

1200 FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

Foundations Partner to Award Matching Grants of \$5,000 Each

The 1200 Foundation and The Rex Foundation of San Francisco recently awarded matching \$5,000 grants to The Bread Project of Berkeley. Partnering enables the recipients to realize greater benefits and allows the foundations to share information about worthwhile and needy grantees.

New 1200 Foundation trustee, David Large, who was familiar with the Rex Foundation and its mission, helped facilitate the partnership. "We hope this is just the beginning of partnerships in grant-giving," said 1200 Foundation President Ann Frizell.



Sandy Sohcot (left), Rex Foundation Executive Director, and Marcia Shrago and Ann Frizell of the 1200 Foundation, meet with Lily Divito (right), Executive Director of The Bread Project.

The Bread Project Is the 1200 Foundation's Latest Grant Recipient

The Bread Project, started in 2000, trains low-income and unemployed persons in commercial baking and food preparation skills. Graduates are fully prepared for entry-level jobs in the food service industry. The staff helps students find and retain jobs, and provides work performance tracking and ongoing support for one year after graduation.

The Bread Project has received much favorable press coverage and a number of commendations and awards from various organizations in Alameda and

San Francisco counties as well as from the mayors of Berkeley and San Francisco.

The Bread Project formed partnerships with the Berkeley and Oakland Unified School Districts, in which the districts' facilities were donated for training purposes. Recently The Bread Project scored another milestone with a contract to supply the Berkeley Unified School District with 5,000 low-fat, healthful and delicious muffins every two weeks.

Today, there are five classes of 20 adults each year in Berkeley and two additional classes annually in Oakland. Students participate in intensive nine-week training sessions, eight hours a day, five days a week.

As of summer 2007, approximately 500 students had gone through the program, 87% of whom have graduated, with over three-fourths of those having found full-time employment with 84% of those remaining employed after one year.

To learn more, visit The Bread Project's website at <http://www.breadproject.org>.



Student bakers at The Bread Project in Berkeley.

Bay Area Cost of Living Means Families Can't Make It on \$50,000 a Year

A family of four in the Bay Area with two working adults must earn \$77,069 a year (or an hourly wage of \$18.53) just to pay for basic necessities. A single parent with two children needs to earn \$65,864 annually (\$31.67 an hour) to cover expenses.

“This means that basic necessities in the Bay Area cost about 2.5 times the federal poverty level.”

These statistics were reported in a recent article* in the San Francisco Chronicle that discussed the findings of the latest California Budget Project, a Sacramento-based research firm.

The federal poverty threshold, used by the government to calculate how many of the nation's people are poor, is an income of \$20,650 for a

family of four. This means that basic necessities in the Bay Area cost about 2.5 times the federal poverty level

The study looked at a living standard that covered only basic expenses with little margin for discretionary outlays. It estimated prices of rental housing, child care, transportation, food, health care, taxes and a miscellaneous category that lumped together everything else.

Median household income in the Bay Area was \$62,024 in 2000, the highest in the nation, according to the Census Bureau. But that means that almost half of all households in the region don't take in what the Budget Project estimates is needed to make ends meet.

**Article in The San Francisco Chronicle, October 17, 2007 by staff writer Sam Zuckerman. See the 1200 Foundation website for the complete article.*

1200 Foundation Grants \$5,000 to Building Skills Partnership

Building Skills Partnership is a project of the Leadership Training and Education Fund between California janitors' union SEIU 1877 and responsible businesses.

The program presents innovative training programs at the worksite for about 1,000 low wage workers in:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Computer literacy
- Vocational training
- Health and safety training
- Leadership development
- Financial literacy
- Educational advocacy

The program focuses on the janitorial employees of a specific company and is supported by the company and the employees' union. Recently, 30 students, who are members of the Service Employees International Union and employees of Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics in Emeryville, graduated from a workplace English class.

The class members, all Spanish speaking, met on the first hour of their evening work shift with the janitorial company and Novartis donating nearly 2,700 hours of cleaning time so that 30 students could attend 90 hours of class on paid work time.



Building Skills Partnership graduate, Mirna Alegria, receives her diploma from Executive Director, Alison Ascher Webber, and congratulations from volunteer Novartis instructor, Ted Hoffman.

Their goal was to improve their English speaking and reading skills so they can better communicate on the job, have improved opportunities for advancement within the company, and have a better chance at qualifying for U.S. citizenship.

As one graduate said, “I want to learn English. I made a promise to my children. I want to be a model for their education.”

Donations to the 1200 Foundation help such excellent programs succeed and grow.

Visit the Building Skills Partnership website at <http://www.buildingskills.org>.

1200 Foundation Awards \$5,000 Grant To SVDH Family Learning Program

Saint Vincent's Day Home (SVDH) serves a very diverse ethnic population. It also serves the homeless, battered women, children who were born drug-exposed, and children who have special developmental, behavioral or emotional needs. Fully 95% of the SVDH families and children live daily under the stress of poverty.

The SVDH children and families speak English, Spanish, French, Tagalog, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), three East-Asian languages and two East-African languages.

“You have ... to nurture the love for learning, to help children understand that there are consequences for their actions, but tremendous joy in good choices”

Ten languages are spoken among the staff, enabling learning to take place in a culturally diverse setting that emphasizes the art, literature, traditions, music and cuisine of a rich variety of societies from around the world. SVDH operates year-round, ensuring consistent and integrated services to those in need.

The Family Learning Program is committed to encouraging literacy development among SVDH families. The program brings parents together with their children to discover the ways they can pursue their own learning goals while developing the language and learning skills of their children.



Mother and daughter reading at SVDH.

Parents are actively involved in the learning process. The joy of discovery and learning are encouraged through practical applications.

In November, The Oakland Tribune featured Saint Vincent's Day Home in an article on the success of preschool in helping children who need nurturing.

The article* quoted SVDH Executive Director, Corinne Mohrmann. “It’s very difficult to change human behavior. You have to do that from the very beginning – to nurture that love for learning, to help children understand that there are consequences for their actions, but tremendous joy in good choices.”

**The Oakland Tribune, November 11, 2007, article by Katy Murphy, Staff Writer.*

Sophia Project Receives Grant to Help Children at Risk of Homelessness

The 1200 Foundation recently presented a second \$5,000 grant to Sophia Project in West Oakland. The organization serves 65 children a month – 25 of whom are enrolled in the daily programs for infant and toddler development and 3 to 5-year old early childhood education.

Sophia Project also offers a before and after-school program for siblings, extended childcare, weekend and emergency respite care, parenting education, and family support.

The small non-profit organization (at website: <http://sophiaproject.org>) has a well-designed outcome measurement system that indicates how well children and mothers are progressing during and after their time in the Sophia Project program.

In addition to the measurements, some of the tangible results include the following:

- The children who have grown out of the early childhood program are all participating well in school.
- Eight out of 14 children are in private schools on full scholarships.
- All of the families who have been through the program remain housed.
- Two social service agencies asked Sophia Project for advice on ways of working with children.
- A parent passed her GED class after classes and tutoring at Sophia Project and is now taking college courses.

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1200 Foundation Names Two to Board of Trustees

Recently Todd Harmon of Piedmont and Dr. David Large of Kensington joined the 1200 Foundation as trustees.

Harmon is a vice president and senior portfolio manager for UBS Financial Services Inc. in their Walnut Creek office. Before joining UBS, he was with Morgan Stanley for 17 years. His other volunteer activities include managing the portfolio for the Piedmont Educational Foundation Endowment Account. Harmon, a northern California native, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley.

Large grew up in Colorado and attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. He completed a master's degree in engineering at the University of California at Berkeley and did research at the Lawrence National Laboratory. Moving back to Boulder, he completed his Ph.D. and began a 30-year career doing research and consulting work, including two years working for the Congress in Washington, D.C. Large retired from the corporate world in 1995 and since then has taught part time. Volunteer activities include working with the Night Show reading program at the Contra Costa Youth Detention Center and with the Rex Foundation in San Francisco.

House Parties a Big Success

During September, October and November, trustees of the 1200 Foundation and representatives of our grantee organizations attended informal get-togethers at the homes of several of our donors and friends. The purpose of the "house parties," which were held in Kensington, Piedmont and Concord, was to tell the guests about the work of the foundation and our grantee organizations.

We want to thank the hosts of the parties, all of you who attended as donors or friends, and those who couldn't attend but expressed interest. We will have additional parties in 2008. For those who couldn't attend, we'd like to summarize the mission and goals of the foundation.

The 1200 Foundation is a non-profit, grant-making organization committed to supporting programs that help low-income individuals and families in Alameda and Contra Costa counties achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Our goals are to (1) raise funds from a broad base of individual, foundation and corporate donors and (2) award grants to innovative, successful programs in the following areas:



Michelle Augenstein, Executive Director of Wardrobe for Opportunity, speaks at a house party hosted by the 1200 Foundation at a donor's home in Piedmont.

- Job skills training
- Career development support
- Entrepreneurship and small business creation
- Family support services focused on building economically independent families

If you would like to learn more about the 1200 Foundation or donate to our organization, please call us at 510-595-4203 or email us at 1200foundation@pacbell.net.