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October 2020 Newsletter



Closed to the Public, but Here to Help!

Our office continues to be closed to the public; however, our staff is available by phone (209-533-2596) and email:

Darrell Slocum, Executive Director: darrell@sonora-area.org
Allie Lincoln, Grants Administrator: allie@sonora-area.org
Lisa Mayers, Office Administrator: lisa@sonora-area.org
Ashlee De Cota, Finance Administrator: ashlee@sonora-area.org

Conference-room reservations are not being accepted at this time. Groups with previously scheduled reservations will be contacted when our office reopens to the public.

We're looking forward to the time when we once again can open our doors; in the meantime, we're here to help!



From left: SAF Executive Director Darrell Slocum with Tim McEwen and Nathan Reich.

Dinner 4 You = Dollars 4 Your Community

[The Sierra's Table](#) once again served up a delicious Drive-Thru Dinner to benefit Sonora Area Foundation's Community Recovery Fund (CRF). Shaved prime-rib sandwich, grilled chicken breast, jalapeno mac and cheese, and more fed many while bringing in \$4,077 for CRF, which supports our community's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The August 29 fundraiser was the second hosted by The Sierra's Table, a catering company owned by Tim and Patti McEwen. The first benefit take-out dinner, held on April 25, raised \$3,125 for CRF.

Sonora Area Foundation is grateful for the McEwens for donating their time and talent, for Nathan and Liana Reich of Reich's Outpost for donating paper goods, and for all those who purchased a dinner.

Please visit our website to see a list of [organizations that have benefited from CRF grants](#), or to [donate](#) to CRF or one of SAF's many other funds.

Tuolumne County Launches Business and Private Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors has created a Business and Private Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program to reimburse organizations for eligible COVID-19-related expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020. One-time funds of up to \$10,000 are available per organization, with a total grant budget of \$1,750,000. The application deadline is December 15, 2020.

[An informational flyer is available here.](#) For more information, call (209) 533-5511 or email jterry@co.tuolumne.ca.us.

Grants News

At no other time in Sonora Area Foundation's 30-year history has its role been more sharply defined than it is now. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified its mission to assist donors, make grants, and lead the community through the financial disruption and uncertainty caused by shut downs, stay-home mandates, and other requirements.

SAF in March established the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) to assist local nonprofits in the midst of economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, and CRF has received enormous, ongoing community support.

As of September 28, 2020, SAF has granted more than \$227K from CRF both to longstanding organizations and to newly minted outreach programs. More than \$55K has been granted to **ATCAA Food Bank** to meet the pressing needs of hunger and food insecurity. Other CRF food-program grantees include those newly launched by local businesses: **Schnoog's Hope Loaf** and **Chef Dave**

Cooks' Soup Kitchen. A list of many CRF grantees and amounts awarded is available at sonora-area.org.



The Meals on Wheels Radiothon generated \$190K. Pictured from left: Ron Patel, Stan Forrest, Kristi Conforti, Allie Lincoln, Maryann Curmi, Mark Grauer and Larry England.

SAF, in partnership with Sierra Senior Providers (SSP) and Clarke Broadcasting Corporation, awarded **SSP's Meals on Wheels** program \$50K in matching-grant funds from CRF for its successful Meals on Wheels Radiothon fundraiser. The on-air event was broadcast August 21, 2020. The Radiothon was the nonprofit's alternative to its annual fundraiser.

Other recent proactive grants include \$10,000 to **Tuolumne Safe**, a new nonprofit that is building a Ponderosa Hills-area emergency evacuation road, and \$12,000 for food and gifts for **Children's Holiday Party**, a long-running annual event that will be held as a drive-through event this year.



Melinda Fleming of TuCARE (left) and Anaiah Kirk of Tuolumne Safe (right) with Darrell Slocum at the road-construction site. The grant was made possible by donations from several Sonora Area Foundation donor-advised funds as well as monies from CRF.

In addition to these proactive grants, SAF continues to offer competitive grants. The following competitive grants were awarded in August: **Make-A-Wish**, \$7,000 for a Tuolumne County child's wish; **Habitat for Humanity of Tuolumne County**, \$10,000 for a community outreach program; **Columbia College Foundation**, \$17,500 for technology gap supplies; **Tuolumne River Trust**, \$10,000 for a field vehicle; and **First Presbyterian Church of Columbia**, \$5,000 for a historical database.

SAF Invites Grant Applications

Is your organization planning to apply for an SAF competitive grant? To have your grant application considered at the December 15 board meeting, submit it by **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020**. Applications may be emailed to Grants Administrator Allie Lincoln (allie@sonora-area.org), or mailed to or dropped off at our office (the front-door mail slot may be used for drop-offs):

Sonora Area Foundation
362 S. Stewart St.
Sonora, CA 95370.

The Sonora Area Foundation board of directors reviews competitive-grant applications at its February, April, June, August, October and December meetings, which are usually held on the fourth Tuesday. Applications are due by the first of the month in which the grant meeting is held.

For information on how to apply, and for other grant information, click [here](#).

INNOVATION COMPETITION
————Deadline Extended————

Wanted: Big Ideas!

Sonora Area Foundation (SAF) marks its 30th anniversary this year, and in January announced a \$50,000 Innovation Competition in celebration of this milestone. The competition's deadline has been extended from August 31, 2020 to **March 30, 2021**.

We're looking for big ideas that have the potential to create big improvements in our community. Do you have an idea for a new program, project or way of doing business? Top ideas will win a share of the \$50,000 prize.

While funds only may be awarded to nonprofits or public agencies, everyone is

encouraged to enter. Prizes for winners who are unaffiliated with a nonprofit or public agency will be awarded to the nonprofit of the winner's choice.

Please visit our website for [contest details](#), and put your thinking caps on!



Sonora Area Foundation is proud to have partnered with local donors to give more than 200 scholarships to local students this year. To collect these generous awards, students must send their enrollment information to SAF. All 2020 scholarship recipients should have received an email or letter detailing the information required to collect their scholarship payments. Students who were awarded a scholarship administered by Sonora Area Foundation and have not received this information should contact Allie Lincoln at (209) 533-2596 or allie@sonora-area.org.

WHAT'S
YOUR PASSION?

We Fund Causes You Care About!

Sonora Area Foundation administers hundreds of funds that support an array of causes, project and organizations – from those with a specific focus, such as the new **Twain Harte Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts Fund**, to those with the broad aim of general charitable purposes, such as the new **Terra Vi Yosemite**

Fund.

Whatever your passion, chances are there's a Sonora Area Foundation fund that supports what you care about. If not, consider opening a fund today! Check out our website for listings of [all Sonora Area Foundation funds](#) and [how to open a fund](#), or give us a call at (209) 533-2596; we'd love to talk with you!

Give to Your Community Today!



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