

Giving VOICE

News for donors and friends of the Sonora Area Foundation



SOS Funds aid Meals on Wheels....pg 3

Inside

Welcome to SAF.....pg 2
SOS Fund.....pg 3
Scholarship.....pg 4
Wings Fund.....pg 4
Financial Statement..pg 5
Funds List.....pgs 6 & 7



SONORA AREA FOUNDATION
For good. For ever.™

Follow Up SOS funds give families a hand

Hard times have hit hundreds of Tuolumne County families this fall, as they scramble to cope with job losses and rising costs of food, shelter and energy. But community leaders say neighbors keep coming together in a huge effort to help each other through.

“For every two or three calls we get from people in distress, we get another call from someone wanting to know how they can help,” said ATCAA Food Bank Director Lee Kimball. “It’s breathtaking how many people we’re getting who just say ‘What can I do?’”

“The need is out of control, it’s staggering,” Kimball said. “But Tuolumne County absolutely gets it. They always step up.”

The community stepped up in a big



way this spring, in response to the Sonora Area Foundation’s May SOS Campaign. To help brace for expected hardship, hundreds of local donors matched a contribution from the Sonora Area Foundation, and together raised \$520,000 for local safety net services. The dollars raised were split among three agencies – ATCAA, Interfaith Social Services and Sierra Senior Providers – to help them increase food, shelter and energy assistance to local seniors and families in need.

“That funding was a Godsend,”

Kimball said. “We would be turning people away right now without it, there’s no question.”

Instead, Kimball said, the SOS funds have helped keep local pantries stocked with healthy, nutritious food even as demand has climbed.

Sierra Senior Services used its SOS allocation to increase its Meals on Wheels service to seven meals per week for homebound seniors, and to increase its free firewood delivery program this winter.



At Interfaith Social Services, SOS funds helped supply the county’s growing number of homeless people with blankets and tarps, and provide a much needed boost to the agency’s free firewood

program. SOS funds allowed the agency to build a secure firewood storage area, and local volunteers have kept it stocked with a large supply of donated wood.

“We expect to give out 300 cords of wood,” said Executive

Director Cathie Peacock. “It will save families several hundred dollars over the coming winter, so it helps tremendously.”

Peacock said she sees so many new faces coming in for help, and she also sees people determined to pull through.

“We’re seeing more and more people who have to live in their cars or are

sharing housing and are coming in for our showers and food. But people are really trying, they’re looking for the opportunities to help themselves and they really appreciate the services that are here.”

Beetle Barbour, ATCAA’s housing director, said SOS funds have been passed along to more than 60 households so far through the agency’s homeless prevention program. Payments went to qualified local residents facing eviction or foreclosure. More help is coming, Barbour said, with increased federal aid for rental assistance and easier terms offered by lenders.

“We still can’t keep up with all the calls for help,” Barbour said, “but these funds really have made a difference for many families.”

All signs continue to indicate many more months of need.

“This is a long way from over, and as a community, we’re going to have to keep our determination,” said Foundation CEO Mark Bergstrom. “All of us at the Foundation are prepared to stay focused and involved.”

For information on how you can help, call the Foundation staff at 533-2596.



PHOTOS:

Top: Interfaith firewood is distributed at the Tuolumne Road location to 10 families a day.

Left: ATCAA Food Bank in Jamestown prepares food for sorting to serve more families than ever before.

Lower Right: Clyde Caya (right) and the Meals on Wheels crew at the Tuolumne County Senior Center prepare meals that go to at least 163 seniors each week day.

COVER PHOTO:

Meals on Wheels driver Mary Hansen (right) delivers a hot meal to William Bahten at his home in Sonora.

Scholarship Student loves her new focus



Summerville High-Connections Academy graduate Jackie Grieff clearly loves her new focus as a freshman film student at the California Art Institute's San Francisco campus. She walks 30 minutes to classes in the heart of the Civic Center, and spends nearly every hour there.

"There's not a lot of vegetation," she said, "but the classes are all amazing...and the students and teachers are just great – too much fun!" She's already had her high school film selected for a film festival, is earning top grades and teamed up on three films with the Production Club.

Grieff started at the prestigious academy this summer, with help from several scholarships including the Martha Barnes Scholarship administered by the Sonora Area Foundation. That

scholarship goes to a young woman from Summerville pursuing a non-traditional field.

"I figured I had to apply for that because I'm going into a strange field," she said. "It's been a huge encouragement to take this chance."

Her classes so far have included color theory and photography, conceptual storytelling and Photoshop. "I love all of it but algebra, and even that teacher is great!" she said. "Our instructors bring in all these guest speakers like producers from Pixar, and we see alumni all the time."

That's critical for such a competitive field, Grieff said. "I'm making all these great connections, and they really promise to help you get into the field as soon as possible. It's been great."

Lin Freer has been Grants Program Manager at the Sonora Area Foundation for more than 12 years – and she's still astonished by what she sees happen in Tuolumne County season after season.

"It's amazing how this community works together," she said. As the liaison between Foundation directors and community grantees, Freer sees up close what organizations need and how they use Foundation support. She also administers nearly 70 scholarship funds that are housed at the Foundation, and works with students to manage paperwork and payments.

"My favorite part of working here is that I get to help make the connections in a community where people care about each other," she said. A New York native, Freer moved to Tuolumne County in 1995. She and her husband, financial advisor John Freer, have two daughters who graduated from Sonora High and are now off at college. She appreciates the advantages of small town life – and the difference an organization like the Foundation can make here. The recent SOS Campaign was a perfect example, Freer said. The Foundation challenged the community to help raise \$500,000 in one month to meet emergency needs for local families. Despite tough times, the goal was met swiftly and funds went immediately to local agencies.

"It's the organizations that do the work," Freer said, "and we see a lot of people here who go above and beyond to serve the community. It's an honor to be able to help them do their work."



Staff Grants Manager

Profile Urquharts' Fund 'pays it forward'



Seven years ago, a brush with death left Dave and Tereé Urquhart searching for a way to help other families, and pass on the caring and assistance they had just received.

Dave, principal at Summerville High School, was recovering from a heart transplant and a three-month stay at Stanford Medical Center.

He and Tereé were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support during the ordeal, and knew what they would like to do next.

Soon after they came home, they began meeting with friends and advisors to launch the WINGS Fund at the Sonora Area Foundation. The fund assists local families caring for an ill or injured child, covering family costs for meals, hotel accommodations and transportation to out-of-area hospitals. To date, the WINGS Fund has granted nearly \$50,000 and assisted 68 families facing medical issues ranging from premature birth to congenital health issues to accidental injuries and childhood cancers.

"We feel so blessed to be able to 'pay it forward,'" Tereé said. "We talk to each and every family who calls, and know so well

what they're going through. We empathize, and also do something positive to help."

Dave said it's rewarding to have a way to channel local donations to families in crisis. "It's really the community coming together supporting these families," Dave said. "That's what keeps WINGS going."

The WINGS Fund board of directors handles annual community fundraising, and approves applications for families seeking assistance. The Foundation provides fiscal oversight and financial management at no charge. Foundation staff offered extensive guidance in setting up the fund and its procedures, Dave said, and has helped to keep it running smoothly.

"The Foundation is really the backbone of the program," he said. "They provide the structure and the professional seal."

Community Report Financial Information

2009 Grants from Unrestricted Funds

Sierra Senior Providers - Meals on Wheels	\$59,100	May SOS Campaign
ATCAA - Food Bank	\$210,600	May SOS Campaign
ATCAA - Housing Resources	\$107,815	May SOS Campaign
ATCAA - Energy Assistance Propane	\$49,485	May SOS Campaign
Interfaith - Wood Program	\$23,000	May SOS Campaign
Tu. Co. Health Department	\$63,193	Mobile Health Van
Sonora High School (Foundation)	\$50,000	Trek Across America - Match
ATCAA	\$27,500	Family Learning Center
Tu. Co. Superintendent of Schools Office	\$2,900	Student Participation Events
TuCare	\$15,100	Tours for Kids
Foothill Pregnancy Center	\$13,274	Director of Client Services & Rent
Tu. Co. Sheriff's CSU	\$16,000	Vehicle
Mother Lode Fair	\$31,530	Improvements to Livestock Area - 3 Years
Tuolumne County Probation Department	\$2,300	New Horizons After-School Program
Mountain Women's Resource Center	\$40,000	TC Suicide Prevention Task Force
Boy Scouts of America Troop # 570	\$1,000	Camping Equipment
New Life Lighthouse/Lighthouse Ministries	\$3,000	5-year plan - Consultant Fee
Sierra Repertory Theatre	\$20,000	1-year Core Support
Mother Lode Black Heritage Fdtn/SNPSC	\$4,000	Travel Expenses - Research
Columbia College Foundation	\$2,846	Dancing with the Tuol. County Stars 2009
WATCH	\$6,310	Business Operations Upgrade
Friends of Tu. Co. Library	\$2,000	Trivia Bee
Tu. Co. Economic Development Authority	\$5,000	Small Business Development Center
Tu. Co. Superintendent of Schools	\$6,000	Instruments K-5
Smile Keepers	\$25,000	Fundraising Match up to \$25,000
Dawn's Light	\$5,000	HOPE Pilot Project
TC Behavioral Health Dept.	\$30,000	Senior Peer Counseling
Sonora Cat Rescue	\$1,000	Spay and Neuter
Tenaya Elementary School	\$1,776	Clay Oven
Mentoring Works Program (ATCAA)	\$10,000	Mentoring Works Fundraising Match
Sonora High School District	\$3,645	Water Polo Equipment
Friday Night Live (ATCAA)	\$51,609	Sources of Strength Program
Shriners Hospitals for Children	\$5,125	Bolero Lift Bath Trolley
Sierra NonProfit Services	\$5,000	Grant Writing Course
TuCare	\$3,000	Annual Natural Resource Summit and Tour
Sonora Area Foundation	\$2,000	Elaine Symons Baker Scholarship Fund
Sonora High School	\$5,924	Sober Grad
Summerville High School	\$2,324	Sober Grad
Irving J. Symons Award	\$33,590	Meals On Wheels Vans
Children's Holiday Party	\$7,700	Annual Children's Christmas Party
Community Feud	\$2,700	TBD
TOTAL	\$957,346	

Scholarship Update:
Year to Date 2009 Scholarships awarded were \$92,026 for 80 students in Tuolumne County with awards ranging from \$200 to \$20,000 each.

Sonora Area Foundation Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition including Supporting Organizations and Component Funds (12/31/2008)

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,790,505
Investment income receivable	\$41,436
Other receivables	\$175,319
Planned gift receivable	\$777,933
Rents receivable	\$81,025
Note receivable	\$362,674
Investments	\$10,835,556
Other assets	\$7,101
Deferred property taxes	\$8,102
Prepaid expenses	\$7,759
Real property net of accumulated depreciation	\$8,923,270
Total Assets	\$24,010,680
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$121,592
Grants payable	\$276,140
Scholarships payable	\$141,980
Affiliate liability	\$44,823
Advanced expenses	\$8,264
Security deposits	\$7,475
Total Current Liabilities	\$600,274
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$18,854,888
Temporarily restricted	\$2,288,513
Permanently restricted	\$2,266,823
Total Net Assets	\$23,410,224
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$24,010,680

*Excludes gifts and bequests not presently available for grant making.
Audited financial statements of the Foundation and its Supporting Organizations are available at the Foundation office,
362 S. Stewart Street, Sonora.*

Success Grant funds student music



After just a small amount of instruction, a Curtis Creek classroom full of eight year olds can make harmonious music together in almost no time. Seated on the floor with sets of high quality glockenspiels and xylophones, they quickly learn about rhythm, pitch and tembre – and enjoy the pleasing sounds of their instruments as soon as they start to play.

“This is absolutely the best way to teach music to young people,” says retired music teacher Louise McPeeters. “It’s so positive for them and you can teach so many of the basics. I’ve been using it for years.”

With McPeeters’ dedication, hundreds of

students throughout Tuolumne County will have the chance to learn music basics on a set of Orff instruments purchased with the help of a Sonora Area Foundation grant.

The instruments will be housed at the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, and teachers who complete training with McPeeters will be able to check them out on a rotating schedule. Already 28 grade school teachers have gone through the class, and are eagerly waiting to introduce the program to their students.

“The boxes arrived last week and they’re just beautiful,” McPeeters said. “Our next step is to get them out there and get them used.”

Ten reasons people choose to give through the Sonora Area Foundation:

one

We are a local organization with deep roots in the community.

two

Our professional program staff has broad expertise regarding community issues and needs.

three

We provide highly personalized service tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests.

four

Our funds help people invest in the causes they care about most.

five

We accept a wide variety of assets, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.

six

We partner with professional advisors to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.

seven

We offer maximum tax advantage for most gifts under federal law.

eight

We multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.

nine

We build endowment funds that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.

ten

We are a community leader, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change.

“Create a Legacy” for Tuolumne County today.

Choose a giving option right for you.

Donor Advised Funds. You can have ongoing involvement in the use of your gift. You work with our professional program staff, identifying ways to use dollars from the Donor Advised Fund you establish to address the issues and needs you care about most.

Unrestricted Funds. Your gift can address ever-changing community needs - including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made. We evaluate all aspects of community well-being - arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, and health and human services.

Field of Interest Funds. You can target your gift to address needs in an important area of community life. Arts. Aging. Conservation. At-risk youth.

Scholarships. You can invest your gift in our community's future and show students you care, all with the guidance and personal services of the Foundation.

Designated Funds. You can direct your gift to a specific nonprofit organization or purpose. Help provide ongoing funding for a senior center, museum or virtually any nonprofit charitable organization.



Call the Sonora Area Foundation today to discuss establishing a new fund. We'd be honored to assist you in creating your personal legacy.

Call 533-2596



SONORA AREA FOUNDATION
For good. For ever.™