



## PCF'S 2022 FRIENDS & FELLOWS CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON DOING GOOD

This year, Pasadena Community Foundation marks 69 years of grantmaking impact in the greater Pasadena area. We like to say we're here for good – *doing* good, in partnership with local nonprofit organizations and local leaders; and here *for* good – a nod to our longevity in the community and our plan to be here forever.

For local nonprofit organizations, 2022 was a year of determination, adaptation, and resilience following more than two years of pandemic challenges. Since January, in partnership with our generous community, PCF has supported more than 60 local nonprofits and 75 individual scholars with \$1.6 million in grant and scholarship awards.

This steadfast work in the community is supported by donors who endow their passions for the future good of our community and contribute to the annual Friends & Fellows Fund.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE



SENIOR GRANTS



ANIMAL WELFARE GRANTS



SCHOLARS



HEALTHY KIDS

### Here for GOOD

Make your own impact  
for good this fall by  
supporting our work as  
a PCF Friend or Fellow.

VISIT PAGE 8 TO MAKE YOUR  
DONATION FOR GOOD



## A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE BECOMES A DONOR ADVISED FUND FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Edward (“Ted”) and Betsy Merchant have deep roots in Pasadena and a commitment to the wellbeing of their community. Betsy’s great-grandparents arrived in Pasadena from the east coast in 1888, before Pasadena was an incorporated city. Ted is also a Pasadena native. He attended John Muir High School before going on to pursue what became a 35-year career in obstetrics and gynecology. Betsy was a long-time teacher in local schools and now devotes her time to nourishing the hearts and souls of people through her involvement in Stillpoint, an ecumenical organization. Ted and Betsy have been married since 1978 and have three grown children.

### A Unique Real Estate Donation

Ten years ago, the Merchants purchased a three-bedroom house on South San Marino Avenue as a property for Ted’s sister. It was her home for nine years before she moved away earlier this year. “We wondered what to do with it,” Ted notes, “before realizing that if we gave it away to a nonprofit, we could realize a tax break.”

With the help of their accountant Tony Gronroos, a managing partner with HKG in Pasadena, the couple reached out to PCF. “We considered working with various nonprofits that have focused missions, but we didn’t feel comfortable putting all those eggs in one basket,”

### PCF WORKS CLOSELY WITH DONORS TO STRUCTURE THE TERMS OF THEIR GIFTS.

Gifts of real estate can be directed to donor advised funds, charitable gift annuities, endowment or scholarship funds, and more, according to the donor’s wishes and philanthropic goals.

Donating appreciated real estate that has been held for more than one year has many benefits. A donor may be able to take an immediate tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the property of up to 30% of their adjusted gross income (“AGI”). If the donation is greater than 30% of their AGI, then the excess can be carried forward for five years.

For donors, a real estate gift to a DAF may prove to have more advantageous tax savings when compared to similar donations made to private Foundations, which are deductible at the lesser of the donor’s cost basis and the fair market value.

To find out more about gifts of real estate, and how PCF can help, **call us at (626) 796-2097 or send an email** to Director of Development Liz Algermissen at [ealgermissen@pasadenacf.org](mailto:ealgermissen@pasadenacf.org).

Ted remembers.” PCF gave us the unique opportunity to give the house away and then create a fund that could be dispersed in multiple directions, supporting numerous nonprofit missions.”

PCF worked closely with Ted and Betsy to coordinate the gift of the property to the Foundation. Once the legal work was complete, PCF listed the property, which sold within two weeks. The proceeds funded a new donor advised fund, the Merchant Family Foundation, housed at PCF, which allows the family to make gifts to their favorite nonprofit organizations in the coming years. “The process was just ridiculously straightforward and easy, which is one of the things that sold us on PCF,” according to Ted. “PCF staff was incredibly helpful.”

### Benefits for the Entire Family

Along with realizing tax benefits of this significant charitable gift, Ted sees another important benefit: “Our DAF allows us to get together with our children and discuss philanthropic contributions. They are part of our ‘advisory committee’ and are an important part of our conversations about how to get involved in the philanthropic sector. It’s a nice way to bring our family together to do collective good.”



Betsy and Ted Merchant worked with PCF to sell a Pasadena property and create a donor advised fund with the proceeds.

# SCOTT & ALLISON CHRISTOPHER FAMILY ENDOWMENT

After Scott Christopher joined the Pasadena Community Foundation Board of Trustees in January 2020, an event occurred that reinforced his decision to lend additional support to the Foundation: the Covid-19 pandemic. Scott tells us “My wife, Allison, and I were impressed with the agility and adaptability of PCF to shift so quickly to raise funds and support nonprofits in Pasadena that were addressing this crisis. The ability of PCF to reach out quickly to the community and determine who needed funding and make grants inspired us.”

## Giving Back Throughout a Career

Scott grew up in Los Angeles, eventually graduating from UC Santa Barbara with degrees in economics and sociology. Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government was his next stop, where he earned a master’s degree in public policy. Back in California, he merged his background in public policy with a career in finance, specializing in structuring and underwriting municipal bond issues for public agencies like school districts.

During this time, Scott met Allison, an East Coast native who started her career in California as a securities research analyst. The couple married in 1989 and soon had two children, a son and a daughter. In 1997, they moved to Southern California to settle in La Cañada Flintridge as Scott changed careers to become a private banker. Allison has dedicated her time to raising the children into adulthood and volunteering at their children’s school, Polytechnic in Pasadena, and other community organizations.

Scott’s career has focused on helping successful families with investment management, financial planning, and advising them on philanthropy. He has also lent his



Scott & Allison Christopher

time to Polytechnic, where he was a member of the board of trustees and chair of the investment committee. He is still active on that committee 22 years later.

## A Passion for Education

The couple also invests time and resources into the Warren Christopher Scholars, a program that creates a pathway to college for underserved students in Los Angeles Unified School District. The scholarship program – named for Scott’s father, who was a well-known diplomat and Secretary of State under President Clinton – is administered by the California Community Foundation and supports 15 students each year. This experience has positioned Scott well during his time with PCF, where his expertise in scholarship programs proved helpful to the development and ongoing review of both the PCF Scholars and the Petersen Scholars programs.

It did not take Scott and Allison long to decide that they wanted to create a source of permanent support for their own Pasadena-area community. Their unrestricted PCF endowment was created in 2021. Creating a source of flexible support was important to the couple, Allison tells us. “We think that PCF is amazing in understanding the needs of the community. We like knowing that our endowment helps to secure the long-term future of PCF and keeps the Foundation agile and responsive in its grantmaking.”

## 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).

For questions about endowments or planned giving, contact:

**Liz Algermissen • [algermissen@pasadenacf.org](mailto:algermissen@pasadenacf.org) • 626.796.2097 x10**



# ENHANCING ARTS SPACES TO BUILD COMMUNITY

*As arts organizations begin to regain footing following disruptive pandemic closures, they recognize that audiences have new expectations for theater experiences and new needs for creative community spaces. This fall, seven of PCF's 22 Capital Grant recipients received support to enhance their delivery of the arts and provide new opportunities to build community. Here, we profile a few of them.*

## LINEAGE PERFORMING ARTS

Lineage Performing Arts moved into a new location in early 2020 with the goal of establishing an arts space to share with the community and other nonprofits in northwest Pasadena, an area lacking in community art spaces. Programming here centers on equitable access to arts education and includes Dance with Joy classes and performances for those with neurological challenges like Parkinson's, MS, and Alzheimer's. PCF's Capital Grant award will help the center purchase high-efficiency LED stage lighting and will elevate the stage experience for the center and its community partners.

## A NOISE WITHIN

In addition to producing world-class performances of classical theater, A Noise Within (ANW) runs robust education programs committed to inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. ANW will use its Capital Grant award to enhance its storytelling ability with a new LCD laser projector and upgraded speaker system for its Redmond Stage. The equipment will provide better creative flexibility by augmenting scenic and lighting design elements.







## PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

Pasadena Playhouse's 2021 raucous production of *Head Over Heels* highlighted a new phenomenon in staging live theater performances: Audiences are looking for "experiential productions" that foster more intimacy and interaction. At the Playhouse, productions have historically been limited to the proscenium; in recent years, however, productions have extended into audience spaces. That means lighting and support positions have to keep up with the times too. The Playhouse will use its Capital Grant funding to purchase ceiling trusses and motors that service new lighting and sound equipment, creating more production opportunities.

PCF awarded  
**\$511,000**  
in Capital Grant funding  
to 24 organizations  
Of that total,  
**\$170,000**  
was awarded to seven  
Arts & Culture organizations.

## LA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

For 37 years, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) has been headquartered at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, holding classes and rehearsals there for its seven choirs and approximately 750 participants ages 7-18. The organization sees very little attrition, says Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, LACC's Artistic Director. "Choristers often spend 10 years with us because we create an environment that is like a family."

LACC has been using cumbersome, unstable, and squeaky choral risers that are nearly 30 years old. With its Capital Grant award, LACC will be able to purchase a new set of choral risers that are lightweight, easy to assemble, and mobile.

## RED HEN PRESS

Red Hen Press publishes a wide range of literature and promotes literacy in Pasadena and beyond by hosting readings and literary events. The PCF Capital Grant award will help the organization upgrade its existing event space with full audio-visual offerings to give Red Hen Press and local partner organizations a flexible, multimedia-ready venue to stage performances and build community.



## Pasadena Conservatory of Music — \$50,000 for the Common Ground Campaign

Pasadena Conservatory of Music (PCM) has been awarded PCF's 2022 Capital Campaign Grant Award of \$50,000 in support of the organization's Common Ground Campaign, which will create several new classrooms and studios. The signature piece of the campaign will be a new courtyard and a 140-seat amphitheater that will provide new possibilities for less formal performances than those held inside PCM's signature venue, Barrett Hall. The courtyard and amphitheater will become the heart of the school and strengthen the sense of community on campus.

## ON THEIR WAY TO INDEPENDENCE

# PCF'S COMMITMENT TO TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

PCF is committed to the education and lifetime success of transition age youth, or TAY — young adults who begin aging out of foster care at 18. The period between ages 18 and 26 is one of significant uncertainty and challenges for TAY. Because they are often isolated from the institutions and experiences that catalyze emotional and economic growth, disconnected youth can quickly fall into poverty and homelessness.

This year, PCF funding will help TAY find or maintain safety nets at partner organizations, gain new life skills, and develop positive relationships with supportive adults.

## Petersen Scholars

In late 2021, a \$10 million gift to PCF from the Petersen Foundation established The Robert and Margie Petersen Scholarship Endowment for Transition Age Foster Youth. With that generous support, PCF created the Petersen Scholar Program, which assists TAY who want to pursue career and technical education or vocational training in the Pasadena and Los Angeles regions.

PCF is thrilled that the program launched this fall with the first cohort of 28 students, all of whom are enrolled in programs at three partner community colleges: Mt. San Antonio Community College (Mt. SAC), Pasadena



Imani and Natalie, two students who are part of the Petersen Scholars Program's first cohort.

City College, and Los Angeles City College. The Petersen Scholars Program provides each student with a monthly stipend, any materials or equipment needed, career counseling, and social-emotional support.

PCF Program Director Jeannine Bogaard helped develop the Petersen Scholars Program and has enjoyed meeting many of the students. "In getting to know the scholars, I've been impressed by how they define themselves despite their challenges. They use words like 'resilient,' 'determined,' and 'resourceful.' Our program is off to an incredible start with the help of these ambitious young people."



Petersen Scholar Sandy with her gift bag filled with school supplies and treats.

The 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count reported

# 4,673 TAY

were experiencing homelessness across LA County, with Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre, and other San Gabriel Valley communities seeing a 28% increase in homeless TAY.



## Coffee with a Cause

The seeds of Coffee with a Cause (CWAC) were sown many years ago when Pastor Dan Davidson came to Pasadena to start Rose City Church. “The first neighbors I encountered were young adults sleeping in the parking lot. Many of them were former foster youth,” he remembers. He reached out to local nonprofits for assistance in supporting the young adults and learned that one of the biggest gaps in services for TAY experiencing homelessness is job training and gainful employment opportunities.

Dan decided to repurpose a coffee cart that came with the church property and spent the next several years refining a unique approach to youth job training. That effort led to the opening of brick-and-mortar Rosebud Coffee in east Pasadena, and eventually, in 2020, into CWAC. There, TAY and other at-risk youth learn the craft of artisanal coffee service and find employment at Rosebud Coffee and other partner businesses.

PCF recently awarded CWAC \$24,000 to purchase much-needed equipment to help expand the training program and serve additional youth.



Trinity, shown working her shift at Rosebud Coffee, is one of the youth clients at Coffee with a Cause.

## FACTS ABOUT TAY

- **3%** graduate from college
- **20%** will become homeless after exiting foster care
- **35%** of personal household incomes will be below the poverty line once TAY become independent
- **25%** will be incarcerated within four years of exiting foster care

“We give them the opportunity to learn a craft that they are passionate about, and they learn to give back to the community. That’s where the transformation begins. These youth have been on the receiving end of services for most of their lives. They are finding their own path toward an occupation that they didn’t even know they had in them.”

– Pastor Dan Davidson

## Hillsides

The Youth Moving On (YMO) program at Hillsides supports the needs of TAY ages 16-25 who are emerging from foster care, probation, or are otherwise disconnected. Clients participate in workforce and life skills development, and mental health and wellness services; they also receive case management and 1-on-1 support as they work toward securing long-term, stable housing.

PCF’s recent grant award of \$30,000 will fund the replacement of aging furnishings, décor, and appliances within YMO’s nine transitional housing units, which house 18 clients at a time and an average of 25 clients annually. Safe, clean, and nicely furnished apartments send a clear message to the youth that they are worthy of a home and capable of achieving it. Seventy percent of YMO transitional housing clients graduate to long-term stable housing within 24 months and over 70% will increase their job income prior to graduating.



Hillsides’ Youth Moving On program supports TAY with mentoring and other services.

## PCF WELCOMES

### SUSANA INTERIANO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

Susana was born and raised in the City of Angels and currently resides in Echo Park with her 17-year-old daughter and two lovable dogs. In 2019, she completed her A.A. in Communication Studies at Pasadena City College and transferred to Cal State University, Dominguez Hills. For the past 15 years, Susie has been working in education for charter schools, where she got to serve families of the MacArthur Park and Watts communities as an Office Manager and Family Engagement Specialist. Excited to be back in Pasadena, Susie is now preparing her daughter for the next chapter of her life as she completes her senior year of high school, while enjoying hikes and brunch on Sundays.



## Here for GOOD

Seven decades  
of unwavering  
commitment  
to the greater  
Pasadena area



### 2022 FRIENDS & FELLOWS CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

#### DON HALL

*"I appreciate that PCF focuses its mission on causes and carefully vets the recipients of its grants for maximum local impact. PCF prioritizes building relationships in the community to expand its reach and meet needs as they arise."*

#### UMA SHRIVASTAVA

*"PCF enables local nonprofits to help vulnerable community residents and to enrich the social and cultural environment – causes near and dear to me. Your Friends & Fellows support amplifies PCF's impact in those areas."*

TO SEE OUR GOOD  
WORK IN ACTION  
WATCH OUR VIDEO  
ON YOUTUBE



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to give online

