Seven of the most critical cities in our region approved plans that will include more affordable housing, more acres of parks and walking trails, and more public transit options.

For the first time in more than 20 years, the city of Menlo Park updated its housing plan to include 1,000 affordable housing units.

Planning of 30 new bus rapid-transit locations and now there are 39 in the pipeline.

Helped fund the launch of a first-of-its-kind, $50 million public-private financing resource, the Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing (TOAH) Fund.

Residents we engaged in public forums to discuss the future development of their communities, through our Envision Bay Area initiative.

About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation makes all forms of philanthropy more powerful. We serve as catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to our region’s most challenging problems and give more than $700 million annually in local and global grants. As Silicon Valley’s leader in philanthropy, we provide thousands of individuals, families and corporations with simple and effective ways to give locally and around the world.

Visit us at www.siliconvalleycf.org.

©2014 Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

creating great communities in silicon valley

Regional Planning Impact Brief
background

Silicon Valley Community Foundation is committed to solving the region’s most challenging problems. One of the ways we do this is through our strategic grantmaking and by partnering with the most effective and innovative organizations to make a difference in four key areas: economic security, education, immigration and regional planning. In addition to these areas, the community foundation has also made grants through its community opportunity fund, which focuses on time-sensitive issues, community and philanthropic leadership and regional innovation.

We understand that creating real impact does not happen by chance. Over the last two years we took a detailed look at the effectiveness of our grantmaking with the help of an independent, third-party evaluation conducted by LFA Group: Learning for Action. What this evaluation revealed is that with our partners, we made significant positive impact on the lives of individuals and families, institutions and for entire communities. We also learned a great deal about what works and what does not.

We are pleased to present this brief, which summarizes our results and our learning over a four-year period, from 2010-2013.
Silicon Valley Community Foundation is committed to solving the region's most challenging problems. One of the ways we do this is through our strategic grantmaking and by partnering with the most effective and innovative organizations to make a difference in four key areas: economic security, education, immigration and regional planning. In addition to these areas, the community foundation has also made grants through its community opportunity fund, which focuses on time-sensitive issues, community and philanthropic leadership and regional innovation.

We understand that creating real impact does not happen by chance. Over the last two years we took a detailed look at the effectiveness of our grantmaking with the help of an independent, third-party evaluation conducted by LFA Group: Learning for Action. What this evaluation revealed is that with our partners, we made significant positive impact on the lives of individuals and families, institutions and for entire communities. We also learned a great deal about what works and what does not.

We are pleased to present this brief, which summarizes our results and our learning over a four-year period, from 2010-2013.

We are pleased to present this brief, which summarizes our results and our learning over a four-year period, from 2010-2013.

After four years of investing nearly $4 million in Silicon Valley and awarding 40 grants to various community-based organizations and public agencies, progress indicators tell us that in every case, we have met and exceeded our goals.

• Seventeen of the most critical cities in our region approved plans that will include more affordable housing, more acres of parks and walking trails and more public transit options among other benefits for residents, thanks to the work of SVCF grantees. The cities are San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and San Bruno. This is almost double the number of city plans (4) that we hoped to impact and is significant because the development and approval of city plans can be time intensive and costly.

• For the first time in more than 20 years, the City of Menlo Park updated its housing plan to include 1,200 affordable housing units, with advocacy from SVCF grantees.

• Our goal was to support the planning of 30 new bus rapid-transit locations, and now there are 39 in the pipeline, thanks in part to SVCF grantees.

• Our funding has also served to bring more diverse voices into the planning process, including low-income residents, people of color and immigrants.

Work under this strategy has also provided SVCF with the opportunity to play an expanded leadership role beyond making grants.

• We helped fund the launch of a five-of-its-kind, $50 million public-private financing resource, the Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing (TOAH) Fund, that provides up-front funding for the development of affordable housing and other community services near transit lines throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Following the economic downturn and the dissolution of California’s Redevelopment Agencies, this fund provides the kind of “patient” capital that has become much harder to access, but that is necessary for affordable housing projects.

• The TOAH Fund was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Smart Growth Achievement awards program and is becoming a model for other regions.

• We worked with local and regional government as well as nonprofit advocacy organizations to pass one of the most progressive regional plans in the State of California, Plan Bay Area, which will accommodate all future growth within existing urban boundaries.

• Through our Division Area initiative, we engaged more than 800 residents in 10 public forums to discuss the future growth and development of their communities; close to 25 percent had never attended a meeting or workshop on regional planning before. We also developed YouChooseSF.org, an interactive tool to help residents understand and see the connections between jobs, housing and transportation. The site attracted some 7,000 unique visitors.

• We have co-led the Great Communities Collaborative with the San Francisco Foundation, a network of organizations dedicated to creating healthy, thriving and affordable neighborhoods in the Bay Area.
Seven of the most critical cities in our region approved plans that will include more affordable housing, more acres of parks and walking trails, and more public transit options.

For the first time in more than 20 years, the city of Menlo Park updated its housing plan to include 1,000 affordable housing units.

Planning of 30 new bus rapid-transit locations and now there are 39 in the pipeline.

Helped fund the launch of a first-of-its-kind, $50 million public-private financing resource, the Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing (TOAH) Fund.

Residents were engaged in public forums to discuss the future development of their communities, through our Envision Bay Area Initiative.

About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation makes all forms of philanthropy more powerful. We serve individual and family foundations, corporations, civic-minded businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

As Silicon Valley’s leader in philanthropy, we provide thousands of individuals, families and corporations with simple and effective ways to give locally and around the world.

Find out more at www.siliconvalleycf.org.

©2014 Silicon Valley Community Foundation