

INVESTMENT AND IMPACT

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Fall 2011 Snapshot



LEAGUE *of* CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

www.lccf.org

A VIBRANT FORCE FOR GOOD

Community foundations represent a key element of California's philanthropic landscape. As trusted, community-based stewards of local charitable assets, community foundations are growing as effective resources for donors, nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve. In large urban centers, suburban communities and rural areas, California's community foundations provide individuals, families and businesses with a local option for charitable giving. In 2009, 24 of those community foundations, ranging in age from a few years to almost a century, were members of the League of California Community Foundations. This report provides a snapshot of their work and investment in the communities they serve.

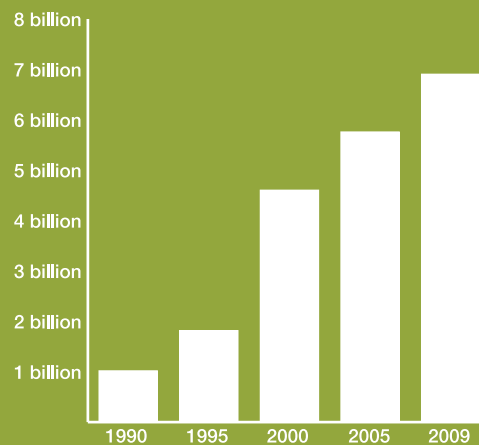
statewide coverage

The League was formed in 1994 in an effort to expand community foundation coverage in California. In 1990, 70% of California's population was served by a community foundation. As of 2009, it was 93%.

1990
2009

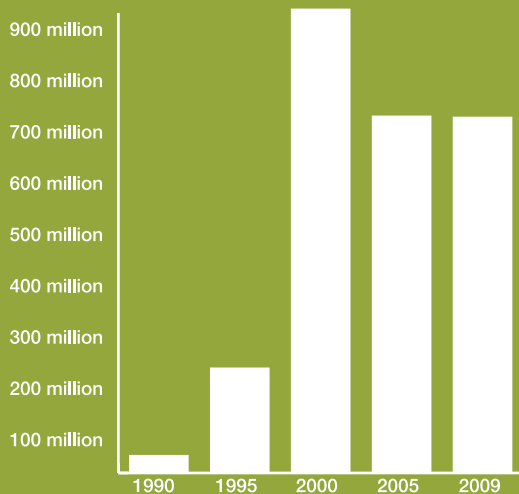
\$7 billion in assets

Community foundations in California represent the greatest statewide concentration of community-focused charitable assets in the United States. The assets of League members have grown at an average annual rate of over 50% since 1990.



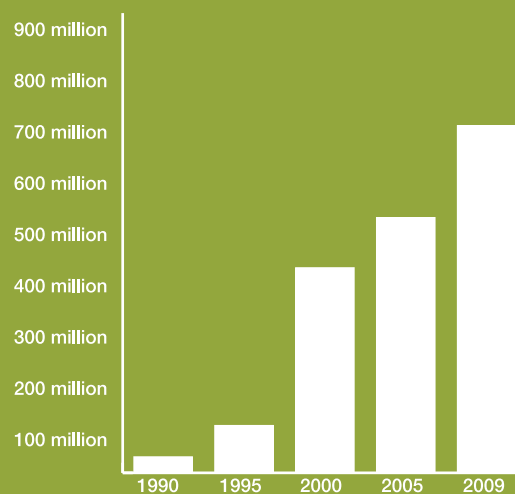
\$724 million in annual gifts

Despite the economic downturn, League members received over 34,000 individual gifts in 2009 totaling \$724 million—10 times that of 1990. More than 5,600 gifts totaling \$57 million were from donors giving to their community foundation for the first time.



\$716 million in annual grantmaking

League member community investments have grown more than 1000% since 1990. In the five years between 2005 and 2009, League members made over \$3.33 billion in grants, a significant contribution to the well-being of local communities across the state.



The number of community foundations represented in the charts above grew from 17 in 1990 to 24 in 2009 as newly founded community foundations joined the League.

Deep Community Connection and Commitment

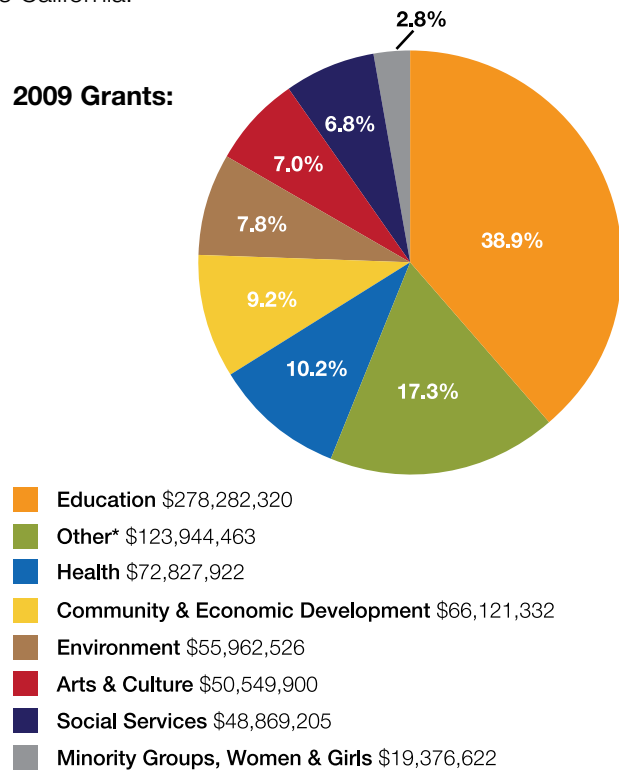
Community foundations are woven into the fabric of their communities. Here are three ways League members are making a lasting difference in the lives of people across California.

Community Responsiveness

League member community foundations respond to a wide range of needs through their grantmaking and that of their donor advisors. They use a mix of responsive and proactive grantmaking strategies to help ensure that their charitable assets are directed toward the areas of highest need and greatest potential impact. Being responsive to continually evolving community needs, problems and opportunities requires flexibility and broad philanthropic vision.

In 2009, the single largest share of community foundation grants (\$278.3 million), was directed towards education. Community health and related grants accounted for more than \$72 million. With the steep and persistent economic downturn, many foundations accelerated a trend towards general operating support for nonprofits providing basic human needs services. A total of \$210 million (approximately 30% of all grants) was directed towards core operating support for key community-based nonprofits.

2009 Grants:



*The "other" category includes operational and technical support to enhance the effectiveness of nonprofit agencies, youth development and recreation, social justice, faith-based programs, science and technology, disaster preparation and relief, public safety and animal welfare.

Scholar Sees a New Future

Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF)

Shirley Palomino grew up so poor she watched as her mother picked through a dumpster for the family's food. Although an excellent student, Shirley could barely imagine herself going to college. No one in her immigrant family ever had.

The turning point came when Shirley volunteered through the Westminster Free Clinic's Teen Healthcare Training, supported by a grant from the Ventura County Community Foundation. The clinic trains teen-age girls in hands-on patient care while constantly reinforcing the importance of higher education.

There, Shirley designed a health-intervention program called **The Teen Promotores Health Outreach**. She went door to door in low-income neighborhoods performing health screenings and educating residents about a good diet and proper exercise.

Shirley became a highly recruited high school senior, and was named a Toyota Community Scholars Top 100 Seniors in the Nation in 2007. Assisted by scholarships she won through VCCF, Shirley will graduate this year from prestigious Wellesley College.



In 2009, League members awarded 3,500 scholarships totaling over \$18 million. That same year, they raised nearly \$12 million in new funds for scholarships from 2,700 donors.

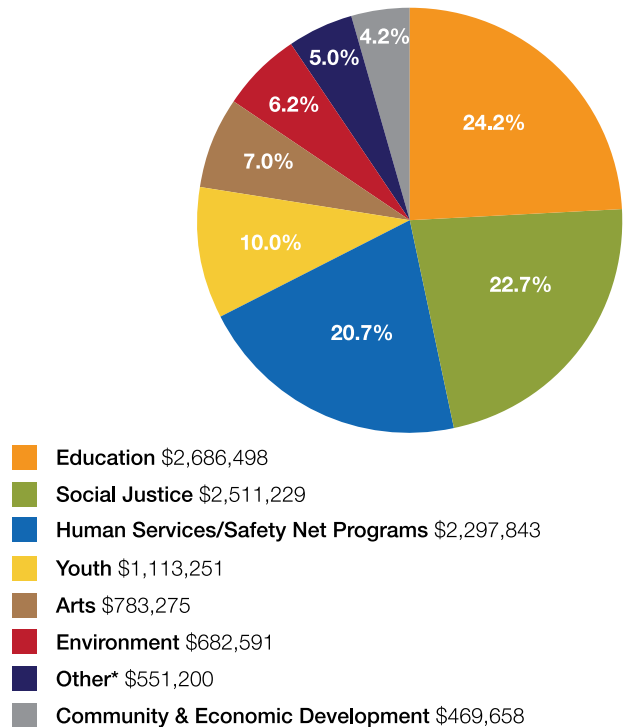
Community Leadership

In addition to their role as local funders, community foundations also serve as a vehicle for bringing new philanthropic resources into their communities. In 2009, League members received nearly \$40 million from other foundations, public agencies and individual donors. The funds were re-granted to more than 400 community-based nonprofit organizations, lifting the overall level of philanthropy in communities across the state.

As community foundations grow in experience and capacity, many are looking to proactive grantmaking strategies to address pressing community problems and needs. Categorized as “initiatives,” these efforts span a wide range of specific issues including youth and families, arts and culture, environment, education, community development and human services/safety net programs.

More than \$11 million was raised in 2009 by the League’s community foundation members for focused, community-based initiatives. The largest single share (24.2%) of these resources was raised to support education, followed closely by social justice (22.7%) and human services/safety net programs (20.7%). The community foundations did this work by challenging their donors and their communities to give generously to help those most in need during the economic crisis.

2009 Special Initiatives:



*The “other” category includes initiatives for: science and technology, women and girls, nonprofit capacity/support, and information access/digital media.

HOPE Is Where the Heart Is The San Francisco Foundation

For too long, San Francisco public housing residents have lived in dilapidated buildings in neglected neighborhoods, with few opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty.

The **Campaign for HOPE SF** is a unique partnership between the city of San Francisco, The San Francisco Foundation, and Enterprise Community Partners. Each is committed to ensuring the transformation of public housing communities in San Francisco, and the lives of those who call them home.

HOPE SF is the nation’s first large-scale public housing transformation effort aimed at de-concentrating poverty and creating vibrant mixed-income communities without mass displacement of current residents. By addressing the needs of both existing and new residents, HOPE SF will integrate high-quality, healthy homes and comprehensive social supports that will transform these blighted neighborhoods into communities of which all of us can be proud.



Capital grants for buildings, equipment and other infrastructure needs exceeded \$24 million (3.5% of all grants) in 2009.

Investing in the Future

Marin Community Foundation (MCF)

Besides supporting broad-based scholarship programs, MCF donors Roland and June Minami have found a niche that reflects their personal interests and experiences.

June Minami was instrumental, 15 years ago, in starting the Asian Scholarship Fund, which supports Marin students with an Asian heritage to attend college. So far, the fund has helped 150 students. And it had another benefit: “For the very first time,” she says, “all the Asian communities in Marin came together to work for a common purpose.”

The Minamis’ support is not just financial. Roland Minami, a physician, has mentored several scholarship recipients in their medical careers. “The money part is secondary,” he says. “The value of someone’s getting help to go to school is affirmation that someone believes in them. It’s not just about furthering their education, but building self-esteem.”

The other way the Minamis are helping young people touches on a painful aspect of American history,

one that they were swept up in as infants. They, along with their families, were held at internment camps for Japanese Americans during World War II—Roland Minami in Arkansas and June in Colorado.

Both attended reunions at the sites of these camps, where they were struck by several things: Teachers in those communities were using the existence of the camps as the basis for lessons in human and civil rights; many students in both places were extremely poor; and adults and young people alike greeted the former internees with kindness and grace.

After attending these reunions, the Minamis decided to start scholarship programs at both of the local high schools in those communities. “They don’t have anything,” says Roland Minami. “It’s an easy way to help.”

Why such a deep commitment to helping young people attend college? “Both of us received scholarships,” says June Minami. “It’s a miracle someone we didn’t know supported us to pursue our education.”



Of the \$11 million raised to support special initiatives during the economic crisis in 2009, 24% went to education, and 23% went to social justice.

Literacy Ensures Early Childhood Success in Richmond

East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF)

The East Bay Community Foundation’s three-year literacy program to reach 4,200 kindergarten students in Richmond’s public schools with new in-class libraries and literacy training is already so successful it is being expanded to provide books for summer reading to combat “summer learning loss.”

The **Richmond Kindergarten Library Initiative** is the result of a partnership put together by the East Bay Community Foundation with a private family foundation; the non-profit literacy specialist, Bring Me A Book; and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

The program is funded through a \$272,000 grant from the Chamberlin Family Foundation to EBCF. The grant allows Bring Me A Book to provide in-class libraries with 30 bilingual books plus annual book replenishments, as well as literacy workshops for parents, caregivers and teachers to learn the importance of reading aloud and ways to create a daily read-aloud routine.

The program impacts all 70 kindergarten classrooms in all 19 Richmond schools, thus reaching 4,200 children and 5,230 parents and caregivers.



In 2009, the single largest share of community foundation grants—more than \$278 million, was directed towards education.

Community Stewardship

Managing Assets Community foundations perform a key role in developing and managing charitable assets on behalf of their communities. Many donors are drawn to the opportunity presented by community foundations to invest charitable resources locally, and to make a meaningful difference in the community they call home. In 2009, the League of California Community Foundations' 24 members reported total assets of \$6.9 billion. Funds advised by donors accounted for 28 percent of all assets, amounting to nearly \$2 billion. Community foundations receive gifts from their donors through a variety of means. More than 10,000 donor advised fund gifts amounting to more than \$372 million were received during this economically difficult year. Bequests of nearly \$90 million accounted for 12.4 percent of all 2009 gifts to the League's community foundations.

Engaging Community Leaders As stewards of a community's charitable assets, community foundations rely heavily on the voluntary participation of community members to guide the organization and to ensure that its work and resources are directed towards the most important issues in the community. In 2009, more than 2,000 individuals volunteered their time as Board members, committee members and in other roles within the community foundations.

Supporting Military Families California Community Foundation, Los Angeles

About 100 people attended the first National Military Survivors Seminar organized by the **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)** in Washington, D.C., in 2008. They came together to connect with other families, share their personal grief over children lost in military service, and gain coping skills. They detailed the heroics of their sons and daughters at war in Iraq or Afghanistan and learned how some parents were honoring a child's short life. They also discovered that many military parents suffered the quiet burden of knowing their child had taken his or her own life, rather than live with the demons of war any longer.

Two grants, in 2007 and 2009 from the **Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF)** made it possible for TAPS to expand the seminars to other regions of the country, and to provide a range of other critical support services to military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. IADIF is a donor advised fund at the California Community Foundation and the largest grantmaker supporting military troops, veterans and dependents outside the U.S. government. From 2006 through 2011, IADIF has awarded more than \$243 million in grants to 53 nonprofits.

Today, TAPS holds seminars for adults and children nationwide to let families know "they are not alone in their grief," says founder Bonnie Carroll. "Grief is not a mental illness, it's the price we pay for loving someone."



Donor advised funds account for nearly \$2 billion (28% of all assets).

Rural Health Grants Leave Children Smiling Kern Community Foundation (KCF)

As a public health nurse, and school nurse to the children of the Kern River Valley, Randy Fieber recognized two major hurdles to the health care of the students he served: lack of access to adequate medical care and lack of education among local families. He and Nancy Puckett, of Kernville Union School District's Children and Family Services, turned to Kern Community Foundation when they conceived the **Bright Smiles Dental Health Project** for children in their area.

With the funds from KCF's rural health initiative, the project provided an oral hygiene awareness program to children at six school sites in kindergarten through eighth grade classrooms. Randy conducted 44 classroom visitations using a "toothy" horse puppet named Jake to help deliver the message.

In addition to learning about good oral hygiene, children all received oral health packets consisting of a tooth brush, floss, tooth paste and a disclosure tablet for home use, as well as oral exams and referrals to dentists in Bakersfield, with transportation, for those who were in need of additional care.

Nearly 1,200 children were able to share their new-found knowledge of good oral hygiene with family members, and with the success of the Bright Smiles program, another existing program, Big Smiles, will travel to the Kernville school campuses this year to provide complete dental care, including x-rays, to those who need it.



In 2009, League members invested more than \$72 million in community health.

Meeting Basic Needs

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Sandra's husband was laid off from his job and was denied unemployment benefits, just a few months after the couple welcomed their fourth child. The Redwood City family had applied for food stamps and other aid, but had not yet been approved. Both parents were without jobs despite their desperate searches and were running out of money for rent. Following a visit from compassionate volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County, an emergency rent payment

was immediately issued to Sandra's landlord to keep them housed. At times when families and individuals like Sandra are in their deepest of struggles, this organization is their safety net. Since December 2008, Silicon Valley Community Foundation has awarded more than \$5.3 million to support safety-net services to organizations that are helping people like Sandra and her family.



Due to the economic downturn, League members significantly increased their grantmaking for basic human needs.

California by the Numbers

37.3 million people, diverse and growing. Most populous state, and a "minority-majority" make up. (2010)

\$1.89 trillion economy. Eighth largest in the world, and more than 13 percent of U.S. total. (2009)

\$43,104 per capita income. U.S. as a whole is \$40,584. Unemployment is significantly higher in California. (2010)

5.6 million individuals live in poverty. Poverty rate is 15.3 percent, compared to U.S. 14.3 percent. (2009)

It Takes a Village

Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF)

Bill Podlich learned about nonprofit "shared spaces" from their success in other communities. In these centers, nonprofits pay affordable leases, share use of common spaces, and often use the opportunity to collaborate on programs and services. Recognizing the benefits of such a model, Bill brought the concept to the Orange County Community Foundation, and was connected to fellow OCCF donor Warren Lortie—a real estate developer and architect.

The pair embarked on an 18-month mission that culminated in the acquisition of a 35,000 square-foot office building now called The Village at 17th.

OCCF incorporated a separate entity to hold title to the building, provided a second mortgage to complete the purchase, and helped secure contributions from other local philanthropists.

The Village, which will provide a home for 15–20 local nonprofits, includes a 2,200 square-foot conference center to be shared by tenants, as well as amenities like a kitchen, break room and copy center. The goal is for The Village to be the first of a number of centers where Orange County nonprofits can share space, resources, relationships, and ideas.



In 2009, donor advisors made 29,500 grants totaling \$459 million through their funds at League member community foundations.

2011 League Members

California Community Foundation www.calfund.org
East Bay Community Foundation www.eastbaycf.org
Fresno Regional Foundation www.fresnoregfoundation.org
Kern Community Foundation www.kernfoundation.org
Marin Community Foundation www.marincf.org
The Community Foundation of Mendocino County www.communityfound.org
Community Foundation for Monterey County www.cfmco.org
Orange County Community Foundation www.oc-cf.org
Pasadena Community Foundation www.pasadenacf.org
The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties www.thecommunityfoundation.net
Sacramento Region Community Foundation www.sacregcf.org
Community Foundation for San Benito County www.cffsbc.org
The San Diego Foundation www.sdfoundation.org
The San Francisco Foundation www.sff.org
San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation www.slocf.org
Santa Barbara Foundation www.sbfoundation.org
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County www.cfsc.org
Shasta Regional Community Foundation www.shastarcf.org
Silicon Valley Community Foundation www.siliconvalleycf.org
Solano Community Foundation www.solanocf.org
Community Foundation Sonoma County www.sonomacf.org
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation www.ttcf.net
Ventura County Community Foundation www.vccf.org
Community Foundation of the Verdugos www.communityfoundationoftheverdugos.org

A total of 24 community foundations are members of the League of California Community Foundations. Members meet the requirements of the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations—ensuring that their philanthropic services are of the highest quality and effectiveness.

www.lccf.org