COUNTY CONNECTIONS
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018
Early Care & Education Grants,
10 Years of Core Support for Basic Needs,
20 Years of Katherine Harvey Fellows & More

SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION
COUNTY CONNECTIONS

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018
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10 Years of Core Support for Basic Needs,
20 Years of Katherine Harvey Fellows & More
A MESSAGE FROM
RONALD V. GALLO, Ed.D.
PRESIDENT & CEO

In 2018 we celebrate 90 years of building philanthropy on the Central Coast. The concept of a community foundation was actually a pretty radical idea back in the early part of the twentieth century. Why? Because up until that point, foundations were the “happy consequence” of one person’s or family’s wealth and generosity. Think Ford, Rockefeller, Carnegie.

Our founder could have easily created the Max Fleischmann Foundation, but the Major had something far more visionary in mind; a people’s foundation that would be more egalitarian and rooted in the needs and opportunities of the Central Coast. Thus, in 1928, the Santa Barbara Foundation was created, and from an initial gift of $100,000, it has grown - through the generosity and vision of tens of thousands of people - into a resource for good that now exceeds half a billion dollars.

The central mission of the foundation remains unchanged. It continues to seek out what needs to be done to make the county of Santa Barbara more livable, equitable, vibrant and decent for its residents. In its earliest years, that meant helping to build the physical infrastructure of the region. Later it was ensuring the developmentally appropriate and reasonably priced child care offerings, and the often confusing disconnect between education and employment.

Helping our communities - and to us that means all sectors (nonprofit, business, government) - to tackle and conquer these issues is what we believe needs to be done to help create empathetic, inclusive and resilient communities, as our mission demands. In so doing, we are carrying out and updating the dreams and expectations of our founders when they created this perpetual resource for the people of this beautiful county.

Today, the board and staff of the Santa Barbara Foundation continue that same search; to help secure the best collective future for the people and communities of this county. Our five-year strategic plan focuses on our region’s most vulnerable populations (those who are chronically on the margins, struggling for the basic necessities of life) and the working families of the county (those who are the backbone of our economy, who work hard and contribute to the vibrancy of their communities, but whose lives are nearly always in jeopardy of disruption, dislocation and extreme stress).

Within today’s complicated web of challenges - from climate change to the breakdown in civility to growing inequity - there is some urgency for the Santa Barbara Foundation to take a leadership role in shoring up the social safety net while also helping to solve problems like the lack of affordable housing, the insufficient number of developmentally appropriate and reasonably priced child care offerings, and the often confusing disconnect between education and employment.

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Ronald V. Gallo, Ed.D.
President & CEO
By Sam Waterstone

Philanthropy can take many forms - making financial contributions, volunteering time and sharing knowledge are all valuable ways to give. Longtime Santa Barbara County resident Bill Cirone has dedicated his life to serving his community in all of these ways and more.

Bill served as the Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools for 32 years before retiring in 2017, and sat on numerous community organization boards. He is a former Santa Barbara Foundation Trustee (including two years as Board Chair) and was selected as the 2012 Santa Barbara Man of the Year.

In terms of charitable giving, Bill is one of the Foundation’s longest-term and most consistent donors. Bill and his wife, Barbara, gave modestly for many years before developing the resources necessary to make larger donations. “My giving has always been a combination of time and money,” Bill said. “We don’t have huge resources, but my wife and I are focused on making sure we give back our fair share to the community.” The Cirone Family Fund at the Foundation has made significant donations to several organizations, including the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation, the Partners in Education program, and the Women’s Fund of Northern Santa Barbara County.

Bill’s impact goes well beyond typical philanthropy. In the 1980s, it was discovered that the Casmalia School District (located in North County) was being polluted by a local hazardous waste landfill. Bill and fellow educator Ken McCalip, Casmalia Superintendent of Schools, were a critical part of the effort to demand justice for the small town. The two men struggled to navigate a convoluted legal system, but ultimately their perseverance paid off - the community was awarded the largest legal settlement in county history.

Bill has used his platform as an educator and community leader to speak out on critical issues. “I really believe that those of us in leadership positions have a responsibility to communicate our ideas and thoughts on issues of importance, such as education,” he explained. “Personally, I felt obligated to talk in a positive way about things happening in the community, and to provide information about the many partnerships and people that are stepping up to help solve important problems.”

Following his retirement, Bill remains active in civic engagement. On the county level, he serves on the Boards of the First 5 Commission, Behavioral Wellness Commission (which focuses on mental health), Fighting Back (a coalition to combat drug and alcohol abuse), and the Zaca Center Preschool in Santa Ynez Valley. Bill also serves on the Board of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, a national organization that runs many of the top substance abuse treatment centers across the country.

While reflecting on his experiences as a philanthropist, Bill explained why engaging with the Santa Barbara Foundation is so important. “The Foundation is the hub of philanthropy in our county, and it isn’t about just handing out funds and taking credit. It’s about being that center for those who care, to dream, to act, and to accomplish great things.”

By Quinisha Jackson-Wright

On August 15, Santa Barbara County business owners and hiring managers gathered to learn about recruiting veterans for employment in the community. Why Hiring Veterans Makes Sense was led by Sara McNamara, MSOD, Consultant and Military Transition Strategist, who specializes in matching veterans with professional level job opportunities.

McNamara facilitated a discussion covering the challenges faced by veterans during the transition from military service to civilian employment. It was followed by a networking session where employers and veterans held conversations with one another.

“The goal of the session was to bring veterans, active-duty service members, employers and community leaders together,” McNamara said. “Our discussion was centered around increasing awareness and understanding about the military to civilian transition process, and how the cultural differences may impact veteran employment, retention and underemployment.”

The Santa Barbara Foundation coordinated the event to address issues identified in the 2017 Santa Barbara County Veterans Needs Assessment. The report concluded that although veteran unemployment is low, there is a significant issue with underemployment. Veterans often accept positions for which they are overqualified, rather than being unemployed.

Further, employers value the discipline and work ethic that many prior service members bring, but are unaware of how to connect with the veteran community. Likewise, veterans often struggle with effectively translating military experience to the civilian job sector.

The event served as an effort to bridge this gap. During the networking session, employers spoke one-on-one with veterans and active-duty service members. It allowed for a unique encounter with the veteran community.

“This workshop with local employers was an opportunity to address military cultural competency and best practices for hiring and retention of veterans,” said Kathy Simas, North County Director of the Santa Barbara Foundation. “The added benefit of having veterans on hand to share their experiences augmented the robust dialogue.”

McNamara was delighted to see the enthusiastic conversation among participants during her presentation and the networking session.

“I was inspired by the engagement level of the participants during the workshop and the networking session at the end,” she said. “I’m sure meaningful connections were made that will keep the momentum going to support education and cultural awareness around veteran employment in Santa Barbara County.”
A DECADE OF CORE
SUPPORT FOR BASIC NEEDS GRANTS

By Sam Waterstone

In September the Santa Barbara Foundation celebrated 90 years of service in Santa Barbara County. This September also marks 10 years of the Core Support for Basic Needs (CSBN) community grant program, originally developed in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, the CSBN grant program was designed to increase funding for nonprofits that directly provide food, shelter and healthcare services. The ultimate goal was to create a social safety net for Santa Barbara County residents.

"Families throughout Santa Barbara County are challenged every day to meet basic food, shelter, healthcare, and mental wellness needs. For a decade now, the Santa Barbara Foundation has supported nonprofits facing increased demand for their vital services." -PEDRO PAZ

By partnering with over 300 nonprofits, the Santa Barbara Foundation has granted nearly $4 million to 23 organizations. The success of nonprofits like the Foodbank is essential to the health of our community, and the Foundation is committed to supporting organizations that provide high-quality services to our residents.

"Families throughout Santa Barbara County are challenged every day to meet basic food, shelter, healthcare, and mental wellness needs. For a decade now, the Santa Barbara Foundation has supported nonprofits facing increased demand for their vital services." -PEDRO PAZ

The CSBN grant program has evolved through the years. Beginning in 2010, homelessness among families and the elderly became a larger concern due to a lack of affordable housing, leading to increased

find themselves living on the brink of poverty. The statistics are alarming: nearly 1 in 4 Santa Barbara County residents live below the federal poverty line, and the county has the third-highest rate of child poverty in California. Many working families live paycheck to paycheck, struggling to put food on the table or pay for medical costs beyond what is covered by insurance. Organizations such as the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County collaborate with other nonprofits to ensure all community members have a support system, especially during times of crisis.

"Since the twin disasters of last winter, we’ve seen increased need for supplemental food. We served 42% more Santa Barbara County residents in January 2018 than we did the previous year," said Foodbank CEO Erik Talkin.

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating hunger and food insecurity by providing nutritional food to those in need, while also promoting food literacy through educational programs.

"We’ve expanded the reach of our Feed the Future children’s nutrition education in all areas of the county," Talkin explained. "The Santa Barbara Foundation’s support has been critical in helping us meet community need for food and improve families’ health through our children’s programs."

There is real poverty in our community. The lack of affordable housing continues to affect the homeless, working families, and the elderly. Fortunately, there are many organizations doing amazing work to address these needs. The success of nonprofits like the Foodbank are essential to the health of our community, and the Foundation is committed to supporting organizations that provide high-quality services to our residents.

PHOTOS: Community members at a Foodbank food distribution event.

2018 CORE SUPPORT FOR BASIC NEEDS GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Casa Serena
- Channel Islands YMCA, Youth & Family Services
- Community Action Commission
- Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA)
- Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center
- Domestic Violence Solutions
- Family Service Agency
- Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
- Good Samaritan Shelter
- Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc.
- Mental Wellness Center
- Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc.
- PATH Santa Barbara
- Planned Parenthood CA Central Coast
- Sanctuary Centers of Santa Barbara, Inc.
- Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics
- Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center
- Santa Barbara Rescue Mission
- Santa Ynez Valley Fruit & Vegetable Rescue
- Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People
- Sarah House Santa Barbara
- The Salvation Army
- Transition House
“Connection” is a key word when discussing the 20-year history of the Katherine Harvey Fellows program. Since 1999, 128 Santa Barbara professionals from different backgrounds have been selected to learn how they can have a greater collective impact addressing significant needs in the community.

Each group of Fellows participates in an 18-month leadership development program, meeting once a month for panel-style discussions, workshops, or group project time. Connections are made, and those connections expand into the community as participants meet with leaders in their focus area.

Program facilitator Carrie Randolph describes how the program establishes connections within the Katherine Harvey Fellows network:

“The goal of the program is to give people who are interested in making a deeper impact in the community, the confidence, skills, and connections to engage in causes that are important to them,” Randolph said.

“A lot of people care about certain issues, but don’t know how to engage in a way that is influential and personally rewarding.”

When connecting with participants, Randolph challenges new Fellows to think outside of the box, rather than adhering to a strict set of guidelines.

“Many participants come in with a comfort for linear thinking, but the program has some ambiguity by design,” she said. “We want people to explore their own personal values and apply those values when engaging with the community. We have a methodology for getting them there, but it’s intentionally not a clear step-by-step process.”

Additionally, the program has evolved through the years since its stewardship shifted from the Santa Barbara Foundation to Leading From Within in 2012.

“Our founding program is Courage to Lead. We take some of the best practices from that and run it through all programs, which are strongly values-based,” Randolph said.

Randolph says the Katherine Harvey Fellows program has plans to re-connect with alumni who may have lost touch in previous years.

“When Katherine Harvey Fellows was originally established, you completed your time and that was it,” she said. “We are re-engaging alumni who didn’t have a space to connect upon completing the program. Over the next 20 years, we want our alumni to leverage their connections across our larger network in Leading From Within, which consists of more than 300 members. The program is a launching pad, not an end itself.”

When asked about one of the most memorable alumni, Randolph’s eyes light up as she speaks of 2016 Fellow, Danielle Quiñones-Ortega.

“Danielle is from Santa Maria and works at UCSB. When she started the program, she was frustrated about the pain and suffering she saw in the community and didn’t know how to help,” she said. “Several years later, she’s gotten involved in multiple organizations, including Leading From Within. We recently expanded, and she’s done such a great job that she is now a co-facilitator of our program serving North County leaders.”

Stories such as Danielle’s are the ones that inspire Randolph to continue the work she does. She encourages individuals from all backgrounds to participate in Katherine Harvey Fellows, regardless of their level of leadership.

“We want to reach the person who may not think of himself or herself as a leader,” she said. “This program gives that individual the opportunity to realize their capacity to be a change maker.”

To learn more about the Katherine Harvey Fellows program and how you can get involved, please contact Leading From Within at julie@leading-from-within.org or 805-770-3232.
By Sam Waterstone

This July, the Santa Barbara Foundation awarded $158,500 to eight early care and education providers throughout Santa Barbara County as part of its Early Care and Education (ECE) community grant program. This program provides grants of up to $20,000 to nonprofits in the county that provide child care and education services to children 0-5 years of age.

Providing quality care and education for our community’s youngest members is essential. The quality of childcare directly impacts brain development, ability to learn, social-emotional wellness, and the building of healthy relationships. In an era when many families cannot afford to have a stay-at-home parent, the demand for child care far outpaces that which is available. The Santa Barbara Foundation believes that every child deserves access to these opportunities from the start, and we are passionate about finding effective ways to reach this goal.

The Santa Barbara Foundation’s strong history of support for early care opportunities dates back to 1934, when the Foundation provided food and funds to undernourished children and their families. The Foundation was also instrumental in the expansion of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County during the 1960s, and has offered many other youth grants over the years, including grants for St. Vincent’s Day Nursery - a full-time child care center for working mothers with young children. The Foundation has been committed to quality early care for nearly a century, and today this support lives on in the form of the ECE community grant program.

“The ECE community grant program supports early care providers in leadership and professional development, family engagement, and strategies that promote equitable access to quality childcare. The program provides funding and support that increases capacity among nonprofit childcare providers and integral direct service providers. “High-quality education for young children requires that educators are provided with ongoing training and education opportunities,” said Pedro Paz, Director of Grantmaking at the Santa Barbara Foundation. “The Foundation is pleased to enable local organizations to take advantage of these opportunities.”

The work done by the selected organizations, such as Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc. (IVYP), reveals a vision that goes well beyond providing basic care to infants and young children. “High-quality early care and education is an important solution to so many of the problems faced by our most vulnerable community members - the cycle of poverty, the achievement and opportunity gap, and even childhood trauma.”

-LORI LANDER GOODMAN

2018 EARLY CARE & EDUCATION GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Carpinteria Children’s Project
- Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM)
- Children and Family Resource Services
- Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc.
- Little House by the Park
- Santa Barbara County Education Office
- Santa Maria YMCA
- Transition House

PHOTO: Angel Duran, graduate of Isla Vista Youth Projects (IVYP) Preschool. IVYP was one of the eight Santa Barbara County nonprofits to receive a 2018 Early Care and Education grant.

PHOTO: Three Isla Vista Elementary School students at the IVYP Child Care Center.
Main has a passion for community-based efforts in the arts, environment, climate resiliency and social justice and says she will continue to explore doing this work in new ways.

“It’s a small community, and that’s the beauty of Santa Barbara County,” she said. “I certainly see opportunity to continue working with the Santa Barbara Foundation in some capacity as we join together and do what’s best to serve the region.”

Jackie Carrera joined the Santa Barbara Foundation this August as the new Chief Revenue and Business Development Officer. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jackie served as the President and CEO of the Parks & People Foundation in Maryland for over two decades.

In this conversation between Jackie Carrera and Sam Waterstone, Communications Officer for the Santa Barbara Foundation, Jackie shares her thoughts about getting to know the communities throughout Santa Barbara County, her new role with the Foundation, why she is passionate about her work, and more.

Sam Waterstone: What drew you to the Santa Barbara Foundation?

Jackie Carrera: From an early age, I learned the value of community. I grew up in a place that is similar in many ways to Santa Barbara County. There was a neighborliness and sense of compassion that made people feel welcome, safe and optimistic about the future. Our community support system was a reassuring blessing for everyone. I see many of these traits in Santa Barbara County. The Santa Barbara Foundation is at the heart of this beautiful community, devotedly acting as the keeper of that spirit. For 90 years, the Foundation has been an honest broker connecting resources to meet our communities’ greatest needs and continuing to support our residents as a thriving center of civic life and culture. It is a gift to work where community is your mission.

Sam: Why are you passionate about what you do?

Jackie: My passion emanates primarily from these two ideas: I love to see individuals, businesses and whole communities thrive. I believe that adverse conditions do not have to be permanent. I am fortunate to have been a small part of many efforts where people shared their gifts to respond to community needs, and the results have been remarkable. From these experiences, I have developed a vision of the possible. I am passionate about what I do because I know the Santa Barbara Foundation shares this vision and is making great things possible for Santa Barbara County.

Sam: What message would you like to share with community members who want to help make our county a better place?

Jackie: First, I would like to say thank you! Second, I’d like to let everyone know that there are a myriad of ways you can make a difference with your time, talent and treasure. I would be more than happy to help you identify next steps.
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*Data included in this report is unaudited.*
WE STAND WITH SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EVENTS

The Santa Barbara Foundation is excited to announce its new five-year, strategic priorities. Two events are being held this Fall to share the details of our process and our priorities for engagement in Santa Barbara County moving forward: October 25 at the Santa Barbara Zoo and November 8 at Presqu’ile Winery. If you have any questions about these events or the Foundation’s strategic plan, please visit our website, contact our staff or reach out through social media via the #AskSBF hashtag.

ON THE COVER

Santa Barbara County community members participating in the Blue Sky Center’s Cuyama Valley Fall Festival. At the Festival, families celebrated the autumn season and Día de los Muertos by making arts and crafts.

Photo by Garrett Gerstenberger.