Dear Friends,

In Sonoma County, we care deeply about the people and places that make us who we are.

Our farmers’ markets, fairs, vineyards, and town squares are our gathering spots for both friendship and stewardship. We are connected to our history, and our soil. During this time of drought, we are especially aware of the preciousness of our land and the responsibility and leadership required by everyone to preserve our very special place.

We are a community that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

At Community Foundation Sonoma County, we cultivate stewardship, solutions, and connections. We facilitate Sonoma County’s legacies by ensuring we understand the dreams of our donors and the needs of the community. We convene organizations and caring individuals to stimulate new ideas, foster collaborations, and strengthen philanthropy. We partner with donors and professional advisors to build resources that create long-term philanthropic solutions.

Since our founding in 1983, we have distributed more than 12,000 grants over the course of the Community Foundation's history totaling nearly $170 million. In 2014, we granted over $10 million to 400 organizations.

But we have also achieved the intangible by focusing some efforts beyond our grantmaking. Last year, we convened our donors through Greater Good discussions on the Portrait of Sonoma, issues affecting seniors, and family philanthropy. We are leaders in change-making groups like Cradle to Career and Upsteam Investments, and we’ve convened our nonprofit partners’ quarterly to listen to what matters to them most.

Each day, we help plant the seeds of philanthropy in order for something beautiful to grow. We till ideas, creativity, and intelligence to build sustainability for our future. Together, we make a difference for Sonoma County because we, like you, are committed to making our place one where all can thrive.

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Collecting well-crafted treasures, sharing stories, and handing down lessons over generations are hallmarks of Dee and Harry Richardson’s lives and marriage. Wrapped around Dee’s antique collective and Harry’s (now retired) oncology practice is a blanket of caring involvement in community. Even their lovingly cared-for Victorian home clearly reflects their values. A decades-long relationship with Community Foundation Sonoma County is also fundamental.

The Richarsons had parents who modeled volunteerism, which they have passed on to their children—and now grandchildren. Early on, a core Community Foundation concept dawned on Dee: “I realized that instead of perpetual fundraising, endowments could be created, nurtured, and grown. This makes so much sense, so I became involved and learned from the Foundation’s founders. Since we collect things, keep things and build things up, the Foundation fits. It seems like it has always been a part of our lives.”

From Harry’s perspective, “This is such an important organization for Sonoma County—literally our foundation—that has brought together people with means to create and support projects and initiatives that might never have happened otherwise. From DeMeo Teen Club to Pepperwood Preserve to 10,000 Degrees Sonoma County, a support system and structure is in place to create something bigger and better. This Foundation will be in place long into the future and will grow and change with community needs.”

Dee concludes: “We’ve both served on the board and through our Richardson Family Fund, which supports human services, environmental and education programs, our kids will help decide how to impact the world. Our Legacy Society fund is part of our estate planning; something we add to and grow. Through it we make grants to nonprofits we admire, showing our love for this place where we live.” History is in the making.
There’s more than good food on the dinner table at one household in Healdsburg—there’s deep conversation. The Tompkins-Imhoff family sits together to discuss which community projects and organizations they will support through their family fund created at Community Foundation Sonoma County. “We try to instill in our children the value of hard work, focus, and gratitude for what we have. Part of that is giving back,” says Dan Imhoff.

From San Francisco to Mendocino—and finally to Sonoma County—“coming home” to Healdsburg inspired the family to settle in, and raise and educate their children. Once established, they sought and formed relationships with the Foundation. Their family fund gives ongoing support for education as well as conservation and local food efforts. They make full use of the Foundation’s administrative support, advice, and resources—and incorporate giving into annual tax planning.

Quincey Tompkins-Imhoff also personally supports education as a Trustee for Sonoma Academy. “The schools we’ve been involved with, that have made a lasting impression on us, exhibit a true sense of created ‘community.’ Yes, the school and lessons are ‘education,’ but the dynamic people who come together to teach kids—that’s energy. We’ve raised our kids here—we’re a team and we’re on a team—we support schools because they resonate with us.”

The Community Foundation structure, philanthropic flexibility, and collaborative opportunities appeal to the Tompkins-Imhoffs. With help from Community Foundation Sonoma County, they crafted a 10-year very low interest loan for a low-income school. Through this custom program-related investment, kids moved from portable buildings into comfortable classrooms. Says Quincey, “In the end it’s always relationships between people that gets things done.”

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Catherine and David Marsten
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Joyce E. Miller
Betz and Sam Miller
J Mullineaux and Matt Malik
Eileen and Ron Nelson
How can a garden grow more than just vegetables? When it helps to grow adults, too. That, at least, is among the aims of the Global Student Embassy (GSE), a Sebastopol nonprofit that serves students in Ecuador and Nicaragua as well as Northern California by immersing them in the tenets of eco-activism, reforestation, and organic farming as they grow into their place in the world.

Founded in 2008 by brothers Lucas and Jasper Oshun, Analy High School graduates, GSE now serves seven local and 10 international high schools, reaching 2,000 students across the globe each year.

Students enrolled in GSE do an annual exchange program that allows them to learn and work. Kids from Nicaragua and Ecuador come to California for three weeks each January; kids from California go to Nicaragua and Ecuador each spring break. They do projects on each other’s land, supporting reforestation efforts and learning permaculture techniques, among other activities.

Community Foundation Sonoma County provided Global Student Embassy with a $10,000 grant in 2014 to support operations and scholarships for students participating in their Eco-Entrepreneurial Fellowship program. Maya, one of the scholarship recipients, has found the human connection to be a profound experience.

“I’ve met exchange students before, and it’s been kind of uncomfortable,” she says, noting how stilted such conversations can be without common ground. “[In GSE], you’re talking to people from across the world who are really passionate about sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty and food equity, and all these really big things that you only dream about. To meet somebody who is willing to come halfway across the globe to learn with you and share with you is so powerful. Every time the exchange students come, I cry. It’s really, really moving.”

The food that Sebastopol GSE students grow is donated to the families inhabiting the small trailer park surrounding their farm plot (many of whom now tend their own adjacent plots) as well as to Ceres Community Project, Redwood Empire Food Bank, and Graton Day Labor Center.
THE GIVING LANDSCAPE 2014

NUMBER OF GRANTEES: 400
NUMBER OF GRANTS MADE IN 2014: 983
TOTAL AWARDED IN 2014: $10,483,400
NUMBER OF GRANTS, 1983-2014: 12,182
TOTAL AWARDED, 1983-2014: $169,412,238

FOR MORE DETAILS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PLUS MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:
sonomacf.org

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS: 305 GRANTS
$4,623,100

ANIMAL WELFARE: 15 GRANTS
$66,100

OTHER: 63 GRANTS
$325,000

ARTS & CULTURE: 109 GRANTS
$497,300

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: 413 GRANTS
$3,869,300

ENVIRONMENT: 78 GRANTS
$1,102,600

TOTA L ASSETS 2014: $158,383,900
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS 2014: $10,906,800
SONOMA VALLEY FUND

Sonoma Valley Fund was established in 2007 with a mission to strengthen the local community through philanthropy and legacy giving. Since inception, the Fund, in partnership with the Community Foundation, has awarded over $2.8 million in grants and scholarships in Sonoma Valley.

Proudly, Sonoma Valley Fund brought together more than 125 residents to learn about “A Portrait of Sonoma County,” an important study commissioned by the County Department of Health Services. This forum was presented in partnership with La Luz Center and revealed economic and health disparities among Valley communities.

Through a robust Legacy Giving program, the Sonoma Valley Fund has secured 40 individual and family legacy gifts representing almost $9 million in revocable gifts. Legacy gifts will provide resources to nonprofit organizations to benefit the lives of those who live in Sonoma Valley.

In 2014, the Foundation and Fund awarded more than $520,000, including $353,000 in grants to 32 organizations, and $168,000 in scholarships—all thanks to the generosity of our donors.

HEALDSBURG AREA FUND

Our North County affiliate, serving both Healdsburg and Geyserville, completed its 10th anniversary in a number of impactful ways.

With a $1.3 million endowment, the Healdsburg Area Fund granted over $100,000 to 14 local nonprofits in 2014. This milestone was made possible by the hard work of the affiliate board and the growing endowment created to support the needs of the local community.

The Leave Your Mark Legacy Campaign generated $3.85 million in future legacy giving through the generosity of 34 donors. A matching grant opportunity from the campaign generated $119,000 in endowment gifts provided by Herb and Jane Dwight, Barbara Grasseschi and Tony Crabb and an anonymous donor.

Barbara Grasseschi and Tony Crabb were honored as recipients of the Harmon Heald Award for Lasting Community Impact at the annual affiliate celebration for their contributions to the community.

Since its inception in 2003, the Healdsburg Area Fund has granted $533,000 to 36 nonprofit organizations.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

PEPPERWOOD PRESERVE | pepperwoodpreserve.org
Edicates and engages our community through habitat preservation, science-based conservation, leading-edge research, and interdisciplinary educational programs. In 2014, Pepperwood provided critical science products to Sonoma’s Regional Climate Protection Authority.

OLIVER RANCH FOUNDATION | oliverranchfoundation.org
Promotes artistic appreciation for site-specific sculpture and performances. In 2014, the Oliver Ranch Foundation offered 36 tours of the sculpture ranch on behalf of nonprofits to assist them with their fundraising.

CHOP’S TEEN CLUB | chopsonline.com
Provides a safe, fun, and productive place where teens engage, connect, and discover their true potential. In 2014, Chop’s expanded their career and workforce development programs to meet the growing needs of young people in the community, and participation increased by 26%.

SONOMA PARADISO | sonomaparadiso.com
Dedicated to ensuring the health, education, welfare, and quality of life for the children of Sonoma County. In 2014, Sonoma Paradiso made a total of $80,000 in grants to 20 different organizations.