Napa Valley Community FOUNDATION



Annual Report

2025-2026



The right time is now



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A Letter From Our President & Chair

Every year, this letter is a chance to look back and say **thank you**.

This year, it's also a chance to look ahead with clear eyes.

First, the looking back.

Over the past year, you helped us do work we're deeply proud of. Together, we launched a Safety Net Fund to sustain critical services for children, working families, and seniors. We published research to help residents better understand the local nonprofit sector and the economic contributions of immigrants. And we awarded more than $500,000 in scholarships to some of our most promising high school graduates.

Now, the looking ahead.

The wine industry has been the primary engine of our community's prosperity for the last 40 years, and it's changing. Those shifts are rippling outward to vineyard workers, growers, vintners, and a host of adjacent small businesses. Many are feeling the pinch, and the road ahead will not be easy.

But Napa Valley has been tested before.

Earthquakes. Fires. Floods. The pandemic. Each time, people across the Valley rolled up their sleeves and found a way through, together.

Generosity, grit, innovation, a sense of common purpose — these qualities are the bedrock of our community, and all are showcased in the stories that follow.

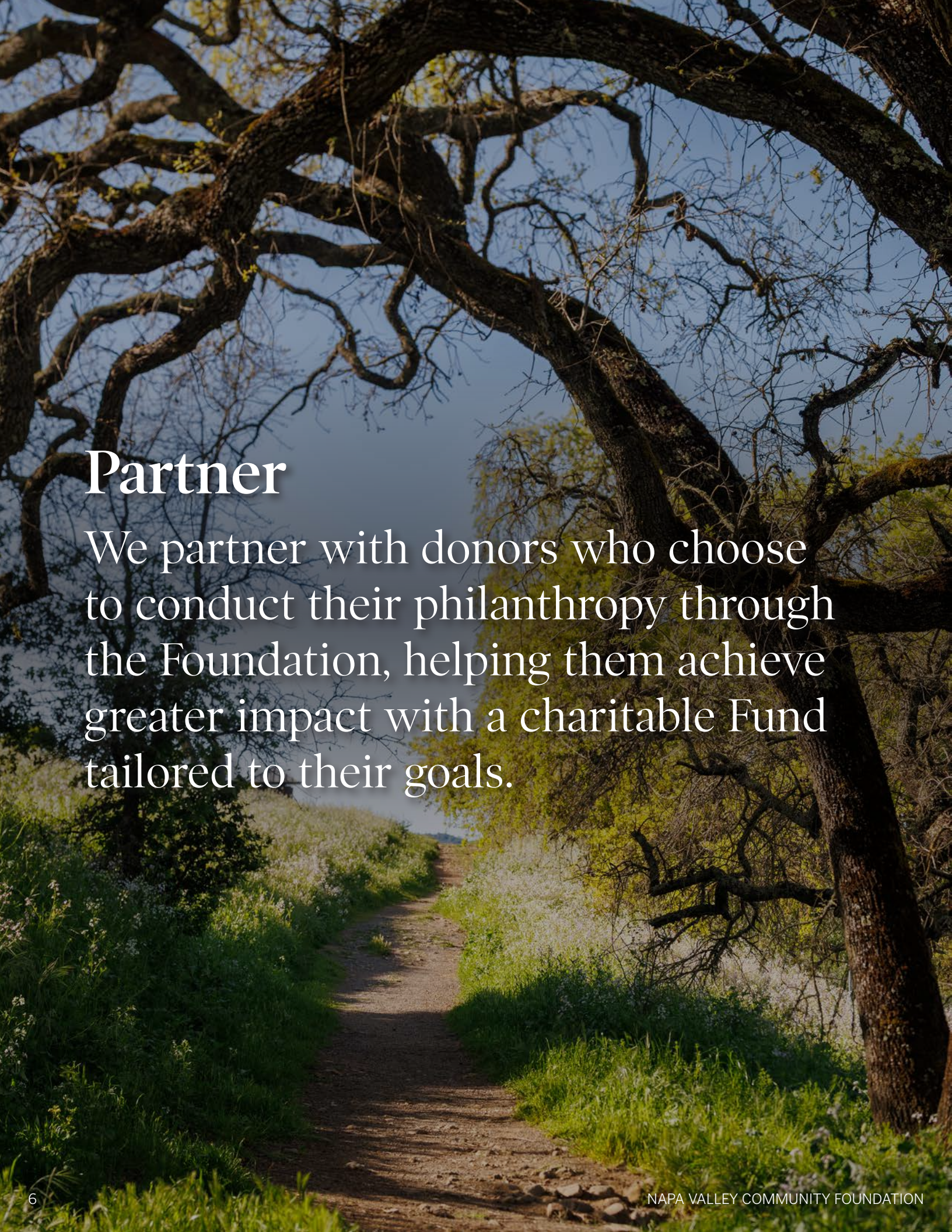
Thank you for your partnership, generosity, and trust. We've seen what our community can do when we show up for one another.

Because of this, we look ahead with open eyes as well as confidence.

Sincerely,

Terence Mulligan
President & CEO

Pete Richmond
Board Chair



Partner

We partner with donors who choose to conduct their philanthropy through the Foundation, helping them achieve greater impact with a charitable Fund tailored to their goals.



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Harris Nussbaum celebrates 20 years of giving



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How Brad & Doug Shafer launched the First Responders Fund



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How an Agency Fund helps Rianda House plan ahead

To Give Is To Receive

Harris Nussbaum celebrates 20 years of giving

Harris Nussbaum will tell you he's "small potatoes."

"I'm not a wealthy man," he says with a smile. "I'm not poor, but I don't have millions."

Anyone who meets him knows he has a heart that cares. This year, that caring heart marks a milestone: 20 years since Harris opened his Donor Advised Fund at NVCF. Over two decades, it has quietly helped Napa Valley high school students support one another and pursue their dreams.

Harris spent his early years in Burlington, North Carolina. When he was about 11, his dad came home from a Shriners convention in California with big news: "There's gold on the streets in California!" Thanks to a weekly poker game with the owners of Burlington Mills, his father landed the West Coast as his hosiery sales territory, and the family headed to San Francisco.

Harris played soccer, football, and track at George Washington High School, then attended UC Berkeley to study business, finance, real estate, and psychology. By then he had a wife, a young child with special needs, and two jobs, so he left campus two units shy of graduating. He finished the last course by correspondence, turning in his final papers on the very last day possible to earn his Cal diploma.

In 1955, his father opened Brewster's at the corner of Main and Pearl in downtown Napa, and Harris worked at the store. A few doors down sat the Napa County Office of Education, and Superintendent Percy Holliday was a regular at Brewster's. Every visit, he said the same thing: "Harris, you should be a teacher." Eventually, Harris listened.

Starting at Napa High School in 1966, he spent more than 40 years in Napa classrooms, including Redwood Middle School and Vintage High, where he moved when the school opened in the 1970s. At Napa High, Harris coached JV soccer. Over the years, he taught business, history, math, and business law, and at Vintage he opened a student store where teens learned retail and economics by selling school supplies, clothing, bagels, and more.

> "The more you do to help others, the more you get back. You can see the lives it changed."

But his deepest legacy may be the peer counseling and community service programs he helped build. Today, hundreds of students each year volunteer through these programs, logging thousands of service hours annually.

"I told them, to give is to receive," Harris says. "The more you do to help others, the more you get back. You can see the lives it changed. Many of them got jobs. Many were going through difficulties, and all of a sudden saw value in their own life."

Philanthropy at every level

Harris may call himself "small potatoes," but at NVCF, we believe anyone, at any level, can be a philanthropist. You don't have to be a Rockefeller to make a difference here.


RESPECT
ACCEPTANCE
KINDNESS
CanDo's
PRO-INCLUSION NAPA



Supporting Those Who Serve

How Brad & Doug Shafer launched the First Responders Fund

When troubles come to Napa County, our first responders show up without hesitation, giving everything they can to protect and support our community.

The weight of traumatic calls and repeated crises can take a significant toll on those who step forward first.

In 2023, brothers Brad and Doug Shafer approached NVCF with a unique vision: they wanted to support Napa County's first responders through a Field of Interest Fund that would make grants to support both mental and physical healthcare, and other unmet needs.

Thanks to the Shafers, NVCF's **First Responders Fund** is now doing just that.

The Fund was inspired by the Shafer family's legacy of local philanthropy and a clear, unmet need the brothers saw after years of devastating wildfires.

"Our father, John Shafer, was active philanthropically, and his philosophy of giving back to the community rubbed off on us," says Brad. "In his day, that meant helping expand access to healthcare for farmworkers through Clinic Ole. We wanted to do something similar in an area of urgent need today."

"One question was, what needs aren't being met?" Doug says. "There's a lot of wonderful organizations doing great work, but when we spoke with Sheriff Oscar Ortiz, the first thing he said was 'there's a need for mental health support.'"

Filling a critical gap

The brothers modeled the First Responders Fund after programs like the CHP 11-99 Foundation, which provides emergency benefits and assistance to CHP employees and their families.

They wanted to launch a local program and found a natural partner in NVCF, where we could provide the infrastructure, confidentiality, and administrative support needed to make the Fund work.

> "One question was, what needs aren't being met?"

"Confidentiality was a huge concern," Doug explains. "Terence and the Foundation were incredible about making sure applications would be confidential so people would feel comfortable asking for help."

The Fund has grown into a countywide resource serving first responders across Napa Valley with nine local agencies participating in the program.

The greatest need has been mental health support. But the Fund is also flexible, providing financial assistance for uninsured medical expenses and other emergency needs. Importantly, the program extends not only to first responders, but also to their spouses and children.

For first responders themselves, the impact is tangible.

"This is such an important initiative," says Zach Curren, Fire Chief for the City of Napa. "Our first responders are out daily attending to sometimes severe emergencies, and at times this can come at a great cost — including mental well-being. Ensuring access to resources to keep them safe and healthy is an important investment."

Making a Gift Last

How an Agency Fund helps Rianda House plan ahead

Rianda House began with a legacy gift.

When St. Helena realtor Jean Rianda passed away, she left her home to become a gathering place for the town's older adults. Neighbors, service clubs, and others pitched in for renovations, and Rianda House opened in 2008.

Eighteen years later, Executive Director Maury Robertson calls it "a community hug of older adults." Participation has roughly tripled, and every program is free. That's on purpose: about 40% of participants live on less than $50,000 a year. "If we charged even a little bit, that would put off the people who need it most," Maury says.

That means its $850,000 annual budget relies almost entirely on private giving, which uncertain economic times put at risk. When two major legacy gifts arrived in recent years, they changed everything for the better. Without them, Maury says, "we would have had to be a very different organization."

Making a one-time gift last

Rianda House's Board invested a significant share of the bequests they'd received in an Agency Fund at NVCF. They treat it as a quasi-endowment, drawing a small percentage for operations only as needed. "I looked at it this morning," Maury says, "and it just gives me that feeling of, okay, this year is going to be okay."

Agency Funds give nonprofits access to the same professional investment management infrastructure that the Foundation built to steward its own assets, typically at a lower cost. "The Community Foundation understands nonprofits," Maury says. "You bring all of that awareness and the checks and balances into the picture." Our team also helped Rianda House set up a framework for its money: an endowment Fund, an operating reserve, and an operating Fund.

> "The Community Foundation understands nonprofits. You bring all of that awareness and the checks and balances into the picture."

Why legacy gifts matter

Rianda House is the only senior center in the Upper Valley, drawing people from Calistoga, Angwin, and Yountville. A legacy gift keeps the doors open and helps it reach the many older adults it isn't serving yet.

"People think of elderhood only as a time of need, but older adults also have a lot to give," shares Maury. "We don't just serve older adults; we mobilize them to serve. When elderhood is embraced in this way, we increase life expectations for everyone."

Jean Rianda's gift started it all. With an Agency Fund at NVCF, the next generation of legacy gifts can keep that community hug going for a long, long time.




THE RIANDA HOUSE
SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
1475



Protector

We serve as a steward and protector for donors who want their generosity to extend beyond their lifetimes, ensuring their wishes are carried out faithfully through a Legacy Fund.



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Mary Rezek's gift for Napa's future



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How Daisy Takahashi Cavalli has helped 46 students forge their futures

It's Really About Access

Mary Rezek's gift for Napa's future

On Napa parade days, Mary Rezek's home in downtown Napa is buzzing.

The Fourth of July parade route runs right past her house, and so does the Christmas parade. By mid-morning the house is filled with friends, food and drinks, and kids underfoot.

"My home is a hive," Mary says, with delight. "My community is so important to me."

Mary grew up in Walnut Creek and moved to Shanghai in 1998, where she founded an organizational learning and development business. She bought her Napa house in 2013 after waking up one morning in China and deciding it was time for something different. At first, she was a part-time Napa resident. Then COVID arrived while Mary was home in Napa between Christmas and Chinese New Year. What made Napa permanent wasn't the lockdown. It was her Leadership Napa Valley class — Class 33 — and the way her classmates looked out for one another through a difficult year.

"What I find is Napa people take care of each other, and it's not 'Napa nice,'" Mary says. "It's because the community comes together. It makes me want to give back. Napa is important to me because I get so much more than I am able to give."

When Mary began thinking about the future of the Valley — and her own place in it — she knew she wanted to leave behind something that would give someone else a boost up. For her, that meant education.

"Education is a ticket into different types of freedom," she says. "It opens doors."

So in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, Mary sat down with NVCF President & CEO Terence Mulligan outdoors and together they built a plan. One day — hopefully many, many years from now — her legacy gift to NVCF will establish a Fund to help people pursue educational opportunities and overcome the financial barriers that can stand in their way.

Having it settled and in writing, Mary says, was a relief.

> "Education is a ticket into different types of freedom. It opens doors."

And she is quick to point out that the word "scholarship" doesn't fully capture what she has in mind.

"It's really about access," she says. "You might need to have your tires redone so you could get to class. It might mean that you need books. I don't care about the age of the student, or their background. What I care about is: What do you need in order to graduate to fulfill yourself, your family?"

Mary doesn't have children and has a very small extended family. So when she thought about what should happen to what she has built over a lifetime, she found herself thinking instead about people she will never know.

"The people who I haven't even seen, who are looking to better their lives — they are the ones who need it," she says. "That was my intention."





Carolina B., who started at Napa Valley College in fall 2025, is one of the students Daisy's gift is helping today.

The College Education She Never Had

How Daisy Takahashi Cavalli has helped 46 students forge their futures

Daisy Takahashi Cavalli never got to graduate from college, but because of her generosity, 46 Napa Valley students are on their way.

When Daisy passed away in 2017 at age 95, she left a legacy gift to Napa Valley Community Foundation to create the Daisy Cavalli Scholarship Fund. Since we awarded the first scholarships in 2019, the Fund has given nearly $1 million to help 46 students pay for college at schools across the country. They've gone to Napa Valley College, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Berkeley, UCLA, the University of Chicago, and Yale.

The scholarship renews every year, so students have support for all four years of college.

A life shaped by injustice

Daisy was born on March 20, 1922, in Palo Alto to Japanese immigrant parents. Her father was a laundryman and her mother a homemaker. She grew up on the Peninsula and graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City in 1939 at 17.

Within three years, her world was turned upside down. In 1942, after Executive Order 9066, Daisy and her family were forced from their home and imprisoned by their own government, along with more than 110,000 other people of Japanese ancestry, most of them American citizens. The Takahashi family was first held at the Tanforan Assembly Center, a racetrack in San Bruno converted into a detention camp, where nearly 8,000 people were crowded into hastily built barracks and former horse stalls. That September, Daisy was moved to the Topaz incarceration camp in the Utah desert. A year later, she was sent to the Tule Lake detention camp in Northern California, the last of the camps to close. After spending two more years there behind barbed wire and armed guard towers, Daisy wasn't released until October 22, 1945. She was 23 and had lost more than three years of her young adult life, for no reason except her heritage.

Putting down roots in Napa

After her release, Daisy returned to the Bay Area and rebuilt her life. She met Francis Cavalli, a packaging foreman, and they married in San Francisco in 1962. Later that decade, they acquired a home on Silverado Trail in Napa from a member of Daisy's family. Francis died in 1984, and Daisy lived in the Valley for decades thereafter.

Daisy and Francis didn't have children together, though Francis had children from a previous marriage. Still, Daisy found her own way to invest in the next generation. The Cavallis worked hard and saved carefully, and according to her nephew, Daisy volunteered in the Napa Valley College cafeteria, close to the students her gift would one day support.

A promise kept

People who knew Daisy say she always meant to leave money for scholarships. She especially wanted to help first-generation college students get the education she was never able to finish.

We think she'd be thrilled to see how many students have walked onto campuses across the country with her help. Daisy's generosity will keep opening doors for Napa students for years to come.



Platform

We channel the power of thousands of local givers toward the Valley's most pressing issues, multiplying impact through initiatives and grants that harness their collective generosity — in four core areas.



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Zach Zachowski & Barbara Gabel, in their own words



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JJ & Laurel McCarthy, monthly donors since 2020



26 Our Four Core Areas

Invest in Youth, Fight Poverty, Champion Community, Meet the Moment



The Right Time Is Now

Zach Zachowski & Barbara Gabel, in their own words

Zach and Barbara are longtime partners of NVCF. They have a charitable Fund with us, and they also put their generosity behind the initiatives we lead for the whole Valley. When we set out to launch the Elaine Jones Safety Net Fund, their lead gift got it off the ground. Others continued to build on that start, and that's how a platform works. In their own words, here's why they give, and why they believe the right time is now.

"We try to give by doing the right thing, the right way, for the right reason.

When Barbara and I reflect on our life, our work in Napa Valley, and the choices we make today, philanthropy isn't an afterthought or a line item in an estate plan — it is an active practice of gratitude.

We believe deeply in giving while we are still here to witness the impact. Waiting to pass down resources leaves the good work of tomorrow on hold today. Making deliberate, generous decisions in this stage of life allows us to see community transformation in real time, collaborate with organizations we trust like Napa Valley Community Foundation, and share in the joy of making a difference.

The psychology of money teaches us a fundamental truth early on: beyond securing a comfortable life, additional wealth does not generate incremental happiness. What does bring lasting fulfillment is purpose, connection, and stewarding wealth toward meaningful causes — whether that's supporting local health and social safety nets, like the Elaine Jones Safety Net Fund, investing in education, or preserving the character and resilience of the Valley we call home.

> "Waiting to pass down resources leaves the good work of tomorrow on hold today."

Partnering with local foundations like NVCF ensures that our giving remains grounded, intentional, and rooted in the long-term well-being of our community.

Our guiding principle has always been simple: do the right thing, the right way, for the right reason. Recently we've added one more to our list: do it at the right time, and the right time is now."

About the Elaine Jones Safety Net Fund

Named in honor of an unequaled champion for the charitable sector, the **Elaine Jones Safety Net Fund** provides two types of grants to nonprofits providing critical services to our elders, neighbors, and children:

- **General support grants** are a lifeline to help core social services organizations navigate surging client need and shrinking government funding.
- **Capacity-building grants** support strategic steps toward sustainability like diversifying revenue streams or improving operational efficiency.

Giving on Autopilot, On Purpose

JJ & Laurel McCarthy, monthly donors since 2020

When JJ and Laurel McCarthy talk about giving, one word keeps coming up: steady.

The McCarthys have called Napa home for about 25 years. JJ came to the Valley in 1999 for a career change into wine. Since then, he's worked in production, sales and marketing, run a winery, and now leads a wine team at a local accounting firm. Laurel is an LCSW who manages a group of social workers for a regional health plan. They raised their two kids here and love the community they've built.

JJ first learned about community foundations from a finance director who explained the model. "I thought it was incredible," JJ remembers. "Every community should have one."

He found us while researching community foundations, and when COVID hit, the McCarthys got serious about giving.

"We asked ourselves, what's the easiest way to put it where it can go to work quickly?" JJ says. "You guys are the experts."

That's when the McCarthys decided to set up a recurring monthly gift to Napa Valley Community Foundation, and they've kept it going for more than six years.

The idea came from a family member with fundraising experience, who gave JJ some simple advice: "For the causes you really support, just put them on autopilot."

Steady support helps a nonprofit plan ahead. It also shows other donors that a committed core group stands behind the mission.

Laurel sees this in her own work. "It's always easy to get startup money for an organization, but really hard to get money to keep it going," she says. "Having regular monthly donors can really make a big difference."

> "Having regular monthly donors can really make a big difference."

Social justice is close to Laurel's heart, and so is the flexibility that comes with giving through NVCF. "Giving to the Community Foundation makes it possible to have funds go where they're needed most," she says.

Steady gifts like JJ and Laurel's keep NVCF responsive, relevant, and ready.

About the Community Leadership Fund

NVCF's Community Leadership Fund fuels all of our work. It provides flexible operating support that enables us to identify emerging community needs, educate and convene donors and community partners, fund research, lead on critical local issues, and conduct thoughtful, strategic grantmaking grounded in careful due diligence.

More than simply covering administrative costs, gifts to this Fund invest in the expertise, relationships, and leadership needed to strengthen our nonprofit sector and turn generosity into lasting community impact.



Last year, with Zach and Barbara, JJ and Laurel, and many others by our side...

Invest in Youth



We believe that all young people have the potential to become confident, contributing adults.

Talent and potential are evenly distributed, but access to opportunity is not. Our grants and scholarships help students of all ages succeed in school and pursue college and career opportunities, while also investing in those who teach them.

Last year, the **Edward W. Solomon Scholarship Fund** helped local teacher Caitlin Cooper pursue her master's degree in Music Education at San José State University. Caitlin has wanted to teach ever since she was a little girl "playing school" in her mom's classroom.

Today she teaches junior high band, orchestra, and choir in Napa Valley Unified School District. Her graduate research focuses on student-centered learning and building "a community of learners" — knowledge and skills she can bring back to the Valley's students.

Champion Community



We believe that our community and our democracy are stronger when everyone has a voice in shaping our future.

Many of our neighbors face barriers to civic engagement. Through our grants and partnerships, we work to break down those barriers and connect residents to the information, resources, and support they need to participate more fully in community life.

Last year, we were proud to support **Napa Valley Together**, a collaborative of five trusted nonprofits — Puertas Abiertas, Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, On The Move, Community Leaders Coalition, and UpValley Family Centers.

Together, they help immigrant families navigate the complex immigration system, access legal services ranging from citizenship to DACA, understand their rights, and build more secure and stable futures.

...we awarded $3.5M (roughly half of all NVCF grants) in the areas below.

Meet the Moment

We believe that disasters don't discriminate, but recovery does.

For more than a dozen years, our Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund has helped residents affected by disasters, from immediate relief to long-term recovery. We also invest in prevention, preparedness, and resilience efforts to help our community weather whatever comes next.

Last year, we continued funding Napa Valley Community Organizations Active in Disaster (**Napa Valley COAD**) and its "Meet Your Neighbors" workshops.

From Angwin to American Canyon, these bilingual sessions bring neighbors together to map their neighborhood's strengths, resources, and needs — and make plans to help one another during wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and extreme heat. Because, when disaster strikes, knowing your neighbors and having a plan can make all the difference.



Fight Poverty

We believe that our Valley is only as strong as its most vulnerable residents.

Significant hardships — like the high cost of housing and healthcare — stand in the way of local families' ability to thrive. We support nonprofits that help residents meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

Last year, we funded **Operation Access**, which connects uninsured Napa County residents with free surgeries and diagnostic procedures donated by volunteer medical teams, including care in specialties like ophthalmology, gastroenterology, and urology.

Since 2014, Operation Access has provided nearly 1,500 critical medical procedures to Napa County workers — many of whom earn too much to qualify for Medi-Cal but cannot afford to pay out of pocket.



2025-26 Financial Summary*

$118,648,000
TOTAL ASSETS

$16,467,000
TOTAL DONOR RECEIPTS

Investment Performance (as of 6/30/2026)

	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
LONG-TERM				
Portfolio	9.72%	20.30%	16.82%	9.11%
Benchmark	9.35%	18.52%	15.61%	8.39%
INTERMEDIATE-TERM				
Portfolio	5.50%	13.16%	11.88%	6.44%
Benchmark	4.45%	11.76%	10.78%	4.62%
SHORT-TERM				
Portfolio	1.59%	3.83%	4.51%	3.38%
Benchmark (U.S. T-Bill)	1.80%	3.95%	4.71%	3.59%

*Financial summary and investment performance are for the fiscal year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026; unaudited.

2025-26 Grants

$7,374,200

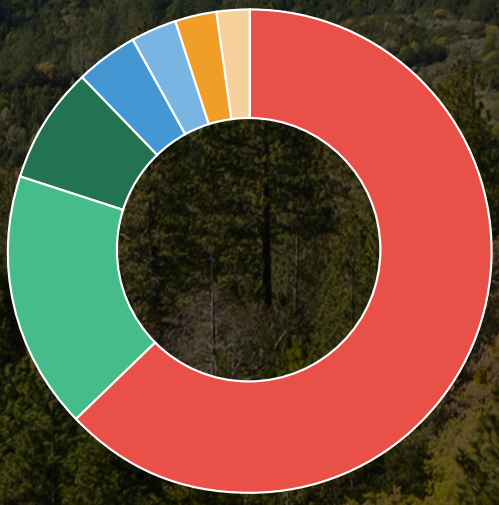
TOTAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

842

NUMBER OF
GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

288

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
& SCHOOLS



ALL GRANTS BY SECTOR

- 63% Health & Human Services, $4.66M
- 17% Education & Scholarships, $1.24M
- 8% Arts, Culture & Humanities, $613K
- 4% Animal Welfare, $292K
- 3% Other, $222K
- 3% Disaster Relief, $211K
- 2% Environment, $130K

We ♥ Our Donors

Giving guided by local knowledge

We work hard to understand the needs of our community and share what we learn with our donors and Fundholders.

$3.4M
granted by Fundholders through their NVCF Funds

$1.2M
of those grants were inspired by our team's advising and local insights

150+
local nonprofit visits and meetings by our team

We ♥ Napa Valley

88% of our total grants last year went to organizations working right here in Napa Valley.



Napa County 88% ($6.5M)

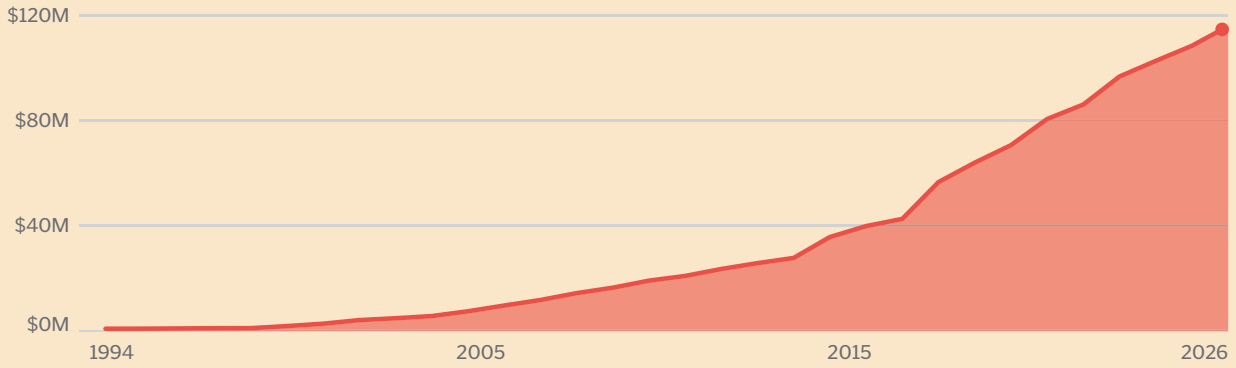
Everywhere else 12%

Bay Area 3% | Rest of California 3% | Rest of U.S. 3% | International 3%

Three decades of growing together

$119M

Total grants 1994-2026



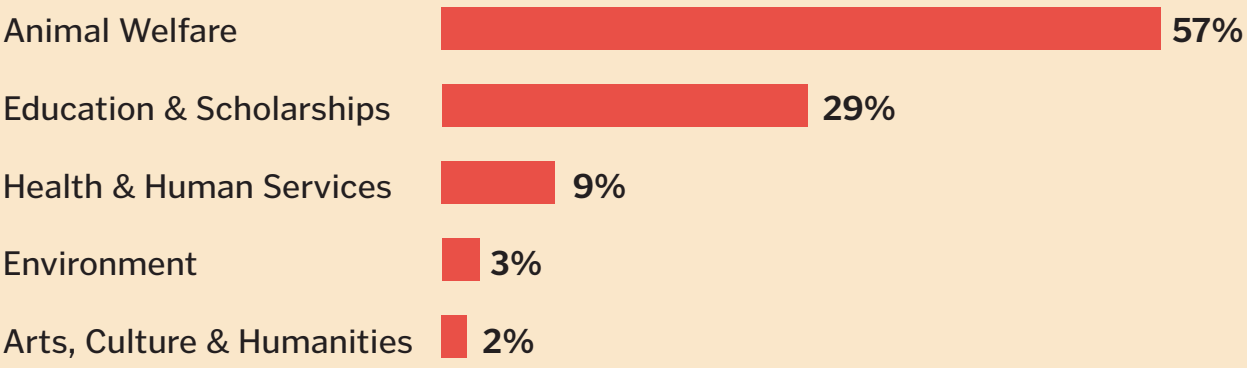


Our Legacy Grants

$452K 2025-26 LEGACY GRANTS

Increasingly, our annual distributions are made possible by generous people who planned ahead. By creating a Legacy Fund at the Foundation through their estate plans, they've made sure their love for this Valley keeps giving, year after year.

LEGACY GRANTS BY SECTOR



Napa
Valley
Community
FOUNDATION

3299 Claremont Way, Suite 4, Napa, CA 94558

707-254-9565 | napavalleycf.org