

## Giving Feeding neighbors, sharing hope – volunteers help stretch the safety net

Tough times are sticking around for many Tuolumne County households, but our community continues to dig deep to help others in need.

Four years into recession, even with some improvement in the local job market underway, demand for food assistance has never been higher. From enrollment in senior meal programs to the numbers of people of all ages coming in for weekly dinners and breakfasts at local churches to the ATCAA Food Bank's growing list of customers and emergency food partners, the numbers seem overwhelming.

"With food prices increasing, we're seeing people who are coming in for the first time ever," said ATCAA Food Bank Director Lee Kimball. "And at the same time we're seeing people who rely on some assistance now



Community dinner at Heart Rock Cafe

getting a much greater percentage of their food from the safety net.

"Over the last year, 8,000 to 11,000 people per month got some portion of their food from our community programs," Kimball said. "That's the number of people who aren't

making it to the end of the month. And our focus as always is on the most vulnerable – the children, disabled and seniors."

The Sonora Area Foundation is committed to helping our community stretch the safety net. Directors for the second year set aside additional grant funds to meet increased demand. Grants in recent months included grant funding for the ATCAA Food Bank to improve operations and nutrition, grants for Meals on Wheels for homebound seniors and the weekly meals provided at several sites by Christian Heights Church.

All are on the front lines of getting food to neighbors in need.

Dozens of people come every Wednesday

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## Community Grant helps with gear for high school fire training program

Park a fully equipped fire engine on the high school track. Bring in experienced fire fighters who have worked years in emergency services as instructors. And give young adults professional quality gear, training that will let them become fire volunteers, high school credits and a pathway into a great career.

Those are the ingredients to a very successful new program at Sonora High School, a cooperative effort that has the backing of the school, Columbia College and fire professionals from city, county, state and federal agencies. A total of 22 students completed the program this school year, with plans now to continue into volunteer training and to study emergency services, land management, biology and related fields.

A Sonora Area Foundation grant last year allowed program instructor Craig Conklin to acquire a full set of Nomex coats, jackets, boots, gloves and helmets. It's gear the students use on a regular basis in the daily 2-hour class – and can now put on in 90 seconds flat.

"We'll get a lot of years out of this gear," Conklin said. "It's



An eager student

essential to training students for structure fires as well as wild land fire, and that's what rural communities need."

Students have visited a variety of fire agencies, learned to cut fire lines, lay hose, learned about structure fires, earned a variety of training certificates and have a good overview of firefighting as a volunteer calling and a career.

Students Austin Lunde, Jake Hoskins and Trevor Wheeler said the class has prepared them well and all want to continue on with more training.

"This is a stepping stone that makes you more hireable," said Lunde, who already is recruiting fellow students to join him in the youth Explorer program, the next step for young fire volunteers.

"This isn't just a high school class, it's job experience," Wheeler added. "What we're learning can be applied to everyday life."



Equipped to learn new skills

# Donor Funds

## ADVISED FUNDS

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  
Kiwans 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 A-TCAA 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  
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  
Grace, Bob & Ellena Cutler Fund - Support spay and neutering programs for controlling pet populations  
Graser-Knudson Memorial Fund – Endowment for Twain Harte recreational purposes  
Keep Railtown Rolling – Support for Railtown 1897  
Kiwans 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 Fund: Elks Lodge 1587 – Support Elks Lodge Scholarship program  
Minnie Wind Wolfenbarger 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 Juvenile Judges Fund – Needs of Tuolumne County youth referred by justices  
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 – 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  
Tuolumne County Eye Care Fund – Eye care needs in Tuolumne County  
Wings Fund – Expenses for the non-medical care of ill children

## 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  
Infant-Child Enrichment Services 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  
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

## Message Executive Director

A little over eight months ago, I was named the executive director of the Sonora Area Foundation. This is a second career for me, a brand new field filled with insights and inspiration.

I am a Tuolumne County native and spent most of my career as community development director for the City of Sonora. My wife, Nancy, and I raised our family here. I thought I knew this community inside and out.

But in my new role in local philanthropy, I'm seeing the community, its needs, its opportunities and its people from a whole new perspective.

I'm getting to know nonprofit leaders on a different level. We're lucky as a community to have so many talented and resourceful individuals who

are passionate about their work, even in these difficult times. Their dedication is impressive and that's what it takes. Whether they're building playgrounds, improving health care, creating art, serving meals or helping young families, they're making this a better place to live.

And I'm getting to know many more people as volunteers and donors. It's enlightening and inspiring to explore what drives them to give time, talent and resources to local projects and local issues. They too care deeply about what's best for this community.

The Sonora Area Foundation's mission is to support both donors and community groups, and to help match interests, needs and resources. It's a privilege to serve in this role, to work together toward solutions and to share in the successes ahead.

*Ed Wyllie*



Aronos William Morris Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools

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

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 Calestini Memorial Scholarship – 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

Lil Dawson, Winifred Black, Big Oak Rebekah Lodge # 259 Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: academics

Lyle R. Scott Scholarship – Vocations/trades education



Children at the new ATCAA Family Center

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

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

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 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

## *Giving* volunteers help stretch the safety net

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 night to the free meal served by the Christian Heights Assembly of God Church in downtown Sonora's Heart Rock Cafe, one of four meal sites operated by church volunteers each week. People of all ages, including elders, single teens, and families with young children, show up for servings of pasta, fruit, salad and dessert in a friendly setting.

Christian Heights Administrator Daryl Sarina said a group of about 15 very dedicated volunteers make and serve hundreds of weekly meals on a shoestring budget. Sonora Area Foundation funding has helped them stretch the program to keep pace with rising costs and high demand.

"These volunteers have a great care and concern for our community and feel they need to give back," Sarina said. "This is a way they can touch people's lives in a tangible way – and it's not just about the food. They really want to help in any way they can."

Grants to the ATCAA Food Bank helped the agency acquire more refrigerated storage and delivery trucks to handle more perishable foods.

"The biggest challenge we're facing," Kimball said, "is being very, very careful with

the nutrition we're providing, so we don't create health problems for these people. That means finding ways to supply more perishable foods – meat, dairy, produce – which are most nutritious. And that means more refrigeration, different storage and handling, more manpower. We're very grateful the Sonora Area Foundation understands the complexity of this issue and has helped provide the infrastructure we need."

Mike Ruggles, Executive Director of Sierra Senior Services, said the elderly population is both growing in number and need.

"We're starting to see the leading edge of the baby boomer generation need our services," he said, "and we see indications that they have been terribly affected by the economy."

Ruggles said both the Sonora Area Foundation and the community as a whole continue to step up their support.

"We really do help seniors stay in their own homes, and the community is very supportive of that," he said. "We really do appreciate it."



# SONORA AREA FOUNDATION

For good. For ever.™

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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.

## New indicators report on the way

The third edition of the “Tuolumne County Profile – Community Indicators Project” will be released this summer with data from the 2010 Census, current economic trends and other statistical resources.

The report is a project of the Sonora Area Foundation with assistance from the Center for Economic Development at California State University, Chico. It includes a series of “indicators” that give a snapshot of how our community is doing in a variety of areas, including demographic, environmental, economic, social, and industry indicators. The Foundation led a community effort to produce the first indicator project in 2005. A steering committee, dozens of local leaders and a telephone survey of more than 400 local residents were used to identify key issues and establish a template designed to be updated every few years. The report’s second edition was released in 2008. The third edition is being completed with the assistance of Chico’s university



staff, which has completed many similar economic and demographic profiles around the state.

The Foundation uses the indicator report regularly to identify local trends, priorities and opportunities, while community leaders and nonprofits have found it valuable for planning, grant applications and more.

Executive Director Ed Wyllie said the 2012 report will be the first to reflect important shifts and changes in the wake of the “Great Recession.”

The Foundation opted to work with the Chico center to streamline the process.

“Our 2012 Profile will have most of the information included in the two previous reports but at a significant cost savings,”

Wyllie said.

The final version of the report will be released this summer with copies available in print or on the foundation’s website at [www.sonora-area.org](http://www.sonora-area.org). For information, contact Wyllie at [edwyllie@sonora-area.org](mailto:edwyllie@sonora-area.org) or at (209) 533-2596.

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