

# Community MATTERS

SPRING 2023



PASADENA COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



Donald Hall, Tyrone Canady, Scott Christopher, Phyllis Crandon, Committee Chair Sandra Ell, CFO Mariver Copeland, Bonnie Wontrakool, David Lin, J. Scott Nesbit, Doug Achtemeier, and Vanguard Senior Consultant, CJ Dennis. Not pictured: Koko Archibong.

## NEW INVESTMENT COMMITTEE SUPPORTS PCF'S COMMITMENT TO GROWING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) has created a new Board committee dedicated solely to the oversight of PCF's investment portfolios. The Foundation recruited five community members to join current Board members on the Investment Committee to broaden and deepen PCF's expertise.

PCF Board Member and Investment Committee Chair Sandra Ell says "given the growth of our assets and the increasing complexity of PCF's portfolios, we felt it was the right time to bring in new perspectives.

Our assets have an important role — to create community impact through grants and scholarships."

Previously the oversight was handled by the Board Finance Committee, which also has responsibility for budgets and operations. The newly formed committee has representation from investment professionals with a variety of experience in equities, bonds, real estate, private equity, and endowments. According to Mariver Copeland, CFO at PCF, "the collective experience and expertise around the table is impressive!"

### New Investment Committee Members



**DOUG ACHEMEIER**  
Northern Trust  
(retired). Specialty in  
investment portfolios  
for endowments and  
foundations



**TYRONE CANADAY**  
VP, Product  
Management -  
Investment Research  
& Management,  
Capital Group



**DONALD HALL**  
Investor /  
Owner Hall  
Capital, LLC



**DAVID LIN**  
Principal,  
Investment  
Counselor, Clifford  
Swan Investment  
Counselors



**BONNIE  
WONTRAKOOL**  
Global Head of ESG  
Investments and  
Portfolio Manager  
at Western Asset  
Management

## THE RACHEL LISA STOCKER ENDOWMENT: A SHORT LIFE LEADS TO A LASTING LEGACY

Rachel Stocker was born in Pasadena in 1971 and lived with her parents, Les and Pamela, and three sisters near Eaton Canyon. The girls attended High Point Academy and had a happy, carefree childhood.

Rachel loved school and was an “A” student. She studied piano and flute and had a penchant for writing poetry. As she approached her thirteenth birthday, doctors discovered an inoperable brain tumor, a condition called astrocytoma. Her surgeons believed she had perhaps only months to live. However, with the steadfast support of her family caregivers, she lived for seven and a-half years, through multiple surgeries, radiation, chemotherapy, and other related procedures.

Rachel died at the age of 20 in 1991, and friends and family showered her family with heartfelt love. Several trees were planted in her memory, including a beautiful tulip tree planted near the main entrance to High Point Academy. Others were planted in places of importance to the family.



Rachel Stocker

### A Living Memorial

Since 2014, Rachel’s father, Les, has been an instrumental member of PCF’s Board of Directors. Last November, Les learned from Mariver Copeland, the Foundation’s CFO, that he could use a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) check from he and Pamela’s IRAs to create an endowment. The couple created the Rachel Lisa Stocker Endowment, which will support the areas of Human Services (which includes homelessness services, seniors, and adults with disabilities) and Youth & Education. They will use two \$5,000 gifts – from their RMDs – over two calendar years. The family plans to continue contributing to the

endowment annually and have also created a bequest to ensure their perpetual support.

“We could not think of a better way to have a living memorial to Rachel. While the trees planted in her name are beautiful and meaningful, they just stand there. But with this perpetual endowment, the proceeds year-by-year will go to enriching the lives of living people.”



Les and Pamela Stocker used their IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to create an endowment with PCF in honor of their daughter. In retirement, the IRS requires you to withdraw a certain amount – your RMD – each year whether you need the funds or not, and you pay income tax on every distribution. However, you can utilize your RMD to direct a gift to benefit charitable causes and reduce your tax burden at the same time. Certain rules apply – reach out to PCF Director of Development Liz Algermissen for more information. [ealgermissen@pasadenacf.org](mailto:ealgermissen@pasadenacf.org) 626.796.2097 x 105.

## 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 • [ealgermissen@pasadenacf.org](mailto:ealgermissen@pasadenacf.org) • 626.796.2097 x105**

# A VISIONARY LEAVES A LEGACY FOR THE PASADENA SHE HELPED SHAPE

As Marsha Rood shares her impressive role in Pasadena's late 20th century downtown resurgence, she pauses to laugh, saying "I have an almost embarrassing passion for Pasadena."

That passion first played out between 1982-2000, when she served as the city's Development Administrator and became a major force in the nationally recognized program of redevelopment, historic preservation, and economic revitalization of Pasadena's downtown core, including Old Pasadena. This spring, Rood turned to Pasadena Community Foundation to ensure the city she loves will benefit from her generosity forever.

## Old Pasadena's Preeminent Developer

With a BA degree from Stanford University and a master's with honors from USC's School of Planning, Rood was well qualified to help tackle the redevelopment of downtown Pasadena in the early 1980s. This was when dilapidated "Old Town" was evolving into "Old Pasadena," a shopping, dining, and residential area that leveraged the area's history and architecture.

Rood became immersed in the endeavor, forging critical public and private partnerships to make it all



Marsha Rood

possible. Her most important role was acting as the developer of Old Pasadena's parking garages and streetscapes plan, overseeing every aspect in constructing the city-owned parking structures, which were designed to be compatible with the surrounding historic architecture and to provide revenue for the ongoing redevelopment efforts. "I was paid to do what I love. Getting to put in place what we planned was a special privilege."

## A Memorandum for Charitable Intent (MOCI) for Future Support

Rood remains dedicated to her community, offering her leadership and service to organizations like Pasadena Presbyterian Church, the Shakespeare Club, the Women's Committee of the Pasadena Symphony Association, the Pasadena Rotary Club, and Old Pasadena Management District.

Her generous spirit for Pasadena will continue in the future by including PCF in her bequest. She used PCF's Memorandum of Charitable Intent (or "MOCI") to designate future funding for Friends in Deed, Pasadena Heritage, Pasadena Presbyterian Church, and the Women at Work Endowment, a PCF fund. Her MOCI also directs PCF to establish the Marsha Rood Endowment upon her passing, which will provide unrestricted support for the Foundation's grantmaking.



Marsha Rood has been honored extensively by national, regional, and city organizations. She is pictured here (center) in 1999 accepting an award from the Old Pasadena Business and Professional Association for her outstanding contributions to Old Pasadena.

Marsha Rood was one of many women to blaze a trail in Pasadena, and her career in urban planning, redevelopment, and economic revitalization made a significant impact here. The Women at Work Endowment at PCF will be one beneficiary of Marsha Rood's estate as designated by her MOCI. For more than 35 years, Women at Work offered job training and career support for women. After the organization ceased operation, its stakeholders, including Marsha, wanted to ensure that its mission continued in perpetuity. This endowment funds grants to nonprofit organizations that help women have fulfilling and impactful careers, and Marsha's bequest will help expand its future grantmaking.



PCF staff members, left to right, Cirenia Almador, Jeannine Bogaard, and Sarah Hilbert share lunch with PCF Scholars and PCC 2023 graduates David, Jeffrey, and Hannah.

## PCF Scholars Program at a Glance

- The PCF Scholars Program launched in 2019 to assist students from Pasadena Unified School District attend Pasadena City College (PCC) with need-based financial assistance and long-term support from counselors and mentors. It is tailored to meet the needs of each student and open to those who may not be eligible for merit-based aid.
- The program is an integrated partnership among PCF, College Access Plan, PCC Pathways, Mentoring & Partnership for Youth Development at Muir High School, Partnership for Success!, and Stars.
- To date, the program has supported 37 students; 25 are enrolled and 10 have graduated.
- The program is supported by PCF Endowment Builders who are passionate about education and enrichment opportunities for local students.

# PCF Scholarships Help Students Focus on Success

## PCF SCHOLARS

PCF Scholars Hannah, David, and Jeffrey met PCF on the Pasadena City College (PCC) campus in early April to chat about their educational journeys and how the scholarship has helped their efforts. All three graduated from PCC in May; two will transfer to four-year colleges. They all agreed that leaning on the resources of the Scholars Program and PCC’s Pathways Center has helped tremendously in meeting their graduation goals.



JEFFREY

**Social and Behavioral Sciences major.** He has several UC acceptances from which to choose and will pursue a degree in psychology/sociology. He hopes to be a therapist specializing in youth mental health.

“PCF Scholars helped alleviate the stress of juggling finances and academics. The program helped me get a MacBook and helped me work with professionals in the fields I am studying.”



HANNAH

**Computer information systems major.** She is weighing her next steps but hopes to work in IT.

“Once I was accepted into PCF Scholars, I got priority registration and help with my books. I felt so lucky! Now that I am graduating, I feel good about myself — I picked a goal to finish PCC, and I stuck with it.”



DAVID

**Kinesiology major.** He will attend CalState LA in the fall and hopes to be a physical therapist.

“PCF Scholars helped me financially. My dad is a construction worker and could not find jobs during the pandemic, so I needed the help. The program helped me get a computer so I could succeed. At PCC, I am one step closer to being what I want to be and growing as a person.”



PCF staff members share a laugh with four Petersen Scholars outside the Mt. Sac Equity Center.

## Petersen Scholars Program at a Glance

- A \$10 million gift to PCF from the Petersen Foundation in late 2021 established The Margie and Robert E. Petersen Scholarship Endowment for Transition Age Foster Youth. The endowment funds the Petersen Scholars Program.
- The Petersen Scholars Program works to remove the typical obstacles encountered by TAY as they pursue their education.
- The program launched in the fall of 2022 with 27 students.
- PCF supports students at three community colleges: Pasadena City College, Los Angeles Community College, and Mt. San Antonio College.
- The two-year scholarship provides each scholar with a \$5,000 annual stipend.

## PETERSEN SCHOLARS

In April, PCF visited four of the seven Petersen Scholars who attend Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. Sac). Each are transition age foster youth (TAY) who have navigated many obstacles to attend college. Over a delightful lunch, we learned that even with those challenges, these students are thriving in their first year as Petersen Scholars.

Each hold a job outside of school, but all agree that the Petersen Scholars Program has allowed them to focus on being a more stable student by mitigating long work hours, inflation, and general stress. “We need to rely on extra resources that we don’t get from parents,” says scholar Mia. “Normal kids have parents, and we don’t. I’ve learned here to acknowledge that it’s different for us. Not a bad thing as much as it is a challenge.”



ILENE

**Histology major**, hopes to work in a hospital or clinical setting.

“Science classes are challenging and time consuming. I need the time to study, and being a Petersen Scholar helps me not have to do everything. I can focus on being a student.”



MIA

**Liberal arts major**, hopes to be a middle school teacher.

“I love the way that kids think. I just want to be a support system that I didn’t have as a kid. Teaching feels like a natural challenge for me.”



KAYLEE

**Nursing major**, hopes to be a pediatric/NICU nurse.

“I’ve always wanted to do something in the medical field. I participated in a sports medicine program in high school for two years and took medical terminology classes. The scholarship is helping me reach my goals.”



NATALIE

**Sociology major**, hopes to earn a master’s in social work and become a licensed clinical social worker in a higher education setting.

“I received a lot of support here on campus as I struggled during some of my academic journey. I really admire the campus social workers. When they were so helpful, I said, ‘you get paid to do this?’”

## LOCAL FIRMS ENGAGE WITH PCF

PCF helps them give back to the community they serve

### Clifford Swan Investment Counselors Make an Investment for the Next 100 Years and Beyond

In 2015, Clifford Swan Investment Counselors celebrated its 100th anniversary. To mark this milestone, the firm invested in the future of Pasadena by creating the Clifford Swan Investment Counselors Endowment for Education, which supports PCF's grantmaking in the area of education. It was the Foundation's first corporate endowment.

Education is a core component of Clifford Swan's work with its clients: The team imparts investment knowledge and emphasizes the integral role of financial literacy in the successful stewardship of wealth across generations. CEO Peter Boyle notes, "Given our shared deep roots in Pasadena and values regarding the uplifting power of education, it was a natural fit for Clifford Swan to partner with Pasadena Community Foundation in support of our community."

Clifford Swan serves as the financial adviser for several nonprofit organizations, many of whom are in the educational and medical fields. "We were thrilled to learn that our endowment will support Huntington Medical Research Institutes' summer science program and are excited about the transformative education experience HMRI is



Clifford Swan Investment Counselors: Back row (left to right): Carlota Venegas, Peter Boyle, David Lin, Anil Kapoor, David Nelson, Kathleen Gilmore, George Hasbun  
Front row (left to right): Jennifer Maqueda, Gretchen Lee, Lloyd Wong, Murcy Huang.

providing students," says Boyle. The firm is committed to community service, supporting Pasadena City College, the Pasadena Festival of Women Authors, and Pasadena Village; its team members also volunteer with or serve on the boards of numerous local organizations.

### CLIFFORD SWAN ENDOWMENT STRENGTHENS COMPUTER LITERACY FOR SUMMER STEM PROGRAM

One of the nonprofit organizations recently supported by The Clifford Swan Investment Counselors Endowment is Huntington Medical Research Institute (HMRI), which is an independent, nonprofit, applied medical research organization in Pasadena. It was founded in 1952 by a group of physicians and scientists who wanted to conduct laboratory and clinical work for the development of technology used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The Clifford Swan Endowment helped fund a 2022 PCF Capital Grant for HMRI, which will be used to purchase 25 laptops for its Summer High School STEM Program for underserved Pasadena Unified School District students. The

STEM Program centers on scientific discovery in small, nurturing peer groups. It encourages students to continue studying science as they complete high school with the hope that they might choose a related major in a community college or four-year college or university.



HMRI's High School STEM Program deepens its educational reach by creating an academically enriching learning opportunity for underserved high school students.

## Deka Law Group Amplifies the Power of Teamwork through PCF

— Guest piece by Kelley Bannon Lashley

Giving back to the community is more than just a nice thing to do; it's at the core of who we are at Deka Law Group. As part of our community service program, Deka Gives, we established a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) in late 2020 at the Pasadena Community Foundation.

I'm very much a believer in "team" and that we work better when every person's role is valued. That concept can be challenging in an environment like a law practice, which is historically very hierarchical.

**"Our DAF with PCF has been a phenomenal vehicle in helping Deka Law Group diversify the issues and nonprofits it supports, as well as realize the power of teamwork."**

- Kelley Bannon Lashley

I've always been community minded, and I recently realized that maybe the way I've been giving charitably was not necessarily consistent with my notion of "team" that I try to foster professionally. So, at the end of 2021, one year after creating the DAF at PCF, I awarded bonuses to my staff that included an additional \$1,000 for each staff member to use as a charitable gift to a nonprofit organization of their choice. Each team



Kelley Bannon Lashley is an Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law attorney, who has served on PCF's Professional Advisor Committee since 2015. She began her career working alongside her

grandfather, Robert D. Bannon, whose successful estate planning practice served Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area for more than 50 years. Kelley eventually took over his practice and renamed it Deka Law Group.

member would be assigned one month during 2022 and would share with the team which organization they chose and why it is significant to them. We feature those pieces, accompanied by photos, on our social platforms.

We now have more than a year of giving under our belt, and I could not be more amazed at the enthusiasm and commitment my team has shown in choosing nonprofit recipients that are personally meaningful to them. Our DAF with PCF has been a phenomenal vehicle in helping Deka Law Group diversify the issues and nonprofits it supports, as well as realize the power of teamwork.



Kelley Bannon Lashley (shown third from right) and her Deka Law Group team. Through the Deka Law Group Fund, a donor advised fund at PCF, each staff member is able to donate a \$1,000 gift to a charity of their choice each year.

PCF WELCOMES

## VIVIAN KAMBE

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Vivian Kambe was born and raised in La Cañada Flintridge. She attended La Cañada High School before graduating from Regis University with a degree in Peace & Justice and a Sociology minor. She has always had a strong passion for working in the nonprofit sector. She originally worked in administrative roles before transitioning to grant-based positions for Mount Saint Vincent, in Denver, and Foothill Unity Center, in Monrovia. In her free time, Vivian volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate with CASA Los Angeles. She loves exploring different areas, trying new restaurants, and going to Descanso Gardens with friends and family.



VISIT PCF ONLINE  
AND LEARN ABOUT  
THE WAYS YOU CAN  
SUPPORT OUR MISSION



## LOCAL LANDMARK RESTORED WITH HELP FROM PCF CAPITAL GRANT



With assistance from a 2022 PCF Capital Grant, the Western Justice Center (WJC) was recently able to reopen The Maxwell House, a historic Pasadena landmark and the centerpiece of WJC's nonprofit campus. The house underwent extensive improvements and renovations, and PCF's funding specifically helped restore the fine-grain oak wood floors. The Maxwell House generates revenue by serving as a wedding and life events venue, which in turn supports WJC's mission in the field of conflict resolution education.

