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.

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 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 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 (Continued on Page 3)
**Donor Funds**

**ADVISITED 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
- J oe Martin Family Fund
- J ulie Hulet Memorial Fund
- Kiwanis Club of Sonora Fund
- Lee Magid Music Mountain Fund
- Marjorie L. Coffill Charitable Fund
- Norbert & Elaine Wilson Endowment Fund
- Oblin 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
- Bristard 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
- Dylan 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 programs
- Friends of the Children’s Park Fund - Park maintenance and youth recreation
- George J ames Memorial Education Fund – TuCARE fund for teacher education in natural resources
- Grazer-Knudson Memorial Fund – Endowment for Twain Harte recreational purposes
- 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

**FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS**

- Marjorie L. Coffill Local History Fund - Tuolumne County Library materials on Mother Lode history
- Mary Jo Breton 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 J uvenile J udges 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
- Twin 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

**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. Woman’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

**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
- Brett 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 Sale 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. Uhlen 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
- Nikki & John Karpinski Fund
- Sonora Area Foundation Futures Fund
- Toni Gibson Fund

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS**

- Irving J. Symons Foundation for Tuolumne County
- Symons Family Fund

**2010 Summerville High Graduates**

- Bill Gerber Memorial Scholarship
- Brett Laws Memorial Scholarship
- Cesareo O. Gutierrez Memorial Scholarship
- Coolidge Scholarship
- Elks Lodge 1587 Scholarship
- Homer Latimer Scholarship
- J ohn R. Busch Memorial Scholarship
- Marjorie L. Coffill Local History Fund
- Mary Jo Breton Endowed Scholarship
- Minnie Wind Wolfinbarger Fund
- Tuolumne County J uvenile J udges Fund
- Tuolumne County Tennis Court Foundation
- Tuolumne River Project Fund
- Twin Harte Skate Park Fund
- YES Partnership Fund
- Youth Sports Foundation Fund

**Field of Interest Funds**

- Elinor F. Brown Endowment Fund
- J. A. Christiansen 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**

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- Symons Family Fund
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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.

“She just connected with kids,” says her husband, Bruce A Ives. “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, A Ives 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 A rea 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, A Ives 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

(C ontinued From Page 1)

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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.”
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.

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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-Avised Fund that is used regularly to support causes both inside and outside of the county. Donor-Avised 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 Anker’s life, Helga said. “Even when we had nothing, we would find a way to set a little bit aside.”
A s 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.

A mong 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.”