

# Community Matters

SPRING 2015



PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## \$50,000 Fefferman Award Announced



Mr. Lewis Watson is the 2015 winner of the The Dr. Robert Fefferman Award for Excellence in Math and Science Education.

A mathematics teacher at Marshall Fundamental High School, Watson received a \$25,000 check for unrestricted personal use from the fund established at the Pasadena Community Foundation.

The Fefferman award also benefits the teacher's school with a \$15,000 gift to Marshall's Math Department. Two graduating seniors, Krikor Ailanjian and Caolan John were chosen to each receive a \$5,000 college scholarship for outstanding academic performance in math or science. Each of the five teacher finalists received \$500.

## Outstanding Educators Inspire Students!

The Fefferman Award seeks to acknowledge outstanding high school math and science teachers and students within the Pasadena Unified School District.

The winning teacher, Lewis Watson, became emotional as he thanked his colleagues, principal, and wife, Sandy Watson, whom he described as "the best second grade teacher" (She teaches at Don Benito).

Watson began teaching at Marshall in 2009 after a long career in business management. When asked why he became a math teacher, Watson stated that "We allow people to act as if it is okay to have poor math skills. We allow the perception that math is hard and unobtainable to thrive. I hope to make

progress in this area by making math obtainable to both the students and their families."

Inspired to make a difference in the lives of his students, Mr. Watson is constantly looking for new ways to grasp their attention.

When he arrived at Marshall, he realized that the levels of his students varied greatly in his classes. Unsatisfied with the lack of



John Muir High School: (L to R) PUSD Superintendent, Brian McDonald; Engineering teacher, Eugene Mahmoud; Math teacher, Sumita Luthria; Math teacher, Bharatchandra Parekh and Muir principal, Tim Sippel



Marshall Fundamental High School: (L to R) Math teacher, Eric Mulfinger; Math teacher, Lewis Watson; PUSD Superintendent, Brian McDonald; and Marshall principal, Mark Anderson

individualized approached, Watson, with the help of Principal Mark Anderson and others within the Math Department, began testing new technologies and computer programs that would provide individualize instruction, increase motivation, and enhance understanding.

According to Anderson, "Mr. Watson spreads optimism and hope wherever he goes. He is never content with himself or others being good, he wants us all to be great, won-

derful, or fantastic. We at Marshall are proud of his accomplishments."

This award is made possible thanks to an anonymous donor who believes that outstanding educators inspire students to pursue a higher level of math and science education; and that students who are inspired to pursue jobs in the fields of math and science can help both the local Pasadena community and the larger world.

The Selection Committee reviewed over 20 applications, made classroom visits, and ultimately conducted interviews with five teacher finalists.

### ADVISOR

Mr. Ray Cortines, Superintendent of LAUSD

### 2015 AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

Anonymous donor

Ms. Laura Pagano, Co-chair Fefferman Award Committee

Mr. Chris Bragg, Co-chair Fefferman Award Committee

Mr. Rick McAlpin, Corporate Vice President, Parsons Corporation

Ms. Eddie Newman, Board member, Pasadena Community Foundation; former principal, John Muir High School

Dr. Donna E. Nordstrom, Professor of Mathematics, Pasadena City College

Dr. Paul Rothmund, Senior Research Associate, California Institute of Technology

## Who is Robert Fefferman?

Robert Fefferman is the Max Mason Distinguished Service Professor of Mathematics at the University of Chicago. His work includes research mathematics, teaching, and service to his University and to the community at large including the Chicago Public Schools. He is an inspiration to many, including the donor who named the fund in his honor.

# PCF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Christopher Orndorff, CFA**

Christopher Orndorff is a Senior Portfolio Manager at Western Asset. He earned his MBA from the University of Chicago and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation nearly 30 years of investment experience to the PCF board.

“I first came in contact with the Pasadena Community Foundation over 20 years ago, when I set up some donor advised funds. In doing so, I learned about the great work that they do, and I have been a financial supporter ever since. During a time when our state government is doing less and less for our community, we are so fortunate to have an organization like the Pasadena Community Foundation. I look forward to serving on the board and helping to continue the good work that they have done in the past.”

A long-time Pasadena resident Mr. Orndorff was a trustee of Westridge School for 11 years and spent several years on the board of the Children’s Bureau of Southern California Foundation. He was also a coach, board member, and past President of Pasadena American Little League. Chris recently served 3 years as a board member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Pasadena. He is a member of the CFA Society of Los Angeles, and the CFA Institute. He has two children and resides in Pasadena.



**David Beringer, CPA**

The Pasadena Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Dave Beringer back to the board. Born and raised in Pasadena, Dave graduated from La Salle High School and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics and Accounting from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the President and Founder of The Beringer Group and has over 35 years of experience in public accounting practice. He has also an extensive background in estate and trust tax and administration. Dave’s expertise as a CPA, combined with his acting role as a private fiduciary, will help support the work of PCF.

“I sat on the PCF committee that selected Jennifer DeVoll and have seen PCF boost its impact on the Pasadena area community. When my first term ended, I handed the baton to our dear friend Corene Pindroh, so it’s an honor to return and attempt to carry forward her exceptional stewardship.”

His professional memberships include the Professional Fiduciary Association of California (PFAC), and he is also a Business Advisory Member at the John Muir High School Business Academy.

The proud father of three is an avid sports fan of college football and basketball, and a loyal fan of the Los Angeles Clippers! Dave enjoys the thriving art, entertainment and foodie culture of Pasadena.

**PCF** is pleased to announce the formation of a Professional Advisors Committee. This group of estate planning attorneys, CPAs, and investment advisors will help the Foundation educate the professional community about the Pasadena Community Foundation and help us be more responsive in supporting these advisors and their clients regarding charitable giving.

## Professional Advisors Committee

### CPAs

- Bill Hranchak
- Temo Arjani, LLP*
- Elaine Gregory
- Gregory, Fillas & Buschauer*
- Glenn Wallmark
- Lucas Horsfall*



R to L: Elaine Gregory, Karl Swaidan, Kelley Bannon Lashley, Kathleen Gilmore, Dan Rothenberg, Alison Gamble, Glenn Wallmark and PCF Board member and Committee liaison, Les Stocker. (Not pictured Bill Hranchek, Gloria Pitzer)

## Estate Planning Attorneys

- Kelley Bannon Lashley
- Calleton, Merritt, DeFrancisco & Bannon*
- Gloria Pitzer
- Palermo, Barbaro, Chinen & Pitzer LLP*
- Karl Swaidan
- Hahn & Hahn LLP*

## Investment Advisors

- Alison J. Gamble
- Gamble Jones Investment Counsel*
- Kathleen Gilmore
- Clifford Swan Investment Counsel*
- Dan Rothenberg
- UBS Financial Services*

# GRANTS IN ACTION

## *Jose Ramirez, Chaser Extraordinaire!*

*Former drop-out, now high school graduate, chases kids back to school.*

Jose, raised in Pasadena, started skipping school at age 14, usually hanging out with his cousin. By 15, Jose's Dad said he had to go to school or go to work because the family needed financial help. So at 15, Jose dropped out of school and went to work for KFC.

A year or so later, Jose met Mikala, the founder of Learning Works. Mikala volunteered to pick Jose up from KFC and bring him to Learning Works for private tutoring. With hard work and lots of support from the Learning Works team, Jose was able to get caught up and graduate from high school.

Seven years later, Jose is working at Learning Works as a 'Chaser'. He is responsible for 35 students – tracking down and picking up the kids when they



doesn't mean that on any given day they wouldn't rather sleep in, hang out with friends or do any of the other things that they did when they were dropouts. They often need a nudge, some encouragement or a voice in their ear telling them to focus. Chasers perform those jobs and more, literally chasing our students to school to complete their work. Like Jose, they have come from the same background

and neighborhoods as the students themselves. Most were dropouts, got in trouble with the law and/or had children, and they persevered to get their diploma. They know what our students face.”

skip school. He drives one of the highly visible purple cars wrapped in the Learning Works logo, donated by the Pasadena Community Foundation. According to Jose, “I know the kids, their families and cousins, and their phone numbers. I know all the excuses and tricks they use to ditch school because I lived that life.”

Mikala Rahn is the original Chaser and credits the model with their tremendous success. “All our students have made the decision to get their diploma. But that

and neighborhoods as the students themselves. Most were dropouts, got in trouble with the law and/or had children, and they persevered to get their diploma. They know what our students face.”

Mikala founded Learning Works Charter School as a place where kids who drop out of school have a chance to receive the support they need to succeed at school. Hundreds of kids have been helped at Learning Works. Most will finish high school; many will go on to college.





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 national standards for U.S.  
 community foundations

## Pasadena Child Health Foundation and Pasadena Community Foundation Announce Partnership

The Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) and the Pasadena Child Health Foundation (PCHF) are pleased to announce a new partnership. Both foundations share a commitment to serving the local community through grants to non-profit agencies.

The Pasadena Child Health Foundation will retain its status as an independent private foundation wherein governance, fiduciary oversight, and granting decisions remain with the board. PCHF's mission is to support local organizations and programs that aim to reduce disparities that adversely impact the health of children residing in the greater Pasadena area.

According to Jennifer DeVoll, "By supporting the work of PCHF's Board, we fulfill our own mission...stewarding endowments that generate grants for local non-profits." PCF will administer the Child Health Foundation. We bring both a deep knowledge of the local community as well as a broader perspective of the foundation world. Mike deHilster who is the key staff member assigned to PCHF brings five years of private foundation experience, having previously worked at the Fletcher Jones Foundation.



Charmayne Ealy, Board Chair Pasadena Child Health Foundation, with Jennifer DeVoll and Mike deHilster, Pasadena Community Foundation

Over the past 10 years, PCHF has granted more than \$2.7 million dollars to local agencies. At the end of 2014, PCHF awarded grants to eight local agencies totaling \$275,000.



### 2014 Pasadena Child Health Foundation Grant Recipients

- Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
- Flintridge Center
- Girls on the Run of Los Angeles
- Learning Works Charter School
- Mothers' Club Family Learning Center
- Pasadena Educational Foundation
- Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
- Young & Healthy

For more information,  
 visit [pchf.org](http://pchf.org)



PCHF's 2014 grant supports Mothers' Club Afternoon Two-Generation Learning Program that serves 56 children and their parents each day. Funding allows the program to add parent education, family literacy training, maternal mental health support, nutrition workshops, hearing/vision screenings, and early intervention assessments.