

PRESS RELEASE
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Community Leaders Teresa Rhyne and John Stevens Join The Community Foundation Board

San Luis Obispo, CA — January 26, 2026 — The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County is pleased to welcome Teresa J. Rhyne and John Stevens to its Board of Directors, adding deep expertise in philanthropy, public service, and community leadership at a pivotal moment for the region.

Their appointments come as The Community Foundation continues to expand its role as a trusted partner to donors, nonprofits, and public agencies—helping address complex local challenges while supporting thoughtful, long-term community benefit across San Luis Obispo County.

In addition, The Community Foundation announced its new slate of Board officers: Rick Williams will serve as President, Pat Hosegood Martin as Vice President, Shelly Higginbotham as Secretary, and Anita Robinson as Treasurer.

“Welcoming Teresa, John, and our new CEO signals an exciting year of expansion for the Foundation,” said incoming Board President Rick Williams. “Our goal for this year is to bring our mission to every part of the county—strengthening our nonprofit network and deepening our relationship with the diverse regions of the beautiful county we are honored to serve.”

Teresa Rhyne brings more than 35 years of experience in estate planning, charitable giving, and wealth management. As principal of The Teresa Rhyne Law Group based in Paso Robles, she advises individuals, families, and business owners on planning for the future, including strategies that support lasting philanthropic legacies. A recognized educator in charitable planned giving and family business succession, Teresa is a co-founder and former president of the California Central Coast Estate Planning Council. Her expertise strengthens The Community Foundation’s ability to help donors align their values with meaningful, long-term benefits for the community.

John Stevens, from Atascadero, brings a strong commitment to community engagement, inclusion, and public service. A U.S. Navy veteran and police officer with the City of San Luis Obispo, John co-chairs the City’s Growing Together initiative and helped establish the City’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion employee committee. His leadership and lived experience provide valuable perspective on building trust, fostering belonging, and strengthening community connections—insight that will help guide the Foundation’s efforts to expand opportunity and equity across the county.

“As our community navigates both immediate needs and long-term opportunities, strong governance and diverse leadership are essential,” said Christine Dawson, Chief Executive Officer of The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County. “Teresa and John bring experience and perspective that will help ensure local generosity is put to work in ways that are meaningful, effective, and lasting for the people and places of San Luis Obispo County.”

The Community Foundation partners with donors, nonprofits, and community members to address local needs and support a strong, resilient San Luis Obispo County.

For more information and to support this work, visit www.cfsloco.org.

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About The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County

The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by and for the people of San Luis Obispo County to support local charitable giving. Since 1998, The Community Foundation has awarded more than \$80 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit partners and local students, and now manages over \$99 million in charitable assets. Through its grantmaking, scholarships, and partnerships, the Foundation supports a vision for an inclusive, thriving, and resilient community—providing support to all areas of our county in perpetuity. Learn more at www.cfsloco.org.