



2017
ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

At Community Foundation Sonoma County, we believe in the power of connecting people, ideas, and resources to benefit all who live here.

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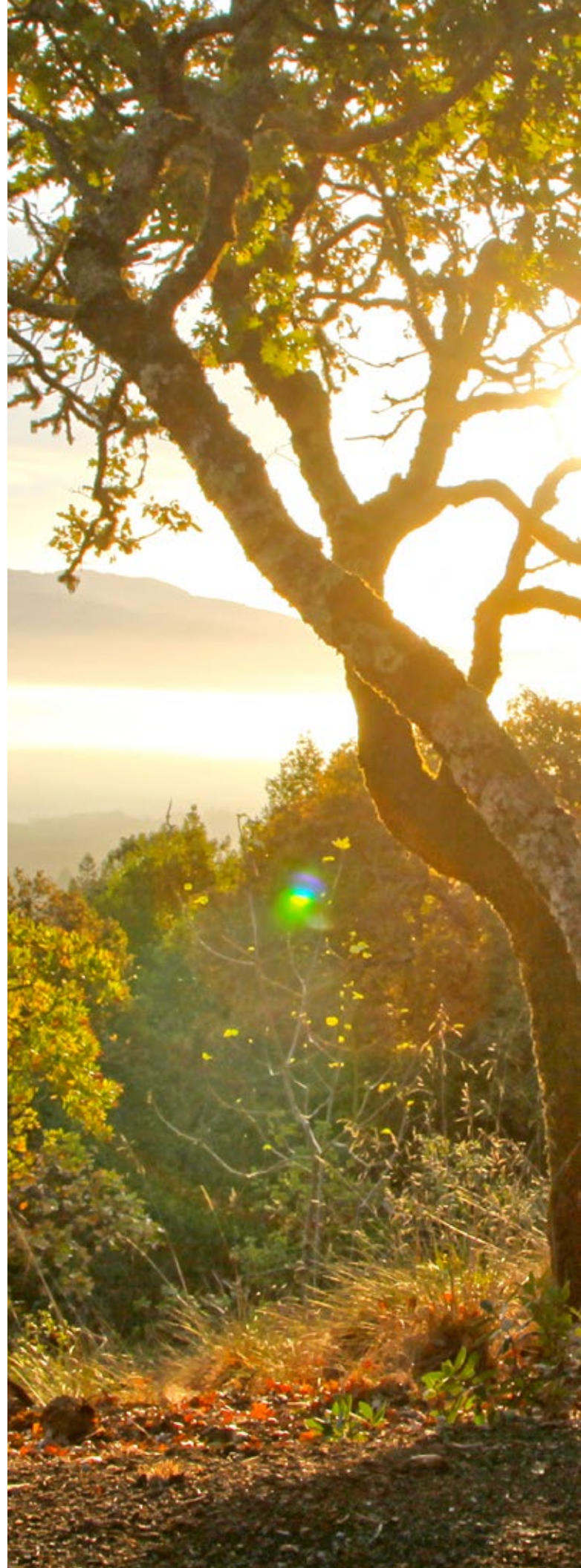
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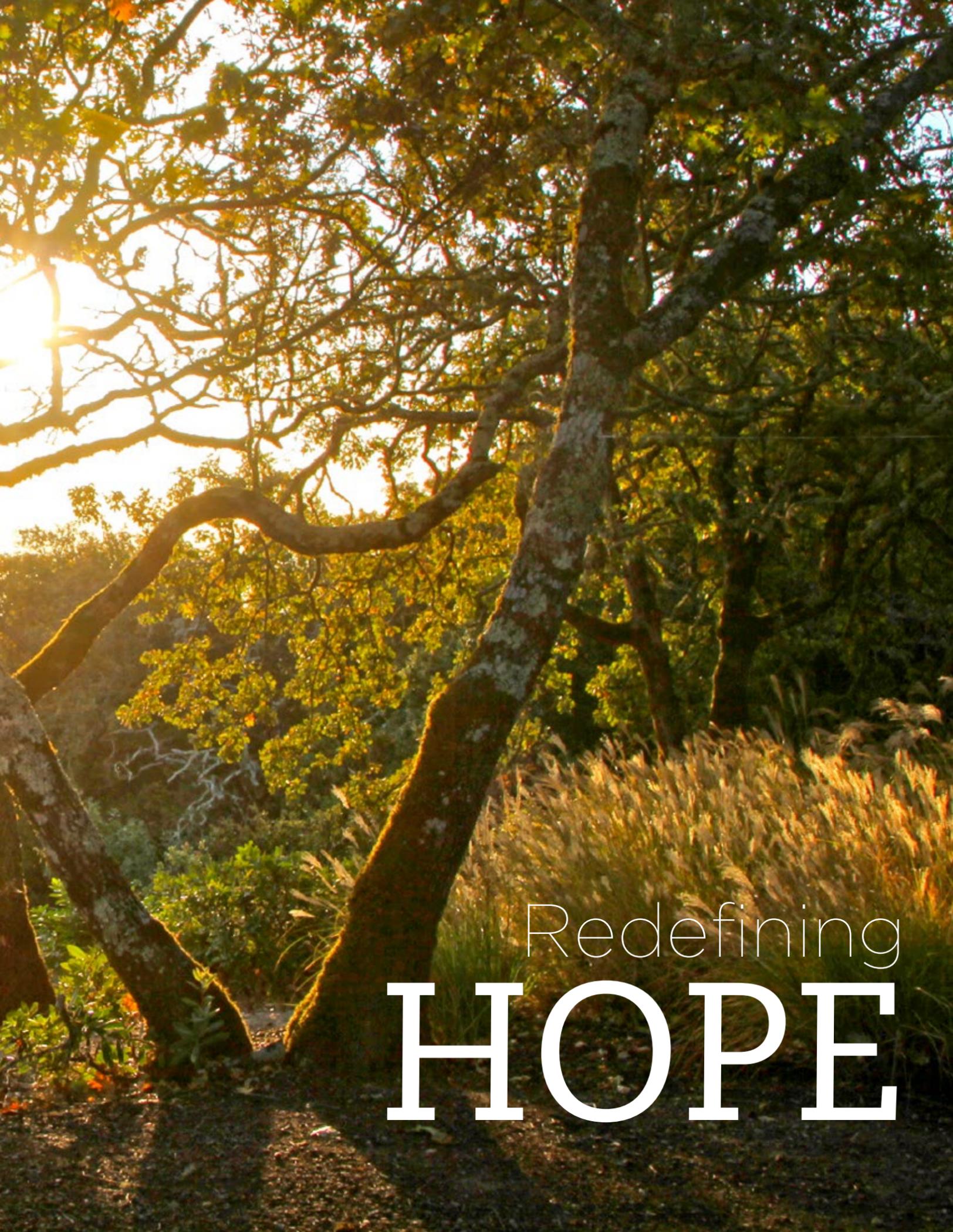
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Redefining
HOPE

A MESSAGE FROM THE

President & Chair

Elizabeth Brown, President and CEO

Deborah Kelley, Board Chair



The final months of 2017 will be forever remembered in our community history. The fires are a shared experience that has changed the face of the county. While the fires caused chaos and trauma, there is comfort in looking for the stories of hope that come from even the worst disasters.

When children are impacted by disaster, they are often told to look for the helpers. We are reminded that there is hope in seeing neighbors supporting neighbors, and strangers reaching out a helping hand to someone in need.

There are so many stories of helpers during the disaster. On the night of October 8, Santa Rosa CityBus drivers sprang into action to help evacuate seniors from retirement homes in Fountaingrove. That morning, hundreds of volunteers poured in to help at evacuation shelters. Over the coming days firefighters came from across the country to help put out the fires burning around us.

And in the weeks that followed, donors

from across the globe sent financial support and messages of care.

There was one message that we all shared through those hard days of October: *Sonoma Strong*. A message reminding us that our community is stronger together. That we are at our best when we are helping one another succeed. That there is hope when we are working as one community.

Today, as we begin to recover from the fires, we are redefining hope and sharing new stories of the resiliency that comes when we work together.

We hope that this report is yet another reminder of the strength that we share together.

Last year, through the generosity of our donors, Community Foundation Sonoma County made more than **\$15.7 million** in grants to nonprofit organizations. This is an increase in giving by 11% over 2016. In the last five years, our total grantmaking has increased by 50%.



As nonprofit organizations stretch to serve individuals and families who may never have needed help before, our ongoing grantmaking is vital. Together, we are able to help these organizations continue their much needed work supporting our community's most urgent needs.

Over the past 35 years, we have granted over **\$211 million**. As we continue growing our grantmaking programs, we are focused on helping our community where support is needed the most. In October, we launched the Sonoma County Resilience Fund, a long-term fire relief fund to support our community recovery through 2022 and beyond.

To date, we have raised over \$14 million for the fund, and have made more than \$1.8 million in grants to organizations focused on **helping** individuals impacted by the fires, **healing** the long-term impacts of trauma and **housing** solutions for our community.

As we reflect on the challenges our community faces, we stand ready to continue our work of connecting people, ideas, and resources, strengthened by the hope brought to us by stories of people coming together to offer help.

Deberah Kelley
Board Chair

Elizabeth Brown
President and CEO



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Brooke Clyde

Growing up in Santa Rosa, Brooke and his sister Lisa learned about philanthropy as young children. Their mother, Jeannie Schulz, is renowned for her support of local causes, especially for her commitment to the arts and environment. "Obviously my mom has been a major influence on me. I've been very lucky in life, and philanthropy has always been a big part of the conversations we had growing up."

Growing up in a family so dedicated to community, it's no surprise that Brooke chose a career path that would allow him to support others. When Brooke graduated from law school, he began his career working as a public defender in Monterey.

Ronit Rubinoff, executive director for Legal Aid of Sonoma County, where Brooke volunteers now, explains, "Brooke has an amazing soft spot for the underdog. He is incredibly kind to our clients, folks that are really down and out and quite afraid about losing their housing."

His early start as a public defender gave Brooke the experience he needed

to find a direction for his law practice. Volunteering with Legal Aid was a natural fit when Brooke was looking to get back to his practice after moving home to Sonoma County to raise his family. He began volunteering with the organization in 2008, at the height of the financial crisis, when evictions were starting to spike throughout the county. “I liked the concept: it’s the same clients I’ve always had; they just have different problems.”

As an attorney, Brooke sees his role as helping people navigate a complex system that can be overwhelming. For many of his clients, it is not always a matter of winning a case or stopping an eviction, but finding a resolution that will work for everyone.

“This is not high-powered legal work; it’s shepherding people through the system and making the system work as well for them as it can. Maybe they can stay under certain conditions; maybe they get a little more time to move out. Most lawyers are very happy to let our clients clean up their records, which is huge. Huge.”

Ronit reflected that Brooke’s involvement has been incredibly impactful to their clients. “Brooke has been a volunteer with us for ten years. That is unprecedented. For most of those ten years, Legal Aid could not afford to have its own housing staff attorney. Without Brooke, hundreds and hundreds of low-income tenant families would have had no legal help.”

Brooke’s commitment to philanthropy and to Sonoma County goes far beyond

his own volunteer work. He and his sister Lisa have a donor advised fund with Community Foundation Sonoma County and have collaborated for 12 years to offer supporting grants to nonprofit organizations doing work that Brooke and Lisa care deeply about.

Their fund was initially set up by their mother, to help Brooke and Lisa find shared giving values and partner in their philanthropy. “It’s a great thing for parents to teach their kids about philanthropy. I think the most interesting thing we learned is that people have different interests—my mom is very environmental—but Lisa and I have made more donations towards human services organizations than any other field.”

“Brooke has an amazing soft spot for the underdog. He is incredibly kind to our clients, folks that are really down and out and quite afraid about losing their housing”

When asked how his advisor had helped to support their giving, Brooke explains that “There was no doubt that we wanted to direct our giving towards human services. Lisa and I shared our values, and the Foundation gave us the lay of the land, helped us in identifying organizations to support.”

Brooke’s love of the Santa Rosa community shines through when he speaks about the community he calls home. Through his volunteer work at Legal Aid, he sees the challenges people face finding housing and stability. Brooke’s giving gives him a sense of purpose: he remains committed to seeing the place he loves made better through his own philanthropy, a mission he shares with all of us at the Foundation.



SONOMA COUNTY **RESILIENCE** FUND



\$14 MILLION+

DONATED TO OUR RESILIENCE FUND
to support long-term fire recovery over
the next five years.

5,300
HOMES DESTROYED

126
BUSINESSES LOST

16,654
FEMA CASES FILED



7,000+

DONORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
Over 70% of our donations came from
outside of Sonoma County.



*Information on the Resilience Fund is current to August 2018

\$300,000

EMERGENCY GRANTS HELPING TO STABILIZE

The Resilience Fund supported 11 nonprofit organizations immediately after the fire, with grants to fund urgent food, shelter and other vital needs.

Grantees include: Catholic Charities, Ceres Community Project, Community Action Partnership, La Luz, and the Redwood Empire Food Bank.



\$1,500,000

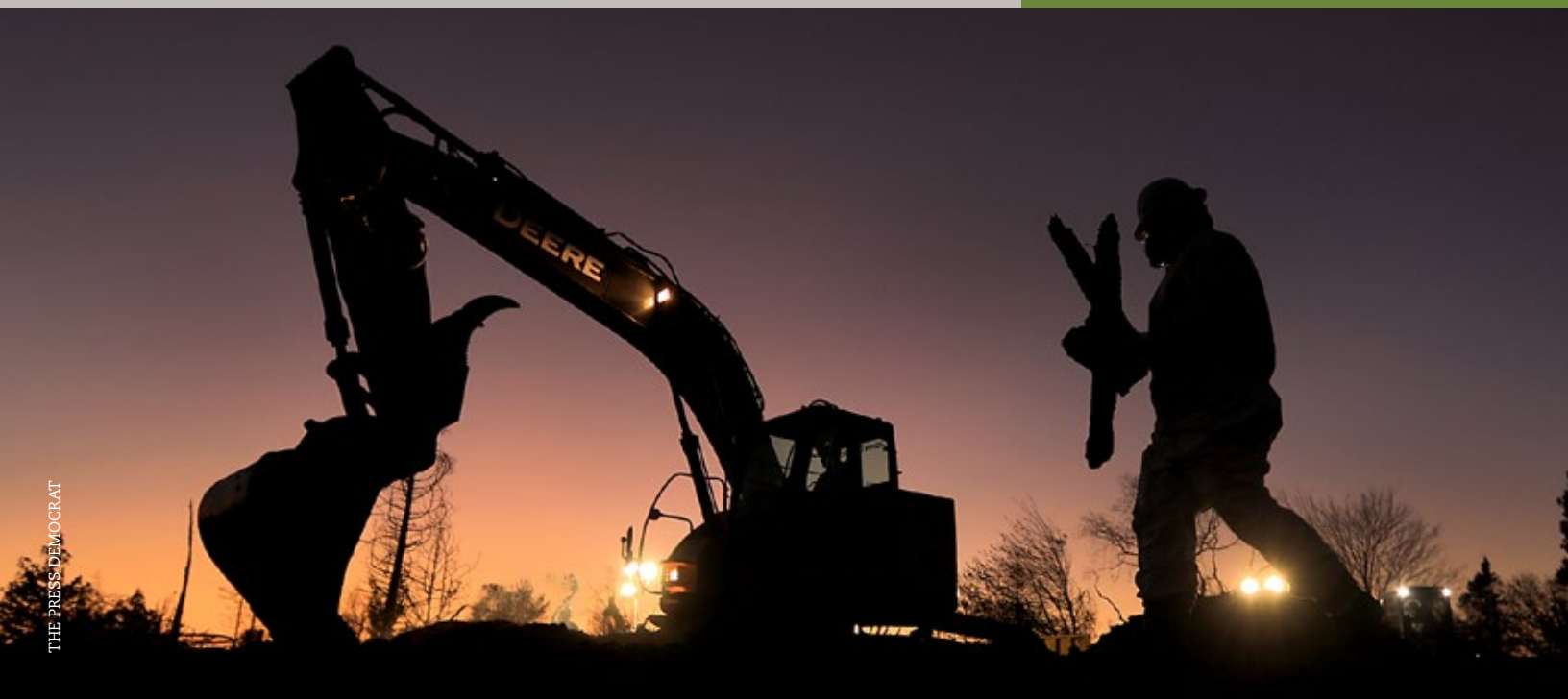
GRANTS TO HELP AND HEAL

The Resilience Fund has made over \$1.5 million in long-term recovery grants to organizations helping individuals recover financially and emotionally.

Grantees include: Legal Aid of Sonoma County, United Policyholders, and the Sonoma Community Resilience Collaborative.

FUND FOCUS AREAS

HELPING, HEALING,
AND HOUSING





NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

4Cs

The night of October 8 changed thousands of lives in a near instant. For Cary and Josiah Rich, the fire meant the loss of not only their beloved apartment and all of their treasured keepsakes, but their home-based child care business as well.

As Cary describes her night of restless sleep before the fire she recalled the confusion of the moment when her husband Josiah woke her up. “He said, ‘Honey, get up and get out now’ and I’m

trying to figure out what’s he talking about and trying to get dressed.”

They escaped with only the clothes on their backs, the fire burning a bright orange behind them, and their 13-year-old son Ian still barefoot in the car as they fled. It would be weeks before their family could start processing what the loss would mean to their income and their business; before they could begin thinking about what recovery would look like.

One of the first things they did was to talk with the Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County, 4Cs, to see what support and resources were available. Melanie

Dodson, executive director, recalls the fire's widespread impact. "We had three afterschool programs, two preschools, and 12 licensed family child care businesses that were completely lost in the fire."

Their staff immediately began reaching out to the providers, to identify what help they needed. "We really had to spring into action figuring out how to support all the programs that had been lost. They had so many needs, and there were so many parents enrolled in those programs that now didn't have a program to go back to." Supporting the providers in re-establishing their businesses was an urgent need.

Melanie tasked Lara Magnusdottir, public policy director for 4Cs to be the contact person for child care providers impacted by the fires. Lara began looking at the Governor's disaster declaration to advocate for child care to be included. Child care wasn't included in the first iteration of the declaration, which meant that Community Care Licensing, the state agency that oversees providers, did not have any permissions to work with 4Cs to create waivers allowing providers to move into temporary sites quickly. Thanks to Lara's advocacy, child care was included on October 18.

In addition to policy advocacy, Lara worked to find donated spaces for child care programs and helped connect providers who lost homes, to donors who wanted to support them. Cary and Josiah Rich jumped at the opportunity to relocate their business to a new site at Church of the Incarnation in downtown Santa Rosa.

Melanie explains the complexity of supporting a child care provider through

that transition. "Normally a licensed family child care home cannot provide care in a church facility; it would be considered a center. But Cary didn't have a home anymore, so Lara was able to work with her both to apply for waivers from the state and to find donations for materials, like toys and books that she had lost in the fire."

Melanie credits the early support of Community Foundation Sonoma County in helping make Cary's story a positive one. In mid-October, the Foundation offered a round of emergency grants from our Resilience Fund to 11 nonprofit

"There's a lot of work that keeps coming after a disaster. This grant was such a gift at that time"

organizations, helping them stabilize budgets and respond to emerging needs. She explains, "There's a lot of work that keeps coming after a disaster; we didn't

know right away, where we would need funding. This grant was such a gift at that time, allowing us to use it where it would best support our organization and the community."

For 4Cs the financial support was invaluable, with a sustaining impact as providers like Cary focus on the future and chart their path to a new normal.





Legacy Donors

We gratefully acknowledge our donors who have chosen Community Foundation Sonoma County to steward their future planned gifts.

Joseph Aaron
Tania Amochaev
Ellen I. Amsterdam-Walker and
Donald B. Walker
Jerry Anderson and Tricia Coxhead
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The donors who choose to make a legacy giving commitment believe in our shared responsibility to leave this place better than we found it.

Their gifts create an enduring legacy; offering hope to people and communities who need it most, and supporting organizations working to solve our most pressing concerns.

We are grateful to these donors for entrusting Community Foundation Sonoma County to carry out their vision and bring inspiration and practical solutions for the future.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SONOMA COUNTY

Financial Summary

TOTAL ASSETS 2017:

\$183,773,400

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS 2017:

\$24,533,900

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED, 1983-2017:

\$211,353,300

GRANTS AWARDED 2017:

1,227

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2017:

\$15,792,000



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

\$4,240,000

471 GRANTS



EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS

\$7,381,800

329 GRANTS



ENVIRONMENT

\$1,446,900

122 GRANTS



FAITH-BASED & OTHER

\$1,871,400

144 GRANTS



ARTS & CULTURE

\$724,500

143 GRANTS



ANIMAL WELFARE

\$127,400

18 GRANTS



HEALDSBURG FOREVER

Our north county affiliate, Healdsburg Forever, celebrated a record \$160,000 in grants to 19 nonprofit organizations in 2017. To date, Healdsburg Forever has granted over \$865,000 to more than 50 nonprofit organizations. They aim to make it to \$1 million in total grants next year.

These grants are made possible through the generosity of donors who have supported Healdsburg Forever in growing their endowment to \$1.5 million.



SONOMA VALLEY FUND

Our Sonoma affiliate, the Sonoma Valley Fund, celebrated nonprofit excellence last year supporting six nonprofit organizations with grants fostering strategic growth and investments in data and collaboration.

The Sonoma Valley Fund also launched the “Hidden in Plain Sight” report. The report offers data and detail on some stark Valley facts: growing poverty, a worsening housing crisis, and accelerating demographic changes.

Supporting Organizations

OLIVER RANCH FOUNDATION | oliverranchfoundation.org

Promotes artistic appreciation for site-specific sculpture and performances and protects the natural beauty of the land.

CHOP'S TEEN CLUB | chopsteenclub.org

Chop's Teen Club provides a safe, fun, and productive place where teens engage, connect and discover their true potential. At Chop's teens receive ongoing mentorship, gain leadership and work readiness skills, improve study habits, and take part in quality art, music, culinary, technology and sports programs.

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SONOMA
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