

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

As we eagerly welcome the arrival of spring, it brings with it a sense of renewal and anticipation for the vibrant days ahead. Just as nature blossoms with new life, we too find ourselves embarking on exciting developments at The Community Foundation.

In March, we devoted attention to Women's History Month, a time to honor the remarkable women in our community who fearlessly lead nonprofits. Their dedication is a testament to the transformative impact that women continue to make in shaping our community's narrative.

On Employee Appreciation Day, we took a moment to express our gratitude to the incredible team at The Community Foundation for their outstanding efforts, especially in light of our recent recognition as recipients of the Blue Diamond "Change Makers" award by SLO County Family-Friendly Workplaces. Their unwavering commitment and passion contribute immensely to making this organization an exceptional place to work. We celebrate each member of our team for their invaluable contributions. [Learn more about our staff.](#)

We also carry heavy hearts as we reflect on the loss of one of our own. Dr. Brendan "Ben" McAdams, a philanthropist of SLO County whose dedication and generosity leaves a lasting mark on our community. Ben's enduring legacy echoes far and wide, touching lives and igniting inspiration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who join us in commemorating his memory.



Looking ahead, The Community Foundation's annual events are just around the corner. We warmly encourage you to consider joining us as an essential participant in these initiatives. Your support ensures the success of these events and strengthens our collective impact.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission. Together, we look forward to a bright season of growth, appreciation, and community connection.



Celebrating Women's History Month provides a chance to shed light on initiatives dedicated to empowering women in our community. One such initiative is The Women's Legacy Fund, a beacon of support that reaches across various facets of women's lives - physical, emotional, intellectual, and financial well-being. The fund awards grants on an annual basis to organizations that focus on supporting women and girls in our community. We will announce the 2024 recipients in the Spring!

[SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S LEGACY FUND TODAY.](#)

As part of the Women's History Month festivities, we invite you to mark your calendars for this year's annual **Women's Legacy Fund Luncheon, September 24, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Greengate Ranch.** This essential event serves as a cornerstone in our efforts to raise funds supporting local organizations that address the specific needs of women and girls in San Luis Obispo County. Drawing in over 400 individuals and business attendees, the luncheon provides a platform where industry experts delve into pressing issues, and recent grantees showcase the tangible impact of the Fund's unwavering support. Save the date for a gathering that not only honors the past but actively shapes a brighter future for women and girls in our community.

[Read about local trailblazing women.](#)



LATINA EMPOWERMENT

UndocuSupport, a program under The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County, is dedicated to addressing the essential needs of immigrant families facing systemic challenges. The SLO County UndocuSupport Program Manager, works in collaboration with local entities to improve access to services for the undocumented immigrant population.

One notable occasion was on Saturday, March 9, more than 80 advocates for **LATINA EMPOWERMENT** convened at Cal Poly to network and hear inspirational stories from Latina leaders. The roundtable highlighted the strength and resilience of Latinas, emphasizing the significance of lifting up one another and supporting the community.

Keynote speaker Senator Monique Limón inspired the group by expressing gratitude for the deliberate creation of this focused and impactful space. Assemblymember Dawn Addis urged collective action and emphasized the importance of solidarity. Anita Robinson, a Board Member and Board Treasurer for The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo, recounted her journey in the banking industry, encouraging individuals to seize opportunities. Jackeline Allegretta bravely shared her personal story, emphasizing the importance of courage and self-determination in leadership roles. The inspirational Latina speakers featured at this event left a palpable feeling of energy and drive to all that attended.

[Learn more about UndocuSupport's important work!](#)

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS
Scholarship News

Our scholarship award season has officially begun and we will award the final scholarship recipients in May! However, we would like to announce that we recently honored two exceptionally talented and deserving young dance professionals with the Jennifer Thoma Memorial Ballet Award. This year's recipients were surprised by their instructors, families, and fellow dancers, as well as Bill Thoma, the Founder of the Scholarship, and Emily Jagger, the Scholarship Manager.

Rachel Getten from Academy of Dance, pictured with her family, was overjoyed to receive this esteemed award. She is eagerly preparing for a ballet intensive program in Long Beach this summer, with the thrilling possibility of a dance trip to China.

The second recipient, Lucy Peterson from SLO Movement Arts Center, pictured with Bill Thoma, is planning for her ballet intensive in San Francisco.



LEAVING A LEGACY

The Jennifer Thoma Memorial Ballet Scholarship was established to support local dancers in pursuing their dreams through summer intensive training programs. Jennifer embodied integrity, conviction, and selflessness, quietly supporting others. Her lasting impact persists through this scholarship, enriching lives for years to come.

Explore how you can contribute or learn more about scholarship efforts, through The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo, [HERE](#).



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DR. BEN MCADAMS

Dr. Ben McAdams had been a part of our Foundation for over 17 years, most recently as an active and spirited voice on our board of directors. He brought an intense and focused commitment to our community. For those of us fortunate enough to have worked with Ben, we will always remember his quick wit, curious mind, and endless energy for raising funds.

His passion and dedication to various important issues serve as poignant reminders of the power and impact of philanthropy. During times of personal loss, both he and his wife Pat found solace and inspiration in the mission of The Community Foundation. Following the tragic passing of their beloved daughter, Kelly, the McAdams family transformed their grief into a powerful legacy. Together, they envisioned a scholarship fund to honor Kelly's memory and provide crucial support to graduating high school students.

While **we mourn his loss**, it reminds us to celebrate all that leaders like Ben have brought to our communities and to our own lives. Ben's family asks that to support honoring his legacy, donations be made in lieu of flowers. Please take care of one another and thank you for joining us in honoring Ben.

[DONATE TO BEN'S LEGACY](#)
[READ MORE ABOUT BEN'S SCHOLARSHIP](#)



The Community Foundation's annual events and activities, are just around the corner and there are lots of ways to support. You can join a committee, become a reviewer or evaluator, attend an event or consider becoming a sponsor or share this opportunity with business colleagues. Your support will not only highlight your commitment to philanthropy but also contribute to the thriving sense of community that defines us. These events, running from May to October, engage a diverse audience, fostering understanding of crucial community issues among individual donors, businesses, leaders, and nonprofits. Join us in making a meaningful impact and shaping a stronger, more vibrant future together. Don't miss the opportunity to be a key part of our community's positive transformation—[BECOME A SPONSOR](#).

WE'RE HIRING a Program Assistant to support the success of the Foundation's grants and scholarships programs. This role will actively contribute to diverse nonprofit initiatives spanning various sectors throughout the entire County. It offers a unique opportunity to closely witness the impactful endeavors taking place within the community's nonprofit sector. The ideal candidate should possess an eye for detail, good written and verbal skills, work well under deadlines, and be able to prioritize workloads effectively.

Please **SHARE** if you know someone who might be interested in this opportunity.

SHARE

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SAN LUIS OBISPO
Around the Corner

[Scholarship Celebration](#)
May 30, 2024 | 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

[Growing Together Pride Brunch](#)
June 9, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Contact info@cfsloco.org to learn more!

Since 1998, The Community Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit partners and local students. The Foundation's charitable assets under management eas of our community in perpetuity.

The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County
550 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



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