Impact

FALL 2026

SACRAMENTO REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

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Reaching Greater Heights

A new initiative strengthens organizations serving youth in Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento



Impact

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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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ON THE COVER
Photos from Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento and the awardees of the new capacity building grant serving the area

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.
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SACRAMENTO REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY



FROM OUR CEO

A Message from Kerry

Giving should not be a private act. That was the message Cherian Koshy shared with a jam-packed room of 600 people at our Philanthropy Summit in September, and it's stayed with me ever since.

His point is simple. People give more when they see someone like them giving, and each visible giver makes it a little easier for the next person to say, "Yes, I'll give to causes I love, too." For anyone who wants to see local giving grow in the Sacramento region, and our community grow stronger for years to come, that's encouraging news.

All of us have a part to play. So please join me in sharing your story, in whatever way feels right to you. Post about it online, or mention it over dinner with someone you love. Take Cherian's advice and start the conversation!

You'll see this same spirit in Michele McCormick's story, and it's the kind of openness that can build support for the organizations featured in our Chief Impact Officer's piece later in these pages.

If you missed the Summit, or would like to see Cherian's keynote again, you can watch the full presentation at sacregcf.org/summit. As always, I'm grateful for your partnership and generosity.

Warmest wishes,

Kerry Wood
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.**

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Nora Moore Jimenez has joined the Board of Directors, and Emily Squier is our Administrative Assistant.
▸ sacregcf.org/our-team







Impact Collaborative Tour & Toast at Women's Empowerment

"Being able to learn about the organizations, tour the sites personally, hear the compelling stories of the residents served, were moving to me. The Impact Collaborative is a brilliant idea and is perfect for those of us who are grounded in charitable giving, on a personal level."

— ALEXIS TAYLOR-GRANADOS, Impact Collaborative member

As the Foundation's giving circle, the Impact Collaborative brings generous people in our region together to pool resources while making a difference in our community. In September, the Impact Collaborative hosted a Tour & Toast at Women's Empowerment, where Executive Director Lisa Culp shared how the organization supports women in our community as they build job skills, confidence, and a path to stable housing and employment.

▸ Become a member of the Impact Collaborative to gain access to these events, join a community of generous people, and gain your vote for what causes it supports at sacregcf.org/impact-collaborative.



Reaching Greater Heights

A new grant strengthens the nonprofit teams serving youth, providing support beyond programmatic funding.

JESSICA HUBBARD
Chief Impact Officer

Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento are neighborhoods with deep roots and a long tradition of neighbors looking out for one another. Over the decades, major shifts have shaped daily life here, including annexation to Sacramento in 1964, the construction of Highway 160, and the closing of McClellan Air Force Base.[1] Each brought change to local jobs, connections, and public investment.

Through it all, residents have stepped up. They've organized, spoken up for what their community needs, and worked to build places where people of all ages can learn, grow, and thrive.

Decades of underinvestment has shaped Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento, as has the resilience of the people who live and work there. When the community identified health equity as the focus for the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's strategic impact work in 2024, residents pointed to youth mental health and education as the place to start. The Foundation's new grant is a next step: $100,000 over two years for each of five nonprofits based in and serving these neighborhoods.

Most nonprofit funding pays for programs. This grant instead funds capacity building—investing in professional development, engagement frameworks, data systems, and more to strengthen the people, structures, and planning that keep organizations running and forge better systems of support for young people.

This effort is built completely on trust in local leaders and on what nonprofits have told us they need most:

- **Multi-year support**: Each grantee receives $100,000 over two years. Nonprofit leaders consistently say multi-year funding helps them plan ahead.
- **Flexible funding**: This grant specifically strengthens the unique infrastructural and administrative needs of each organization. Nonprofit leaders will use it to update data systems, develop their staffs' professional skills and expertise, and build upon their organizational infrastructure so they can do their work more efficiently moving forward.
- **Meaningful connections**: These organizations are headquartered in and serve Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento, work with youth ages 12-18, and have a strong local track record. This keeps resources in the community long-term. More importantly, nonprofit leaders have another touchpoint with one another, allowing them to share resources in a space focused on their common goal.

Nonprofit leaders are already doing good in their communities; that's why they show up every day. Organizations based in and serving Del Paso Heights and North Sacramento have been doing this work for decades. With support to strengthen their systems, they can build on that heart and drive for the long haul. And they can keep moving forward knowing their community is in their corner, backing them up.

▸ Support the region's greatest needs by donating to the Impact Fund at sacregcf.org/impact.



Meet the Grantees



Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance

Mission: *To build sustainable neighborhoods and circular economies through policy, advocacy, and experiential education.*

Goal: Formalize the mental health support it already weaves into its programs by growing its board, developing staff skills, improving how it tracks and coordinates support for youth, exploring licensing and Medi-Cal billing, and building ways to show how environmental programs affect education, emotional well-being, and workforce readiness.

Hmong Youth and Parents United

Mission: *To empower underserved communities by providing culturally sensitive educational, social, and economic resources.*

Goal: Create a Youth Mentorship Tracking System for its Youth Mentorship Circle program that will follow young people over time, so staff can check in as they head to college, trade school, or other paths, and invite past participants back for feedback.

Mutual Assistance Network

Mission: *To advance social and economic opportunities so families can thrive.*

Goal: Develop a Youth Engagement Framework so young people's voices shape how the whole organization operates, not just individual programs. The work includes feedback tools, staff training, and written guides so references remain for future leaders.

Neighborhood Wellness Foundation

Mission: *To navigate and disrupt intergenerational poverty and trauma in Del Paso Heights and surrounding Sacramento neighborhoods.*

Goal: Build the systems to bill Medi-Cal for the services it provides, creating steady new funding for its work. It will also invest in its team through leadership training, wellness support, and a path for Neighborhood Navigators to become certified Peer Support Specialists.

Sacramento Youth Center

Mission: *To provide youth with tools and life changing experiences to overcome their personal and socio-economic obstacles.*

Goal: Integrate information from case notes, school partner reports, and program trackers into one data system, expanding its ability to turn data into insight, inspire investment, and amplify the stories of the youth it serves.

1 Pauline Bartolone, "North Sacramento was annexed decades ago. Some residents say the City has long neglected it." *CapRadio*, August 29, 2022



PHILANTHROPIC INSIGHT

Learning From Loss

After losing loved ones, Michele McCormick shares why planning ahead brings comfort, and how to start.

REBEKAH RABIROFF
Director of Legacy Giving



Michele McCormick

Photographer Michele McCormick found the Foundation nearly 20 years ago, through friends who served on the Board of Directors. That early connection grew into a conversation with her husband about supporting the places closest to their hearts through their estate plan, including Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and the UC Davis veterinary clinic.

Soon, Michele opened a Donor Advised Fund for giving during her lifetime and outlined her planned giving intentions in a memorandum, which she reviews every few years.

Since then, Michele has lost both of her parents and her husband in close succession.

Those experiences showed her how often the practical side of loss catches people off guard, and she now champions the benefits of planning for loss, even when the conversations are hard.

Know where every password lives, she advises, and keep some funds in your name only, since jointly held money can be frozen while an estate is settled. Her mother had pre-arranged her own cremation, which meant Michele could handle everything with one phone call.

Michele's advice for getting started is simple: ask a loved one, "What is important to you? What are the things you want to support going forward?" Some people will answer clearly, others won't, and that's all right.

When her husband died, Michele honored him with an endowed charitable fund rather than a memorial bench, because a fund keeps supporting the causes he loved every year. For her mother, she looked at how she had lived and chose to support a performing arts center, honoring her Mississippi roots and her love of music.

To a hesitant friend, Michele is direct: "The main thing is to just do it." Having a plan has given her one less thing to carry during a heavy time. If you haven't talked with your family about your wishes, her story is a gentle nudge. The conversation is easier to have now than later.

▸ See more of Michele's advice at sacregcf.org/learning-from-loss

BY THE NUMBERS

$1.8M

Scholarships awarded to nearly 350 students this year, including 13 recipients of the new Community Scholarship, funded by pooled gifts.
▸ sacregcf.org/students

SPONSOR GENEROSITY & SHOW UP FOR OUR REGION

Sponsoring an event is a simple way to invest in the community you call home! Your support for Big Day of Giving, the Philanthropy Summit, and other gatherings brings together donors, nonprofit leaders, and neighbors who care. Sponsors also build lasting relationships with the people who make local generosity happen, and share their commitment to our community with an engaged, giving-minded audience.

Local businesses and families sponsor many of the Foundation's best-loved events. **▸ See opportunities and packages at sacregcf.org/sponsor**

FUTURE OF GENEROSITY: 2026 PHILANTHROPY SUMMIT

The third annual Philanthropy Summit drew over 600 attendees for a full day of learning and connection. Fundholders, nonprofit leaders, sponsors, and community members enjoyed an inspiring welcome plenary led by keynote speaker, Cherian Koshy, and celebrated this year's National Philanthropy Day honorees. **▸ sacregcf.org/summit**









CULTIVATE

Members of Cultivate, our program focused on nourishing connection and collaboration among leaders of color at local nonprofits and cloing the pervasive fundraising gaps that affect them, gather quarterly for networking events.
▸ sacregcf.org/cultivate.



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Give Smarter to Local Nonprofits

Accessible year-round at givingedge.org, GivingEdge is the website that hosts Big Day of Giving. It contains hundreds of profiles of the nonprofits that serve our entire region. We'd like to introduce you to one.

PLACER LAND TRUST

Since 1991, Placer Land Trust has worked with willing landowners and conservation partners to permanently preserve and protect over 22,000 acres of natural and agricultural land in Placer County for current and future generations.

▸ **Find Placer Land Trust on GivingEdge at givingedge.org**

Visit GivingEdge to discover upcoming events and volunteer opportunities — including board service openings — at nearly 900 local nonprofits! Register for occasional emails: