

Success Graduates plant for the future

Fresh produce will be a year-round addition to the food provided by Interfaith Community Social Services, thanks to many hours of effort by two high school graduates. As their senior project, Leah Renwick of Summerville High and Eric Uslander of Sonora High planned, built and planted a fenced garden at the Interfaith center off of Tuolumne Road. They raised more than \$2,200 in cash and donated materials – including a grant from the Sonora Area Foundation – to build and install raised beds, deer-proof fencing and a drip-watering system.

Cold weather and heavy rains this spring delayed some of the work, but they were able to plant fruit trees and a summer vegetable crop just before their June graduations. And while they'll both be off at college when the garden really starts producing, they're leaving it in good hands – Interfaith has a team of volunteers ready to keep it up.



Leah Renwick and Eric Uslander

Follow Up SOS campaign leaves a lasting impact

When community donors stepped up a year ago to meet the Sonora Area Foundation's "May SOS" challenge, the goal was to get immediate assistance to local residents in economic distress.

More than \$500,000 in grants were awarded to three agencies to help hundreds of households with food, firewood, energy bills and rent during the toughest months of the recession.

But those local agencies were also able

to leverage those dollars to achieve some lasting impacts too. The Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency, Interfaith Community Social Services and Sierra Senior Partners each used the May SOS campaign to strengthen their programs in important ways.

Interfaith used grant funds to double the size of their fenced woodlot and add a part-time coordinator who has expanded the program to accept more wood donations

and host more volunteers.

The ATCAA Food Bank used May SOS funds to increase the quantity of food distributed and the nutritional quality as well, making important links to provide more eggs, meat, dairy products and fresh produce.

ATCAA rental assistance and energy programs were able to reach out to new clientele – the many working families coping with the huge wave of local job losses who

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Profile Local leader taught philanthropy by example

Wally Anker was a welcome and frequent visitor at the Sonora Area Foundation.

For many years, the late South County community

leader would make regular use of the Foundation's services to further the causes he and his wife, Helga, supported.

Whether it was marshaling the earliest support for Southern Tuolumne County's

museum and library, giving to the arts or contributing to environmental causes, Anker several times each year would use the Foundation as a way to leverage investments, build local interest and challenge friends and neighbors to match his family's gifts.

"I counted it up and we have been supporting 29 different groups," Helga said. "Wally loved history, music, opera and groups like the California Native Plant Society."

They received many proposals and requests, she said, and considered them all.

"We would sit down and look everything over together carefully – some

were hair-brained, some looked good."

Most times, especially if the project had a local base, they would give through their Priest Family Fund at the Sonora Area Foundation, making contributions with gifts of appreciated stock and then suggesting grants to groups and projects.

Retired SAF Executive Director Mick Grimes appreciated Wally's professional expertise and local commitment.

"He was not a casual philanthropist," Grimes said. "He wanted to know the details of the projects he was considering and he had a lot of knowledge. He also really used and understood the Foundation so well, both as a charitable service and as a

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Donor Funds

ADVISED FUNDS

Acorns to Oaks Fund
Bergsund Family Fund
Boyd Family Fund
Carolina Bates Fund
CB Celebration Fund
Comazzi Family Fund
Donald A. and Elisabeth Weber Fund
Foothill Ministry Fund
Front Porch Charitable Fund
Geer Family Fund
Gianelli Family Fund
Grimes Family Fund
Hohne Family Fund
Irving J. Symons Trustees Fund
Kevin Bates Fund
Joe Martin Family Fund
Julie Hulet Memorial Fund
Kiwanis Club of Sonora Fund
Lee Magid Music Mountain Fund
Marjorie L. Coffill Charitable Fund
Norbert & Elaine Wilson Endowment Fund
Ozborn Family Fund
Phil and Barbara Harvey Charitable Fund
Priest Family Fund
Sierra Nevada Service Fund
Todd and Cyndi Simonson Fund
Tuolumne Angel Fund
Tuolumne Sunrise Fund

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Barbara McClymont Fund – Student needs at Sonora School
Betty Regelin Fund – Support A-TCAA Family Homeless Shelter
Bill of Rights Fund – Bill of Rights education at Sonora Elementary School
Brizard Fund for South Side Seniors Inc. – Support programs and needs of the Gathering Place
Children's Holiday Party Fund – Programs for children in need in Tuolumne County
Christmas Partners Fund – Support Christmas programs
Comfort Project Fund – Quilts for children and elders in need
Comfort Project Endowment Fund – A growing endowment for the Comfort Project
Community Indicators Project Fund – Measurement and assessment of Tuolumne County
Community Safety Net Fund for Tuolumne County – Support safety net programs in Tuolumne County
Donald and Renee Paulsen Fund – Charitable purposes in City of Sonora
Dorothy Daniels Memorial Fund – Endowment for Sonora United Methodist Church.
Duende Drama & Literature Fund – Support programs and projects of Duende
Dyllon Bonella Memorial Fund – Diminishment of cancer related suffering
Elks Event Fund – Support qualified nonprofits' use of Sonora Elks Lodge
Ernest Olivieri Scholarship: Elks Lodge 1587 – Support Elks Lodge Scholarship program
Friends of the Children's Park Fund – Park maintenance and youth recreation
George James Memorial Education Fund – TuCARE fund for teacher education in natural resources
Graser-Knudson Memorial Fund – Endowment for Twain Harte recreational purposes
Kiwanis Childspeer – Back-to-school shopping spree fund for children in need
Leadership Tuolumne County Fund – Support the Leadership Tuolumne County program
Lucille Arnold Fund – Provide success for youth at risk

Marjorie L. Coffill Local History Fund – Tuolumne County Library materials on Mother Lode history
Mary Jo Brereton Fund – Program support for Omega Nu Miller Endowed Scholarship: Elks Lodge 1587 – Support Elks Lodge Scholarship program
Minnie Wind Wolfinbarger Fund – Support special education and ROP Nursing at Sonora High School
Mother Lode Christian School – Support of Mother Lode Christian School
Mrs. Pringle Music Fund – Classical music appreciation for any K-8 school in Tuolumne County
Smile Keepers Fund – Support dental needs of the underserved in Tuolumne County
South Tuolumne County Museum Library Fund – Maintenance of the Groveland museum-library
Stage 3 Theatre Company Fund – Support programs and projects of Stage 3
SOS/Safety Net Fund for Tuolumne County - Support Safety Net programs in Tuolumne County
Tuolumne County Juvenile Judges Fund – Needs of Tuolumne County youth referred by justices
Tuolumne County Tennis Court Restoration Fund – Restoration of tennis courts
Tuolumne River Project Fund – Recreational needs in the Tuolumne River canyon
Twain Harte Skate Park Fund – Skate park maintenance
Vial for Life Fund – Support Vial for Life project
William and Mary Crook Fund – Support of the Alano Club
YES Partnership Fund – Support of the YES Partnership coalition

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Elinor F. Brown Endowment Fund
J.R. Christensen Family Fund
Jim and Louise Angelo Family Fund
Local Emergency Services Support Fund
Robert and Kathy Boyer Fund
Robert C. Jones Fund
Tuolumne County Eye Care Fund
Tuolumne Tennis Association Fund
Wings Fund
Youth Sports Foundation Fund

AGENCY DESIGNATED FUNDS

A-TCAA Family Literacy Fund
Calaveras Heritage Council Fund
Central Sierra Arts Council Fund
Dawn's Light Fund
Economic Development Co. of Tuolumne County Fund
Friends of Tuolumne County Library Fund
Hospice of the Sierras Fund
Humane Society of Tuolumne County Fund
Infant-Child Enrichment Services Fund
Meals on Wheels Fund
Northern Mariposa County History Center Fund
Van Artsdale Mt. Women's Resource Center Fund
Rose Wolf Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Fund
Salvation Army of Tuolumne County Fund
Sierra Foothills Residential Care Fund
Senior Resource Services Fund
Sierra NonProfit Support Center Fund
Sierra Repertory Theatre Fund
Southside Senior Services Fund
Summerville High Foundation Endowment Fund
Support Sonora School Endowment Fund
Support Sonora School Fund
WATCH Endowment Fund

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Cunningham Family Fund
Geiger Fund
Homer Latimer Fund
Martha Barnes Tuolumne County Betterment Fund

Nikki & John Karpinski Fund
Sonora Area Foundation Futures Fund
Toni Gibson Fund

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Irving J. Symons Foundation for Tuolumne County
Symons Family Fund

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Aaron Baker Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: athletics
Andy Fredericks Memorial Scholarship – Fire fighting programs and scholarships
Aronos William Morris Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools
Aronos Women's Research Club Scholarship – Columbia College attendee
Barbara Sardella Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: Sonora Elementary graduates



Bill Gerber Memorial Scholarship – Summerville High: athletics
Bret Laws Memorial Scholarship – Columbia College: fire science
Brockman Family Scholarship – Sonora High: education
Bruce Paxton Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: music
Class of 1946 Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Doc Curtice Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Earl and Mary Purdy Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: music or physical education
Elaine Symons Baker Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Eva Schicke Memorial Scholarship – Nursing or fire science
Firefighter Michael Chad Harris Scholarship – Columbia College & Napa College: Fire Technology
Frank Salel Youth Fund – Benefit Tuolumne County youth
Front Porch Scholarship – Tuolumne County High Schools: math, engineering, computer science
Futures Forward Scholarship – Foster Care students
Gardella College Fund – Sonora High: interest in local government or politics
Harry A. Riedinger Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Harvey H. Uhl Scholarship – Sonora High: Trade schools or higher education
Highland Oaks Agricultural Scholarship – Summerville High: agriculture
Homer Latimer Scholarship – Sonora High School and Summerville High School: academics
Jeff Sanders Memorial Scholarship – Bret Harte High: academics
Jeff Vassallo Memorial Scholarship – Summerville High: Friday Night Live
Jennie Evans Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: business
Jerry Ryder Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: Korean War Veterans' relatives
Jessica Elizabeth Jager Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics

Joe Martin Family Scholarship – Sonora High: natural resources
 John E. Kelley Memorial Scholarship – Mother Lode Round-Up Queen
 Kathleen Calestini Memorial Fund – Tuolumne County high schools: Sonora Elementary graduate
 Kristi Francis Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: Academics
 Larry and Virginia Reed Twain Harte Rotary Scholarship – Summerville High: vocational
 Lyle R. Scott Scholarship – Vocations/trades education
 Lynn Gates Nursing Scholarship Fund – Columbia College: nursing
 Martha Barnes Scholarship – Summerville High: females, non-traditional fields
 Martin and Bethel Liljedahl Scholarship – Sonora High: agriculture
 M.L. Interagency Training Officers Scholarship/Bass Family Fire Fighters’ Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne and Calaveras high schools: public safety
 Mother Lode Stanford Club Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: Stanford University attendee
 Mt. Springs Women’s Golf Scholarship – Scholarships for women in golf
 Myers Family Fund – Tioga High: vocational education
 Pearl Segerstrom Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
 Pecchinino/Sylva Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
 Perricone-Hobbin-Hodge Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: University of California
 Ralph and Dotte Francis Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: athletics
 Rockwood Scholarship – Sonora High: art
 Ross Jones Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: fire sciences or law enforcement
 Sgt. Bobby Rapp Ski Scholarship – Official Ski Race Team
 Shaws Flat Scholarship – Sonora High: academics and vocational
 Sierra Music Scholarship – Tuolumne County student: classical music lessons
 Sierra Quilt Guild Scholarship – Tuolumne County High Schools: academics
 Sonora Lions Varvandakis Scholarship – Sonora High male: academics
 Stephen H. Manson Scholarship – Sonora High: art and nursing
 Tanya Anderson Memorial Scholarship – Survivors of serious illness, priority to cancer survivors
 Teresa Mary Thors Scholarship – Secondary education for disabled students
 Terry Campbell Loshalegro Award – Summerville High: academics
 Tuolumne County Community Tennis Scholarship – High school students involved in tennis or the arts
 Tuolumne County Farm Bureau Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: agriculture industry
 Tuolumne County Sheriff’s Posse Scholarship – Tuolumne County students: agriculture or related field
 Tuolumne County Sheriff’s Posse-David Paul Grant Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County Students: law enforcement – EMT-fire science
 Tu. Co. Women’s Network Scholarship – Women’s education
 Tuolumne Sunrise Scholarship – Summerville High: academics
 Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce Scholarship – Summerville High or Mother Lode Christian
 Vicki White PEO Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High Alternative Ed.: vocational/trade, college or university education
 Wally Berry Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
 Wes and Ruth Wyllie Memorial Art Scholarship – Summerville or Sonora High: art
 Wilma Lindberg Memorial Scholarship – Summerville or Sonora High: elementary teaching

Scholarship Sonora EI math teacher honored

Kathy Calestini was the kind of junior high math teacher that students never forget – and not just because she got them through a tough subject. In her 20 years at Sonora Elementary, she had couches and a pool table in her classroom, gave a shower cap for her hall pass and baked endless plates of gift-wrapped cookies for students, co-workers and school sports teams.



Kathy Calestini & Bruce Alves

“She just connected with kids,” says her husband, Bruce Alves. “She was good with the 4.0 kid and the 2.0 kid. She could bring out their best.”

Through humor, a relaxed but focused attitude about school and a different way of doing things, she was one of Sonora Elementary School’s most beloved teachers. She cared about and encouraged all of her kids to be their best, Alves said.

So when she passed away in February after a two-year battle with cancer, he knew immediately the best way to honor her work and her life. He established a memorial scholarship fund at Sonora Area Foundation that will go to Sonora

Elementary graduates at Sonora High School. The first two scholarships were awarded in May.

“Kathy and I had talked about it,” he said, “and this is what we both wanted.”

He wanted to meet this year’s timeline, he said, because so many of the graduates this year were former students of Kathy’s – and he wanted that connection.

In keeping with Kathy’s unique way of doing things, he asked students to submit the standard application and a single page on “adversity” – no other criteria.

“I just wanted to see what they came up with,” he said with a smile. “We had all sorts of kids apply. It was interesting – and based on what I know about Kathy, we were looking for students who worked hard and had plans.”

In a difficult year, he said, “it’s been a fun process.”

With contributions from family, friends, co-workers and many former students, Alves said the Calestini scholarship will be able to continue for years – a perfect way to honor Kathy’s spirit.

SOS Campaign leaves a lasting impact

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urgently needed short-term assistance.

And Sierra Senior Partners forged new or expanded partnerships to reach outlying communities in creative new ways. With the ATCAA Food Bank, the Sierra Senior Partners’ Meals on Wheels program delivered more fresh groceries to homebound seniors, and in the community of Don Pedro, launched a unique voucher program to provide seniors with a low-cost breakfast at a local café, a model they now hope to replicate in other outlying communities.

In each case, emergency dollars let agencies meet the urgent need and act on the opportunity to improve their services.

“All of us on the Foundation board and staff were so pleased and proud to be a

part of this,” said SAF President Jim Johnson. “And all of the partners who participated have done a wonderful job of providing additional services. We’ve been very impressed with how they each followed through and we want to support this work in any way we can. The needs are still here.”

In fact, the Foundation is following through this summer in several ways – it granted the ATCAA Food Bank a \$100,000 grant with \$50,000 now and \$50,000 in January, and is providing Interfaith with additional help for its wood program.

ATCAA Food Bank Director Lee Kimball said the assistance has meant so much to community health and well-being. “To be able to keep people from going hungry and keeping them healthy too – it was a dream come true for the work we do.”



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The Sonora Area Foundation will be the benchmark for exemplary practices in the philanthropic field.

Mission

The Sonora Area Foundation strengthens its community by assisting donors, making grants and providing leadership.

Values

Be open to learning and listening.
Act with integrity.
Make courageous decisions.
Value our community and respond to its needs.
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Local leader profile

catalyst to encourage others.

“Over the years, I used the Priest Family Fund as a model for other donors considering setting up a Foundation fund,” Grimes said. “This is one of the best examples we have of a Donor-Advised Fund that is used regularly to support causes both inside and outside of the county. Donor-Advised Funds are the most enjoyable for us to deal with, because we’re helping with the donors’ interests and passions.”

Philanthropy was always a part of the Ankers’ life, Helga said. “Even when we had nothing, we would find a way to set a little bit aside.”

As Wally’s career in international banking took off, they could do much more. And when they retired finally back near Wally’s hometown of Big Oak Flat, they spent years working on local projects that meant much to them.

Among the most rewarding was the effort to build Groveland’s museum and

library. Helga recalls many years of meetings and events.

“I remember handwriting stacks of thank you notes for \$25 gifts, and telling Wally we’d never make it. But he said ‘no, we will.’ He never doubted. He knew we could do it.”

He went out and talked to so many friends and neighbors, she recalled.

“He negotiated all his life and he was very good at it,” she said. “No one would say no to him!”

Helga and her family right now are involved in a new South County venture – re-opening the Priest Station café. It had been in Wally’s family for generations and they recently reacquired it. While the new business promises to keep the whole family busy, Helga said she’s pleased to see all four of their children continuing the traditional philanthropy, and the Priest Family Fund.

“We always thought the Sonora Area Foundation was the best way to support county projects,” she said. “Everything is done very well, with the big picture in mind. It’s the best thing for the county.”



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