



---

## 2020 Year End Newsletter

---

### Adversity > Generosity > Recovery

A truth revealed by the pandemic: Adversity fuels generosity.

Sonora Area Foundation (SAF) has been fortunate to witness this principle in practice through the outpouring of support received by its Community Recovery Fund (CRF). SAF in March opened the CRF to help local nonprofits adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic; to date, CRF donations have topped \$405,000 and more than \$345,000 in grants have been awarded. These grants have supported an array of programs and services – from bread for the hungry to helping complete an emergency-evacuation road project.

Not only do CRF donations stay local, donors may realize tax benefits from their gifts, as well. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act's above-the-line charitable contribution for non-itemizers has been extended through 2021. The act originally allowed taxpayers (both individuals and married filing jointly) to claim a deduction of up to \$300 on 2020 tax returns; the extension allows a \$300 (individual) or \$600 (married filing jointly) deduction in cash contributions made to nonprofits such as SAF on 2021 tax returns.

While CRF monies have benefitted many, much need remains, as the pandemic's repercussions will likely continue well into 2021. Gifts to the CRF stay in Tuolumne County and help nonprofits continue to provide vital programs and services. Please support our community by donating today.

Thinking of a larger gift, and interested in becoming more involved in the community? Consider opening a donor-advised fund (DAF). With a minimum gift of \$5,000, donors may open a DAF, name it, and determine its purpose – from anything as broad as general charitable purposes to anything as specific as food for homeless pets, for example. For information on opening a DAF, contact Executive Director Darrell Slocum at (209) 533-2596 or [darrell@sonora-area.org](mailto:darrell@sonora-area.org).

As a community foundation, SAF exists to better Tuolumne County not only through awarding grants, but also assisting donors and leading the community. SAF has the

flexibility to respond quickly to urgent funding needs, and it charges no administrative fees – 100 percent of donated monies go to the organization, cause or project specified by the donor.

Your generosity will help our community rebound from adversity, and strengthen it into 2021.

---

## New Funds Extend Charitable Reach

While 2020 was memorable for many reasons we'd rather forget, the 22 Sonora Area Foundation funds that were opened this year gave us many reasons to smile. SAF is grateful to our generous donors for partnering with us to extend out charitable reach ever further into our community through their funds:

### Donor-Advised Funds

**Jeannette & Rick Emery Fund** - General charitable purposes

**Joe & Holly Pluim Family Fund** - General charitable purposes

**Penny Ablin & Kerry Kilgore Family Fund** - General charitable purposes

**Plum Community Fund** - General charitable purposes

**Terra Vi Yosemite Fund** - General charitable purposes

**Wil & Cheryl Reich Family Fund**

**Wahlbrink Family Fund** - General charitable purposes

**W. Simonson Fund** - General charitable purposes

### Designated Funds

**Community Recovery Fund** - House donations from the community to support those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

**Penny Ablin & Kerry Kilgore Millapede Charitable Fund** - Improve the lives of those in our community with a focus on social services, medical/dental services, animal-related services, environmental preservation, and violence-prevention programs/education

**Supporting the Blue: K9 Project Fund** - Support Sonora Police Department

**Twain Harte Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts Fund** - Support the Twain Harte Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts

**Wildcat Ranch Development Fund** - Support engineering and agricultural education programs at Wildcat Ranch

## Field of Interest Funds

**Community Wildfire Protection Fund** - Support Central Sierra Region fire-prevention efforts by funding fire breaks and barriers

**Geer Public Education Fund** - Support public education programs in Tuolumne County

**Innovation & Business Assistance Fund** - Support economic development

**TH CERT Fund** - Support Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team and firefighting/prevention programs

**Tru Hope Sierra Fund** - Provide programs and support for at-risk youth of Tuolumne County.

## Scholarship Funds

**Charlie & Minta Clyde Career and Technical Education Scholarship Fund** - Scholarship to student from Sonora High School

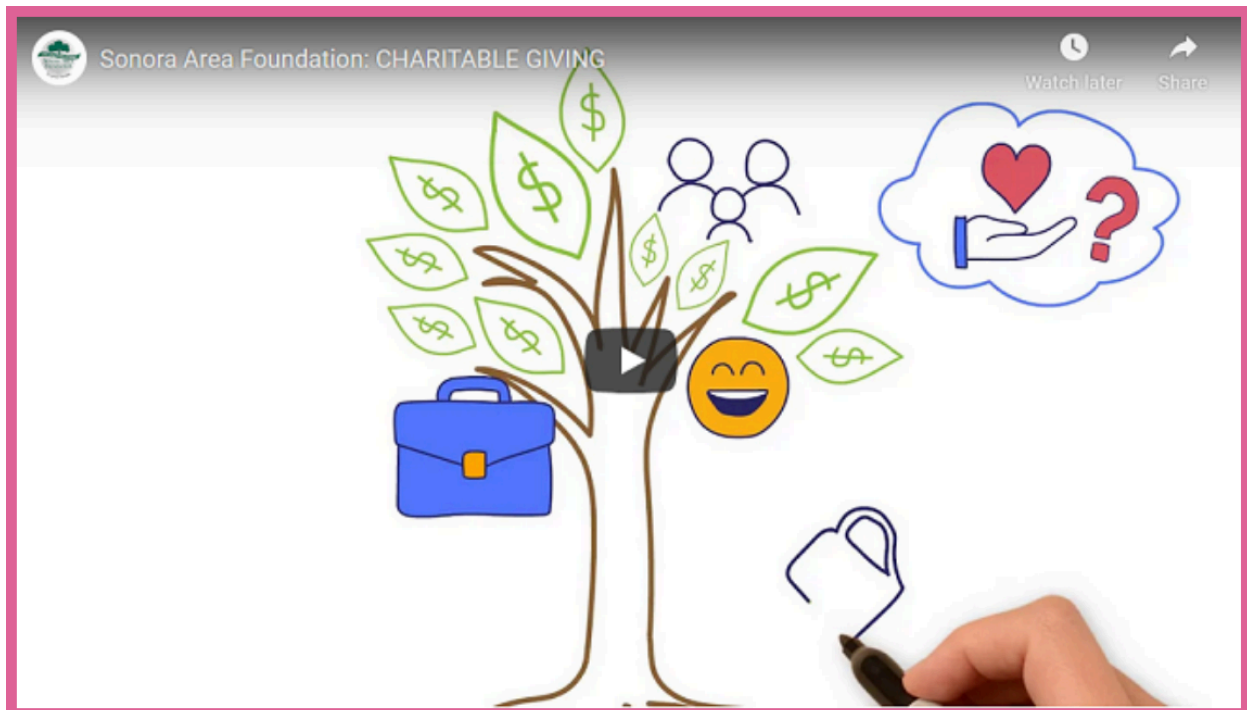
**Osborn Family Firefighter Scholarship Fund** - Scholarship for Columbia College firefighter program participant

## Unrestricted Funds

**Arlene & Frank Taylor Family Fund** - General charitable purposes in Tuolumne County

**Dr. Arthur & Pamela Donaldson Fund** - General charitable purposes

For listings of all SAF's funds, visit [sonora-area.org](http://sonora-area.org). To donate to these or any of SAF's funds, visit our [Donate Now](#) page.



## Videos Highlight Foundation Advantages

Interested in learning about the benefits of opening a charitable fund, creating a charitable legacy, or directing an IRA rollover to Sonora Area Foundation (SAF)? [Three short videos](#) explain how SAF can help you meet your charitable goals.



*Meals on Wheels received an SAF matching grant for its successful Radiothon fundraiser*

## Banner Year for Matching Grants

Sonora Area Foundation in 2020 awarded \$220,617 in matching grants from its Community Recovery Fund to Tuolumne County nonprofits:

**ATCAA Food Bank:** \$55,617 matched donations raised by Mother Lode Food Project

**Meals on Wheels:** \$50,000 matched Radiothon fundraiser donations

**Adventist Health Sonora:** \$50,000 matched donations to AHS's Cancer Patient Support Fund

**Interfaith Community Social Services:** \$40,000 matched donations to the Clarke Broadcasting Cash and Coat Drive for Interfaith

**Columbia College Foundation:** \$25,000 matched donations to CCF's Student Hardship Grant Program

Thank you to our generous community for providing much-needed funds to these wonderful organizations!



## What's Your Big Idea?

Sonora Area Foundation (SAF) marked its 30th anniversary this year, and in January announced the \$50,000 Innovation Competition in celebration of this milestone.

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 prize monies 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.

**The competition's deadline, which had been extended to March 30, 2021, likely will be extended further into 2021.** Please visit SAF's website for deadline updates and [contest details](#), and put your thinking caps on!



## Give a Gift to SAF at No Cost to You!

When you shop at AmazonSmile, 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible purchases can be donated to Sonora Area Foundation, at no cost to you. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for more information.





**Your Year-End Gift Makes a Difference. Please Donate Today!**