

Impact

FALL 2025



SACRAMENTO REGION
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

IN THIS ISSUE

Investing in Opportunity

Over \$300,000 in grant funding marks the launch of community-led efforts to support youth in Del Paso Heights.

ALSO INSIDE

Photos from the
Philanthropy Summit



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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COVER

Photo courtesy of Improve Your Tomorrow

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. © 2025 Sacramento Region Community Foundation. All rights reserved.



FROM OUR CEO

A Message from Kerry



I'm occasionally asked how the generosity of local philanthropists works in tandem with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's long standing program like Big Day of Giving and our new focus area of health equity. Here's my response:

We champion local philanthropy for the well-being of the Sacramento region. At the heart of everything we do are the people who give back — individuals, families, and business leaders who connect their generosity with meaningful causes, using our philanthropic services to achieve their giving goals. Their partnership makes all our work possible.

Alongside these services, the Foundation leads focused efforts to build lasting community strength. Programs like Big Day of Giving and Cultivate, which strengthen nonprofits across the region, are joined by research-driven investments to advance health equity, including:

- Strengthening food access in Yolo County.
- Expanding educational opportunities for youth in Sacramento's Del Paso Heights neighborhood.

In short, we bring people together to create lasting change through local philanthropy, and have for more than 40 years. In this issue of *Impact*, you'll see examples of each facet of our work — and, I hope, the potential that generosity unlocks for our future.

Kerry Wood, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. We'd love to share insights on local giving and the power of philanthropy with your group. ▶ **Invite a Foundation speaker to your next meeting or event at sacregcf.org/speaker.**

NEW REPORT: CULTIVATE'S SUCCESS

A new report from our program to support leaders of color at local nonprofits, Cultivate, shows powerful results. Participants' fundraising confidence grew, every leader left feeling more connected to their peers, and many exceeded their Big Day of Giving goals, with some doubling or even tripling their previous year's totals.

▶ sacregcf.org/cultivate

2024-2025
CULTIVATE IMPACT REPORT
GROWING EQUITY IN PHILANTHROPY

Cultivate is helping to close the fundraising gap for local nonprofits with leaders who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). A program of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Cultivate builds skills, deepens relationships, and increases dollars raised, so more organizations can thrive in service to our region's diverse communities. **Here's how.**

BACKGROUND
In 2022, data from the Sacramento Region Community

38% Less Raised
30% Fewer Gifts

71% Members Now Confident in Fundraising



Members of APIs RISE

“Our giving circle’s goal is to create a pipeline for Asian American and Pacific Islander philanthropic leadership in the region. It’s a mission that’s been helped tremendously by the Foundation.”

— VINCE SALES, founding member of APIs RISE

Over the past decade, APIs RISE has awarded more than \$250,000 through its Giving Circle Fund at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, strengthening the capacity, impact, and visibility of Asian Pacific Islander (API) philanthropy throughout the Sacramento region.

APIs RISE began as a conversation and evolved into a movement. Motivated by the region’s rapidly growing API population — and the desire to ensure local philanthropy reflected that growth — its founders mobilized a network of leaders united by a vision of collective generosity and community empowerment.

Today, APIs RISE continues to support health, education, and leadership programs that uplift API communities and expand the culture of giving among its members. Its success demonstrates the power of people coming together around shared values and a shared purpose.

► **Hosting your giving circle at the Foundation makes it easy to give back, together. Learn more and get started at sacregcf.org/giving-circle.**

Investing in Opportunity

Over \$300,000 in new funding marks the beginning of the Foundation's community-led efforts to support youth in Sacramento's Del Paso Heights.

AMY E. BROWN

Community Impact Manager

When young people have the opportunity to succeed — in school, at home, and in their communities — their confidence grows, their opportunities expand, and their futures open wide. Yet in Sacramento's Del Paso Heights, systemic barriers have long made it harder for families to access the same opportunities available elsewhere in our region.

I've seen this disparity up close. For too long, opportunity has depended on where a child lives rather than on their potential. That reality drives our work to expand educational outcomes and invest in youth well-being, because every child deserves the chance to thrive.

This effort builds on the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's long-standing commitment to expand educational

access and support students through decades of scholarship giving. It also reflects our broader mission to advance health equity across the region, focusing our energy where it can make the greatest difference — in communities rich with potential but affected by generations of underinvestment.

In 2025, we awarded \$300,000 to 16 to local organizations serving Del Paso Heights. These investments are strengthening educational opportunities, expanding access to mental health care, and creating environments where young people can grow, lead, and belong.

A portion of the funding comes from The Neighborhood Fund, established in 2021 by a local donor to support nonprofits rooted in Del Paso Heights. Recognizing both the generosity behind this fund and the growing need among nonprofits — as more than half of local nonprofits report the impacts of public funding

cuts — the Foundation contributed an additional \$250,000 from our Impact Fund to extend its reach and deepen its impact.

The work these grants support is diverse and deeply needed. One grantee, First Step Communities, will use its award to provide additional therapy at The Grove, a 50-unit tiny cabin community for youth ages 18 to 24. "This therapy will pave the way for more youth to build emotional intelligence and develop the skills they need to face life's challenges," its Director of The Grove, Alexander Garlinger, told us.

That's powerful. And it's only the beginning. Our goal is to help build a lasting ecosystem of opportunity in Del Paso Heights — one shaped by the people who live there and supported by those who believe, as I do, that when young people thrive, families are stronger, and when families flourish, our entire community prospers.



The 16 nonprofits that provide critical services in Del Paso Heights and received portions of the funding from the Neighborhood Fund and Impact Fund are:

- 916 Ink
- Bright Braille
- Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance
- Feed Sacramento Homeless
- First Step Communities
- FosterHope Sacramento
- Hike and Hit
- Hmong Youth and Parents United
- Improve Your Tomorrow
- Mercy Holistic Ministries
- Neighborhood Wellness Foundation
- NorCal Resist
- Roberts Family Development Center
- Sacramento Native American Health Center
- TruKidz
- Youth Forward

Photos courtesy of Improve Your Tomorrow, Sierra Service Project, TruKidz, and Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance



Join Us

You can support efforts like this with a gift to the Impact Fund. Contribute at your preferred level and join the Impact Collaborative, a network of changemakers dedicated to building a vibrant region and join exclusive gatherings. ▶ sacregcf.org/impact-fund



A Smart Solution for Giving



When the Shulocks discovered how to give through their IRA, they found a tax-savvy strategy and a new way to invest in the causes they love.

CHELSA FAHR, CFRE
Senior Director of Philanthropy

When Chuck and Nancy Shulock learned they could make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) directly from their IRA — tax-free and counted toward their required minimum distributions — they saw an opportunity to give in a way that matched their values. What they didn't expect was that this discovery would lead them to create a new way to strengthen their community.

The Shulocks had already opened a Donor Advised Fund at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, but when they considered growing their existing charitable fund using QCDs, they hit

an unexpected snag: Federal rules don't allow QCDs to be contributed to Donor Advised Funds.

Rather than stop there, they got curious. Together with our staff, Chuck and Nancy found a solution that fit: a Field of Interest Fund, one of several types of charitable funds we offer that can receive QCDs. These funds allow donors to identify the issues or areas they care most about, and our team draws on community knowledge and philanthropic expertise to direct grants to organizations doing vital work in those areas.

"Chuck and I opened a Donor Advised Fund at the Foundation to have an efficient way to support numerous nonprofits," Nancy said.

"The Field of Interest Fund that we opened to accept QCDs is a great way to implement our tax and charitable giving strategies. Even though we can't pick individual organizations, we get to choose fields where we most want to support our community — and we trust the Foundation will make good choices in line with our values."

The Shulocks shaped their Field of Interest Fund to reflect their passions: strengthening the local food economy, supporting youth, and celebrating the arts. For them, this second fund is another tool to help their community thrive — a tax-savvy way to give that deepens their connection to the causes they care about most.

Tips from Your Philanthropy Team: **Year-End Giving**



Consider donating appreciated assets like stocks — or, if you're 70½ or older, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA — to fuel your charitable fund. **Both options can reduce taxes this year and increase philanthropic assets at work in our region.**
— Kelly Siefkin



Giving unrestricted support to organizations you love means their leaders will direct your donation where it'll make the most difference. And as you consider year-end gifts, turn to GivingEdge to uncover new ways to make a difference, right here in our region.
— Yolanda Gaffney



Invite your loved ones to join you in giving and spark a lifelong spirit of generosity, just like the family behind the Dragonfly Fund. Giving Tuesday, on December 2, is a great opportunity. Flip to the back to learn how our region's nonprofit database, GivingEdge, makes it easy and fun!
— Brigid Powers



PHILANTHROPY SUMMIT SUCCESS

In September, 450 people gathered for our second Philanthropy Summit, a day of knowledge-sharing and collaboration aimed at fostering a vibrant philanthropic ecosystem in the Sacramento region. The event kicked off with Association of Fundraising Professionals, California Capital Chapter's National Philanthropy Day luncheon and concluded with our annual Celebration of Generosity mixer. Special thanks to the event's sponsors, including River City Bank, National University/ Fundraising Academy, and Nugget Markets.

▶ See more photos at facebook.com/sacregcf. Watch highlights and the keynote at sacregcf.org/summit.





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Winters Education Foundation used funds raised on its GivingEdge profile to purchase biographies for its community's middle school library.

Give Smarter to Local Nonprofits

GivingEdge is the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's website that powers Big Day of Giving. Visit givingedge.org to:

1. Discover more than 850 local nonprofits and give to multiple organizations in one easy transaction — all year-round, on Giving Tuesday (December 2, 2025), and Big Day of Giving (May 7, 2026)!
2. Find nonprofit events, volunteer opportunities, and board openings.
3. Create or update your free Giving Profile to share the causes you care about and inspire others to give local, too!



Speaking of Big Day of Giving, mark your 2026 calendars to give on Thursday, May 7, 2026! Consider sponsoring the effort through your company or Donor Advised Fund.

