

SAN MATEO COUNTY IMPACT

*Prepared for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
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A year and a half after the merger that created Silicon Valley Community Foundation, here are some facts and frequently asked questions about our work and commitment in San Mateo County.

Summary

Through the merger of Peninsula Community Foundation and Community Foundation Silicon Valley, two former competitors came together as a new organization with a new mission to transcend county lines and promote local solutions to regional problems. The merger created efficiencies that position us to serve individual communities and the region as a whole more effectively in today's increasingly competitive environment. Both parents launched successful, innovative programs and, together as a single organization, we are continuing to develop new solutions while enhancing our commitment to San Mateo County.

Total grants and contributions last year surpassed the impressive combined total of our parents the year before, and that represents confidence in the vision of a unified organization serving our community.

Questions & Answers

Q: How well is San Mateo County represented in the community foundation's board leadership?

A: Eleven of the 23 board members live in San Mateo County, including Board Chair Patricia Bresee, who served as Superior Court commissioner in San Mateo County for 15 years. Three of the six new board members since the merger live in San Mateo County. In addition, eight of the 14 non-board members who serve on board committees are San Mateo County residents.

We have created a donor advisor council to help shape the experience of our diverse and ever-growing donor family, and about half the members are Peninsula residents and former Peninsula Community Foundation donors.

Q: How many current staff members worked at Peninsula Community Foundation?

A: About a third (33) of the community foundation's 106 staff members worked for Peninsula Community Foundation. They have worked with new colleagues – from Community Foundation Silicon Valley and others who are new to the organization – to build a new team that understands and appreciates the needs that must be met in San Mateo County. In addition, seven of the 17 members of our leadership team were on the Peninsula Community Foundation staff.

Q: How much has the community foundation made in grants to San Mateo County?

A: Of the \$11.5 million in grants from our unrestricted endowment since the merger – a slight increase over the combined giving of our parents – nearly \$8 million went to organizations in San Mateo County. In addition to grants, we continue to maintain conference space, available for free to community groups, in San Mateo County. Since January 2007, the community foundation and Peninsula community groups and agencies have held over 900 meetings in our San Mateo conference center.

Q: What are the community foundation's initiatives in San Mateo County?

A: In addition to endowment grants, our initiatives granted \$3.4 million in San Mateo County. However, they go beyond traditional grantmaking and include the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council, a group of multi-sector leaders working with local government to promote policies that support the healthy development of children, youth and families; the Children's Health Initiative supporting Healthy Kids insurance for children in families with low incomes but are ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families; the Community Schools Initiative helping transform public schools through highest quality instruction, a wide range of services and a high level of parent and community participation; Environmental Solutions Forum II, a venture fund promoting environmental education experiences for middle and high school students from low-income communities; Fostering the Future, a venture fund designed to improve the system that serves kinship and foster care youth as they transition to adulthood, and the School Readiness Initiative, a comprehensive effort to help parents prepare children for school, including Kickoff to Kindergarten for those lacking a quality preschool experience.

Q: Does the community foundation still hold events in San Mateo County that highlight nonprofits?

A: In addition to the many events at our centrally located headquarters in Mountain View, donor events held in San Mateo County include a Philanthropy Incubator Institute on "Demystifying Nonprofit Finances" in East Palo Alto; "Learn, Work and Play by the Sea: A Family Day" at Ano Nuevo, and "Family Day of Adventure in the Skies: Hiller Aviation Museum's Vertical Challenge" in San Carlos in June.

Q: Do community foundation fund advisors have opportunities to learn about nonprofit needs in San Mateo County?

A: For those who cannot attend community events, Community Connections highlights nonprofits that have been vetted by community foundation staff. Community Connection recommendations can be found on DonorConnect, allowing fund advisors to easily make grants to these worthy organizations. Additionally, community foundation staff, led by the donor engagement team, continue to reach out to donors offering assistance to develop grantmaking strategies and identify needs.

Q: What kind of support has the community foundation received from San Mateo County?

A: Although the true measure of our merger will be two or three years down the road and involve much more than financial statistics, fundraising is one important measure of confidence in our new organization. About half of the new donor advised funds, 40 percent of all new funds and 35 percent of all funds were founded by San Mateo County residents.