

# Community MATTERS

FALL 2021



PASADENA COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## FRIENDS & FELLOWS AMPLIFY PASADENA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S IMPACT

For 68 years, Pasadena Community Foundation has helped shape the local landscape with its broad grantmaking in support of our community's residents and places.

With support from our Friends & Fellows, PCF will enter 2022 building on the critical partnerships that underpinned our pandemic relief efforts, supporting our roster of grant programs, and continuing to be nimble as needs arise.

**Pandemic Relief for the  
Arts & Small Businesses**



**PCF  
Scholars**



**New Animal  
Welfare  
Program**



**Community  
Vaccine  
Clinics**

**In 2021 PCF will Award  
\$2.7 MILLION in Grants**

**Affordable  
Housing**



**New Racial  
Equity  
Program**



**Your Friends & Fellows gift is an investment in PCF's work.  
Turn to page 8 to make your donation.**

## IN HONOR OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

# NEW ENDOWMENTS HONOR WOMEN'S LIVES OF SERVICE

Marvel B. Kirby passed away earlier this year at the age of 91. In her bequest to PCF, she chose to honor several friends with close connections to Pasadena and who shared her ethos of service and generosity. Each will have a named endowment established that will support causes important to them. Here we feature two of them.

## NEVILL MCINERNY ENDOWMENT

Spirited and accomplished, warm and kind, Nevill Ann Dunn McNerny was a woman with incomparable originality and a megawatt smile. She passed away in April 2021 at the age of 93, and her memorial endowment will support PCF's grantmaking in the areas of Environment & Animal Welfare, Health & Safety, and Human Services.



Born in 1927 in San Francisco, Nevill soon moved to Altadena, California with her parents and two siblings. Here, she began her love affair with the San Gabriel Mountains and developed her strong sense of independence and adventure. She spent her days exploring the trails, climbing trees, and wading in the creeks near her childhood home on Homewood Drive.

Nevill attended Mayfield School and South Pasadena High School (class of 1944) before heading to Cal Berkeley. Her love of adventure next led her to work with United and then PanAm airlines. During this period, she ran into Bob McNerny, whom she had met years prior at San Onofre



Beach, and they married in 1952. Bob loved the beach, and Nevill loved the mountains, so they split their time between Pasadena and St. Malo Beach in Oceanside. They raised their five children in both places, and Nevill loved being their mom. Highlights of her adult life included

world travel with Bob, volunteering at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the Pasadena Art Alliance, and her antiques and decorating business, Sadler Merrill Company.

### A Legacy of Empathy

For Nevill's daughter Kate, her mother's lifetime of empathy, compassion, and concern for those who struggle is Nevill's legacy. "She was the mom all kids could go to when they couldn't go to their own, and she was beloved for this. She was a quiet advocate for the lost and struggling. Anyone who came into her orbit experienced a magical sense of inclusiveness and importance. She was the most supportive friend imaginable."



"My mother would have been so deeply honored to know there is an endowment in her name. It would bring her to tears! She would take to heart the social value and potential such an endowment presents. In PCF's hands, we know that this endowment will support the things Nevill most cared about: her compassion for social welfare issues, her beloved San Gabriel mountains, and animals."

Read more about Nevill's life at:  
<https://pasadenacf.org/funds/nevill-mcinerney-endowment>



## ROSEMARY “RARY” SIMMONS ENDOWMENT

A lifelong Californian and a 67-year resident of San Marino, Rosemary “Rary” Simmons counts decades of selfless charitable work among her accomplishments. Her love of the arts, commitment to healthcare, and an ethos of giving back has been her life’s motivation, leaving one to wonder not where she has volunteered but where she has not.



### Glass-Half-Full Volunteer and Public Servant

Rary began her loyal service to the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts (then known as the Pasadena Junior Philharmonic) and eventually became the Showcase House Chair and later, President. Numerous organizations

“As a four-term board member and now a Director Emeritus of Huntington Hospital, Rary Simmons has long embraced our values of collaboration, respect, integrity, stewardship, and excellence in all that she does. Without question, Rary personifies these qualities — and she inspires others, including her own children, to follow her example of volunteerism, philanthropy, and service. She remains an outstanding ambassador for Huntington Hospital’s mission of compassionate care.”

- Lori J. Morgan, MD, MBA  
Huntington Hospital CEO & President

have been fortunate to have Rary serve on their advisory and boards, including Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Services, Hillside, the Pasadena Senior Center, San Marino’s Hill-Harbrison House, and Cancer Support Community.

In 1982, Rary was selected to fill a vacancy on the San Marino City Council and became its first female member. In 1986, she became the city’s first female mayor. She joined the Huntington Hospital Board in 1992, where she is still very active today as its first Emerita member.

In between this incredible community leadership, Rary served as Room Mother for each of her five children and as a dedicated member of the PTA Boards; she ultimately became President of the San Marino PTSA Council. Along the way, she served as Grad Night Chair, one of her favorite endeavors.

Today, at age 90, Rary continues to be active with several organizations and keeps close tabs on the community that she loves. She hopes her PCF endowment will support the arts, healthcare, and community needs as they vary and change.

Read more about Rary’s life and work at:  
<https://pasadenacf.org/funds/rary-simmons-endowment>



## BECOME A PCF ENDOWMENT BUILDER IN THREE EASY STEPS:

ESTABLISH YOUR OWN “FOREVER GIFT”  
IN SUPPORT OF THE FOUNDATION’S  
GRANTMAKING TO LOCAL NONPROFITS.

### 1. Pick your passion

Choose from one or more of PCF’s areas of interest: Arts & Culture, Community & Economic Development, Environment & Animal Welfare, Health & Safety, Human Services, and Youth & Education. Or, make an “unrestricted” gift.

### 2. Name your endowment

Memorialize a loved one who has passed, mark an important milestone, or create an endowment to “pay it forward.”

### 3. Make your gift

Establish your fund during your lifetime or through your estate plan. It takes just \$10,000 to start an endowment with PCF (or \$5,000 for two years).

This fall, **29 local organizations received \$659,000 in PCF Capital Grants** to strengthen their mission and deliver their programming more effectively.

Three Pasadena organizations will use their Capital Grant awards to better the lives of some of Pasadena's youngest residents.

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE PASADENA

Creature comforts – a home-cooked meal or a newly laundered, warm blanket – make a home. For families with children who are critically ill and in need of care from Huntington Hospital or Shriners for Children Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House Pasadena provides a “home away from home” and the nurturing and moral support required to heal and return to good health.

The Ronald McDonald Charities Pasadena campus comprises three historic homes, built in 1910, 1912, and 1936. Here, client families have access to a fully stocked pantry, three communal kitchens, two laundry rooms, large backyard, family activities, and therapeutic family support services.

While the homes have been lovingly maintained, Executive Director Mara Leong-Maguinez notes that “the facilities experience constant wear and tear and need maintenance in order to provide families the best comfort possible. We love seeing the camaraderie and mutual support that emerge among our families in the homes’ shared spaces. With PCF’s Capital Grant, we’ll be able to replace damaged flooring in the kitchen and laundry space and upgrade the appliances in both rooms. We cannot wait to enjoy the improved amenities.”

Ronald McDonald House Pasadena Executive Director Mara Leong-Maguinez, far left, with her staff.

# Raising Healthy, Curious,



Mom Maria and Daughter Rubi begin meal preparation at Ronald McDonald House Pasadena. The kitchen will be updated with the PCF Capital Grant award.







An ECAR tutor works with young students at Club 21.

## CLUB 21 LEARNING & RESOURCE CENTER

Club 21 Learning & Resource Center provides the educational tools and resources that enable individuals with Down syndrome to be fully included and live meaningful lives. Thanks to the organization's Every Child a Reader (ECAR) weekly 1:1 tutoring program, they also become literate. PCF's grant award will help strengthen ECAR by enabling the purchase of updated iPads and Chromebooks.

Through literacy, Club 21 students gain skills they will need to live healthy, productive lives with continuing education, meaningful employment, and interdependent living. Students in elementary through high school attend ECAR and learn to read, while their parents receive training to support their child's learning at home and in school.

Software and applications that focus on visuals and a whole word approach have proven critical for Club 21 reading tutors and their students. Nancy Litteken, Club 21's Executive Director, says "tablets engage our students, who

need a lot of sensory input and can use them to practice their typing, build muscle tone, and develop fine motor skills. The tablets will also help our transition-age students practice life skills like accessing transportation, resume writing, job and college applications, and apartment hunting. We are thrilled we can update our technology and open up more possibilities for our students."

# & Fully Included Children



Outdoor spaces at Families Forward Learning Center will be adapted to create better capacity and learning opportunities.



## FAMILIES FORWARD LEARNING CENTER

Families Forward Learning Center's Two-Generation Learning Early Childhood Program prepares families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life. The center promotes strong parent-child relationships and encourages friendship and mutual support among parents through education programs and social services.

"The last two years have been challenging," Executive Director Elva Sandoval says. "We were unable to hold in-person programming for months. When we brought children back on site it became clear that we needed to increase the capacity of our limited outdoor space by making it more flexible. Learning is mostly done outdoors instead of in the classroom to mitigate the spread of the virus."

To that end, FFLC will use PCF's Capital Grant to purchase new outdoor picnic tables and shade awnings for the early childhood education activities taking place outdoors, as well sturdy, wheeled folding tables for parent education and school-age child tutoring. The funds will also support the installation of drought-tolerant shade trees and perennial plantings to beautify the outdoor play and learning spaces. Sandoval notes "The outdoor learning center has always been one of our center's favorite features: It was thoughtfully and creatively designed to support children's developmental stages. Improving it for additional use will strengthen our programming and help us open our doors to more families."

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

## PCF SUPPORTS THE RENEWAL OF ARTS PERFORMANCES

The arts continue to be one of PCF's priority areas of interest. The last two years have been especially tough on arts organizations, largely because their experiential and in-person nature led to protracted closures during the pandemic. Many found themselves in precarious financial and operational positions, and PCF stepped up its funding to help mitigate some of those impacts.

Two local arts organizations received PCF Capital Grants this fall: the Pasadena Symphony Association and Parson's Nose Theater.

### Pasadena Symphony

The Pasadena Symphony Association (PSA) is one of the largest and oldest arts organizations in Southern California, forming more than 90 years ago and serving an estimated 45,000 community members annually throughout Southern California. PSA has a wide roster of programming; one of its best-known is its five annual POPS concerts at the LA County Arboretum presenting music of the great American Songbook.

PSA will use its PCF grant to replace a critical piece of stage equipment: a stable back wall for live performances at the Arboretum, which will ensure musician safety and reinforce the acoustical platform for sound amplification.



The purchase of a new stage wall will ensure that POPS concerts go off without a hitch in summer 2022.

## 2021 PCF GRANTS FOR LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

- **\$50,000** to support the City of Pasadena's emergency Art & Culture Relief Grant Program
- **\$45,000** via the Giesen Trust, a component fund of PCF
- **\$100,000** of unrestricted funding to 14 local arts organizations via PCF's Performing & Visual Arts Recovery Grant Program.



Parson's Nose actors perform their most recent podcast, "The Streets of Pasadena!"

### Parson's Nose Theater

Parson's Nose Theater (PNT) produces condensed classic plays and stories in accessible, professional, and interactive presentations. When the pandemic closed theaters in 2020, the company began creating remotely recorded podcasts to continue fulfilling its mission, and its "Parson's Nose Radio Theater" came to life. In a remarkable success story, the company has produced nearly 50 podcasts and reached 4,700 listeners since May 2020.

Theaters are once again opening, and Parson's Nose Theater will return to its in-person audiences. PNT will use its PCF grant to purchase equipment to record its new hybrid model of theater: In-person productions that are also recorded live for free podcasts.

"Our new model of podcasted plays, free to anyone with Internet access, revealed a path for us to effectively reach a wider and more diverse audience," said Lance Davis, PNT CoFounder & Producing Artistic Director. "PCF's funding will help us continue to reduce any barriers to access."



## PASADENA SALVATION ARMY

# THE HOPE CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

The Salvation Army's Diane and John Mullin Hope Center officially broke ground on Tuesday, October 12, and in recognition of PCF's \$350,000 grant towards its construction, PCF Board members and staff were on hand to mark the occasion. PCF was one of the first organizations to step up with significant funding, a move that Salvation Army leadership credits with giving the project much-needed momentum and ultimately attracting additional funders.

PCF President & CEO Jennifer DeVoll and PCF Board Chair Margaret Mgrublian join Pasadena Tabernacle Corps Major Roy Wild and his wife Paula at the October 12 groundbreaking. The four-story Hope Center will create 65 units of affordable, permanent, and supportive housing.



The Salvation Army's Hope Center is the first grantee of **PCF's Affordable Housing Initiative**, which was launched in 2019. The goal for this initiative is to fund projects that add much-needed shelter and beds, permanent supportive housing, and affordable home ownership.

## COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



CWC President Rozanne Child, in turquoise dress, is joined by CWC leaders at the Club's Centennial Tea on November 7, 2021.

On November 7, 2021, College Women's Club of Pasadena celebrated its Centennial Year with a gala tea. Pasadena Community Foundation manages CWC Scholarship Foundation Endowment, which has awarded more than \$1 million to more than 600 young women in the greater Pasadena area throughout the Club's 100-year-history. This partnership ensures the perpetuity of the Club's outreach and mission.

We salute CWC for its incredible 100 years of supporting women with their education goals.



PASADENA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

301 East Colorado Blvd.  
Suite 810  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
(626) 796-2097  
pcfstaff@pasadenacf.org  
[pasadenacf.org](http://pasadenacf.org)

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## PCF WELCOMES

# LIZ ALGERMISSEN

## DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Liz Algermissen joined the PCF staff in October, stepping into the Director of Development role after serving for ten years as the Senior Associate Director of Major Gifts at Claremont McKenna College where she worked on two record-setting Capital Campaigns. Prior to that position, Liz held the role of Assistant Director for Exhibitions and Programs for 11 years at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Liz spent her childhood living on the Stanford University campus, where her father served on the faculty, and in Honolulu. In middle school, her family moved to Pasadena, where Liz attended Westridge School. She graduated from Yale University with a degree in the History of Art and then earned an MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Liz and her husband Steve live in Pasadena, where they raised their three now young-adult sons. She is an active community volunteer with service on the boards of Westridge School, Kidspace Children's Museum, Las Madrinass of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Pasadena Art Alliance, and the Pasadena Garden Club.

Liz is thrilled to join PCF, an organization which she has long admired for the tremendous positive impact it provides the greater Pasadena area community. She spends her free time walking all over Pasadena, visiting art museums and galleries, gardening, reading, and entertaining friends and family.



## MARGARET AND DAVID MGRUBLIAN

### 25th Annual Friends & Fellows Campaign Co-Chairs

"Our annual Friends & Fellows gift is an investment toward many organizations that collectively make our community healthier, stronger, and a better place to live.

Join us in giving generously to PCF's annual Friends & Fellows Campaign."

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*Give Today*



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