Dear Community Foundation Family,

2020 presented the world, our country, our neighbors and our own families with adversity like we have never seen before. However, the unique nature of these challenges placed new value on human connection. Acting as a catalyst and connector, we could not be more proud of the work you and other donors made possible through our collaborating agencies.

The Disaster Support Fund, previously only opened for short timeframes to meet immediate needs of natural disasters, opened in March 2020. The Fund quickly became a rallying point for the community receiving over $650,000 in support from individuals, families and businesses. We streamlined our operations immediately and issued grants every week. We turned an outpouring of donor support, often in a matter of days, into meals for the food insecure or homeless, technology and tutors for the low-income families struggling to navigate the remote learning environment, telehealth and virtual counseling for seniors and other vulnerable people in need in every community across our county.

We proudly look to each member of The Community Foundation Family and stand in awe of your commitment to our mission and all that you do in San Luis Obispo County, a place we feel fortunate each day to call home.

Thank you,

Jeff Buckingham
President

Heidi H. McPherson
Chief Executive Officer

MISSION + VISION

The Community Foundation makes a difference through philanthropic leadership. We envision San Luis Obispo County to be an enduring, thriving + engaged community.
“We believe The Community Foundation has more resources than we do and can direct our contributions to the areas of most need and efficiency.”

JIM & LISA KILBURN MAINO
GRANTS

Despite COVID-19 dominating the attention and resources of this past year, The Community Foundation remained steadfast in a commitment to create impact. Continued activity of the grant programs supported the diversity of needs facing our region. From children to seniors, from art to wildlife, from education to healthcare, our friends and neighbors collaborated to support one another. We are connected by our home here in San Luis Obispo County.

This past year marked remarkable effort to capture the hard-to-count indexes of the 2020 Census.

The Community Foundation collaborated with the following organizations to allocate over $170,000 toward activities related to Census awareness:

- 5 Cities Homeless Coalition
- Boys & Girls Club of South SLO County
- CAPSLO, Center for Family Strengthening
- Meals that Connect, Paso Robles
- Youth Arts foundation
- Senior Volunteer Services
Since the founding of the Scholarship Program in 2000, academics has never looked more different than it did in the past year. However, while “home room” took on a whole new meaning, The Community Foundation actively worked to continue supporting future leaders of our region through the variety of scholarships and multi-year awards for high school and college students.

ASHLEY ROSILEZ
We are proud to recognize Ashley and support her academic aspirations through the Youth Legacy Scholarship Fund. What began with a family trip to the California Mid-State Fair grew into a passion for livestock. Through 4-H, Ashley became a shining example of the leadership the program fosters. Her scholarship will support her education within agriculture and animal sciences growing her passion into a career.

RICHARD J. WEYHRICH LEADERSHIP AWARDS
Recognizing leaders in high schools throughout the county, this scholarship supports stand-out students as they pursue the next level of education and continue to foster the skills that will lead to their role as leaders impacting our future community.

“This class is resilient and I’m so excited to see what the future has in store for all of us.”

- BRYCE R. HILTON
2020 RICHARD J. WEYHRICH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
The effect of this virus has been staggering, we are touched and inspired by the response of our Community Foundation Family to offer support to vulnerable populations and the resiliency of the entire region to band together.

IN 2020, THROUGH THE DISASTER SUPPORT FUND, OVER 330 DONORS GENEROUSLY CAME TOGETHER MAKING THE DISTRIBUTION OF 61 GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN $523,900 POSSIBLE.

FOOD BANK COALITION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

For many of us it is hard to imagine the strain of worrying about where your next meal will come from compounded on top of the shared worries that the pandemic added to all of our lives. This stress weighed on too many families and neighbors in San Luis Obispo County. Aligned with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Bank was able to meet the growing need and increased food distributed through agency partners by 380%. The Disaster Support Fund provided rapid relief assistance in order to offer critical sources of protein through effective processing and distribution.

SLO YMCA

Quickly answering the immediate needs of the pandemic, the SLO YMCA was the first nonprofit to organize and offer childcare to essential workers. Recognizing the new demands for these workers and the reduction in supervised children’s activities due to school and program closures, they started Camp Care, which served over 120 youth. Their support was expanded to include access to Chrome books and other support tools necessary for demands created by distance learning.

TRANSITIONS MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (TMHA) AND THE COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER (CCC)

While the COVID-19 virus generated obvious concerns for physical health and we adjusted our lives to take necessary precautions, it quickly became apparent the threats these changes posed to treating mental health. TMHA and CCC adapted to keep their staff safe while still offering their critical services to those in need. Through grants to support new technology infrastructure they were able to offer a full range of telehealth services.
Our region has long been known for the tremendous number of small and family-owned businesses that make up the fabric of our community. With the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affecting these businesses, The Community Foundation was proud to forge a unique partnership with government, nonprofit and business sectors to provide direct funding to small businesses.

"My favorite reason for giving to the Disaster Support Fund is that it allows me to make one gift ... and I am assured that those dollars will be used in a timely manner, for the best use, and to organizations that uphold high standards for efficiency and service to the community."

- WAYN & LINDA LEWIS
WE ARE A

Catalyst and a

Connector

The impact of The Community Foundation is only possible through the two bookends of our work; the donors whose support sparks the reaction that will ignite the impact and the agencies that take that spark and grow it into the flame that lights the brilliance of the torch embodying the San Luis Obispo County spirit. Throughout 2020 seven “Happy Hour with Heidi” events were held to help connect donors to the causes and needs that their support makes a direct impact with. The Community Foundation works to actively listen to the needs of our region and share what is learned back to our donors.

“I personally appreciate the... education about the philanthropic landscape in our region. It helps me to understand where I can generate the most impact.”

– Anneka Scanton

Donor Advised Funds

$3,004,115 awarded from DAFs in 2020

Donor Education Events

Covering a breadth of topics

- Scholarships that change lives
- Small business needs and relief
- Education and students
- Immigrant families
- Technology challenges
- The growing effect of hunger among children and seniors
The Field of Interest funds at The Community Foundation work to address particular needs within our region. Including the Women’s Legacy Fund, the Access for All Fund and the Growing Together Fund, these programs continued making an impact in their specific areas, despite the unprecedented times.

The economic public health emergency has exacerbated social inequities. Women’s Legacy Fund (WLF) stepped up to address these needs. Two emergency grants were awarded to support survivors of domestic violence. Additionally, the WLF Annual Luncheon took place in a new virtual format. The committee remained steadfast to raise funds to support programs that address the unique challenges facing women and girls in San Luis Obispo County.
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**As of December 31, 2020**

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<th>ASSETS</th>
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Financial information is based on audited financial statements prepared by Caliber Audit & Attest, LLP. Audited statements and Form 990 available on website.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Buckingham, President
Los Osos

Mary Verdin, Vice-President
Arroyo Grande

Sandy Dunn, Secretary
Avila Beach

Anita Robinson, Treasurer
Atascadero

Jim Brabeck
Los Osos

Grenda Ernst
Atascadero

Gwen Erskine
Templeton

Suzanne Fritz
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Ben McAdams
San Luis Obispo

Steve McCarty
San Luis Obispo

Joan Parker
San Luis Obispo

Linda Somers Smith
San Luis Obispo

Kath Tompkins,
Arroyo Grande

PAST BOARD PRESIDENTS

Jane Sinton, 1998-2000

Dean Miller, 2001-2002

Julian Crocker, 2003-2004

Lyn Baker, 2005-2006

John Dunn, 2007-2008

Wendy Brown, 2009-2010

Dee Lacey, 2011-2012

Ann Robinson, 2013-2014

Steve McCarty, 2015-2016

Mary Verdin, 2017-2018

Tom Sherman, 2019-2020

FOUNDERS

Staff - 2020

Heidi H. McPherson
Chief Executive Officer

Briana Fox
Office Manager & Executive Assistant

Trish Hammond
Director of Finance & Administration

Angela Hollander
Senior Scholarship Program Associate

Taylor Kortas
Grants & Scholarship Program Assistant

Cecelia Mazelin
Donor Services Coordinator

Erin McCall
Communications & Program Associate

Alex Schneider
Finance Associate

Sarah Twisselman
Scholarships & Grants Associate

Cassandra Wagner
Director of Grants & Programs

Special Thanks

The Community Foundation donors, volunteers, nonprofit grantee partners, and our many committee and Board members.

Thanks to Badger Branding for making this annual report possible.

www.badgerbranding.com

Photo Credits

The Community Foundation Family, including members of grantee organizations.