A MESSAGE FROM RONALD V. GALLO, Ed.D.
PRESIDENT & CEO

Community Disaster Relief Fund is primarily focused on the medium and long-term recovery needs of those organizations affected by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow, not just the immediate trauma. It also stands ready to respond to all Santa Barbara County communities that suffer devastation from any disruptive event. The Santa Barbara Foundation is already looking ahead and trying to discern and share learnings so that the foundation and community are even more prepared for the next time.

I hope that this report will bring you the joy of knowing that your community foundation is fully deployed throughout the county: funding great organizations, investing in innovation, facilitating important conversations, helping to solve vital community issues, and providing high quality guidance to all those who are engaged in philanthropy. It was a significant year for the foundation. We reached new highs in donations to the foundation, exceeding $45 million. And thanks to the generous donors (past and present) with whom we are in partnership, we were able to distribute over $26 million in grants.

Many of you know we have been engaged in a year of strategic planning, the results of which will be revealed later in the spring. The “new” SBF will be bold, clear in purpose, transparent in its actions, celebratory of the good deeds all around us, committed to civil public debates, solution-oriented, guided by data, and most of all, dedicated to helping Santa Barbara County become more empathetic, inclusive and resilient.

In community,

Ronald V. Gallo, Ed.D.
President & CEO

BERKELEY JOHNSON: BEING NEIGHBORLY IN TIMES OF DISASTER

Berkeley Johnson remembers sitting on the edge of his seat as Alabama took the NCAA college football championship trophy over Georgia in overtime. Relieved to watch the game in his house in Montecito after returning from the mandatory fire evacuations, he was not eager to evacuate voluntarily for the flood warning. His daughter, however, was taking no chances. In addition to making sure their rabbit was in an easy-to-grab position by the door, she convinced her mother to go to a hotel and moved all of her valuable possessions to her late brother Nick’s room on the second floor.

Thinking his wife and daughter were safely at a hotel, Johnson went to sleep after the game and woke up around three in the morning, put his boots on and went outside. He was cleaning out some leaves near one of the newly remodeled areas of the house when all of the sudden he saw a big orange glow. Tired and confused, he thought the sun was rising at 3 a.m. As he slowly connected that it could not be the sun, the electricity went out and the area fell eerily quiet. He walked around the side of his house and about 300 yards up the hill from him, he saw trees snapping and rocks tumbling and it looked like the entire mountain was melting.

“At that moment, I was just stunned and couldn’t put together what was going on,” said Johnson. “I ran inside and grabbed our dog by the collar just as the back of our house completely caved in.”

Kicking out the windows to get out and miraculously still holding onto the dog, Johnson was able to get up to the midlevel stairwell, which is where he saw his wife and daughter, who had not stayed in a hotel, but simply slept upstairs in Nick’s room.

“When I saw my wife and daughter, sheer panic set in,” said Johnson. “My son was also home from college and, at that moment, it wasn’t just me anymore and I knew I needed to find a solution fast.”

All four of them were able to get up on the roof and huddled near the top of the stone fireplace as Johnson searched for areas around the house that would be easier to maneuver through the fast-moving mud. They watched boulders, cars, propane tanks go by – with each new object bringing a terrifying wave of fear about what would come next.

“For fifteen minutes, which felt like hours, we watched boulders chip away at the house,” said Johnson. “Then, I found a place that I could jump off and went to go visit the neighbors, who were in an area with less high intensity mud flow.”

After helping his daughter, wife and son get to the neighbors’ roof, he went to help the newly arrived firefighters look for other neighbors.

“I was one of the few people that had boots, so I wanted to help,” said Johnson. “Helping out is something that anyone would have done, it is just what you do.”

In slogging through the mud, Johnson saw carnage everywhere. He recognized one house where he didn’t see any movement and knew a single mom lived there with her two sons. A community propane line had burst and a roaring jet of propane was filling the area near her darkened house. They shouted, but got no response from the debris filled house.

“That is when I heard a small sound in the dark and, by following it, we were able to locate a little body in a well of debris and the firefighters were able to dig down and pull it out,” said Johnson.

The firefighters rushed the baby to the hospital, where he survived, but later it was found that several of the baby’s family members had perished in the debris flow.

“I was not expecting to be part of that baby’s survival and I can only hope that I can do whatever I can to help him and his remaining family in the future,” said Johnson.

While Johnson’s family is physically safe, their newly remodeled house has been “red-tagged,” which means that it is so destroyed that they cannot go back to it. In fact, Nick’s room was the only room that was left untouched.

“I had to believe that he was watching over his family and the community he loved,” said Johnson. “After he passed away, so many people wanted to help in some way with Go Fund Me campaigns and I needed a breather to think about what to do, so I set up a fund with the Santa Barbara Foundation in his name. Giving back to the community is what he would have wanted and I want to honor his determination, spirit and love of life and that is exactly what I plan to do going forward.”
“However, for eligible veterans, the VA will cover up to 100 percent of these costs if families just fill out the application. Many families are intimidated by the application, or don’t even know that they can apply for it at all, which is why we work with them to explain the process, fill out the paperwork and, hopefully, place their loved one in our program.” There is also a lack of veteran-specific training for caregivers. Veterans suffering from dementia or Alzheimer’s disease may revert to earlier traumatic moments that they experienced in war, which can make it more challenging to provide them with effective and empathetic care.

“Caring for a loved one with dementia is hard, no matter who you are, because while each case is unique, it is always horrible,” said Mitzkun. “However, for veterans, we provide specific programming with our VA-certified therapists and support groups for their caregivers because the pattern of behavioral display usually reflects trauma at one point or another.”

In addition to our financial support of the Friendship Center, the Santa Barbara Foundation also works on caregiving and veterans issues – and the overlap of those issues: “Through research, collaboration and funding, the Community Caregiving Initiative is helping to support family caregivers,” said Phylene Wiggins, Senior Director of Community Investments. “Simultaneously, my colleague Kathy Simas has been working on an assessment that identifies the needs of veterans in the county. Given the demographics of our local veteran population, we see this as an opportunity to collaborate on how the work intersects so that we can increase our community knowledge as an organization, and create a more cohesive system to support veterans and their family caregivers.”

CARING FOR ALL THOSE WHO SERVE

Alice did not identify herself as a caregiver, despite the fact that her husband, Howard, was suffering from dementia, in addition to physical and mental disabilities from the Vietnam War. Alice always said she was, “his wife of 55 years,” not his caregiver. As Howard’s dementia progressed, however, Alice knew that she needed help. Exhausted and in despair about how she would find the money for help, she turned to Lompoc Valley Haven, an adult day care center. Executive Director Kathy Concepcion told her that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would most likely pay for the cost of the respite care program. Alice could not believe it – she had no idea that such resources were available to caregivers of veterans. The lack of public information about available resources and services for veterans in Santa Barbara County is exactly why organizations like Lompoc Valley Haven and the Friendship Center offer specific outreach to veterans and their families.

“Paying for a caregiving service can be really costly for a lot of families,” said Luciana Mitzkun, Family Services Director at the Friendship Center. Alice knew that she needed help. Exhausted and in despair about how she would find the money for help, she turned to Lompoc Valley Haven, an adult day care center. Executive Director Kathy Concepcion told her that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would most likely pay for the cost of the respite care program. Alice could not believe it – she had no idea that such resources were available to caregivers of veterans. The lack of public information about available resources and services for veterans in Santa Barbara County is exactly why organizations like Lompoc Valley Haven and the Friendship Center offer specific outreach to veterans and their families.

“Paying for a caregiving service can be really costly for a lot of families,” said Luciana Mitzkun, Family Services Director at the Friendship Center.
Brooke could not stop smiling. After spending the past year and a half living in a small white Sedan with her husband and three young children, she and her family were finally accepted into a housing program. Her life was about to change, and Brooke had boundless gratitude for the organizations that helped her along the way, such as Showers of Blessings.

“Showers of Blessings is an awesome operation because there are no strings attached,” said Brooke. “Many of the other shelters or places to get showers are men only or women only, and I have three kids, which meant it was nearly impossible to find a place to get a shower until we heard of Showers of Blessings. It is really the only option for families and I am full of gratitude because it changed my life.”

Showers of Blessings began in 2014 as the result of a property sale that left Christ Lutheran Church of Goleta with funds to purchase a two-shower trailer. Rev. Ron Cox contacted Rev. Doug Miller of the First Baptist Church, who was known for his work with the homeless community in Isla Vista, to lead the project. By 2015, the project supplied approximately 1,500 showers and began expanding to locations outside of Isla Vista, primarily other churches, making it an interfaith project.

“The great thing about Showers of Blessings is it is a learning opportunity for everyone,” said General Manager Ken Ralph. “It not only bridges the gap between the homeless and those who volunteer for the homeless, but it also allows volunteers to come together to overcome differences in faith and background and learn that, if we all come together as a community to put people first, we can actually make a true difference.”

Today, Showers of Blessings offers showers five days a week at locations in Goleta, Isla Vista, and downtown Santa Barbara and has provided 10,000 showers in 2017. In addition to showers, the program now provides lunches, haircuts and clean clothing to the homeless. Many others who serve the homeless population, such as AmeriCorps, Santa Barbara County nurses and St. Vincent de Paul, also come to the Showers of Blessings sites to offer services and resources.

“Our clients are generally some of the hardest cases, who often couldn’t get a bed in a shelter or have drug and alcohol problems and nowhere else to go and are on the street,” said Ralph. “With approximately 1,100 homeless in downtown Santa Barbara and only 430 shelter beds, this problem is only going to get worse. That is why our mission is, no matter what a person has done or is dealing with, we can offer one act of love and provide simple dignity of allowing someone to take a shower.”

The Santa Barbara Foundation provided Showers of Blessings with a Timely Opportunities grant to help it expand its downtown locations and bring showers to more individuals this winter, specifically because the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission and PATH Santa Barbara are going through structural changes that will limit the number of shelter beds they can provide this winter.

OPENING THE DOORS TO CHANGE

Colette Schabram, Executive Director of the Pacific Pride Foundation, had thousands of moments when she felt like she was truly making a positive difference for the LGBT+ community in Santa Barbara County. None, however, stood out quite like listening to the story of a man who walked into their office with a black eye looking for help.

“Someone had called this man a round of hateful slurs and when he stood up for himself, he was hit in the face, causing bruises and a concussion,” said Schabram. “He recalled how safe he felt in our building, despite how frightening the incident was. Working with the police to help him reminded me how much Pacific Pride Foundation can do for the community and how important it is for us to have our new, more accessible building to be there for those who need it most.”

The Pacific Pride Foundation recently completed a strategic planning process that allowed it to reflect on its mission and refine how it can better serve the community as societal attitudes toward the LGBT+ population change. One of the biggest outcomes from this process was that the Pacific Pride Foundation should move from their industrial office building on Haley Street to a more accessible location that has the feel of a community center.

“After speaking with a variety of community stakeholders, we identified that those we serve want an open, dynamic space that is welcoming to the community and that they could walk in and feel proud of,” said Schabram. “That is what we are about - we want to be a space that people can be who they are, and where people in the community, regardless of how they identify, feel safe to come for information.”

The Hutton Parker Foundation offered the Pacific Pride Foundation an opportunity to lease a street-level office space at 608 Anacapa Street as part of its program that leases buildings to nonprofits at a subsidized rate. The Pacific Pride Foundation worked with architects to restructure the former restaurant space for its program-related needs, such as private rooms for HIV testing and a large community room. In November 2017, it moved into the new building and, with the help of a Capital Improvement Grant and an Express Grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation, was able to furnish the new building according to its strategic plan.

“We so appreciate the support from the Santa Barbara Foundation that helped us purchase furniture and technology for our new office,” said Schabram. “This support will help us continue to advocate and educate on behalf of a thriving and diverse LGBT+ community by allowing us to invite folks from all over the community to use our office and by providing us with new opportunities for our 2018 programming and trainings.”

"That is what we are about - we want to be a space where people can be who they are, and where people in the community, regardless of how they identify, feel safe to come for information."
Charlotte Doyle Davis loved books. She loved getting lost in novels, uncovering facts in biographies and diving deep into research about anything and everything. The one thing that she loved more than books, however, was investing in education. She became the head of the Santa Barbara County Education Office’s (SBCEO) Student Library and led the development of programs such as Breakfast with the Authors to inspire children to get excited about reading. Over 60 years later, Doyle Davis’ legacy also lives on through the $600,000 that she left in a fund at the Santa Barbara Foundation for the purpose of hiring a traveling librarian for rural school districts in northern Santa Barbara County.

“The Doyle Davis Grant is special because Charlotte, who was actually one of my predecessors in this position, truly understood the importance of providing library services to all,” said Matt Zuchowicz, the Director of Education Technology Services at SBCEO. “Thanks to this funding, thousands of students have had the opportunity to learn how to do research, validate information, and enjoy reading, in ways they wouldn’t have previously.”

In 2005, the funds from the Doyle Davis Librarian Grant were allocated to the SBCEO to hire an itinerant librarian to provide library and literacy support services to rural school districts including Blochman Union School District, Buellton Union School District and Guadalupe Union School District. This traveling librarian not only teaches lessons on how to do research, and on various literary topics and genres, but also creates competitions and programs to get children excited about reading. For example, Nicole Harbour-Ramos, who filled this role from 2010 to 2015, hosted book clubs for students in the Blochman Union School District and worked to improve the libraries in the Guadalupe Union School District. The Guadalupe Union School District saw her impact on students and hired her full time, despite budget cuts and financial constraints.

While the Doyle Davis Fund was scheduled to be distributed over a six-year period ending in 2011, the fund’s impact prompted SBCEO, participating districts and the Santa Barbara Foundation to create an endowed fund that allowed the itinerant librarian position to last longer.

“The Santa Barbara Foundation has always provided us with outstanding service when it comes to helping us with all of the options and caveats that came with this fund and making sure that we get the maximum impact,” said Zuchowicz.

SBCEO hopes to continue to expand library services in additional rural communities. “The most important thing that we need to do now is get the message out that libraries are the vibrant hubs of schools,” said Zuchowicz. “Librarians help children understand how to ask questions and synthesize information, and they provide personalized help to children who are struggling, which is the first step to making even just a small change in fixing the inequities in our education system and just want Charlotte would have wanted.”

You, like Doyle Davis, can leave a lasting legacy on our community by leaving a gift with the Santa Barbara Foundation today.

Nearly 25 percent of Santa Barbara County’s population is immigrants, and approximately 35 percent of those are undocumented. As a result of changes in federal proposals and policies, such as the rescinding of the Deferred Action Childhood Arrival (DACA) program, many individuals and families are living in constant fear of being detained or deported. This fear impacts them on a fundamental level, as they are not seeking medical attention or accessing other safety-net services. There has also been a significant decrease in enrollment in higher education workshops and crimes consistently go unreported. In these uncertain times, even nonprofit agencies that exist as a safe space are viewed as a potential threat. Concerns, such as ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) appearing at service-based appointments, has reduced necessary care and support.

After witnessing firsthand the challenges of the immigrants that they serve, Santa Ynez Valley’s People Helping People called the Santa Barbara Foundation for advice. Having heard similar concerns from other nonprofits across the county, the foundation’s community investment team reached out to various health, human services and youth serving nonprofits to gain a better sense of the impact agencies were experiencing. Through inquiry and research, the team learned that many organizations were actively seeking information and resources related to immigration and were responding to overwhelming new inquiries for assistance. In response, the foundation approved funds of up to $200,000 to support these agencies in their efforts.

Nineteen nonprofits received grants to support cultural training for staff, communications outreach assistance, and information-sharing tactics to serve local immigrant communities. It is the foundation’s hope that, with these grants, collaboration with legal aid organizations will grow, and social justice attorneys will be on hand to train others and provide advice for agency personnel. It is also hoped that community clinics will be able to act as safe zones to serve immigrant patients in their times of need.

The Fund for Santa Barbara was awarded $60,000 to support the development of the Central Coast Immigrant Justice Fund, which will allow for focus on due process, legal defense, and detention and deportation support.

“I sincerely appreciate the Santa Barbara Foundation’s interest in this important topic,” said Jeremy Deming, Executive Director at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Maria Valley. “Speaking on behalf of the youth and families we serve, they need empowerment, encouragement and support in dealing with the political and social changes that have recently occurred.”

As federal policies evolve and change, the Santa Barbara Foundation will continue to gather information from county nonprofits and will keep an ear to the ground to determine emerging necessity. In March 2018, the Santa Barbara Foundation and grantees will convene to evaluate additional needs and opportunities.

“One vital role of the foundation and our partners is to provide our communities with the information, resources, and expertise they are seeking during uncertain times,” said Ron Gallo, President & CEO of the Santa Barbara Foundation.
The Santa Barbara Foundation welcomed donors to the Fall Reception on December 8th. Outgoing Chair Jim Morouse was honored for his services to the Santa Barbara Foundation.

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$13,576,000

**2017 Q4 INVESTMENTS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

$3,807,000

**2017 YTD DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

$45,084,000

**2017 YTD INVESTMENTS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

$16,922,000

Data included in this report is unaudited.
This quarter the Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF) opened its doors at their new location on Anacapa Street in downtown Santa Barbara. Created in 1976, PPF's mission is to provide advocacy and education efforts to meet the ongoing and emerging needs of our diverse population in order to create a thriving and visible LGBTQ+ community and to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Learn more about PPF's work and their move to a more visible location on page six.