

# Impact

SUMMER 2024



SACRAMENTO REGION  
**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

IN THIS ISSUE: COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

## Impact In Focus

In the years ahead, we'll make strategic investments to advance health equity in local neighborhoods full of promise.

### ▼ A BRIGHT FUTURE

Powerful partnerships with trusted groups like Improve Your Tomorrow will support the dream of higher education for all.



## VISION

A thriving and resilient region where generosity and collaboration create equitable opportunity.

## MISSION

The Foundation leads, serves, and inspires enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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As an expression of the Foundation's commitment to inspire philanthropy, *Impact* is intended to highlight stories of the impact of charitable giving, and share important lessons and insights we derive from our work in the community. To receive a copy, email [info@sacregcf.org](mailto:info@sacregcf.org).  
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## FROM OUR CEO

# A Message from Kerry



I am proud to share the refined direction of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's community leadership efforts with you: **In the coming years, we will focus our activities on improving health equity in areas within Sacramento and Yolo counties that have faced generations of underinvestment.**

As Kathy McKim, Chair of our Board of Directors, and I describe in the following pages, this new direction was developed over the past year, guided by the wisdom of hundreds of community members. We are deeply grateful to those who offered us their time and trust. I also want to acknowledge the incredible contributions of our Board of Directors, Community Impact Committee, and staff, who demonstrated their commitment to realizing our vision of fostering a thriving and resilient region where generosity and collaboration create equitable opportunities.

I look forward to sharing future updates about our work.

In addition to leadership initiatives, it's our unique privilege to support the philanthropic activities of local people, families, and businesses — such as Lionakis. In this newsletter, you'll learn how we support the Sacramento-based design firm's successful corporate giving program and its President's advice for business leaders interested in creating cultures of giving among their teams.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you feel as inspired as we do about the future of our community. Thank you for your continued support.



Kerry Wood, CFRE  
Chief Executive Officer



## PHILANTHROPY SUMMIT: MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Join fellow philanthropists at the Philanthropy Summit for a day of knowledge-sharing and collaboration with people passionate about fostering an impactful nonprofit ecosystem and inspiring philanthropy in the Sacramento area, culminating with our Celebration of Generosity. ▶ [sacregcf.org/summit](https://sacregcf.org/summit)

Exclusively for fundholders: Look for our emails about the Philanthropy Summit to unlock your complimentary tickets!





*Over five days, local youth painted the mural with the guidance and support of experienced muralists from Hope Through Art.*



# “This is what you can do when everyone puts their gifts into the community.”

— JESUS TARANGO, Chairman of Wilton Rancheria, at the unveiling

On a rainy spring morning, 14 young artists gathered with their friends and family to unveil a mural commemorating the historic renaming of Sacramento's Miwok Middle School (formerly Sutter Middle School), following a community-led movement to remove symbols of racism, oppression, and exclusion from area schools.

The 100-foot wide mural spans the southward facing side of the school gym. According to organizers, it depicts elements of Miwok life, past and present: dancers, oak trees, deer and elk and hawks, tule, and a red handprint to raise awareness of the national crisis of missing and murdered

indigenous women. The piece was painted by Native youth from Sacramento and Yolo counties, who worked with two experienced muralists over five days to create the piece.

A collaboration of Hope Through Art, Sacramento Unified School District, and Native Dads Network, the effort was supported by a grant from our Culture Is Mental Health Project. The Culture Is Mental Health Project fosters positive mental health outcomes for local youth by connecting them with community health workers who reflect their culture, language, and experiences. ▶ [sacregcf.org/cmhp](https://sacregcf.org/cmhp)



**What does tackling health inequities at their root causes look like?** Strengthening the system of food suppliers to ensure healthy food gets to local families, building networks that increase access to mental health services, and advocating for meaningful policy change so future leaders can earn their degrees. ► **Learn more about our activities at [sacregcf.org/impact](https://sacregcf.org/impact).**



Photos courtesy of (clockwise):  
American Indian Summer  
Institute, Yolo Food Bank, and  
Improve Your Tomorrow.





# Impact In Focus


In the years ahead, our grantmaking and collaborations will improve health equity in local communities full of promise.

**KATHY MCKIM**

*Chair of the Board of Directors*

**KERRY WOOD**

*Chief Executive Officer*



Imagine a Sacramento region where every one of our neighbors thrives — a community where every person, every family, has the opportunity to reach their full potential, unimpeded by barriers. This vision of a just and vibrant capital area cannot be realized through quick fixes or temporary solutions. It demands deep change. At the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, we recognize that to realize this vision, we must go beyond merely treating the symptoms of social inequities. We must also transform the systems that perpetuate them.

It's common sense. Creating a Sacramento region where everyone flourishes requires a united, sustained effort to eliminate the inequalities that harm our neighbors, from inadequate access to nutritious food, to under-resourced mental health services, to barriers that prevent educational success. By making targeted investments, we can support those who bear the greatest burdens and build robust systems that ensure a more equitable future for all. **That's why, in the coming years, we will intensify our strategic grantmaking to enhance health equity in communities within Sacramento and Yolo counties that have faced generations of underinvestment and formidable obstacles.**

Health equity is a broad area, you might be thinking. That's why we are narrowing our focus to address health related issues in specific communities. Consider this: in agriculturally abundant Yolo County, nearly one in three households struggle to access affordable, nutritious food, with Black and Latino families disproportionately affected.<sup>1</sup> In Sacramento County, one in five young people grapple with significant mental health challenges, and these issues are most acute among Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ youth.<sup>2</sup>

Building a more just and flourishing Sacramento region demands bold action and innovative solutions. From fostering cross-sector partnerships to advocating for transformative policy changes, our approach is guided by our mission, driven by our values, and accomplished in partnership with community-based organizations, philanthropists, and passionate people who care. People like you.

After all, bringing together neighbors to invest in local solutions to complex problems is one of our specialties. These efforts to improve health equity renew and deepen past work: Our long-term partnerships in the food ecosystem helped limit food insecurity as it skyrocketed during the pandemic. In the last year alone, we stewarded over \$300,000 to increase mental health supports for youth-focused partners. And through millions of scholarships over the past four decades, your philanthropic investments in education continue to support a healthy future for students

Through those efforts and others, we know that impactful philanthropic initiatives are built on collaborations marked by trust and care. We developed this new direction for our work during a year-long, community-centered process. Our staff and Board of Directors pored over landscape analyses and listened to the insights of hundreds of individuals who are closest to the challenges we wish to solve — together. We thank those of you who offered us time and trust in this process; your voices will continue to guide our efforts forward, to ensure a brighter, more equitable future for all who call this region home.

Now, let's get to work!

Visit our website for more details, including insights from our team regarding the focus in Sacramento and Yolo counties and how you can get involved.

► [sacregcf.org/impact](https://sacregcf.org/impact)

<sup>1</sup> Yolo Food Bank's Yolo County Food Access Survey Report

<sup>2</sup> NAMI; Stop Sigma Sacramento



# Designing Good

How Lionakis started its successful giving program.



**LAURA KNAUSS**

*Lionakis President & Chair of  
Lionakis Foundation's volunteer  
leadership team*

In 2009, a group of leaders at Lionakis set out to enhance the firm's charitable giving efforts, resulting in the creation of the Lionakis Foundation, housed at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Its mission is: "To promote, through philanthropic giving and volunteerism, a better future for the communities in which we live and work." This remains our cornerstone.

From its inception, the Lionakis Foundation has been employee-led, ensuring active staff involvement in the company's philanthropic values. We offer flexible giving options to encourage participation. For example, during orientation, new employees are invited to contribute \$5 each pay period to the Lionakis Foundation; while it's completely voluntary, about 25% participate. Many employees give annually through one-time donations or unused paid time off,



*Lionakis team members and their families during an Alzheimer's Association event*

and we also encourage employees to organize volunteer days and work at nonprofit events.

Additionally, the firm contributes proceeds from its annual golf tournament, provides \$100 for each employee who volunteers during the year, and matches the first \$100 an employee donates. As a result, each of our 185 employees can direct an additional \$200 through the Lionakis Foundation!

Then, once a year, employees nominate and vote for causes they care about, and we allocate grants to these organizations across the communities we serve.

This year, our giving will expand due to our growing endowment. When we established the Lionakis Foundation, the firm set a goal to raise \$1 million for the endowment by 2027, reflecting our commitment to long-term community impact. Remarkably, we achieved this goal three years early, demonstrating the power of employee generosity and sound financial stewardship.

My message to business leaders

interested in enhancing their company's philanthropic efforts is simple: Just start. What we've done to build the Lionakis Foundation isn't groundbreaking. We simply made it a priority and are proud to see it produce positive returns for our communities, our team — and our industry. For instance, hosting our annual golf tournament is a significant fundraiser for the Lionakis Foundation and a community-building event for our partners, who often ask me how we built a cohesive philanthropic plan.

I tell them that we were motivated so we decided to try and, with support from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, it's worked. The results demonstrate that, with strong commitment from leadership and employee involvement, businesses of any size can make a meaningful difference. The key is to take that first step and make philanthropy a priority, fostering a culture of giving that benefits everyone involved. ▶ **Learn about corporate giving services at [sacregcf.org/business](https://sacregcf.org/business).**



## BY THE NUMBERS

# \$104M

Amount raised for local nonprofits since we began Big Day of Giving in 2013. This year, donors gave more than \$13.2 million to area nonprofits during the day-long celebration of philanthropy! ▶ **Review giving insights at [sacregcf.org/bdog](https://sacregcf.org/bdog)**



**westernhealth**  
ADVANTAGE







## SPRING MIXER

New and seasoned fundholders connected at our recent Spring Mixer — and were the first to learn about the future of our grantmaking and leadership efforts, which are possible because of their continued support!

► See more photos at [facebook.com/sacregcf](https://facebook.com/sacregcf)



## CULTIVATE CELEBRATION

During the final meeting of Cultivate, our program to nourish connection and collaboration among leaders of color at small nonprofits, we surprised Shacunda Rodgers, founder of Holding Space, with a \$10,000 grant, awarded based on a vote from fellow members of the cohort. “I am in disbelief,” she said.

We are grateful to Marisa DeSalles, who facilitated Cultivate, and donors to our Impact Fund and RCA Community Fund for sponsoring the program this year. ► [sacregcf.org/cultivate](https://sacregcf.org/cultivate)





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## Give Smarter to Local Nonprofits

Accessible year-round at [givingedge.org](http://givingedge.org), GivingEdge is the website that hosts Big Day of Giving — which will be held Thursday, May 1, 2025. It contains hundreds of profiles of the nonprofits that serve our entire region. We'd like to introduce you to one.

### PLACER LAND TRUST

People are drawn to Placer County for its stunning landscapes, rich agricultural heritage, and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. Placer Land Trust believes these natural wonders provide a rich quality of life for all living things today and in the future. Protecting these landscapes is essential to successfully build and sustain connections among people, their community, and the natural environment.

► Find Placer Land Trust on GivingEdge at [givingedge.org](http://givingedge.org)

To stay updated on the latest in our work, subscribe to the Foundation's e-newsletter and follow our social media channels.

► [sacregcf.org/contact](http://sacregcf.org/contact)

*Courtesy photo by DJ Glisson II*