Together, **Sonoma County**



ANNUAL REPORT **2025**

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SONOMA COUNTY

Our Work Together

Listening Closely. Giving Thoughtfully. Changing Lives.



Óscar's Chávez | Caitlin Childs

I think often about what it means to be trusted with something that belongs to a whole community.

For more than four decades, people across Sonoma County have come together through the Community Foundation to invest in this place and each other.

Across those years, we've come to see philanthropy not as something one group does for another, but as something we build together. We do that by listening to one another, sharing what each of us has to offer, and working together toward the future we want to create. Together, we've tried to approach this work with the humility to listen well and the care to act wisely.

This year tested that in real ways. Families across Sonoma County carried serious uncertainty. Immigrant communities faced fears that were anything but abstract. Nonprofits worked harder than ever to hold the line in the face of rising needs, funding cuts, and policy changes, while never losing sight of the long-term work ahead. The generosity of people who love this county made it possible to meet that moment with something more than good intentions.

The Fund for Belonging began with this practice of listening. More than 80 neighbors, organizers, and leaders shaped its priorities before a single grant was made. Donors responded with generosity that moved us deeply, surpassing our first goal and renewing a $500,000 match for 2026. We are grateful, and we know the work is only beginning.

We also launched a new strategic plan rooted in belonging, community voice, and nonprofit strength. It gives us a shared direction for the work ahead and a framework for meeting new challenges and opportunities as they emerge.

What gives me hope is you. Donors who stay curious and committed. Nonprofit partners who lead with courage. Community members who share their stories and shape this work. Together, we are not just responding to today's needs. We are building something that lasts.

There is more to do, and we are honored to do it alongside you.

With gratitude,

Óscar Chávez

President & CEO
Community Foundation Sonoma County



Together We Show Up

Building Relationships Across Sonoma County

Rooted in Relationships

Throughout the year, donors, nonprofit leaders, and community partners came together to learn, connect, and address local issues shaping Sonoma County's future.

300+ Visits with Nonprofit Partners

Our guidance is grounded in local relationships. We spend time with nonprofit partners across the county to understand what communities need and how local giving can help.

Guided by a New Strategic Plan

In 2025, we launched a new strategic plan focused on connection, belonging, and community impact, helping guide our work for the years ahead.

Growing Local Giving Circles

Collective giving continued to grow in Sonoma County. Sebastopol West 100 and Impact Windsor launched in their communities, joining Impact 100 Redwood Circle to grant more than $570,000 locally.

Photo Credit (top from left to right)
Philanthropic Advising Team with Dimple Abichandani
Amy Holter at Coffee & Community Event | Tricia Savelli
Fundholders at our donor event | Michelle Pattee

Supporting Locally Driven Solutions in Sonoma Valley

Regional partner Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund continued investing in innovative approaches to urgent and long-term challenges facing Sonoma Valley communities, demonstrating the power of locally driven solutions and regional partnership.

Investing in Healdsburg's Future

Regional partner Healdsburg Forever brought residents, local leaders, and organizations together around long-term solutions for a thriving Healdsburg community.

Launching the Fund for Belonging

We launched the Fund for Belonging to support immigrant communities across Sonoma County through trusted local partnerships and community-informed grantmaking.



Collective Impact by the Numbers

In 2025, donors, nonprofit partners, and community leaders helped move resources where they were needed most, supporting immediate needs, local organizations, and long-term community priorities across Sonoma County.

This is the power of a community foundation: connecting personal generosity with local knowledge, trusted relationships, and collective impact.

- **$24 million** granted in 2025
- **1,222** grants made
- **556** nonprofit organizations supported
- **$251 million** in total community foundation assets
- **$18 million** in fundholder and donor contributions
- **$355+ million** granted since 1983
- **9 trainings** for **200+ nonprofit leaders** through Resilient Organizations

83% of Funds Stay in Sonoma County

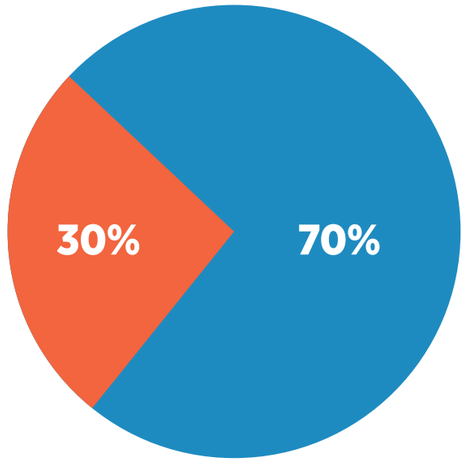
Supporting Community Needs

Animal Welfare	1%
Arts and Culture	6%
Civic Engagement	<1%
Education	15%
Emergency Response & Readiness	6%
Environment & Agriculture	32%
Health & Human Services	36%
Resilient Organizations	3%
Additional Community Support	1%





Kirsten Etherington and Olivia Loes, from our Philanthropic Planning Team, with fundholders at our donor event | Michelle Pattee



- 70% Donor-Advised Grants
- 30% Foundation-Directed Grants

Donor-Advised Payout Rate is 15%.

Donor-advised fundholders put their philanthropy into action in 2025, moving charitable dollars into the community while sustaining resources for future giving.

Giving More, Year After Year

In recent years, charitable giving through the Community Foundation has continued to grow, reflecting deep and ongoing investment in Sonoma County communities.





Irma, Sherman, and Óscar at donor event 2025 | Michelle Pattee

Nurturing the Soil

Irma & Sherman's Story

Irma and Sherman each came to the United States as children and grew up navigating strong anti-immigrant sentiment and exclusion. As Irma describes it, her early experiences felt like being a fish out of water. Irma and Sherman credit the kindness of others helping them along the way, like the teacher who spent her free time helping Sherman learn English in 8th grade.

Both artists, Irma and Sherman are guided by a belief in expression, connection, and the importance of being seen and embraced by your community.

When their son was diagnosed with autism, it transformed their lives. Connecting the experience her son had with her own experience feeling like a "fish out of water," Irma knew how much it mattered to be met with care, dignity, and understanding. In response, Irma and Sherman founded Wings Learning Center, a school created to support children with autism and their families, and later founded De Colores Arts, a Sonoma County program that nurtures the artistic talents of adults on the spectrum.

Together, these efforts reflect their commitment to building more inclusive paths forward for people with autism and their families.

As early supporters of the Fund for Belonging, they are drawn to community-rooted efforts, often investing in organizations before outcomes are certain. They call this "nurturing the soil first," investing in people and ideas with the trust that meaningful change will grow. Their giving reflects a belief that real change begins with how we see and care for one another.

That same philosophy shaped how Sherman approached his business. When it came time to sell his company, he chose not to go with the highest bidder but instead sold to an employee to preserve what was most valuable to him: a community grounded in integrity, care, and personal connection.

Irma and Sherman see their giving as part of a lifelong commitment to community. They believe that real legacy lives in the people you support and the opportunities you help create.



Photo by Michelle Pattee





Elena Chávez Quezada (left) and Katherine Fulton (right) share information on the Fund for Belonging | Tricia Savelli

Fund for Belonging

Investing in the People Who Make Sonoma County Whole

The Fund for Belonging was created to support immigrant communities in Sonoma County.

To shape the fund, we listened to more than 80 nonprofit leaders and community members with lived immigrant experiences. Their insights helped guide the fund's priority areas - access to safe spaces, trusted information, and financial wellbeing for local immigrant communities.

Thanks to the generosity of donors across Sonoma County, we met and exceeded our first $1 million goal, raising $1.3 million dollars from individuals, family foundations and government partnerships.

Building on that momentum, a $500,000 challenge match has been renewed for 2026. Every dollar raised up to $500,000 will be matched, helping us reach a $1 million goal.

$1.3M+ Raised
to support immigrant communities in Sonoma County

$965K Granted Through May 2026
to trusted local organizations

$500K Match Renewed
to help continue this work in 2026

Safe Spaces

The fund's grantees, such as Botanical Bus, North Bay Organizing Project, and River to Coast Children's Services, increase access to safe spaces and wellbeing in many ways, including providing mental health services, improving accessibility at community events, planning for emergencies, and building community power.

Trusted Information

The fund helped launch two new collaboratives to ensure high-quality information sharing that reduces fear and helps local families plan. Sonoma Together and the Trusted Messenger Network bring together nonprofits and community groups to create and share information in accessible ways with those who need it most.

Financial Wellbeing

Through grantees such as Bienestar Collective, Sonoma Family Meal and Vamos North Bay, the fund invested in income generation programs from training in culinary skills to supporting cooperatives and permitting for small businesses. This work is done in recognition that immigrants are key drivers of a thriving economy but are often excluded from the benefits of it.

For a full list of grantees and updates on our program, visit sonomacf.org/belonging.

Giving Together

Suzanne's Story

Suzanne's approach to philanthropy was shaped by her mother, a woman grounded in civic leadership and an appreciation of the arts. Growing up in Iowa during the Great Depression, she later moved to Washington D.C., where at one point she helped respond to the overwhelming letters and requests coming into Eleanor Roosevelt's office. Suzanne's mother was an early champion of Planned Parenthood and devoted to the arts and music as essential elements of a healthy society.

Shaped by the influence of both her mother and father, Suzanne is also deeply committed to her community. She believes that those who are able should give generously, live modestly, and support others in their community. Her approach is simple: learn, care, give.

Through Impact 100 Redwood Circle, she joins hundreds of other women across the county to respond to pressing needs, from fire recovery and food access to the needs of immigrant families.

"Giving circles are a shift from individual interests to a shared responsibility," says Suzanne. Over the past decade, Impact 100 Redwood Circle, a fund of CFSC, has raised and granted about $2 million to 91 organizations across Sonoma County.

Continuing her mother's legacy, Suzanne has recently been concerned with the challenges facing our immigrants and appreciates the Community Foundation's initiative in creating a special fund to address that need.

"There are so many needs in the community," says Suzanne. "Fund a way to respond that resonates with you."

She sees the Community Foundation as a trusted partner in that work. "You can rely on the Foundation to direct resources where they are needed most."

Suzanne's belief is simple –

> When you see a need, try to help. Stay on top of the issues as they change and care enough to act, Just do it.
>
> **It's all our responsibility."**



Suzanne at her home | Tricia Savelli

How We Can Work Together

Give Alongside Others



Collective funds make it possible to move resources where they are needed most and support work that no one person or organization can do alone.

Fund for Belonging

Supports trusted, community-rooted organizations working alongside immigrant communities across Sonoma County.

Resilient Organizations

Strengthens the nonprofit organizations our community depends on by supporting capacity, connection, and long-term resilience.

Community Leadership Fund

Supports CFSC's role as a listener, convener, connector, and philanthropic partner for Sonoma County.

Photo Credit (top from left to right)
Catalyst Executive Director Angela Ryan and donor | Michelle Pattee
Nonprofits gather at annual Coffee & Community | Tricia Savelli
Deirdre Holbrook chats with donors at our donor event | Michelle Pattee

Shape Giving Around Your Goals

Your philanthropy reflects your values and the future you want to help create. Our team can help you shape a giving plan that is personal, flexible, and grounded in local knowledge, whether you're thinking about your family's giving, long-term legacy, or the impact you want to make in Sonoma County.

Learn more, get involved, and support our collective work at

SONOMACF.ORG

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