

# Annual Report



## Community Foundation of San Carlos FY 22-23

### Executive Summary

As we've returned to normalcy, with city sponsored events back on the calendar as well as other organizations bringing people together, the Community Foundation of San Carlos ("the Foundation") focused our efforts to celebrate, challenge, lift up, and engage a broader diversity of people in building community together. Some of the main activities included the annual Community Grants to nonprofits, the 21-Day Equity Challenge, the 'Stand United Against Hate Poetry Slam', an Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultural event and a community conversation and learning session on gender identity and inclusion.

Each year, we aim to provide over \$100,000 in operational support to local nonprofits serving those who live, work, play, or learn in San Carlos. Last year's grant program provided 12 small, nonprofit organizations grants between \$2,000 and \$10,000, totaling \$102,000. In addition, we funded a \$5,000 off cycle grant to a local nonprofit that was impacted by last winter's flooding. This brings the total funds granted in the four years of grant-making to \$789,000. These funds have been put to a variety of great uses by our local nonprofits.

Prudent management of the endowment provided positive Investment returns together with generous contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations, and governments, sufficient to fund these community building grants, gatherings, and conversations. Hundreds of hours of volunteer work and donated services from local professionals and businesses allowed the foundation to once again keep expenses under budget and very modest.

### Grant Making – 2022 Fall Community Grants

In the fall of 2023, the Community Foundation of San Carlos **awarded \$102,000 to twelve local nonprofits serving those who live, work, learn, or play in San Carlos.** Applications were evaluated and scored by a diverse group of community volunteers. We also gave an emergency grant of \$5K to One Life Counseling whose offices on Laurel Street were severely damaged during the January floods.

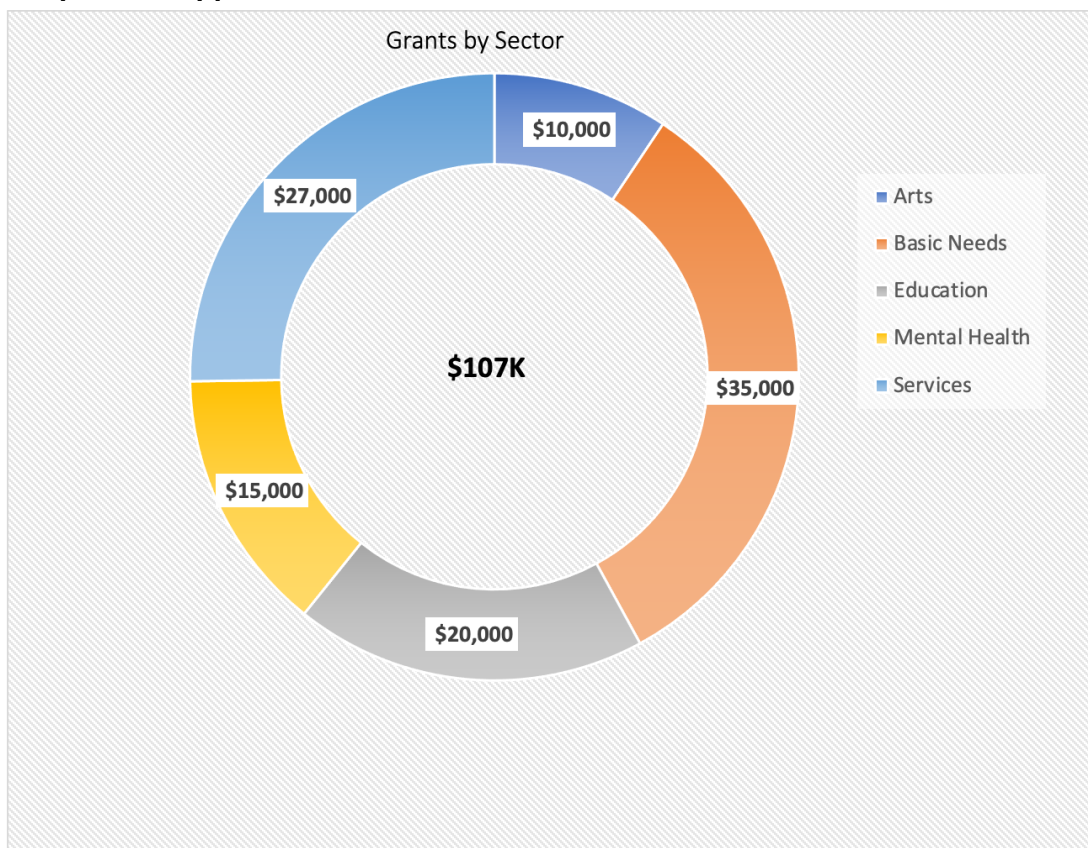
For the 2022-2023 grant round, we made a significant change: **We decided to focus our grant-making on small and emerging nonprofits** with operating expenses below \$1.5M. Here's why:

- Given that the unique pressures of the pandemic were subsiding, we realized we could reallocate funds from some of the very large core agencies like Samaritan House and the

Silicon Valley Food Bank and make the biggest impact in 2022-23 by helping newer, emerging, and specialized nonprofits.

- Due to our short 4-year history, our grant funds are small relative to most foundations. Our maximum grant of \$10K is financially more material to these low-budget organizations than it is to one with a multi-million dollar budget.
- These organizations need funds to help them learn, build capacity, and scale or to continue important services to underserved segments of the population.
- Without professional grant writers and fundraisers, smaller nonprofits generally have a harder time accessing funding from big foundations and corporations. Plus, a grant from our Foundation gives them credibility that they can hopefully leverage into donations from bigger players. In a sense, the Foundation plays the role similar to a seed or angel investor in the private sector.
- For donors, this strategy provides value too. Many of these great local institutions are relatively unknown to those beyond their immediate constituents. Our grants team researches and carefully evaluates every recipient, so that donors can be assured that their initiatives have a good chance of success and that their work is filling an important need.

### Nonprofits Supported



## Endowment Performance & Financial Update

The year ended June 2023 was the Foundation's third full year of operations. As a result of investment returns combined with donations from the community, the Community Foundation's endowment portfolio increased by 7.3% to \$2.36 million from \$2.16 million at the start of the period.

During the year, the Foundation received \$94,438 in contributions. The Foundation made grants to local organizations totaling \$107,000 and supported numerous programs and events. Operating expenses of \$13,618 were well under budget. The Foundation continues to keep sufficient cash in reserve to support continued operations in the following fiscal year without having to dip into the endowment.

## Community Building through Social Justice

The Foundation builds community throughout the year by providing nonprofit organizations with financial support as well as by bringing people together to learn, discuss, celebrate, and challenge each other.

### Community Learning & Conversations

- In the month of October, our community came together to learn and grow collectively by participating in the 21 Day Equity Challenge. We had [117 participants](#) embark on this important journey to deepen our understanding of inequity and racism. On November 1st we concluded the 2022 edition of the challenge with a community conversation led by local experts [Bea Kim](#) and [Dr. Grace Chen](#).
- Starting in December 2022, we partnered with the San Carlos Library to learn more about the community by posting a "San Carlos Question of the Week" by the book returns area. Questions have ranged from "What makes you feel like you are being heard?" to "What is your favorite place to be in San Carlos". See the website for a full listing.
- On March 15, 2023 as part of its Community Conversations series, the Foundation hosted a virtual Gender Identity and Inclusion webinar in partnership with the San Carlos Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) and the San Mateo Pride Center. We were blown away by the rich conversation and learnings shared in community with the over 50 attendees who attended the educational presentation and conversation.
- Estate Planning Seminar for Families - May 3, 2023. San Carlos, Estate Planning attorney, Kimberly N. Barrot of [Falk, Barrot & Associates, LLP](#) presented a virtual seminar intended to educate community members on how to obtain peace of mind in planning for the future and protecting family in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

### Physical Spaces

- Laurel Street Banners were hung to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month (September) and Stand United Against Hate Week (November).

## Community Diversity Celebrations

- Latinx Heritage Month (September 2022) – The Foundation provided online resources, events, activities, and community profile "Viva Latinx" <https://cfsancarlos.org/latinx>. The Latinx Night @ Devil's Canyon Brewing Company on September 16, 2022 featured vendors and food trucks owned and operated by our Latinx community members.
- United Against Hate Poetry Slam (November 2022). Each year since 2017, Bay area communities dedicate a week to learning about and taking action to end hate. Foundation is leading our community in learning more about the unbalanced history and how as a community we can work together to right the future. On November 18, 2022, a cool Friday night at Devil's Canyon Brewery in San Carlos, the community came together to spread warmth and love as poets shared their stories of overcoming hate. As part of the foundation's mission to build community, this event invited participation from people of all ages and backgrounds. The poems and performances dealt with important issues such as discrimination on a variety of levels and social injustices as well as celebrated influential mentors and family members. The audience listened silently then roared with their applause for the 9 presenters. Three artists were chosen by the audience to direct a donation from the foundation to the charity of their choice.
- Black History Month (February 2023) – The Foundation provided online resources, events, activities and community profile "Black Joy" – <https://cfsancarlos.org/blackhistory>
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month (May 2023) – The Foundation provided online resources, events, and activities. In-person celebration held at the San Carlos Youth Center featured performances from Ziru Dance, the Adult Community Center's Tai Chi group, a Bollywood medley dance by local community dancers, and several others.

## Response to Tragedy

On the morning of September 8 2022, tragedy struck a San Carlos family in the most extreme form of domestic violence. Karina Castro was brutally murdered, leaving her two young children without their primary caretaker.

The Foundation, in partnership with the City of San Carlos, accepted approximately \$50,000 from over 500 generous donors from San Carlos, the greater San Francisco Bay Area, across the nation and the globe. The outpouring of support for these children from the San Carlos community exemplifies how our community responds to tragedy.

These funds are being held in trust for the future benefit of the victim's children. The Foundation and the City of San Carlos are working with the appropriate government agencies and the family to set up the right structure to ensure that 100% of collected funds will benefit these children.