Enrichment Fund.** Fund earnings will be available to support library staff to pursue opportunities for professional growth. Mary's generous

action demonstrates the unique effectiveness of an expert local donor, one who envisions needs and opportunities perhaps not obvious to outsiders.

In November, **a new donor advised fund was established** by a local family seeking to provide long-term benefit to the area where they have raised their family and enjoyed the outdoors. In order to involve their children in local philanthropy, they have named them as their successors,

enabling them to participate in fund-related decision making.

The **Yolo County Association of Realtors created a fund** for administering their annual holiday gift giving. Donations to the fund will be awarded to local nonprofits serving a range of human needs in our county.

"I cannot tell you how pleased I am that the Yolo Community Foundation exists to be able to make this happen. It is such an asset to this county."

—**Mary Stephens De Wall**



Friends of the Davis Public Library established an endowment fund with YCF. Pictured here are Peter Robertson and Eric Vink with YCF board members Maggie Burns and Paul Harder.

Have you joined us for breakfast yet?

Once explained, the idea of a community foundation makes perfect sense. A community foundation is a simple, effective and lasting approach to charitable giving in one's community. Still, many Yolo County residents are unfamiliar with the notion of a community foundation or are unaware that we have one right here serving our own county.

What better way to be introduced than over a light breakfast?

In September, YCF board members began hosting informal breakfast meetings. Over a simple meal of muffins and coffee, 8-10 guests hear directly from board members about what a community foundation does and what motivates them to be involved. Breakfast meetings also enable us to hear from members of the community like you. Guests are invited to talk about their efforts, as well as to raise concerns or share their vision for the Yolo county community.

So far, two breakfast meetings have been held, one each in Davis and Winters. Both were lively exchanges, as participants became acquainted with other civic-minded people in their towns.

We hope you will join us for breakfast! We have monthly breakfast meetings scheduled in Woodland and Davis through May 2007. If you would like to attend one, please get in touch with Executive Director Cath Posehn using the contact information below.

Meeting with Nonprofit Leaders

On October 11, YCF invited executive directors from local nonprofits to have lunch and to explore our mutual interests. We were happy to learn all had heard about us and understood how a community foundation operates. The nonprofit leaders gave us some pointers about the Yolo nonprofit environment and how best to serve its growth. We look forward to future meetings that will focus on specific topics of interest to this group, such as donor cultivation and building public awareness about nonprofit activity in the county.

Faces of Philanthropy — Meet Mort Schwartz

Each issue, we will use this space to introduce you to people who have supported the mission of YCF with their time, talent, and financial resources.

A former Associate Dean and Professor of Law at UC Davis, Mort Schwartz has dedicated his retirement to a range of pursuits. Gourmet cooking and fly fishing are two consuming hobbies, but a true passion of Mort's is community problem solving.

Since joining the YCF board, Mort has been an enthusiastic advocate and supporter. He and his wife Giovanna Oettinger were among the very first members of our Founders' Circle, pledging critical operating support to our fledgling Foundation.

Mort and Giovanna have been instrumental to the creation of several YCF funds. One, in honor of a beloved family member, benefits promising students in South Africa. Another supports the Yolo County

Law Library. Mort challenged area attorneys to contribute to the Law Library Fund, and he matched all donations made! Then there is the Acme Fund, serving the county's elderly, as well as the Acorn Fund, focusing on children's needs.

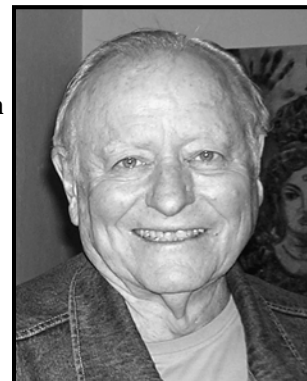
Mort is currently working with the Davis Senior Center on a program that assesses the safety of homes of our elderly residents and installs simple assistive devices like grab bars, faucet adapters, etc. At the same time, he and Giovanna are brainstorming the mechanics of a fund that would distribute micro-grants to respond to local needs that might otherwise be unmet.

Mort has also rolled up his sleeves to handle important board business. As a member of the governance committee, he helped draft and revise YCF's by-

laws, and this year he is again serving as chair of the nominating committee.

Mort consistently uses his wide acquaintance in the county to publicize YCF and, in turn, to learn about unmet needs that translate into opportunities for YCF activity.

Mort is an inspiration to his board colleagues because of his enthusiasm, energy, and unfailing "can do" approach. Mort, whatever would we do without you?



'TIS THE SEASON...

In addition to festivities with family and friends, year-end giving is another way that many celebrate the season. Please consider a gift to the Yolo Community Foundation. Gifts of cash, appreciated stock, or real estate are gratefully accepted and each is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. (Please consult with your tax advisor for details.)

For those of you older and wiser who have reached the magic age of 70¹/₂, you have a special opportunity. Recent legislation allows you to make a charitable gift directly through your IRA—"a qualified charitable distribution"—without paying federal taxes on it. You can roll over up to \$100,000 and exclude the distribution from your gross income.

A charitable IRA gift puts your assets to good use. Not only will you enjoy the satisfaction of giving and making a difference, but you will lower your taxable income, fulfill your distribution requirement, and give beyond 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

If you've been considering making a gift, now is a great time to do it through your IRA. The charitable rollover is effective immediately, but you must make it by December 31, 2006. We welcome the opportunity to assist you with your year-end giving.

New Board Member

Jim Rodgers, director of the Yolo Family Service Agency in Woodland, has just joined our board of directors. Welcome, Jim!

Minigrants *(cont'd from page 1)*

and concrete nature of these requests validates the local focus of a community foundation.

Thank you to the individual and foundation donors who contributed to the 2006 Partners for Education Fund: the Frank and Eva Buck Foundation, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, the Teichert Foundation, and Charles Guenther, CPA.



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YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
YCF wishes you health and happiness in the new year!
YOLO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Our Founders' Circle

- Margaret S. Burns & Roy Bellhorn
- Casson & Son Carpet Care
- Dan Dowling
- Desmond, Nolan, Livaich & Cunningham
- First Northern Bank
- Harder & Company Community Research
- Joan Q. Hogan
- Mohini Jain Family Foundation
- Mortimer Schwartz & Giovanna Oettinger

*Add your name to this list!
Call us to find out how.*

Leave a Legacy Yolo County

When YCF was founded, our mission to create an endowment to strengthen the non-profit sector and build local philanthropy expanded on the work of an already active group known as Leave a Legacy Yolo County (LALYC). For several years, LALYC conducted educational outreach by organizing and distributing a planned giving binder to the offices of local lawyers and financial planners. LALYC has formally concluded its educational efforts and has donated its remaining membership dues to YCF. YCF thanks LALYC's members for their efforts and for the trust they have shown in us.

YCF News Briefs

Did you stop by our booth at the annual *Celebrate Davis!* event in Central Park or at the *Farm-City Banquet* in Woodland? If you were at Farm-City, you must have seen our colorful, new banner.

Perhaps you saw us in the newspaper. Every fall, the *Sacramento Business Journal* publishes a directory of area nonprofits. This year YCF joined Placer Community Foundation, El Dorado Community Foundation, and Sacramento Region Community Foundation in a double-page spread.

The *UCD Graduate School of Management* selected YCF's request for the assistance of a graduate intern. Josa Tuchel has been attending our board meetings and is helping to develop a list of potential Founders' Circle members. Thank you, Josa!