

1200 FOUNDATION

WORKING FOR THE WORKING POOR

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008-09

Thanks to Our 2008 Donors for Continued and Generous Support

In spite of the downturn in the economy, the generous support of our donors in 2008 enabled us to surpass our 2007 fundraising efforts. These contributions have made it possible for us to increase the number of programs we support and to increase the size of our grants.

In 2008 we awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the following nonprofits serving Alameda and Contra Costa counties:

- The Bread Project
- Building Skills Partnership

- C.E.O. Women
- EARN
- Operation Access
- Opportunity Junction
- Sophia Project
- The Stride Center
- Wardrobe for Opportunity

Visit our website at 1200foundation.org under the Grants section to learn more about each of these worthy organizations, their programs and services, and their participants.

Michelle Augenstein Joins Foundation as Executive Director

On March 2nd, Michelle Augenstein joined the 1200 Foundation as its first executive director. She recently stepped down as executive director of Wardrobe for Opportunity (WFO) so she could have more time to pursue personal interests, including working with the 1200 Foundation to improve the economic opportunities of the working poor.

Augenstein will work part time, on a volunteer basis, with the president and other members of the 1200 Foundation board. Augenstein is a respected community and nonprofit leader. She began her five-year tenure at Wardrobe for Opportunity as a volunteer. Upon joining the WFO staff, she rapidly leveraged her corporate management and sales background to develop and achieve strategic, financial and program growth in various positions culminating as executive director.

In 2008, Augenstein was named Outstanding Woman in Business by the Bay Area Council of the American Business Women's Association. She has participated in several East Bay community involvement and philanthropic



Michelle Augenstein

organizations including co-chair of the Nonprofit Roundtable of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Oakland 2007, Nonprofit Spotlight Columnist for Oakland Business Review, and volunteer mentor for Future Leader's Institute. She is a member of the United Way Speakers Bureau.

Augenstein and her husband live in Oakland. Her educational background includes studies domestically and abroad in psychology, business administration and marketing. She is a 2008 graduate of the Chevron Management Institute for global nonprofit leaders.

Sophia Project Serves Needy Families in West Oakland Homes

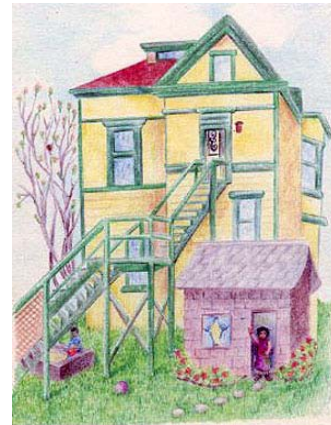
Starting with eight children and four families in 1998, Sophia Project, one of the 1200 Foundation's grantee organizations, now serves over 100 children and 40 families. Every one of these families remains housed and stable.

All of the children from their childhood education programs are thriving. But the true stories are in the individuals who are served not in the statistics.

Sophia House cared for her children “as though they were delicate flowers” said one mother.

Recently the staff of Sophia Project received a letter from one of their mothers. She thanked them for giving her a chance to obtain her GED, for caring for her children “as though they were delicate flowers” and for giving nurturing love and support to her and her children.

Sophia Project serves children and families who are at risk of recurring homelessness and its effects. Located in a low income neighborhood in West Oakland, Sophia Project currently includes two homes: Sophia House for children ages three and up, and Myrtle House for children birth to three years of age.



Sophia House

Working with the children and mothers enhances a healthy family life, creates a firm foundation of early learning and allows parents time for employment and education.

Their programs include infant and toddler programs and care, early childhood education, extended hours of child care, a before and after school program of tutoring and care, artistic activities, a weekend respite program, and parenting education and family support. See their website at <http://sophiaproject.org/>.

Original artwork by Sharry Phelan Wright and Eric Beumer. Used with permission of Sophia Project.

Burke Joins 1200 Foundation Board

The 1200 Foundation recently named Steven P. Burke as a member of the board of directors. Burke is an attorney in a San Francisco law firm and a graduate of the Boalt Hall School of Law,



Steven P. Burke

University of California at Berkeley. He and his family live in Oakland.

He became interested in the 1200 Foundation because “I feel very strongly that we need to do more as a society to encourage those who work hard and try to build a life for themselves. I have a sense” he said, “that the underemployed or the undercompensated often get less attention than the unemployed.”

“We need to do more as a society to encourage those who work hard and try to build a life for themselves.”

Burke said he hopes, through the 1200 Foundation, “to become part of a movement that recognizes the importance of people working to improve their own situations.”

CEO Women and The Stride Center Each Receive \$7,500 Grant

The 1200 Foundation recently presented grants to C.E.O. Women and to The Stride Center. Both nonprofit organizations have received grants from the Foundation in the past. Executive directors from both organizations have been speakers at 1200 Foundation annual meetings.



Farhana Huq, Executive Director, C.E.O. Women

C.E.O Women (short for Creating Economic Opportunities for Women) is based in Oakland and seeks to create economic opportunities for low-income immigrant and refugee women to become entrepreneurs and improve their livelihoods. C.E.O. Women then provides women with intensive mentoring, coaching and small grants to start their businesses.

Since its founding in 2000, the organization has worked with over 1,000 women. Follow-up statistics show that 31% of the graduates start or expand businesses, 64% report an average increase of \$28,000 per household, and 87% state increased confidence speaking English.

Farhana Huq, executive director of C.E.O Women, recently received a 2009 Women of Greatness award in Oakland at the first Model City Summit. Also in February, she was presented with the 2009 South Asian Bar Association's Community Impact Award.

Last year Huq was inducted into the international Ashoka Fellowship, a global community of social entrepreneurs who deliver innovative solutions to social problems. Visit their website at <http://www.ceowomen.org/>.

The Stride Center, located in San Pablo, is helping people acquire the skills they need to be self-sufficient. The nonprofit organization prepares its adult students for professional, well-rounded careers in the information technology field.

Their career training program surrounds participants with a comprehensive array of resources and an award winning curriculum. In January the Stride Center had its highest enrollment period of its nearly 10 year history. It has new training sites in Redwood City and Oakland as well as in San Pablo and San Francisco, and they have a wait list for training.



Barrie Hathaway, Executive Director, The Stride Center.

The Stride Center also operates its own technology consulting business called ReliaTech, which generates jobs and internships for Stride Center graduates and students. See their website at <http://www.stridecenter.org/>.

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This is an opportunity for us to “go green” and reduce printing and mailing costs.

We, of course, will not sell or make these email addresses available to others.

1200 FOUNDATION

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Working Poor Hit Hardest by Recession

“Low-income people are the big losers when the economy turns down,” said Andrew M. Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University.

A kind of domino effect is beginning to squeeze out the least skilled or experienced workers – those already on the bottom of the ladder – who are settling for part-time employment and fewer hours if they can find work at all.

Low-income women with children can face particular challenges. Expenses have climbed while work hours declined, many have survived by building up large debt on credit cards and to utilities, where they make minimum payments to keep the heat and electricity from being turned off, but are unable to chip away at balances of several thousands of dollars.

The new administration will have to think several levels down the ladder,” said Fred Davie, president of Public/Private Ventures, a group in Philadelphia that develops and studies antipoverty programs, “so the government invests not only in the top but also in infrastructure jobs and training for low-income people to get some of those jobs.”

By Erik Eckholm, Excerpt from the New York Times, 11/8/2008

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