Los Altos Community Foundation serves Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and the surrounding area by promoting community building – those activities and facilities that give our community its favorable character and make it a desirable place to live and work for all generations and cultures.
Moving Forward with Optimism

It has been an exciting transitional year for the Los Altos Community Foundation, and one that gives us great optimism for the future. Joe Eyre recently became LACF’s new Executive Director and Roy Lave has retired after successfully starting and leading the Foundation for 22 years.

Roy and LACF’s Founders began with the simple idea of creating an organization that enables the community to address issues and realize dreams by pooling its resources, both financially and through volunteerism. Roy deserves tremendous credit for all he has done for our community and will remain involved as Executive Director Emeritus. In his honor LACF recently started the “Roy Lave Fund for Youth and Community” to which many have contributed.

LACF has positively impacted our “community” – Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View – by giving millions of grant dollars to scores of local non-profits and projects since 1992. This marks the seventh year that the David and Lucile Packard Foundation has entrusted LACF to annually re-grant $200,000 to local non-profits. In addition, LACF hosts Donor Advised and Designated funds that have granted millions of dollars locally and nationally.

Our community’s needs are continuously evolving. LACF is the only local organization that addresses new issues and emerging opportunities through its grants and programs. We currently have 18 managed and sponsored programs. MVLA Community Scholars, for example, provides mentoring and scholarships to students who are the first in their family to attend college. Another program, WomenSV, addresses the unspoken issue of domestic violence in our affluent community.

We continue to manage the Neutra House on Hillview Avenue and offer it as a beautiful conference facility for nonprofits, businesses and other organizations. And our Los Altos PREPARE program was recently started to help educate and train the community to be resilient in the event of a disaster.

Looking forward, LACF plans to inspire and foster our community to be a philanthropic center and we will accomplish this by creatively addressing existing and emerging social issues. The board is evolving to reflect the talent and outreach needed to make this happen.

LACF will further its impact through additional local grant-making and we’ll help local foundations, companies and individuals play a larger community role by increasing their financial and volunteer support.

Through fiscal sponsorship LACF uniquely provides a 501(c)(3) umbrella that enables local social entrepreneurs to operate as nonprofits while focusing on their missions. We plan to create vital new programs to build community identity, belonging, and resiliency. And finally, LACF will provide and foster community leadership and convene groups to promote dialogue that embraces diversity and promotes compassion, understanding, and action.

We thank the hundreds of families who have enabled the Los Altos Community Foundation to carry out their philanthropic goals for enriching our community. To everyone, we invite you to participate in shaping the future of our community, now and for future generations, by being part of the Los Altos Community Foundation.

Claudia Coleman                 Sherie Dodsworth                     Joe Eyre
Board Co-Chair                    Board Co-Chair              Executive Director

Claudia Coleman
Board Co-Chair

Sherie Dodsworth
Board Co-Chair

Joe Eyre
Executive Director

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Staff: Monica Davis, Geneva de Paola, Hank Drew, Joe Eyre, Vanessa Yamzon
Roy Lave, Executive Director Emeritus
Los Altos Community Foundation ended Fiscal 2013 with a solid balance sheet and positive revenues. Assets grew 8% and net revenue was $226,242. Both of these increases were primarily due to investment gains and increased contributions into Donor Advised Funds. Of the net revenue, the Foundation’s annual operating budget contributed $37,117, due to increased donor contributions and close expense management.

80 cents of Every Dollar is Spent on Grants and Programs
Grantmaking
Positive Impact for the Community

The Los Altos Community Foundation has provided millions of dollars of grants for local nonprofits, projects, and scholarships since 1992.

- The Community Grants Program has granted over $1.1 million dollars since 1992. Much of this is through an annual re-granting program that LACF operates for The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Additional community grants have come from local donors.
- E3 (E-cubed) Youth Philanthropy Program teaches junior high and high school students about non-profit effectiveness, service, and grantmaking. As part of this program the students evaluate applications and grant $10,000 per year to local youth-oriented causes.
- MVLA Community Scholars provides mentoring and scholarships for students who are the first in their family to attend college. The program has granted 4-year scholarships to more than 225 scholars and plans to grant another $200,000 this year.
- Donor Advised and Designated Funds enable individuals and organizations to set up funds for grantmaking while offering the donors charitable tax deduction benefits. These funds have granted over $11 million dollars since LACF began, much of it locally.

LACF Community Grants Categories -- FY13

Some of the 2012-2013 Community Grants Program Recipients include:


Managed and Sponsored Programs
Addressing Community Needs

The Los Altos Community Foundation both manages and fiscally sponsors programs to meet our evolving community needs.

LACF's nine managed programs help carry out LACF’s mission of building a better community through work in areas such as community leadership, education of youth in nonprofits and granting, mediation, scholarships for students who are the first in their family to attend college, new concepts for senior quality of life, community emergency preparedness, understanding the truth behind local community issues and providing resources for victims of domestic violence.

Fiscal sponsorships enable social entrepreneurs to instantly gain 501(c)(3) nonprofit status under our fiscal umbrella. This enables them to dive into their mission without filing expensive and time-consuming paperwork. Some of these programs, such as the Living Classroom, eventually grow to “leave the nest” and become their own nonprofit.

At this time LACF sponsors nine programs that facilitate community building, coordination of local service clubs, scholarships for underserved students to local arts programs, and a community orchestra and more.

LACF Program Spotlight: The Center for Age Friendly Excellence (CAFE)

Anabel Pelham, a SFSU professor of gerontology, recently started CAFE to advance our community’s understanding of healthy, sustainable, and engaged intergenerational communities.

CAFE will drive transformational change and study and develop Los Altos and Los Altos Hills as model age-friendly “living labs” with the intention of extending evidence-based practice to other communities.
In addition to serving as a catalyst to fund and generate community building activities, LACF also provides investment vehicles for families or groups that wish to create temporary or permanent funds for the support of charitable causes.

Philanthropic funds provide donors maximum flexibility, immediate tax benefits, tax free growth of funds, the ability to schedule charitable contributions over time, a record of donations, and freedom from the responsibility and cost of legal and administrative details required for a private family foundation.

LACF manages two types of funds:

- **Donor Advised Funds** enable a family to endow a program of giving while advising the Foundation on donations made from the fund.
- **Designated Funds** are similar to donor advised funds except the purpose of the fund is specified at its creation.

“Last year we opened a Donor Advised Fund with LACF. We used LACF because our donation of privately held stock required special treatment and sophistication, which LACF provided. We felt like this was a win-win-win for us as donors, for the Foundation, and ultimately for the local community causes that we support.”

Rich Strock

Los Altos Community Foundation leads the community in addressing issues and seizing opportunities by promoting dialogue to facilitate understanding and action. LACF has operated its annual Leadership class (LEAD) since 1996, introducing over 300 residents and businesspeople to local community organizations and leaders so they can understand how the community works and find ways to contribute.

LACF hosts the Community Roundtable, a group of representatives from Los Altos and Mountain View service clubs working together to coordinate scholarship awards and service activities. This group recently developed an online scholarship “common application” to make it easier for students to apply.

LACF has sponsored a facilitator for talks between LASD and the Bullis Charter school, both recently and in 2005. To resolve disputes between neighbors, businesses, and/or municipal agencies, LACF co-sponsors the Los Altos Mediation Program, in conjunction with the City of Los Altos and the Town of Los Altos Hills. Going forward, LACF will continue to bring people and groups together to benefit the community.

What can LACF do for you?

- Provide a grant to support your organization/community project
- Sponsor your new non-profit idea or community project using our 501(c)(3) umbrella
- Establish a Donor Advised Fund to enable you to quickly and easily make tax-favorable charitable donations
- Enable you to volunteer for any number of rewarding, fun, and worthy causes
- Engage you with the leaders and doers in our community
- Provide mediation for hard-to-resolve conflicts
- Facilitate a gathering of people or organizations with a community/charitable purpose
- Teach you and your family about philanthropy
LACF was launched in 1991 thanks to the generous and far-sighted vision of many local citizens and businesses. These early supporters were permanently designated as “Founders” and have been forever recognized as such.

Since then, LACF has continued the tradition and permanently recognized each person, business, or organization as a Founder after they make a one-time donation of $1,000 or more. We are forever grateful to our Founders, listed on these two pages, and invite you to become one if you are not already.

“Of the attractions of LACF is that we can work with people we trust; people who have the same charitable interests as we do. It’s a comfortable donation when one is confident that our resources will be combined with others to make a bigger impact on the community.”  

Robin and Tom Liston
When you make a planned gift to Los Altos Community Foundation, you ensure that our community will continue to be a very special place now and for future generations just as it has been for you and your family. And, depending on your situation, a planned gift may also provide you and your family with tax benefits or guaranteed income. LACF will work closely with you to discuss the planned giving options that best meet your needs and fulfill your philanthropic wishes.

By naming LACF in estate plans you automatically become a member of the LACF Legacy Circle. Members of the Legacy Circle are permanently recognized, if desired, and receive an invitation to an exclusive annual event.
Our Sustaining Donors, July 2012 - June 2013

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Our Sustaining Donors, July 2012 - June 2013

When some people think of philanthropy, they think of wealthy industrialists and affluent socialites. However, philanthropy is simply the act of improving the quality of life for a group of people or community. Charities often relieve the pains of social problems, address issues and seize opportunities. By supporting LACF you can enable us to carry out your philanthropic goals for improving our community.