

Giving VOICE

News for donors and friends of the Sonora Area Foundation

Community Foundation celebrates twenty five-years of service

Much has changed since Irving J. Symons and friends started the Sonora Area Foundation in 1990.

Then, Foundation directors met during the lunch hour in a bank conference room. There were no staff members or donor funds, which now comprise a good part of the Foundation's charitable giving. Symons wrote checks to worthy causes from his desk at Hales & Symons feed and lumber store.

Today, as the Foundation celebrates 25 years, it occupies a building on South Stewart Street in Sonora. There are three staff members and approximately 180 donor funds, created for grant making for everything from college scholarships to services for seniors.

Grants are also awarded to organizations on a competitive basis through an application process.

One thing, though, hasn't changed: The Foundation's commitment to improving the quality of life in Tuolumne County. That idea came from Symons, who envisioned an organization that would bolster his community and help others do the same.

"He was very community minded," said Gary Dambacher, a Foundation board member who also served as Symons' attorney. "He cared immensely about the community here. He was a philanthropist at heart."

Symons, president of Hales & Symons for 40 years, especially sought a way to give back to young people. An athlete in his youth, he noticed children and teens in Tuolumne County were lacking opportunities and quality recreation facilities.

So, Symons and Columbia College President Dr. Dean Cunningham – introduced by The Union Democrat owner Harvey McGee - hatched a plan. They'd form a community foundation, much like one Cunningham was involved with in Humboldt County. The organization would provide help to those who needed it, particularly youth, and accept monetary gifts from individuals and the

estates of people who wanted to contribute. Money would stay in the county, helping to support local non-profit organizations, including those that give young people a helping hand.

A bequest from Symons's sister, longtime Tuolumne County educator Elaine Symons Baker, helped establish the Symons Family Fund and provided a large portion of the competitive grant awards during the early years of the Foundation. Later, Irving

Symons' estate established the Irving J. Symons Foundation for Tuolumne County, a supporting organization for the Sonora Area Foundation which now funds the Foundation's competitive grant program.

It started out small, perhaps giving about \$100,000 in the first year, Dambacher said. The

Foundation now awards more than \$1.2 million in grants annually between donor funds and the competitive program. Its total giving since 1990 amounts to approximately \$20.5 million.

Also, the Sonora Area Foundation has given to a variety of organizations that Symons, who died in 2004, probably never imagined. There's Big Dreams Playground, a group building a playground for people with special needs. There's Smile Keepers, which cares for the dental needs of children. There's the Comfort Project, which distributes quilts to children and elders in need.

The Foundation has also given thousands of scholarships over the years. Some go to students who want to focus on particular areas of study, like nursing, elementary education or music. Some go to those bound for a particular college.

Some go to graduating high-school students who have shined despite difficulties.

What would Symons say?

"Oh, he'd be tickled," said Pete Kerns, a Tuolumne County businessman and Foundation board member. "He really wanted to help kids."

Helping kids is the focus of 2015, the Foundation's 25th anniversary year. To celebrate, directors threw a party in the Sonora Opera Hall, awarding \$250,000 in grants to 25 organizations that serve children.

Among them: the Sonora Police Department and its Explorers program; Tuolumne County Girls Fast Pitch Softball; the youth mentoring program TeenWorks; and the Gold Country Music Camp.

It wasn't easy to come up with just 25 organizations, said Jim Johnson, board president, as he handed out checks to a packed house amid applause.

"The choices were difficult," he said, urging those who didn't get picked to apply for competitive grants. "There are so many wonderful examples of youth organizations in this community."

While selecting which organizations receive grants may seem like an enjoyable problem, another more sobering aspect of



SAF anniversary event filled the Sonora Opera Hall

Donor Funds

ADVISED FUNDS— Charitable purposes

Acorns to Oaks Fund
Bergsund Family Fund
Boyd Family Fund
Calestini/Alves Family Fund
Comazzi Family Fund
Dambacher 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
Joe Martin Family Fund
Julie Hulet Memorial Fund
Kiwanis Club of Sonora Fund
Marjorie L. Coffill Charitable Fund
Norbert and Elaine Wilson Endowment Fund
Ozborn Family Fund
Pat and Jim Johnson Family Fund
Paul and Josephine Wyllie Charitable Fund
Priest Family Fund
Todd and Cyndi Simonson Fund
Tuolumne Angel Fund

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Art & Fritz Hender Memorial Fund – To benefit youth of Tuolumne County
Barbara McClymont Fund – Student needs at Sonora Elementary School
Betty Regelin Fund – Support ATCAA Family Homeless Shelter

Bill of Rights Fund – Bill of Rights education at Sonora Elementary School
BOB the 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
Economic Prosperity Council of Tuolumne County – Support Programs of Economic Prosperity Council
Ernest Olivieri Fund: Elks Lodge 1587 – Support Elks Lodge Scholarship program
Fire Chief's Association Training Fund – Purchase and maintenance of training equipment
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 – Support Tuolumne County Veterans History Project
Miller Endowed Fund: Elks Lodge 1587 – Support Elks Lodge Scholarship program
Minnie Wind Wolfinbarger Fund – Support special education and ROP Health Careers 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
Sonora Parent Nursery School Legacy Fund – Non-profit nursery school programs
SOS/Safety Net Fund for Tuolumne County - Support Safety Net programs 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
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 Tennis Association Fund – Maintain tennis courts in Twain Harte
Twain Harte Skate Park Fund – Skate park maintenance
Vial for Life Fund – Support Vial for Life project
Wings Fund – Expenses for the non-medical care of ill children
YES Partnership Fund – Support of the YES Partnership coalition

Event 25 for 25 grant awards

Tuolumne County children can keep playing water polo for a minimal fee. The Arts Alliance can continue its breadth of programs for youngsters. ReHorse Rescue Ranch can keep pairing foster youth with horses in need of loving care.

Those are just some of things that will happen here in the immediate future, thanks to 25 grants the Sonora Area Foundation awarded on March 18 in celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

The grants – a surprise for the groups that received them – were awarded at a reception held at the Sonora Opera Hall. Checks, presented by Foundation board members, went to organizations that serve children.

“That was what Mr. Symons would have wanted,” said Ed Wyllie, the foundation’s executive director.

Wyllie, speaking to the crowd of approximately 150 people, explained that Irving J. Symons – instrumental in starting the foundation in 1990 – envisioned an organization that would support young people as well as the community as a whole.

Selecting just 25 organizations wasn’t easy, Wyllie said. “There are so many more

than 25 that do such great work,” he said.

Matt Personius, of the Sonora Water Polo Foundation, said the grant means his group will be able to keep fees low for children who want to explore the sport. Raquelle Van Vleck, of ReHorse, said the support will bolster her program for foster children.

Connie O’Connor, of the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance, said it will help her group with its Kids Art Studies Academy, or KASA. But the award is more than that for each of the groups selected.

“One of the things it does is helps us to be recognized in the community in a very viable way,” O’Connor said. “It’s a real honor to be included in this select group.”



Elena Linehan (center) and Shelly Hance receive grant for Mentoring Works

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 – Tuolumne County schools for educational purposes
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
Trail Me About It – Non-motorized trails improvement in Tuolumne County
Tuolumne County STEM Fund – Support for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

AGENCY DESIGNATED FUNDS

ATCAA Family Literacy Fund
Calaveras Heritage Council Fund
Friends of Tuolumne County Library Fund
Habitat for Humanity of Tuolumne County Fund
Hospice of the Sierras Fund
Humane Society of Tuolumne County Fund
Mother Lode Wildlife Care Fund
Rose Wolf Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Fund
Salvation Army of Tuolumne County Fund
Sierra Foothills Residential Care Fund
Sierra NonProfit Services Fund
Sierra Repertory Theatre Fund
Southside Senior Services Fund
Summerville High Foundation 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
Sonora Area Foundation Futures Fund
Thomas Pugh 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 Women's Research Club Scholarship – Columbia College: nursing and/or teaching
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
Carl & Marilyn Keller – Sonora High: Engineering, Medical, Agriculture
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
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
Jim Baldrige Memorial Scholarship – Sonora High: past

athlete - academics
Joe Martin Family Scholarship – Sonora High: natural resources
John Greeno Memorial Scholarship – for children of fallen wildland firefighters
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
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
Martha Barnes Scholarship – Summerville High: females, non-traditional fields
Martin and Bethel Liljedahl Scholarship – Sonora High: agriculture
Minnie Wind Wolfinbarger Fund – Sonora High: ROP Health Careers graduate
Mother Lode Interagency Training Officers Scholarship/Bass Family Fire Fighters' Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne and Calaveras high schools: public safety
Past American Legion Post 300 Scholarship – Tioga High: general academics
Paul and Jackie Mierop Memorial Scholarship – Tuolumne County high schools: Sonora Elementary graduate
Pearl Segerstrom Memorial 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
SUHS Class of '58 Scholarship – Sonora High: higher education
Sgt. Bobby Rapp Ski Scholarship – Dodge Ridge 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: 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 Medical Auxiliary-Connie Leonard Nursing Scholarship – Columbia College: Nursing
Tuolumne Sunrise Scholarship – Summerville High: academics
Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce Scholarship – Summerville High: higher education
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

Community SAF celebration *(continued from page 1)*

serving as a Foundation board member is watching the needs of the community change with the economy.

The recession, and subsequent unemployment in Tuolumne County, resulted in non-profit organizations serving more people with less, Kerns said. Decreased state and federal funding has more social service organizations seeking grants from the Foundation in recent years. More money has been targeted to things like helping homeless people and feeding those in need.

Sadly, the Foundation can't fund every group, and sometimes board members don't agree on which causes are most pressing. The idea, Kerns said, is to give grants to a variety of organizations until those groups can find more sustainable funding – much like their clients find ways to get back on their feet.

While the Foundation is perhaps best

known for making grants, it also takes on a broader responsibility. Board members see the Foundation as a community leader, a group that brings all sides into discussions on important issues. Topics tackled in the past include local school services and feeding the hungry.

Another function of the Foundation: Helping Tuolumne County's non-profit organizations start conversations with each other, sharing tips and tricks and avoiding duplication of services.

So, what else is in store for the Sonora Area Foundation in the next 25 years and beyond?

"We're going to keep making this a better place to live in," Dambacher said. "We do a tremendous amount to improve this community. That's never going to change."

Giving Foundation anniversary benefits twenty-five non-profits

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Sonora Area Foundation. To celebrate, our Board of Directors has awarded 25, \$10,000 grants to non-profit organizations in Tuolumne County.

Each group that received a grant has something in common: It is dedicated to helping the young people of Tuolumne County. Here is a bit about each organization and its activities:

Kiwanis Childspree – A program of the Kiwanis Club of Sonora, Childspree provides a back-to-school shopping spree for children in need. Each child selected is accompanied by a volunteer adult to Walmart before the new school year begins. The pair spends up to \$150 for school supplies, backpacks, clothing and other items needed for the upcoming school year.

Infant Child Enrichment Services – Infant Child Enrichment Services, Inc., or ICES, was created in 1983 to provide a variety of child care and parenting support services to families in Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. The idea is for all parents in the community to have access to quality child care and parenting education. Services include child care resource and referral, child care subsidies, recruitment and training of child care professionals and parent education and support.

Jamestown Family Resource Center - The Jamestown Family Resource Center is dedicated to increasing the chances of school success for students enrolled at Jamestown Elementary School and improving the lives of their families and other community members. The agency works with families, school staff and community agencies to identify and serve children and families at risk due to economic hardship, abuse, neglect, school failure, substance abuse and other potential barriers to healthy lives.

High Country Sports Arena – This non-profit corporation offers sports programs for kids of all ages including inline hockey, roller derby, open skating and artistic skating. The facility has been used for a number of fundraising benefits for community members. Children can participate in sports at High Country regardless of ability to pay. The organization offers reduced costs that are below most other recreation programs in the region. It also encourages participants to volunteer to help cover their costs.

Big Dreams Accessible Playground – This organization's mission is to build parks and playgrounds that unite people of all ages and abilities in a play space that is both accessible and inclusive. Children and adults with disabilities will have a place space that meets their unique needs and allows them to play side by side with family and friends. The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors has approved a site for such a playground in Tuolumne City.

Tuolumne County Special Olympics – Our county is proud to offer training and competitions in nine sports for Special Olympics athletes. Volunteers enjoy working with the athletes to prepare them for competitions. Athletes train with their peers of equal skill levels. These athletes have fun at practice and enjoy the chance to compete.

Kids Arts Studies Academy at Tuolumne County Arts Alliance – Located on the Historic Dome Campus on Barretta Street, the Arts Alliance is home for the Kids Arts Studies Academy, or KASA. The academy provides the opportunity for students to learn fundamental techniques in a variety of art forms, including musical theater, drawing skills, color theory, music and rhythm, print making, culinary arts, dance and 3-D art projects. Participants at KASA are promised an intensive and fun arts experience.

Gold Country Music Day Camp – Each summer, the Gold Country Music

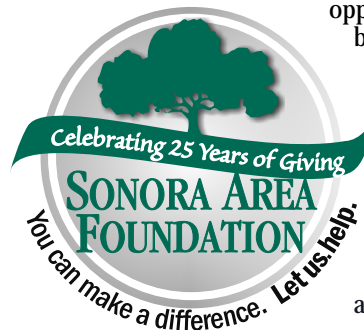
Camp allows sixth through ninth grade students the opportunity to develop their skills, culminating in a concert performance. The camp enhances student skills in preparation for performance at the high school level and beyond.

Mountain Youth and Community Theatre – This youth theater, also known



Rehearsal for show at MYACT

as MYACT, is the result of a merger of the former Sonora Children's Theatre and Meyer Hideout. The two organizations combined to provide more opportunities for children, youth and adults in the community to become involved in theater, music and dance. As a combined organization, MYACT is able to bring the county together for exciting classes, recitals and performances.



Tuolumne County Aquatics – Tuolumne County Aquatics is a registered U.S.A. Swimming Club in Sonora with more than 150 swimmers ages 19 and younger. All coaches are certified by the American Swim Coaches Association. The group offers the latest in technical instruction, a state-of-the-art training facility and ongoing support for young swimmers.

Sonora Water Polo Foundation – Sonora Water Polo began in 2001, first at the Sonora Memorial Pool and eventually moving to Sonora Sport and Fitness. The organization has two summer programs serving more than 50 children and teens in our community. All players are welcome to participate regardless of skill, making Sonora Water Polo a healthy, positive activity for kids. The organization also is helping to grow the variety of aquatic activities offered in Tuolumne County.



Sonora Water Polo Foundation teams

more likely to develop attitudes and habits that help ensure success. Mentoring Works is dedicated to helping youth by providing children, ages 7 to 17, a one-on-one relationship with a well-screened and trained volunteer. The program supports 35 mentor matches in a typical year.

Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency's Mentoring Works – Mentoring has proven to be the most effective and least expensive intervention for vulnerable youth. Research shows that young people involved in activities with adult mentors were significantly

Sonora Police Department Explorer Post 364 – This group allows young people to explore the career opportunities in law enforcement professions. Explorers are exposed to the criminal justice system and learn correct information about law enforcement, which often is a topic of conversation among their peers. Explorers provide valuable services to the community by working at special events, such as the Mother Lode Round Up, Christmas



Sonora Police Explorer Post 364

Parade, Spring Festival, and football games, as well as assisting officers on ride-a-longs. They assist with searches and traffic control, allowing sworn officers to address more critical situations. Explorers receive training in a variety of law enforcement-related subjects and participate in Explorer challenges and competitions.

TeenWorks – TeenWorks is a network of caring and responsible adults committed to helping at-risk youth of Tuolumne County, ages 12 to 19. Through healthy, one-on-one mentoring relationships, TeenWorks seeks to provide encouragement, guidance and positive role models for teens in need of compassion and understanding.

YES Partnership – The YES Partnership was originally established in 1986 in response to a spike in local teen suicides. The organization continues to pursue its mission by supporting Tuolumne County youth and families and striving to prevent substance abuse, suicide and child abuse. The goals of the program are to: Delay the onset and progression of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among family, school and community; and strengthen community collaboration to increase support for local substance abuse. YES provides our community with a vibrant forum for networking and coordination among agencies, community members, parents and youth leaders who care about youth and families.

Woods Creek Little League – This baseball group is for children in Sonora, Tuttletown, French Flat, Springfield, Shaws Flat, Columbia, Big Oak Flat, Groveland, Chinese Camp, Jamestown, Moccasin, Table Mountain, Quartz, Keystone, Golden Hills, Jacksonville, Lake Don Pedro.

TC Girls Fastpitch – Tuolumne County Girls Fastpitch is more than a softball group. The adult volunteers with this organization believe that they are responsible for helping to cultivate camaraderie and interpersonal skills that come with softball and to provide the young ladies with a means of developing attributes that will last a lifetime. The group has recently registered with the federal government and is waiting for its official designation as a non-profit organization.

ReHorse Rescue Ranch/Hands and Hooves Program – The mission of ReHorse Rescue Ranch is to provide temporary and/or permanent safe, loving and healthy environments for abandoned, abused and neglected horses. Hands and Hooves provides an environment for children in the foster care system, many of whom have suffered from abuse and neglect, to work with animals who have also suffered. Through this program, relationships are built and hearts are truly healed.

Tuolumne County 4-H – This group is part of a community of young people across the nation who learn citizenship, leadership and life skills. Tuolumne County 4-H includes the Community Club program, school enrichment projects, and collaboration with Senior Youth Partnership in the PM Club Afterschool Program. All 4-H programs offer opportunities for young people to learn by doing with hands-on activities.

Senior Youth Partnership – This non-profit provides opportunities to Tuolumne County seniors and youth. Programs support the education of at-risk young people while building critical links between generations. Training and employment areas include child care, business, food and hospitality, tutorial and resource educational development, private/public venture, career and technical



Sewing school is part of Senior Youth Partnership

education, regional occupational education, mentorship and internship opportunities. In its 33rd year of operation, Senior Youth Partnership is recognized at a state and county level as a group exemplifying outstanding and unique opportunities in partnerships and the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Westside Little League – This grant award was made by an anonymous donor in special recognition of community volunteer Todd Simonson for his personal and professional work in the community and his dedication to youth baseball. This organization serves the areas of Tuolumne, Sonora Meadows, Camp Sunshine, Strawberry, Twain Harte, Soulsbyville, Belleview, Long Barn, Crystal Falls, Mi-Wuk Village, Peter Pan, Cold Springs, Pinecrest and Dodge Ridge.

Tuolumne County Youth Soccer – This group provides recreational and competitive soccer to boys and girls 19 and younger. It prides itself on offering the opportunity to play organized soccer, regardless of race, religion, age, national origin and/or ability.



Baseball players at Whitehead Field, Tuolumne

Tuolumne Bears Youth Football & Cheer and Sonora Jr. Cats Youth Football and Cheer – These groups promote sportsmanship, teamwork and self-discipline in hopes of building strong futures for young people. Both programs are open to children and teens ages 7-14. Football players are placed on teams based on age, weight, and experience according to a standard age/weight chart. Cheer participants are placed into spirit squads, assigned to a football team and will cheer at regular and playoff football games. Young people in the associated groups are usually in the same age group. Both programs compete in the Motherlode Valley Football League.

Boy Scouts of America in Tuolumne County – Boy Scouts provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and develops personal fitness. For more than a century, Scouting has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining education activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through over a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

Girl Scouts of America in Tuolumne County – In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through a variety of enriching experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong. Girl Scouting helps girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.



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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.

Giving New funds will benefit youth

Two new Sonora Area Foundation funds will benefit young people from Tuolumne County for many years to come.

The first, named in memory of Jim Baldrige - a well-known coach and mentor - is a scholarship fund for high school athletes who want to go to college. Baldrige coached t-ball, baseball, wrestling, basketball and football for nearly 30 years in Tuolumne County, and made a lasting impression on young people, said Jim Gianelli, a friend and attorney who helped set up the fund.

"He followed the kids that he had coached and mentored through their school years and was there for them years after he had finished coaching them," Gianelli said.

Baldrige, who was cared for in an orphanage as a child, often told others what sports meant in his life. The idea of the fund, Gianelli said, is to support like-minded young people eager to overcome hardships and help others.

The second fund, named for Art and Fritzi Hender, will also support the youth of the county. Fritzi Hender's planned giving to the Foundation established the new fund earlier this year.

Husband and wife both came from longtime Tuolumne County families. Art Hender's father, Thomas, was a member of the Board of Supervisors and was instrumental in building the county courthouse. Fritzi Bastian was born in Stent and was the granddaughter of Tuolumne County pioneers Anthony and Gertrude Marcus. She

married Art Hender in 1934.

Fritzi Hender worked for 44 years in education, first as a teacher in Gustine then as an elementary supervisor for the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools. She helped organize many county-wide school activities, including art and music festivals, a math contest and a science fair. She initiated the first audio-visual program in the county and was active on committees that picked curriculum for students throughout the state.



Art and Fritzi Hender, whose fund will benefit youth in Tuolumne County