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# July 2019 Newsletter

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## Congratulations to Scholarship and Grant Recipients

### 2019 Scholarship Numbers Are In

Sonora Area Foundation (SAF) awarded **244** scholarships totaling nearly **\$550,000**. Scholarships were awarded from **63** funds.

### Recent SAF Grants Support Community Needs

**Adult & Teen Challenge, Faith Home Network: \$60,000** for its Jamestown center.

**Groveland Trail Heads: \$30,000** for the first phase of the Ferretti non-motorized trail system.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tuolumne County: \$20,000** for a transportation vehicle.

**Stanislaus County Office of Education: \$5,000** for Foothill Horizons Outdoor School.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4748: \$6,000** for the 9/11 Global War on Terrorism Memorial security system.

**We Care Sober Living Recovery Home: \$15,000** for program support.

**Thank you, donors, for partnering with SAF  
to strengthen our community.**

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## **Sonora Area Foundation Announces New Funds**

Sonora Area Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of two new funds: The **Community Christmas Eve Day Dinner Fund** and the **Jack Cassinetto Memorial Scholarship Fund**.

The Community Christmas Eve Day Dinner Fund benefits the free event which is open to the community and is a Tuolumne County tradition enjoyed by hundreds annually.

The Jack Cassinetto Memorial Scholarship Fund benefits students from Theodore Bird, Dario Cassina and Sonora High Schools pursuing any formal art education program. A recent event raised thousands for the fund.



A crowd enjoys art, speakers and refreshments at the Jack Cassinetto art exhibition.

Sonora Area Foundation partnered with the late artist's family to host Celebrating the Art of Jack Cassinetto: An Exhibition of His Paintings. The June 8 event featured an exhibit of 30 of Cassinetto's paintings, a silent auction, raffle, speakers, live music and refreshments. More than \$4,400 was raised for the scholarship fund.

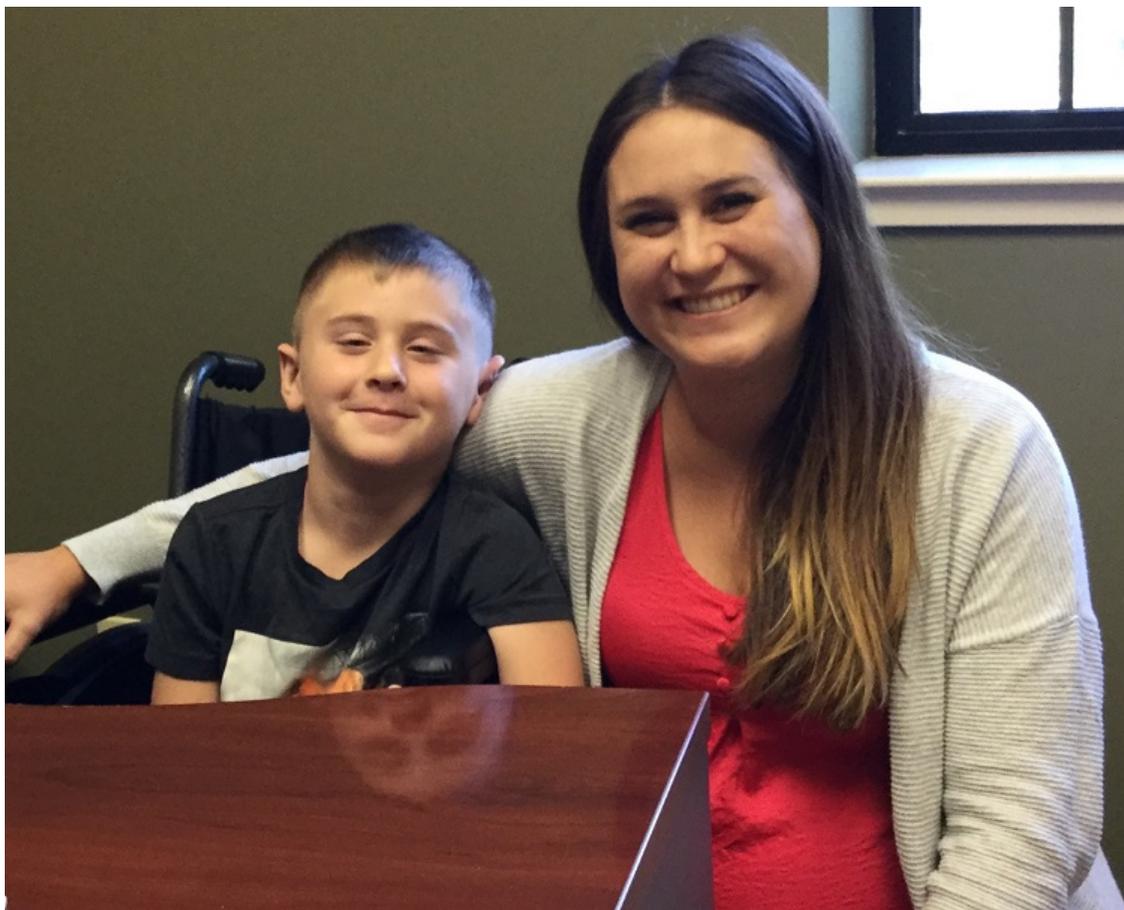
For a list of all  
Sonora Area Foundation funds,  
visit [sonora-area.org](http://sonora-area.org).

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## Sonora Area Foundation can help you reach your philanthropic goals

[Learn about the benefits of opening a donor-advised fund with Sonora Area Foundation.](#)

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Ashlee DeCota with son Braiden

## SAF Staffer Returns Temporarily

Sonora Area Foundation's finance administrator, Ashlee DeCota, in early July returned to work after being out for more than two months to care for her son Braiden.

Braiden, 8, on April 30 underwent surgery at UCSF to remove a benign mass from his brain. Approximately 90 percent of the mass, an astrocytoma, was removed during the eight-hour operation. The remaining 10 percent will require treatment (possibly chemotherapy) in the near future.

After weeks of physical therapy, Braiden was released from the hospital and soon after Ashlee returned to work. Braiden has joined her for several days, using the desk in the vacant office across the hall from Ashlee's to build intricate Lego creations. Ashlee's return to work will be temporary, however, due to her approaching due date: She is expecting a baby girl in late July.

SAF is a three-employee organization and having one staffer out can be challenging, but a workable solution has been pieced together: SAF's grants administrator Allie Lincoln cross-trained with Ashlee when both were brought onboard late last year and Allie has been invaluable in maintaining the financial workflow. Additionally, Lisa Mayers in late April was hired on a part-time, temporary basis to take on some of Ashlee's basic accounting duties. Also, SAF's contract accountant, Patti Hohne, has been instrumental in filling the void and will continue to provide additional assistance during Ashlee's maternity leave. Finally, two of SAF's peer community foundations, which use the same fund accounting program as SAF, have assisted with the more technical aspects of Ashlee's job.

Sonora Area Foundation is thankful to have Ashlee back at work for a time, and looks forward to her permanent return after maternity leave, as well as to Braiden's continued healing.

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## **Senior Family Forum - Health Matters benefits many**

Sonora Area Foundation's fifth Senior Family Forum covered important health-related topics, and held some surprises, too.

The May 15 event brought together local experts to speak on topics including

nutrition, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, hospice care and more.

Representatives of several SAF health-related funds also presented information on their funds' missions. Question and answer sessions gave the audience an opportunity to engage with the speakers, and a variety of information and resources from local agencies and organizations was available.

Information wasn't the only thing that was shared: Drawings for gift cards were held, and the audience was asked to vote for their top three favorite Tuolumne County nonprofits, who received mini-grants.

The top three nonprofits as voted by forum attendees were:

**First place: Interfaith (\$1,000)**

**Second place: Adventist Health Sonora (\$500)**

**Third place: Sierra Senior Providers, Inc. - Meals on Wheels (\$250)**

Many thanks to the speakers and to all who attended. Mark your calendars for the next Senior Family Forum, to be held October 2, 2019!



**Senior Family Forum**  
*A free community event  
with important information for seniors and their families*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Wednesday**  
**October 2, 2019**

**Sierra Bible Church**  
**8:45am until noon**  
**15171 Tuolumne Rd, Sonora, CA**

**SONORA AREA FOUNDATION**  
For good. For ever.

For more information call 209.533.2596  
or visit [sonora-area.org](http://sonora-area.org)



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