

## Leaving a Legacy

### The Community Foundation Blog – November 2018

The Community Foundation is committed to improving the lives of those that work and live in San Luis Obispo County. A unique element of the Foundation is the opportunity for donors to direct their giving to specific needs. These cover a wide breadth of support areas including: homelessness, food insecurity, animal welfare, education, youth, in addition to other worthwhile causes. Through the philanthropic goals of their donors, The Community Foundation works with non-profit organizations across the region to provide funding to fulfill the needs of our community.

In the spirit of our twenty years of impact, we would like to highlight the generosity of one couple who was passionate about truly making a difference and providing shelter and other services to the homeless.



The Hugo and Erna Klaproad Homeless Fund was established through a generous bequest after they passed away. Erna Klaproad was born in Czechoslovakia, and with her mother and sister fled when the Russians invaded. She eventually moved to Canada and met and married her husband, Hugo. Through her estate documents, Erna instructed the Foundation “to provide shelter and other services to the homeless not otherwise provided by public or other benefits, with emphasis to be placed on the immediate relief and needs of the homeless in the Five Cities area of SLO County.”

Since its inception in 2009, the Klaproad Homeless Fund has provided nearly \$1.5 million in funding through 20 grants to address the needs of the homeless in

southern San Luis Obispo County. We supported programs like the Rapid Re-Housing Initiative which secured stable housing for 26 families in its first year.

In 2017, the fund granted \$400,000 to local organizations that provide for the immediate basic needs of the homeless in the south county and 5 Cities areas. Through these grants, 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, Peoples' Self-Help Housing, Transitional Food and Shelter, and Stand Strong, are making strides in improving the lives of our homeless community members.

Homelessness is just one of the issues that is currently being addressed in San Luis Obispo County. Through the generous bequests and philanthropic goals of The Community Foundation donors, funding is directed towards supporting the organizations that work to improve many needs-based issues in the county.

We are honored to work with the charitable people in this community, like Hugo and Erna Klapproad, who were passionate about providing funds to make a difference and improve the place we all call home. It is through unique giving opportunities like these that allow our donors to achieve their philanthropic goals and make an impact San Luis Obispo County.