

ELEVATING GENEROSITY



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**TAHOE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
(formerly parasol)



— Photograph by Abe Blair

Dear Friends of the Community Foundation,

As your Community Foundation, we remain dedicated to inspiring our community to be charitable, and to grantmaking to nonprofit organizations, empowering them to expand their programs and missions to better serve our community. In our effort to serve the Tahoe region with clarity and understanding of who we are, what we do, and who we serve, we are simplifying our identity and transforming our brand, moving forward as the Tahoe Community Foundation.

Our core values and our commitment to kindness and philanthropy remains the same, as our role in serving the community continues to expand beyond providing space and support to nonprofits. We continue to evolve with the needs of our region, and our growth continues to empower us as a leading force for advancement in our community.

We are excited to reveal more about our future goals and to share with you a glimpse of what we accomplished in 2024. We invite you to be part of the exciting work of the Tahoe Community Foundation as we move forward and continue to do great things with commitment and clarity. By elevating who we are and what we do through our brand and through our work, we are Elevating Generosity in Tahoe and beyond.

Thank you always for your unwavering support,

Ron Alling, Chairman Claudia Andersen, CEO

Ron Alling Claudia Andersen

What is a Community Foundation?

Fostering Lasting Impact Through Community Philanthropy

EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A STRONG FOUNDATION

- Community foundations are grantmaking public charities dedicated to improving the lives and community of a local geographic area.
- Community foundations bring together financial resources of individuals, families, and organizations to support charitable causes while staying alert to emerging issues, needs, and opportunities.
- There are more than 900 community foundations operating in the US who are focused on addressing community needs and actively grantmaking.
- Community foundations play a vital role in fostering long-term community sustainability by managing endowments, supporting local initiatives, and connecting donors with causes, ensuring that vital programs continue to thrive, even in times of economic uncertainty.
- Community foundations offer a lasting legacy, allowing donors to make a permanent impact through endowed funds that grow and give back over time.

WHO IS TAHOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- Tahoe Community Foundation is an anchor institution serving the Tahoe region, investing support and resources to the well-being and the future of Tahoe communities.
- We strive to inspire our community to be charitable, and we partner with donors to make their charitable giving more meaningful by supporting quality programs and services that enhance Tahoe communities.
- We participate in community leadership on emerging issues and play an important role in the development and long-term well-being of our community through charitable causes.
- Our five focused program areas are Arts & Culture, Community Engagement, Education & Youth Development, Environment, & Well-Being.
- We act as a bridge between donors and community needs, offering expertise on local issues and philanthropic strategies.
- We have granted over \$137 Million to charitable causes since our inception in 1996.



— family of black bears



TAHOE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Guided by Purpose Shaped by Community

Our Brand Story

At the heart of every strong community is a quiet rhythm—a natural balance that binds people, places, and purpose. Tahoe Community Foundation was born from the belief that when we come together with intention, we can create something timeless and powerful.

Our logo reflects this philosophy. Built on the principles of the golden ratio, it symbolizes balance, harmony, and consistency—a reminder that even the smallest actions, when placed with care, can have a profound and lasting impact. The spiral that forms the core of our symbol represents evolution and growth, ever expanding but always in perfect relation to its past. The symmetry reflects trust and stability, while the fluid transitions signal innovation and adaptability. It's a visual echo of who we are: a brand built on timeless principles and driven by the purpose of our mission to elevate generosity in Tahoe and beyond.

The moons that appear in our symbol reflect the phases of

collective growth—phases of change that make us stronger, more resilient, and deeply connected. Just as the moon reflects light, we reflect the strength of those we serve—amplifying voices, illuminating needs, and guiding futures.

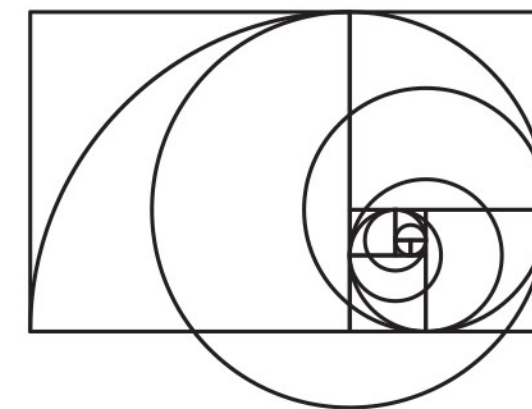
And the circle—a shape with no beginning and no end—represents bringing sustainability to our community in perpetuity and the unbroken bonds that form when people support one another. It's a symbol of trust, unity, and the enduring spirit of giving that lies at the core of everything we do.

Our range of colors capture the natural beauty, emotional resonance, and iconic identity of Tahoe. Ranging from the deep blues and greens of alpine waters and forests, to the soft grays and whites of granite peaks

and winter snow, the colors in our visual identity align with a strong sense of place, serenity, and adventure.

As the sun dips behind the Sierra Nevada, the sky ignites in layers of coral, amber, and lavender—casting a warm, reflective glow across the lake's glassy surface. These tones are not only visually stunning, but also deeply evocative, stirring feelings of calm, wonder, and nostalgia.

Together, these elements shape our story: a foundation built not just to give, but to grow—with precision, empathy, steadiness, and a deep sense of belonging—in the place we call home. We are here to nurture what's possible, and to make lasting change, one moment at a time and into the future.



Elevating Generosity Through Grantmaking

The Community Foundation drives lasting impact through strategic grantmaking and empowering donors to support causes that strengthen and enrich their communities. So how does it work? The Community Foundation serves the region through its many grantmaking programs:

Community Impact Grants allow nonprofit organizations to **request the support they need** to better serve the Tahoe region through an application process. The grants are determined by the Community Impact Committee (CIC), which is composed of community volunteers who review each grant proposal and reward the most impactful opportunities. As the Community Impact Grants have grown, the Community Foundation began inviting its Donor-Advised Fund holders to **co-invest in the Community Impact Grants**. By providing a summary of each grant proposal, Donor-Advised Fund holders were exposed to some of the greatest needs of the community and given an opportunity to make grant recommendations from their funds, expanding the collective support and **increasing the overall amount granted**.

Action Grants are smaller and timely grants intended to pay for **specific one-time expenses or materials** for organizations and programs serving the Lake Tahoe basin. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are awarded quarterly by the Community Foundation's CIC. A new program introduced in 2023, Action Grants were so successful that the Community Foundation was able to double the grant amounts going forward to make an even bigger impact.

Community Partnership Grants are given when the Community Foundation participates in creating **regional solutions by bringing local knowledge and financial resources** to the table in partnership with other community leaders and organizations.

In addition to financial support through making grants, the Community Foundation continues to operate the **Donald W. Reynolds (DWR) Community Nonprofit Center**, offering in-kind grant supported **office, storage, and meeting space** to nonprofits.

Donors serve the region through the Community Foundation by **Managed Fund Grants**. These are distributed from a variety of charitable funds established by individuals, families, or organizations to support nonprofits, **working with the Community Foundation to create meaningful impact**. There are a variety of Managed Funds that allow donors to make significant impact with their grantmaking, each providing different levels of partnership with the Community Foundation. **Donor-Advised Funds** allow donors to recommend grants to nonprofits over time, offering flexibility and allowing them to be actively involved in the ongoing grantmaking from their fund. **Designated Funds** provide ongoing support to specific organizations that are chosen by the donor. **Field of Interest Funds** are set up by a donor with a focus area such as environment, healthcare, or education, and the Community Foundation follows the donors intentions by supporting the most effective programs within that category. **Memorial Funds** are created by family and friends to honor the memory of a loved one by supporting local causes in their name, while **Legacy Funds** are established by the donor, often as part of their estate planning, and are planned gifts that provide long-term support for the community, **ensuring a lasting impact beyond the donor's life-time**. These varied Managed Funds have **tremendous impact and are catered to how a donor wants to practice their philanthropy**.

Through its grantmaking programs the Community Foundation is elevating generosity by responding to immediate challenges facing the community, fostering long-term resilience, and ensuring that charitable resources are aligned with community needs and donor intent.

Breaking Down Our Grantmaking



photograph by Laura Roche

Corey Ritchie



photo courtesy of the Ritchie Family

Thoughtful Grantmaking

Donor Feature: Corey Ritchie



With a lifelong example of philanthropy thanks to her parents and grandparents, Cory Ritchie has the knowledge, passion, and fortitude for giving that makes her an anchor in the Tahoe community. Cory grew up with the example of her parents volunteering for many causes, from the local children’s home to the local public TV station. Additionally, her family’s business has always offered strong support to their community. Thus, Cory began her lifelong pursuit of leaving things better than she found them.

Cory believes in supporting nonprofit organizations with unwavering dedication, contributing both hands-on effort and volunteerism, as well as generous financial support to further their mission. In college, she volunteered with environmental organizations,

was a youth mentor with Big Buddies, and was an officer of the UC Davis Ski Team while leading them to Nationals three times. In Tahoe, she helped start the Spanish Immersion program at Bijou Community School, co-founded a Girls on the Run chapter, and was a founding board member of the Tahoe Fund where she continues to serve.

Through the years, she found herself with the resources and time to make a deeper impact. But she didn’t want to just write checks – she wanted her philanthropy to be thoughtful, strategic, and rooted in the needs of her Tahoe community.

Cory turned to the Community Foundation to set up a donor-advised fund, allowing her to recommend grants over time to causes close to her heart – environmental causes, bilingual education, and equal access to youth sports at Lake Tahoe. Working with the Community Foundation has allowed her to grow her impact, and the staff has worked closely with Cory to understand her values and connect her with vetted nonprofits doing effective work. They have also helped her evaluate grant outcomes, enabling her to see the tangible difference her giving is making.

Cory set a goal to grow her fund balance with an intent to make grants in a more strategic and meaningful way. “The performance of my Donor-Advised Fund at Parasol has been incredible! Over the years I have granted out almost the amount I originally funded it with, yet my balance has increased nearly threefold,” says Cory. “This incredible performance has motivated me to set a goal to give away 5% per year, similar to what is required of a private foundation, allowing me to be more generous in my grantmaking and offering support to more organizations.”

With a plan for growth and grantmaking in place, Cory is increasing her support, both financially and personally, for organizations making a difference. “I like to seize the moment and make grants to organizations my family is involved in real-time,” she says, “like my kids’ schools, nonprofits on whose boards I serve, and other organizations doing great work.”

Working with the Community Foundation gave Cory a trusted partner and a simple way to give back to the place she loves.

Setting a Foundation

for Incline Village

In 1951, Manny Sylvester visited Tahoe and, in awe of its beauty, fell in love. In 1959, his firm in Hawaii was contacted regarding an opportunity to buy 9,000 acres of land on Tahoe’s north shore. Manny eagerly convinced his partners Art Wood, Jack Eagle, and Eugene Jordan to jump on a plane and fly to Tahoe, where the three islanders, dressed in their “aloha” attire were met with freezing temperatures in July. Despite the weather conditions, Manny and his friends visited the property and knew they needed to find a way to invest in the acreage being sold by historical local legend and resident of Thunderbird Lodge, George Whittell.

Unfortunately for Manny, Whittell had no plans of making this sale simple or easy. Despite many complications of the specific requirements Whittell had for purchasing the land, Manny and his friends arrived at the front doors of Thunderbird Lodge with \$5.4 million in cash and purchased the land that they sold to Crystal Bay Development Company, and that eventually became the infrastructure of what is now known as Incline Village.

“When Manny arrived at Thunderbird Lodge with a case holding \$5.4 million in cold, hard currency, he waited as Whittell counted out the cash right on the living room floor before locking it away in the safe where it remained for months,” says Thunderbird Lodge Lake Tahoe CEO and historian Bill Watson. “During Thunderbird Lodge tours, we point to the second-floor safe and tell visitors, ‘Incline Village used to fit in there!’” Even after overcoming all these obstacles, Manny downplayed his role in “founding” Incline Village, but had he not prevailed, Whittell likely would have sold the land to the US Forest Service and Incline Village may not have existed without his foresight and passion for the region.

Born in Hawai’i, where his parents moved from Portugal to work on sugar plantations, Manny and his wife Marge moved to Incline Village full-time in 1992 where they both were a core part of the community, being involved in everything from volunteering at local churches to supporting the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) pancake breakfasts in July.

Philanthropy was an integral part of their lives, and they granted nearly \$500,000 from their fund at the Community Foundation to support many local causes. With their grants, they supported many organizations: the Community Foundation, local churches, social and family services, hunger relief, the college, the historical society, and the local hospital. While Manny and Marge moved back to Hawaii in 2012, they continued to give to organizations in Incline Village for the remainder of both their lives.

The final grant from their fund, initiated by their daughter Sue, was for the 2025 NLTFPD Pancake Breakfast, backed by another grant from the Community Foundation in Manny’s memory.

“I remember attending pancake breakfasts with my parents,” remembers their daughter Sue Sylvester-Palumbo. “Manny and Marge had many wonderful years in Incline Village. It was one of their happiest times.”

Manny played an integral part in bringing Incline Village, a community cherished by those who live there, to life. He was an inspiration to every person who knew him and his legacy and kindness will live on in Incline Village.

Remembering Manny Sylvester

June 20, 1930 – May 22, 2024



photo courtesy of Sylvester Family

Supporting Truckee and North Tahoe.

Since 2002

Lahontan Community Foundation Fund



These grants support the region in many ways with incredible impact. In 2024, one of these grants was made to support Pet Network Humane Society for the purchase of a PetMAPII tool which allows detailed monitoring and tracking of Pet Network patient's vitals all in a handheld, battery operated device. **Within the first two months of receiving the device, Pet Network was able to use it to monitor over 50 patients,** including a sweet dog named Tayter who came to Pet Network facing a health crisis that required emergency surgery.

While Tayter was being transported to the hospital, she needed continued first aid treatment based on her quickly changing conditions. The PetMAPII was used in the vehicle by a veterinary technician to relay vitals to a veterinarian to better tailor her treatment until she arrived at the Hospital. Luckily, Tayter received the care she needed and made a full recovery. She is now healthy and has found a loving home, partly due to the use of the PetMAPII advanced handheld vitals monitoring device.

Tahoe Community Foundation has operated as the fiscal sponsor for **Lahontan Community Foundation Fund (LCF)** since 2015. LCF's steadfast commitment to raising funds to support the good work of nonprofit organizations in North Lake Tahoe and Truckee have made them excellent partners to the Community Foundation in elevating generosity in the region.

As their fiscal sponsor, Tahoe Community Foundation extends its nonprofit tax exempt-status to LCF and provides administrative operations and fiduciary support including processing donations and facilitating grant cycles. By providing operational support and lending its nonprofit expertise and familiarity with the needs of local nonprofits, the Community Foundation allows LCF to focus their energy on raising funds for the North Lake Tahoe and Truckee communities. With this kind of support, **LCF has been able to grant over \$2.8 Million since their inception and \$247,000 in 2024 alone.**

Community Foundation Endowment

Endowments are a great way to create long-term financial stability by investing both today and into the future. Endowed funds grow over time through investment, resulting in the gift lasting in perpetuity through its continued growth. Over time, the amount granted exceeds contributions to the fund, ensuring that your positive impact lasts forever.

The Community Foundation Endowment is a permanent fund created to support the long-term needs of Tahoe. By pooling charitable gifts, investing them, and using the income to fund our important work, we are providing sustainable support, year after year.

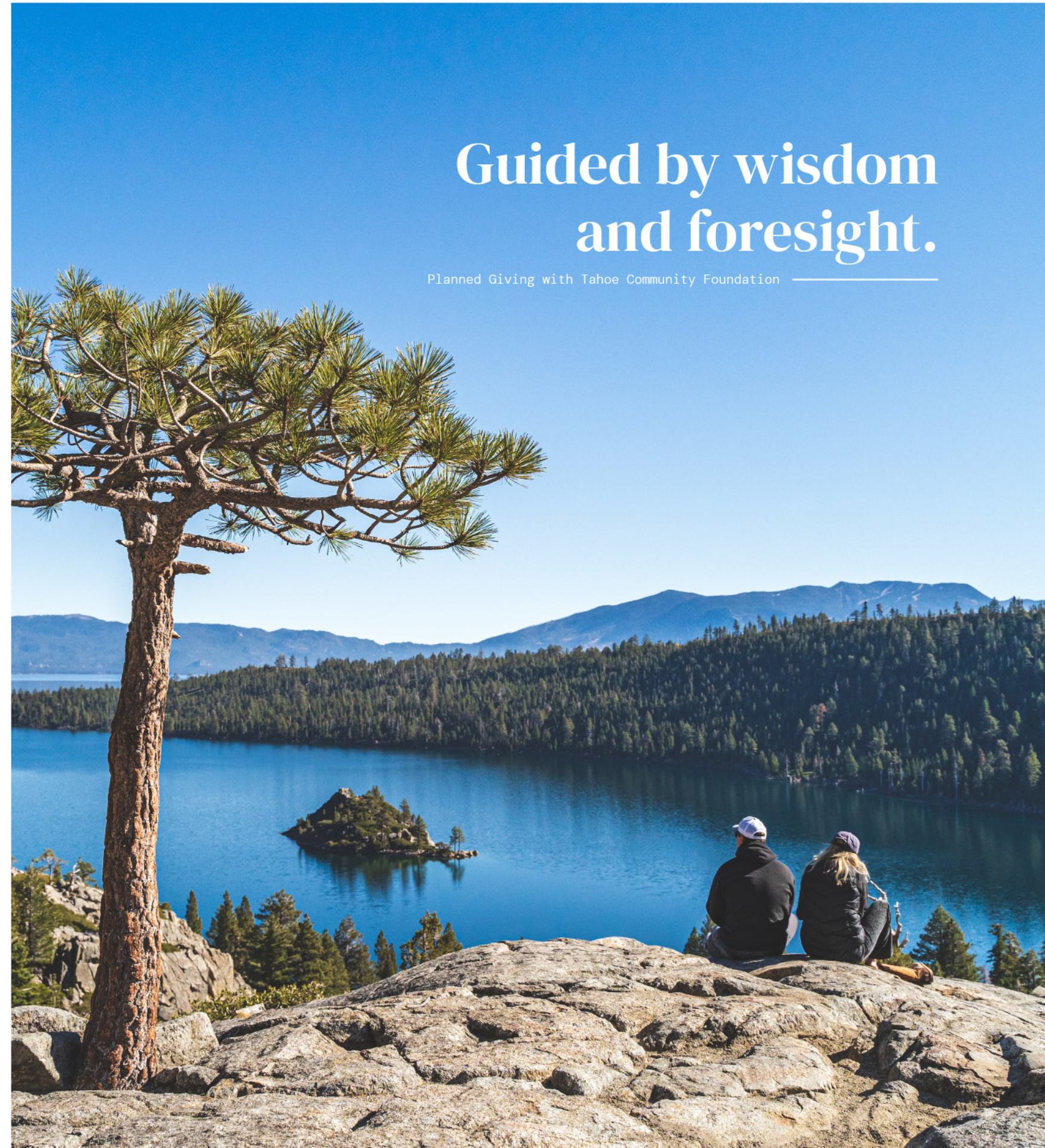
The Community Foundation Endowment is an effective way to make a long-term commitment to the community, and we believe that when you invest in the future of Tahoe, you shape it for the better.

By endowing a fund or contributing to the Community Foundation Endowment, you are playing an important part of building a future that's strong, vibrant, and full of possibility.



Guided by wisdom and foresight.

Planned Giving with Tahoe Community Foundation





Peace of Mind.

Planned Giving with Tahoe Community Foundation

Leaving Your Charitable Legacy

Providing Peace of Mind Through Planned Giving

When Jim Develld and his wife, Zoe, established a Legacy Fund at Tahoe Community Foundation, they knew it was a great way to support the Community Foundation today, while investing in the future of the region. Growing up in rural Nevada, Jim DeVoll was inspired to give back to his community at a young age when he was personally impacted by a regional business giving back to his local community by donating a scoreboard sign to Little League Baseball in his small town. This inspiration never left him and, as his passion for supporting Nevada has grown, he has given back in many ways during his lifetime and career. **But Jim and Zoe realized that they wanted to take their charity even further – into the future.** Drawing inspiration from one of America’s earliest philanthropists, Benjamin Franklin, who famously left bequests to Boston and Philadelphia that would grow over centuries to serve future generations, Jim and Zoe believed that true impact takes time. And so they established a philosophy of investing their funds for 100 years prior to making grants.

“It was a fun idea that you could take a nice sum of money and solve whatever significant need there may be in the future,” Jim says. “By letting the core principal and investment returns accumulate, we will generate a nice sum to disburse after 100 years. It will

also create a sizable annual investment return for the Community Foundation. My wife and I love the thought of solving future problems or concerns. By not restricting what the Community Foundation Board would do in the future, **it gives them flexibility to address the most critical issues in our local communities.”**

Jim and Zoe trust the work the Community Foundation is doing, and they believe that level of trust will be kept over time and into the future. This philosophy of his Legacy Fund reminds us that when philanthropy is guided by wisdom and foresight, **it doesn’t just make a difference—it makes history.**

Creating an endowed Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation is a way to ensure that your charitable intentions will be carried out in perpetuity. As your charitable passions change throughout your lifetime, making adjustments to your fund is easy and flexible, leaving your estate plans intact. By partnering with the Community Foundation, **your philanthropy is rooted in local knowledge, expertise, and trust**, ensuring your legacy supports what matters now and beyond your lifetime.

To schedule a personal meeting to discuss your charitable giving options, contact Claudia Andersen, CEO at 775-298-0100

Grant Making

TOTAL 2024 GRANTMAKING

[\\$22.6M](#)

ENVIRONMENT

[\\$4,234,470](#)

Environmental sustainability and education, recreation, ecosystems, and wildlife

WELL-BEING & SOCIAL SERVICES

[\\$8,673,381](#)

Resources and programs promoting social well-being, helping to build a stronger community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

[\\$3,128,542](#)

Strategic partnerships, civic initiatives, and faith-based causes

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

[\\$2,804,279](#)

Quality educational, training, and mentoring opportunities for children, youth, and adults

ARTS, CULTURE, & HERITAGE

[\\$3,793,921](#)

Arts education, historical preservation, and a rich cultural experience

TOTAL GRANTMAKING SINCE 1996

[\\$137M](#)



Thank you.

for helping create a better future

Providing Basic Needs

Grantmaking through the Community Foundation plays a vital role in strengthening the local region by strategically directing resources where they are needed most. In essence, community foundation grantmaking isn't just about distributing funds – it's about investing in the future of the community, fostering local leadership, and creating pathways for a lasting impact.

We are excited to share with you a glimpse of the effects of our grantmaking and nonprofit support in 2024.

Providing Basic Needs

Addressing fundamental needs not only helps people to survive but empowers them to thrive, creating a stable foundation upon which long-term progress can be built.

The Community Foundation continues to prioritize supporting programs that provide **housing resources**, recognizing that it is foundational for health, economic opportunity, and overall well-being in a thriving society.

A safe space can restore dignity and spark ambition for a person, young or old, to better participate in civic life. With grant support from the Community Foundation in 2024, **Tahoe Youth and Family Services supported eight youths actively working toward self-sufficiency and 12 young people who successfully moved into their own housing** with leases in their own names with a **94% success rate** of maintaining housing for a year.

Offering rent and utility assistance can help stabilize households, prevent homelessness, and promote financial security for individuals and

families in need. When one family who had lived in Incline Village for 30 years came upon financial difficulties, **Tahoe Family Solutions** used funding from the Community Foundation to step in and help. The family, who lived with their disabled son, were offered assistance in paying all past-due utilities, helping the family to get back on their feet and **allowing them to continue working and living** in their community. Tahoe Family Solutions **offered rent and utility assistance to 15 families with the help of Community Foundation grant funding** in 2024.

While it is vital to ensure safe space for individuals and families, the Community Foundation also recognizes that providing space to the nonprofit community allows a stable, professional environment to operate efficiently and better serve its community. Since 2002, the Donald W. Reynolds Community Nonprofit Center (DWR Nonprofit Center) has provided grant supported office, meeting, event, and storage space, **saving nonprofits over \$12 million in overhead costs since 2002.**

Since its inception, the Community Foundation has supported **Sierra Community House's (SCH) mission to connect and empower the Tahoe community through family strengthening, crisis intervention, legal services and hunger relief** through grants made to support their programs directly and to support overhead costs through office and meeting space.

In 2024, SCH received over **\$77,000 in office, meeting, and storage space.** Additionally, through the Community Foundation's Community Impact grants and Donor-Advised Fundholder co-investment program, SCH was provided \$26,000 in grant assistance **to support their Hunger Relief team** to dismantle food insecurity. In 2024, **SCH provided**



Photo Courtesy of Sierra Community House

over 305,581 meals to thousands of families and individuals struggling with food insecurity in North Tahoe/Truckee.

Ensuring that everyone has access to the nutrition they need is another important staple for a thriving community. A warm meal offers comfort, nourishment, and a sense of care that feeds both the body and the soul. In their mission to ease hunger in South Lake Tahoe, **Bread and Broth** received **\$16,000 in grants to provide food weekly to over 350 men, women, and children** dealing with food insecurity.

In addition to support through direct financial aid, the Community Foundation also **facilitated an introduction between Bread & Broth and one of its donors** who is passionate about investing their philanthropy in community development and growth. The Community Foundation coordinated meetings for the donor to better understand the great work being done and the growth potential for Bread & Broth, and a multi-year investment was developed, allowing the Bread and Broth to increase its current food program funding, invest in infrastructure improvements, and continue to expand the number of people served.

Meeting the basic needs of our region isn't just charity – it's an investment in the future of a thriving Tahoe.



Images courtesy of Boys and Girls Club of Lake Tahoe

Creating Resilient Tahoe Families

Resilience in families means the ability to withstand and recover from challenges – economic, emotional, or environmental. Creating a strong family foundation by supporting parents and their children is an important first step in creating withstanding resiliency.

After school programs offered by Boys and Girls Clubs offer valuable benefits to families by providing a safe, structured environment where kids and teens can explore interests, build social skills and receive academic support.

When state funding was reduced due to a budget deficit, **The Boys and Girls Club of Lake Tahoe**, serving South Lake Tahoe, received **\$20,000 in grants** from the Community Foundation to help move forward with their **expansion at Tahoe Valley** to include all grades TK through 5th. This provided Tahoe Valley students with easier access to after-school care, enabling them to accept more students, and **over 100 more children gained access to the Club's afterschool program.**



Images courtesy of Tahoe's Connection for Families

Also in 2024, through the Community Impact Grants and Donor-Advised co-investments, the **Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe** received **\$23,000** to support their teen programming across North Lake Tahoe and Truckee. These programs provide daily opportunities for **teens to engage in safe out-of-school activities** that enable them to reach their full potential and even **encourage them to engage in positions of leadership.**

Fostering families through early childhood education equips parents and caregivers by strengthening children's development and school readiness from the start. **Tahoe's Connection for Families (TCF) empowers families** through parenting education, early childhood learning experiences, and a supportive community. In 2024, TCF **became the newest**

residents of the DWR Nonprofit Center, receiving aid to **alleviate overhead costs**, and were provided direct **grant funding to offer financial assistance to families who might not otherwise be able to participate** in their programs. By removing financial barriers, TCF was able to ensure that every child in our community has the opportunity to thrive and build a strong foundation for future success.

By weaving together philanthropy, partnership, and deep community engagement with local families, the Community Foundation was able to support programs offering nurturing environments where families not only bounce back from adversity, but are empowered to create a resilient future.

Educating and Mentoring Our Future Generations

Education and meaningful mentorships build a pipeline of future leaders, philanthropists, and civic changemakers who are informed and equipped with the necessary skills to live an engaged life and to uplift and support their community.

Incline Education Fund (IEF) is working to fill funding gaps in schools in Incline Village and is helping to ensure academic achievement and skill development across generations of Incline students. The Community Foundation recognized the importance of their role and partnered with IEF as their fiscal sponsor for more than a year and a half until they were able to launch as an independent nonprofit. IEF is addressing current needs and issues through fundraising, while also building an endowment to **support future generations** of Incline students.

In an increasingly complex and innovation driven world, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education is crucial in equipping students with problem solving and technological skills needed to thrive. **In 2024, The Community Foundation granted \$20,000 to IEF for their STEM programs**, providing technology support across all Incline Village public schools for their makerspace, robotics, and engineering programs.

These funds also expanded their programs offering **academic support in math and reading**.

The Community Foundation knows that reading is a fundamental skill that unlocks the ability to learn and communicate. Through grant support from Community Impact Grants and co-investments, **Read With Me** was able to **provide 800 books for all the children** at Incline Elementary School. These grants also fully funded their **volunteer tutoring**

program, including 18 volunteer tutors (almost one for every class), an on-site program coordinator, and an after-school reading teacher.

Having educational support is half the equation. Good mentors help students build confidence, develop critical life skills, and stay on a positive path through guidance, encouragement and real-world perspective.

With the help of Community Impact grant support, **SOS Outreach** serves as a vital support network to youth throughout Tahoe and Truckee. Grant funding from the Community Foundation over the years has helped their **Career Development Program expand** to both North and South Lake Tahoe, and in 2024, **supported 486 participants** registered for programs across both North and South Lake programs. As residents of the DWR Nonprofit Center, SOS Outreach receives grant supported office, meeting, and storage space that allows them to focus on their mission.

SOS removes financial barriers through the scholarship program by covering up to 100% of the fees for service across all Tahoe programs. This ensures that every child, regardless of their financial background, has access to these transformative opportunities and opens the doors to the mountains for all.

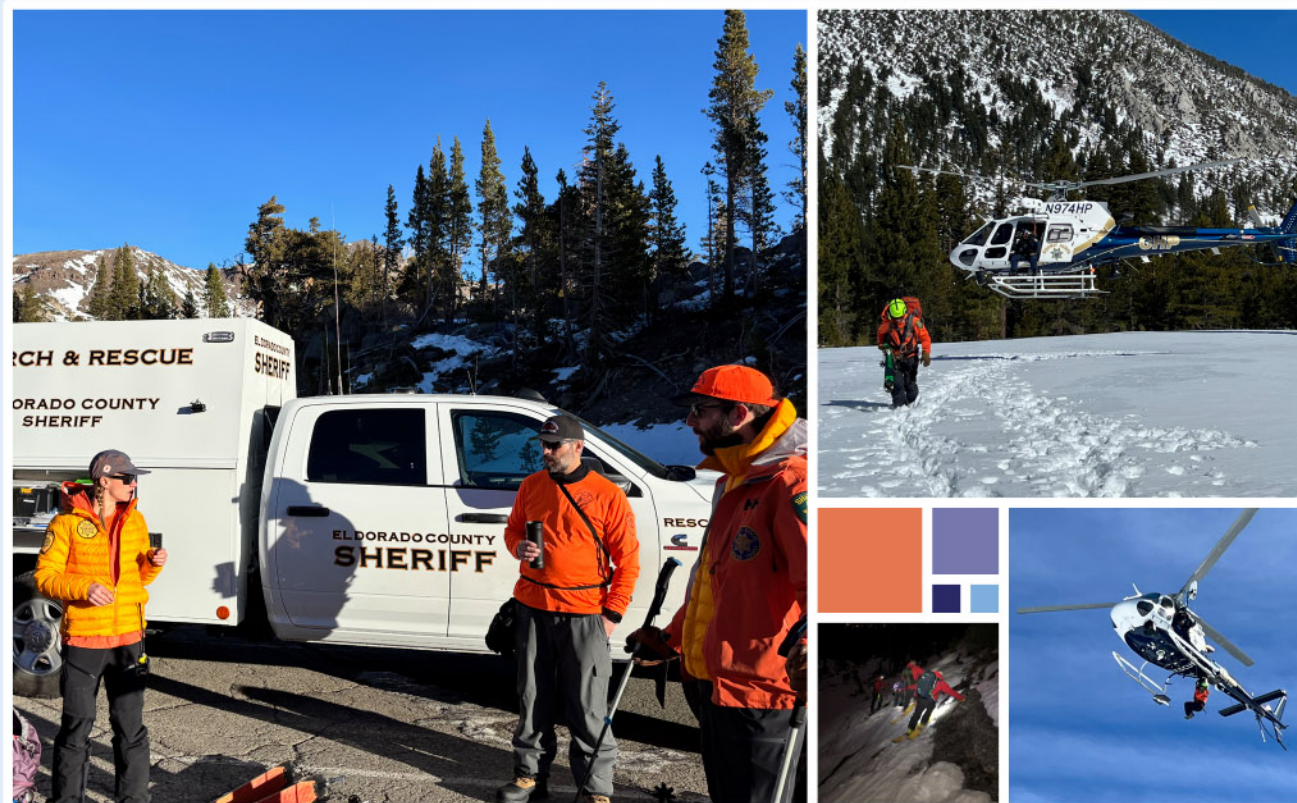
Hands-on exploration and discovery through nature experiences help youth to build confidence and develop leadership skills as it fosters a sense of environmental responsibility. YEA! Programs offered by **Gateway Mountain Center** bring **access to outdoor adventures for youth**, their families and peers who have little experience and/or access to the outdoors. Grant funding helped Gateway to **serve over 50 young people from all backgrounds** who participated



Images courtesy of SOS Outreach and Gateway Mountain Center

in overnight camping programs, Spring Break Camp, weekly wellness days during the school year for the Mount Tallac Continuation High School, and monthly nature outings for participants. They also continued a **Junior Guide internship program** where nine alumni ages 15-17 received paid leadership opportunities to **gain real work experience**, which was for many of these young people, their first job experience.

Education and mentorship enriches the entire community by providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to create positive change and build a better future.



Images courtesy of El Dorado Search and Rescue

Creating Access to Tahoe's Outdoors

As interest in outdoor recreation grows throughout Lake Tahoe, thoughtful planning and implementation are key to ensuring that everyone—from families with children to seasoned hikers—can explore safely and sustainably.

Building and maintaining trails using sustainable practices helps reduce erosion and minimize the impact on local ecosystems, and understanding these practices ensures that everyone can explore safely now and in the future. **Tahoe Rim Trail Association** was granted over **\$21,000 in funding to train and support hundreds of volunteers performing hands-on trail work**, offering education on the trail. Volunteers receive Wilderness First Aid training, Risk Management Training, and other camps and training to build essential skills and foster a deep appreciation for land stewardship.

Education can also be provided on the trail through signage. Trail signage in good condition and with accurate and current information is essential for wayfinding, reducing the risk of hikers or bikers becoming lost. As the Forest Service faces budget cuts, **TAMBA (Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association)** was able to step in and utilize grant funding to begin replacing damaged and broken trail signs around the Tahoe City area to improve the trail experience for all users. Accurate trail signs not only keep our trails more enjoyable, they also help with emergencies by ensuring trail users can give accurate directions and locations to assist first responders.

Ensuring that local Search and Rescue organizations are properly informed and equipped is vital to keeping outdoor adventurers safe and accessible. Properly equipped teams **improve response times, enhance team readiness, and increase the likelihood of saving lives during critical rescue operations.**

In 2023, the Community Foundation supported **Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue (TNSAR)** in purchasing a much needed multi-passenger van, the single largest purchase by the team in its 49 year history. In 2024, the Community Foundation continued support by equipping the rescue van with a winter safety package, enabling efficient transport of TNSAR team members, equipment, and rescued individuals from emergency sites in all weather conditions.

Tahoe Cross Country Ski Education Foundation also upgraded a multi-passenger van through support from the Community Foundation in order to create a more accessible outdoor experience. They were able to purchase two additional bench seats to be used as part of their new year-round pilot program, which provides middle-school aged Latina girls instruction and equipment for cross-country skiing in the winter and mountain biking in the summer.

Means of transportation open up opportunities to access the incredible outdoor experiences Tahoe offers, and reliable safety equipment ensures that individuals can participate confidently and responsibly in those environments.

When **Diamond Peak Ski Education Foundation** needed to purchase ski racing safety nets for training and racing, the Community Foundation stepped in and granted funds for the purchase. These nets are designed to slow a racer down during a fall, decreasing risk of injury and providing a safer and more fun experience.

While there are many different kinds of outdoor safety equipment pieces, **reliable communication devices are crucial for search and rescue efforts, as they enable quick coordination and faster response times.** When El Dorado Search and Rescue needed a new portable radio system, they were able to utilize grants from the Community Foundation to purchase a new more reliable system of handheld radios that can be issued to ground personnel, K-9 team members, ropes teams, and helicopter extraction teams. The grant also provided funds to send their Alpine Rescue team leader to an advanced avalanche awareness training.

Training for winter sports safety and instruction are a critical tool for organizations like **Professional Ski Instructors of America, West**, who utilized grants to provide their ski and snowboard instructors training to strengthen their skillset in the industry, **ensuring that snowsports recreation is a welcoming and accessible community.**

By supporting transportation, equipment, and training, the Community Foundation was able to offer a comprehensive approach to outdoor safety.

Enhancing Arts and Culture

Memories carved out in Tahoe are often associated with the experiences we have, especially experiences that are fostered by neighbors and friends gathering to share special moments together. When live music fills our parks and beaches and when public art brightens the corridors of our communities, we share the heritage and stories that **strengthen the fabric of our lives.**

Some of the most special moments shared are when we come together to watch our children perform, celebrating the creativity and talent of our future generations. When tuba players Ella and Hannah were inspired to learn to play the sousaphone for their fall concert performance, Bear Necessities, they had to borrow sousaphones from another school. Fine Arts of North Tahoe (FAN) Club, who exist to provide monetary support to North Tahoe Middle and High School music programs, **received a grant to purchase two sousaphones to integrate into their band program so that Ella and Hannah were able to further explore their interests and musical talents.**

The Nutcracker is a beloved holiday tradition that captivates audiences with its timeless story and enchanting choreography performed by dancers of all ages. In 2024, Lake Tahoe Dance Collective was given a

grant which allowed local student dancers to rehearse and perform alongside seasoned professionals without charging local dancers to participate in the production. This opportunity gives local dancers technical exposure and provides mentorship that offers guidance to their artistic growth and possible career paths. This exposure is rarely available in Tahoe without financial support, and the **Community Foundation's grant helped bridge the gap between student training and real-world experiences** while elevating the overall experience of the production. This grant support offered audiences a rich and captivating performance that blended emerging talent with experienced artists while keeping ticket prices affordable for local families and residents.

Other iconic Tahoe musical experiences happen on the stages of Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and Classical Tahoe Music Festival. The Community Foundation has proudly supported both of these organizations and their performance seasons for decades. Both organizations call the Donald W. Reynolds Community Nonprofit Center (DWR Center) "home" and utilize grant supported office, meeting, and storage space. In 2024, Classical Tahoe wished to purchase materials to build custom stage risers for



Images courtesy of Lake Tahoe Dance Collective and Classical Tahoe

the brass and woodwind section of their orchestra, something that they had to rent in prior years which added recurring annual costs. The investment in upgraded risers was made possible through grant support of the Community Foundation, **adding infrastructure to the organization while supporting artistic excellence and ensuring world-class music for Lake Tahoe audiences for years to come.**

There's a bit of magic when art in a community comes to life - a thread that weaves strength, beauty and fellowship into a community at its core and extends out to the experience and memories of everyone who lives or plays there.



Images courtesy of The League to Save Lake Tahoe

Protecting Our Environment

Each year, the Community Foundation is dedicated to supporting innovative projects and exceptional organizations who are providing education and working to protect and restore the fragile ecosystems of Tahoe.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe (The League) has been diligent in protecting and preserving Lake Tahoe through their programs, initiatives, and advocacy since 1957. They remain focused on tackling invasive species, combating pollution, and advancing restoration to Keep Tahoe Blue. The Community Foundation understands that this takes hands-on work, so in 2024, Community Impact Grants and co-investments supported the work of the League. Funding was able to bolster multiple stewardship events where volunteers showed up to help with activities such as revegetation, bank stabilization, and invasive terrestrial weed pulling. This funding also aided 29 cleanup events with over 1,400 volunteers who removed over 4,000 pounds of litter.

The League has been a driving force in the identification of and education about aquatic invasive species, and the funding from these grants offered support for trainings, certifications, and updated program collateral to include information on newly discovered invasives such as New Zealand mudsnails, Asian clams, Quagga, Zebra mussels, etc. Despite its crystal clear waters, Lake Tahoe has an **entire ecosystem beneath its surface requiring protection** and the Community Foundation proudly supports the League's efforts in providing hard work and education to **ensure Lake Tahoe remains safe for everyone.**

When it comes to aquatic species and cleaning up Lake Tahoe, **Clean Up the Lake's** mission is to keep Tahoe's water clear. In addition to supporting **underwater cleanups, aquatic invasive species (AIS) and algal bloom monitoring, and litter education awareness**, grants awarded in 2024 are being utilized to develop a high quality AIS identification toolkit and training program. This project will provide training videos **assisting divers in identifying and monitoring AIS to improve environmental stewardship and water quality.**

While water clarity is greatly important, the **health of Tahoe's forests and other landscapes** are also vital to protecting wildlife and creating climate resilience. In an effort to create healthy and diverse forests, **The Sugar Pine Foundation (SPF) plants approximately 20,000 sugar pine and other native tree seedlings in burn scars and other areas in need of restoration each year.** In 2021, they began a summer watering program to water recently planted

seedlings at planting sites around South Lake Tahoe and on Tahoe's North Shore. They found that, with regular watering, seedling survival increased dramatically – up to 80%. However, transporting water is heavy, and the terrain on which they plant is inherently rough and uneven, making it challenging for volunteers to carry water by hand. In 2024, SPF received an Action Grant to cover the cost of 10 lightweight, collapsible, sturdy five gallon backpack sprayers. These backpack sprayers **allow volunteers to more easily transport water to planting sites and ensure that seedlings receive the water they need.**

Having the right equipment can make all the difference in the outdoors. **Tahoe Institute of Natural Sciences (TINS), guides nearly a thousand students and adults into nature on ecology field trips** per year. In 2024, they recognized that their winter field trips were being limited by a lack of snowshoe sizes. While their inventory had sufficient smaller snowshoe bindings, they found themselves severely limited to handle groups that included adults or kids with larger shoe sizes, and they would often have to scramble to borrow additional snowshoes or attempt to make smaller binding sizes work. With the support of Action Grants, TINS was able to purchase additional snowshoes in larger sizes to **enhance the quantity and reach of their programs.**

The Community Foundation believes in protecting Lake Tahoe's pristine beauty and educating residents and visitors to be good stewards, ensuring that its crystal-clear waters and vibrant ecosystems are being nurtured and cared for, and that a healthy Tahoe can endure for generations to come.

Creating Fire Safe Communities

Fire prevention and safety remains a top priority and the Community Foundation's **Tahoe Fire Safe Initiative** funds **defensible space and other fire prevention strategies in the Tahoe Basin, focusing on people and property.**

The Community Foundation focuses on fire safety by **funding strategies** to prevent catastrophic events in Tahoe, **investing in innovative ideas and piloting new technologies**, implementing **long-term and sustainable changes**, and **educating Tahoe communities** about the threats of wildfire and preventative measures they can take to protect their families and homes.

In 2024, the Community Foundation awarded grants to a wide range of projects such as a telescopic dump trailer to **Tahoe Douglas Fire Prevention District**, which helped them launch a new program within their extensive **defensible space work, allowing residents to properly remove hazardous fuels from their properties.** The Community Foundation also

supported various educational and outreach events hosted by **Tahoe Resource Conservation District** and local fire districts to **raise awareness and move community members to action.**

In 2024, the Community Foundation **helped launch efforts to protect the historic Thunderbird Lodge** from wildfire by offering support for **Thunderbird Lake Tahoe to upgrade their underground water supply lines.** This project includes replacing or reinforcing outdated or inadequate water lines, thus enhancing the lodge's firefighting capabilities and overall resilience against wildfires. Support was also given to begin Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's efforts to **create defensible space around the lodge and surrounding buildings** as well as to install portable fire water pumps throughout the property. This project will protect Thunderbird Lodge so that it will be around for all to enjoy for many years by ensuring it is fire resilient and has adequate access to water resources for any future firefighting needs.



Images courtesy of North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

The ongoing Thunderbird Lake Tahoe project is a large undertaking with extensive costs, so when it was presented to the Tahoe Community Foundation's Donor-Advised Fundholders through co-investment, multiple donors who were passionate about Thunderbird Lodge became aware of the project and stepped in to invest in the efforts being made to **protect this historical site.**

Perhaps most notably, in 2024, the Community Foundation **expanded its funding of Fire Aside software to all Tahoe-Nevada fire districts.** The expansion of the Fire Aside software followed a successful pilot funded by the Community Foundation in 2023 with the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection district. The ultimate goal of the 2023 pilot was to expand the use of Fire Aside to all fire districts in the Tahoe Basin. This was achieved in 2024 through a partnership with Tahoe Fund's Smartest Forest Fund, which funded the implementation of the software in the California fire districts within the Tahoe Basin. This expansion of Fire Aside across the basin is a great example of how **philanthropy can step in and fill funding gaps to make Tahoe communities safer** for everyone.

Investing in the Future of Nonprofits

Rotary Foundation of Incline Village is the foundation arm of the Rotary Club of Incline Village (Rotary Foundation of IV). The Rotary Foundation embraces Rotary International's core principle: "Service Above Self." They are volunteers who are dedicated to providing service to others, promoting integrity, and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. **Rotary Foundation of Incline Village supports projects around the Incline Village community and funds local nonprofits.** The Rotary Foundation of IV recognizes that having both long and short-term financial stability for their all-volunteer organization will **strengthen their impact.**

Establishing an endowment fund with the Community Foundation gives them the confidence that they have **secured investments that will last forever**, while their investment fund has allowed Rotary Foundation of Incline Village to utilize the strengths of the Community Foundation to **grow their investment and work toward their mission today.**

Rotary Club of IV President, Judy Spees says: "Our endowment fund with the Community Foundation was established to help grow funds to support our

local community. With this fund, the Rotary Foundation of Incline Village has the security of knowing that the Community Foundation has safeguarded these funds and invested them wisely to ensure charitable giving for years to come."

At the heart of its mission, the Community Foundation believes that **strong nonprofits build strong communities.** We remain committed to strengthening our nonprofit organizations by supporting them with the **resources they need to sustain and scale their mission.** Our support goes beyond grantmaking.

Nonprofit Endowment and Investment Funds are a great way for a nonprofit to partner with the Community Foundation in **asset building.** The nonprofit is able to decide its fundraising strategy, set their goals and objectives, and approach their donors, while the Community Foundation provides **fund administration, investment management, and flexible gift acceptance.** This allows nonprofits, especially those with staff or resource limitations, the ability to invest with confidence. By growing their assets and endowments, nonprofit organizations are able to **set themselves on a path toward sustainability while focusing on their mission.**



— hiking on the Tahoe Rim Trail



Each year, the Community Foundation's **Giving for Good** campaign raises funds for our community programs which address the greatest needs of the region we love. The Community Foundation **exists to provide fundamental and sustainable support to our community** and each person who participates in Giving for Good becomes part of this work.

Our **generous sponsors lead the charge** in raising these funds and we are grateful for their investment in our community by Giving for Good.



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The Future of Tahoe Community Foundation

Elevating Generosity Today and for the Future of Tahoe

The Community Foundation has long been a **steward of collaboration, resilience, and transformation**. And now, standing at the threshold of an exciting future ahead, Tahoe Community Foundation is not just imagining the future — **we are building it**.

This is an important time for our community to have a steadfast foundation. Even in uncertain times, we exist – at our core – to **provide resources for Tahoe** to thrive today and into the future.

We continue to deepen our commitment to the communities we **serve to act as an incredible resource**:

- A resource for **donors to make confident and meaningful investments** in their community.
- A resource for **nonprofits to gain support, strategy, and insight**.
- A resource through **leadership and partnership which reflects the voices of our community**.
- A resource for **anyone who simply wants to be more charitable**.

Whether you want to **directly** help the Community Foundation with our work by **Giving for Good**, or you want to **support our work now and into the future** by giving to the Community Foundation Endowment, **you are part of our story**. Together, we are shaping a stronger Tahoe.

As we grow, we continue to see more individuals and families turning to the Community Foundation as a partner in their giving, **offering tools for effective and meaningful giving**, and by helping donors **understand and prepare for the region’s most pressing needs**. This has allowed us to increase our grantmaking to nonprofits, offering **substantial and sustainable support**.

While we may look a little different with our new brand and simplified name, the Tahoe Community Foundation **remains dedicated to serving the region with the same passion and commitment** on which we were built. As we move forward, we invite you to remain an integral part of our exciting journey as we continue to **grow our grantmaking, increase our impact, and elevate generosity in Tahoe for years to come**.



Abe Blair Photography

We are grateful to Abe Blair for so beautifully capturing the Tahoe we love, and for allowing us to share his art to help tell our story.

Abe Blair is always trying to push the limits. Throughout his life, Abe has defied odds and pursued his passions. Having received his first film camera in 1992 at age 14, he knew photography was going to be an important part of his life. At the end of high school, he suffered a traumatic brain injury, which resulted in a temporary loss of vision in his left eye and an inability to walk, talk, hear out of his left ear, or move the left side of his face. Doctors believed he was destined for a sedentary lifestyle, but determined and driven by his passions, Abe pushed himself to recover and pursue his dream of being an outdoor photographer. After years of hard work, he was able to regain everything except the hearing in his left ear and the use of the left side of his face.

Abe has traveled the world pursuing his photography career, recording his incredible adventures, connecting with nature in its wildest and most beautiful moments, and capturing light and essence to create art. Through his talents, Abe is able to capture the magnificence of Tahoe and he uses his photography to promote philanthropy and stewardship. When the Community Foundation asked if he'd be willing to share his talents and visual imagery of our region in its most stunning moments, he didn't hesitate. "Tahoe is such a special place," he said. "It's a great place to raise a family, to enjoy nature, and to photograph. I'm grateful to the Community Foundation for all the good work they do to help the community and to keep Tahoe special."



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