



SONORA AREA FOUNDATION

For good. For ever.™

May 2022 Newsletter

The last few months have been busy ones for the Sonora Area Foundation. We have been able to facilitate support for a number of Tuolumne County organizations through grants and partnerships with local government programs.

Grants News

Youth Sports Foundation of Tuolumne County

We are excited to support the [YSF's](#) goal of providing more sports & fitness opportunities in Tuolumne County with a \$1.5 million grant. More details about the project can be found on [MyMotherLode](#).



Year End Grants

Two organizations were [awarded our year end grants](#).



The Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse was awarded \$20,000 to help with the Mother Lode Roundup Parade & Rodeo.

WATCH Resources was our second recipient, and received \$40,000 to support & integrate adults in our community with intellectual disabilities.



2021 Innovation Challenge

The Innovation Challenge was created to encourage NonProfits to step out of the day to day activities and develop a strategic plan and project. After delays because of the pandemic, we awarded funds to three organizations:

[TuCare](#) - increase fire resilience in Tuolumne County.

[Youth Sports Foundation](#) - increase sports and fitness opportunities in Tuolumne County.

[Sonora Chamber of Commerce](#) - create [Christmas Town Sonora](#) to encourage local shopping and increase holiday spirit.

Thanks to generous community support we were also able to award grants to every organization that submitted a request, including organizations providing mental health support.

For the full story, please listen to the interview with [Darrell Slocum on Mother Lode Views](#).

New Funds & Programs

We are happy to announce we have opened 3 new [Funds](#):

- Todd Schroeder Young Artist Grant Fund
- Garside Family Adult Literacy Fund
- CNVC Fund

The Garside Family Adult Literacy Fund was started by the Garside Keitaro Matsuda, who lived with them in 1972 as part exchange student. Pat Garside's mentoring made a lifelong impression Matsuda wanted to ensure her spirit of encouraging literacy continued.

Matsuda, and Garside siblings Meg and Scott worked with Lynn McCormick of the Tuolumne County Library and Darrell Slocum of SAF to develop a fund to continue the Adult Life Literacy Program.

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All are welcome to the launch announcement of the Garside Family Adult Literacy Fund and recognition of Patrica Garside for her three decades of service. The event will be Friday, June 3rd at 11:00 AM at the Sonora branch of the Tuolumne County Library

Tuolumne County Community Grants Program

In December, the County of Tuolumne partnered with the Sonora to establish a \$500,000 [Community Grants Program](#) to assist NonProfits and Community Groups that were affected by the pandemic.

- The organization had negative financial impact from the pandemic (loss of donations or fundraising ability)
- Provide services to communities impacted by the pandemic
- Enhance government services that benefit the community



Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

The funds came from the economic stimulus bill passed in March of 2021.

Board Transitions

Last month marked one of the most significant transitions in the Sonora Area Foundation's 32 year history. Four long time members of our Board of Directors retired after years (decades actually) of dedicated service to Sonora Area Foundation and our community.



Pete, Carey, Gary, and Bob

Carey Haughey served 10 years with the last two as Board President. Gary Dambacher, Pete Kerns and Bob Ozbirn retired after 20 + years. Gary, Pete and Bob worked directly with Irving J. Symons and were instrumental in the formation of the Foundation. The three (along with Bill Polley who retired in 2021) were appointed to serve a 15 year term after the passing of Mr. Symons. All have been essential to the success of Sonora Area Foundation and their contributions are difficult to overstate. Thank you Carey, Gary, Pete and Bob!



Dave, Ed, and Tirzah

The following individuals have been added to Sonora Area Foundation's Board of Directors - [David Marquez](#), [Ed Clinite](#) and [Tirzah Woodward](#).

See our entire [Board of Directors on our website](#).

We are excited for the future and looking forward to working with our new and existing directors, our donors and the community to make Tuolumne County an even better place to live!



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