

Giving Search and rescue team gets a helping hand

Tuolumne County's natural beauty draws thousands of visitors every year seeking outdoor adventure of all kinds, from backcountry hiking and skiing to water sports, rock climbing, river rafting and more.

It also creates a year-round need for emergency rescue, and a highly trained group of volunteers willing to go out on a moment's notice to save lives in all kinds of difficult



Perched at Burst Rock

situations. They're Tuolumne County Search and Rescue (TCSAR), the all-volunteer squad of more than 35 men and women who put in hundreds of hours every year in their unique field of service.

The Sonora Area Foundation this spring awarded the team a \$31,455 grant to purchase a range of equipment, including specialty gear for diving, swift water and rope rescues. The grant honors both their dedication and the essential service they provide.

TCSAR team leader Randy Malm said the new equipment will give the organization a much needed boost in safety.

"You have to have quality gear when you're already in an emergency situation," he said. "Equipment constantly has to be replaced, so this will be a big help."

Search and Rescue volunteers operate under the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office, with Deputy Sheriff- Coroner Rob Lyons as liaison. The team is one of the most active in the state. They're called out more than 70 times each year, and also devote many days to training to keep skills sharp.

"These are people who love outdoor adventure, but want to take their skills to a new level and are

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Training for helicopter rescue

Education Franco family honors father with new scholarship fund

When the late Richard Franco was a student in Sonora High School's Class of 1968, he made a lasting impression. An outstanding four-sport athlete, a fine scholar and a student leader, he was the kind of student his classmate and long-time Sonora High Athletic Director Rick Francis says you don't forget.

"He was such a nice guy, very popular and well-liked by everyone," Francis recalls. "He was an excellent student, so well-rounded – kids like that are few and far between."

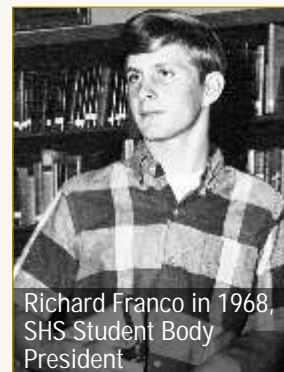
So when Richard's son, Jake, approached the Sonora Area Foundation to create a scholarship, Francis and others who remember his dad agreed it was a fitting way to honor his memory.

It's also been a way for Jake, his sister, Sarah, and the family, to reconnect with the Franco family's hometown. Their roots in Sonora date back to the late 1800s, when Richard's grandparents first came here from a small village in Northern Italy. They had a

large family – six girls and a boy. All went through Sonora High and, for the most part, went on to raise their families in Sonora and Jamestown, but recent generations have scattered far and wide.

Richard himself went on to serve in Vietnam, after a brief stint at UC Santa Cruz, then settled in Modesto where he raised his family and had a long career in real estate and investing. Larry, his older brother, is a prominent film producer in Southern California, while Jake is an international banker who settled in London, and his sister is a counselor in San Diego.

The family considered many options to honor Richard after he passed away in July,



Richard Franco in 1968, SHS Student Body President

2012, such as donating to his favorite interests or having people give to their own selected charities.

"But we were keen to do something more impactful," Jake said. The idea of a scholarship at Sonora High resonated with many. It will go each year to a student who excels in academics and leadership, and the Francos will participate in the selection of the recipients along with the Foundation.

It's been a long-distance project, but Jake said the Sonora Area Foundation has made it easy to establish and manage.

"They've been extremely supportive and I'm really happy with what they've been doing," Jake said. "They have a good structure in place."

Jake plans to be in Sonora to award the first scholarship this spring.

"We want this to be around for awhile," he said. "I think my father would have been pleased."

Donor Funds

ADVISED FUNDS – Charitable purposes in Tuolumne County

Acorns to Oaks Fund
 Bergsund Family Fund
 Boyd Family Fund
 CB Celebration Fund
 Comazzi Family Fund
 Donald A. and Elisabeth Weber Fund
 Farrell Family 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
 Kathleen Calestini Memorial Fund
 Kiwanis Club of Sonora Fund
 Marjorie L. Coffill Charitable Fund
 Norbert & Elaine Wilson Endowment Fund
 Ozbirn Family Fund
 Phil and Barbara Harvey Charitable Fund
 Priest Family Fund
 Robert and Kathy Boyer 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 ATCAA Family Homeless Shelter
 Bill of Rights Fund – Bill of Rights education at Sonora Elementary School
 BOB Health Van – Support of BOB the Health Van
 Brizard Fund for South Side Seniors Inc. – Support programs and needs of the Gathering Place

Calaveras Tennis Fund - Support Tennis in Calaveras County
 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
 Dan Imfeld Educational Incentive Fund – Support at-risk youth through educational incentives
 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
 Economic Prosperity Council of Tuolumne County – Support Programs of Economic Prosperity Council
 Elks Event Fund – Support qualified nonprofits' use of Sonora Elks Lodge
 Ernest Olivieri Fund: 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
 Keep Railtown Rolling – Support for Railtown 1897
 Kiwanis Childspree – 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 Memoir Center Fund – Tu. Co. Veterans History Project
 Miller Endowed Fund: Elks Lodge 1587 – Support Elks Lodge Scholarship program

Minnie Wind Wolfinbarger Fund – Support special education and ROP Nursing at Sonora High 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 Eye Care Fund – Eye care needs in Tuolumne County
 Tuolumne County GRACE Fund – Assistance for unmet needs of Tuolumne County residents
 Tuolumne County Juvenile Judges Fund – Needs of Tuolumne County youth referred by justices
 Tuolumne County STEM Fund – Support for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
 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
 Wings Fund – Expenses for the non-medical care of ill children
 YES Partnership Fund – Support of the YES Partnership coalition

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Elinor F. Brown Endowment Fund – Endowed fund for Tuolumne County educational purposes
 J.R. Christensen Family Fund – Nursing and health education in Tuolumne County
 Jim and Louise Angelo Family Fund – Endowment for Tuolumne County schools
 Local Emergency Services Support Fund – Disaster prevention and recovery
 Mother Lode Wellness Fund – Support of medical/wellness purposes in Tuolumne County
 Robert C. Jones Fund – Advocacy for those who experience discrimination

AGENCY DESIGNATED FUNDS

ATCAA Family Literacy Fund
 Calaveras Heritage Council Fund
 Central Sierra Arts Council Fund
 Economic Development Co. of Tuolumne County Fund
 Friends of Tuolumne County Library Fund
 Habitat for Humanity of Tu. Co. Fund
 Hospice of the Sierras Fund
 Humane Society of Tuolumne County Fund
 Meals on Wheels Fund
 Northern Mariposa County History 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
 Thomas Pugh Fund
 Toni Gibson Fund

Message Executive Director

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. In this issue, we have presented stories reflective of the variety of programs and projects that have been awarded grant funds from the Sonora Area Foundation and its two supporting organizations, the Symons Family Fund and the Irving J. Symons Foundation for Tuolumne County. Since our first grant making year in 1990, we have awarded grants in excess of \$17 million responding to critical community needs.

You should be very proud of what you have helped to build as a result of your support for our community foundation.



By being a donor, you help to support the Foundation's mission to strengthen our community. You understand the efforts of the Foundation to make Tuolumne County a better place to call "Home." We have highlighted for you several stories that help to illustrate the meaning of our slogan – "For good. For ever."

As always, the Board of Directors and staff are available to respond to your inquiries. Do not hesitate to call or come by our office at 362 S. Stewart Street to learn more about how the Sonora Area Foundation serves our community.

Ed Wyllie

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 Women's Research Club Scholarship – Columbia College attendee
Bill Gerber Memorial Scholarship – Summerville High: athletics
Black Oak Casino Scholarship – Employees and dependents of Casino – higher education
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
Community Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools – higher education
Cory D. White Memorial Scholarship – Continuing education
Dan Imfeld Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools – higher education
David Paul Grant Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: law enforcement – EMT-fire science
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
Gardella College Fund – Sonora High: interest in local government or politics
Gilbert Poulter Scholarship – Sonora High, Summerville High and Columbia College; higher education
Gina Marie Gardella Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: agricultural intention
Harry A. Riedinger Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Harvey H. Uhl Scholarship – Sonora High: trade schools or higher education
Highland Oaks Agricultural Scholarship – Columbia College: agriculture & natural resources
Homer Latimer Scholarship – Sonora High and Summerville High: 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 Greeno Memorial Scholarship – for children of fallen wildland firefighters
John E. Kelley Memorial Scholarship – Mother Lode Round-Up Queen
Kathleen Caletini Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: Sonora Elementary graduate



SAF donors support local Habitat for Humanity projects

Kristi Francis Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Larry and Virginia Reed Twain Harte Rotary Scholarship – Summerville High: vocational
Leadership Tuolumne County Scholarship – Past Participants of YLTC: academics
Lil Dawson, Winifred Black, Big Oak Rebekah Lodge # 259 Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: academics
Lyle R. Scott Scholarship – Vocations/trades education
Lynn Gates Nursing Scholarship – 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
Richard A. Franco Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics and leadership
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 Elementary Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: Sonora Elementary graduates
Sonora Lions Varvandakis Scholarship – Sonora High male: academics
Stephen H. Manson Scholarship – Sonora High: art and nursing
Teresa Mary Thors Scholarship – Secondary education for disabled students
Terry Campbell Loshalegro Award – Summerville High: academics
Ticket Out Scholarship Fund – Sonora and Summerville High – attending Columbia College
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 Women's Network Scholarship – Women's education
Tuolumne Medical Auxiliary-Connie Leonard Nursing Scholarship – Columbia College: Nursing
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
William and Doris Morris Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: academics
Wilma Lindberg Memorial Scholarship – Summerville or Sonora High: elementary teaching

Giving Search and rescue *(continued from page 1)*

looking for a different kind of satisfaction," Lyons said. "They're incredibly devoted and we rely on them all year round."

The squad has a number of specialty teams who train for specific types of situations, including underwater search, river rescues, back country skiing and more. The highly skilled technical rescue team is one of the most active, ready to work with ropes and specialty gear that can be used on cliffs, out of helicopters and with boats.

When the TCSAR team is called out on an emergency, they rarely know how long or how complicated the situation will be – from half a day helping a stranded hiker off a precarious perch to diving for a lost swimmer after a boating accident to covering a vast backcountry area for an overdue skier or hunter.

Sometimes they already know the results will be tragic, especially for dive teams and

swift water specialists. But even in those calls, the TCSAR squad can help loved ones find closure.

For Malm, the rewards are immense. "We get calls and letters from people years later, still so thankful," he said.



TCSAR volunteers will host a community Demonstration Day on Saturday, June 8, with displays of new dive and rope rescue gear. For time and location, visit www.TuolumneSAR.org or email randymalm@gmail.com.



SONORA AREA FOUNDATION

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Vision

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.
Lead by example.

Mailing: W.A.T.C.H. Resources, Inc.

Jamestown center's garden is ready to grow

This summer promises to be bountiful for the Jamestown Family Resource Center.

Director Mark Dyken has made sure of that, with ambitious plans for a large community garden and teaching kitchen now underway on property owned by and adjacent to Jamestown Elementary School. The lot includes a vacant home, mature fruit trees, half an acre of excellent gardening space. Dyken also has a team of community volunteers including trained master gardeners all eager to launch.

"We're going to jump out with a boom," Dyken said.

That's been possible thanks in large part to a surprise \$40,000 grant from the Sonora Area Foundation awarded to the center as the recipient of the Irving J. Symons award.

Dyken said the co-op garden addresses a critical need for Jamestown's low-income residents.

"Right now, Jamestown is a food desert," Dyken said. "This is a very low income area, and there are no places within walking distance where people can get a good

selection of fruits and vegetables. This garden will change that – it's right next to the school and just a couple of blocks from one of the poorest neighborhoods."

Dyken said people already are volunteering for work days to put in a variety of raised beds and watering system, and he expects a full harvest of fruits and vegetables in short order. The lot's vacant house, which once housed the school district's alternative day class, now will be converted to a community teaching kitchen where neighbors can learn how to prepare and preserve the garden's produce.

"You're not just getting food, you're teaching people how to use it and improve their nutrition," Dyken said.



Master Gardeners help Jamestown children plant their school garden.