



# VISALIA ROTARY Community FOUNDATION

**NEWSLETTER** **WINTER 2016**

**LEADERSHIP**

## President's Message



**Marty Zeeb**  
2016-17 President

As we head into the holiday season, it is a time to reflect and be thankful for our many blessings. The Rotary Respite House has been completed and is offering lodging to families going through the stress of having loved ones in Kaweah Delta District Hospital.

Furthermore, we have distributed scholarships to students of both local schools and colleges around the nation. Also, we continue to support many programs and non-profits in our community with significant grants to make a difference for those organizations.

I am proud of all the Visalia Rotary Community Foundation has done in and for Visalia and ask that you consider a year-end donation. We still need some additional funds to meet our goal for the Respite House and this would be a great opportunity to put us over the top.

Thank you all for your generosity and I wish you a very wonderful holiday season.

## How we are funded



The Visalia Rotary Community Foundation uses only earnings from a growing endowment created through the generosity of Rotary Club members and other philanthropic individuals and organizations. The Foundation, from inception to 2016, has received total donations of over

**\$4,174,240.** The funds have come from various sources, including annual giving, bequests from wills, funds from charitable remainder unitrusts, inheritances, matching funds from philanthropic organizations, and fundraiser events.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  [www.visaliarcfoundation.org](http://www.visaliarcfoundation.org)

**EXECUTIVE:**  
**Eric Shannon**  
Executive Director  
**Shirle Reynolds**  
Executive Secretary  
Shirler@SkranchMgt.com  
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Foundation Mailing Address:  
**VRCF**  
11878 Ave 328  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Giving and Rotary are a Family tradition

When disasters happen, so do opportunities. In 1991, Visalia suffered a devastating freeze. This event triggered long-time Visalia Rotarian Hoot Macklin to come up with the idea of Rotarians starting a community foundation. Gathering together with other club members, Phil Hornburg, Duane Scott and Steve Christman to mention a few, the Visalia Rotary Community Foundation was established in 1992. For the past 24 years, Phil Hornburg has served as executive president and the organization is indebted to his dedication and leadership.



Rotary Respite House ribbon cutting on September 22, 2016

Now, the board has a new leader at the helm, Eric Shannon. Joining the Visalia club in 1983, Eric is a fourth generation Visalia Rotarian. He served as club president in 2002 and was president of the VRCF in 2003-2004. Eric has been the chairman of the fundraising efforts for the Foundation for many years.

"I believe the Foundation is the most important way to give to the neediest causes in the Visalia area with the biggest bang for your buck," Eric states. "Also, with the Foundation's emergency fund, we can help out with urgent community needs, such as the freeze years ago, which is a huge strength from an organization that has an overhead of less than 1%, which is hard to beat."

The Foundation only uses earnings from a growing endowment created through the generosity of Rotary club members and other philanthropic individuals and organizations. Our tag line, **"Moving Forward by Giving Back"**, exemplifies the focus of this project.

The largest fund raising effort to date has been the Respite House project, costing \$475,400. Raising more than \$300,000 to date with another \$100,000 to go, this has been a wonderful Rotary and community project. This project is a perfect fit for the mission of the foundation to provide for bricks and mortar projects that serve the needs of many in our community. There is still the opportunity to give to the Respite House before the end of the year. Donations of \$1,000 or more will be listed on the bronze donor board that will be dedicated after the first of the year.



## Rotary Respite House: A Haven in the Storm

**What is the Rotary Respite House? Why is it needed?**

- It will provide individuals and families with shelter while a loved one is hospitalized.
- The Visalia Rotary Community Foundation built and owns the Respite House.
- Kaweah Delta Health Care District will operate and manage it.
- It is located just 2 blocks from the hospital.

*"This place is the most wonderful house in all Visalia ... a place that we could call HOME. God bless you and all the families who will stay here in the future."*

-Melissa, Emiliano, Tina, Geppe, Jessica and Mauro - and premature twins Riccardo and Beatrice (recipients of former respite house)

**How Can I Help?  
Sponsorship  
Form On  
Next Page**



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# Rotary Respite House - A "Haven" For Families



Two friends from Rancho Cucamonga were heading home from a duck hunting trip recently when the front axle of their motor home broke and they flipped and finished rolling end over end

on the northbound lanes of I-5. The driver was able to escape from the vehicle but his friend was pinned inside. Two good samaritans "happened" to be nearby and offered immediate assistance - turns out both, in separate cars, were medics! The injured friend was transported to Kaweah Delta.

The family had gathered in town, first at the Marriott. When Kaweah Delta Patient Family Services heard that the family could use housing, the family was offered the Respite House. The family called it the "haven." After two surgeries, the family took their son back home to Pomona to continue to recover from his major injuries. With tears of joy for the care their son had received and the care they had received, the mother and wife hugged the staff and chaplain and said their goodbyes. They were grateful they had the comforts of home during this trying time.

Kaweah Delta's Chaplain Kent Mishler was requested to assist in the emergency department for a medical code. The patient was from Burlingame. He and his wife were on their way to visit their son and 6-month-old granddaughter. They had stopped and spent the night in Kettleman City. After having breakfast, he told his wife he did not feel well and layed down. She immediately realized his situation was not

fatigue and summoned 9-1-1 assistance. Paramedics reported the patient dead upon arrival, but were able to restart his heart and rush him to Kaweah Delta's Cath Lab (Cardiac Catheterization Lab).

Driving the family car and following after the ambulance, the wife arrived and was met by Chaplain Mishler in the ER. After meeting with the emergency physician to be briefed, she was taken to the surgery



waiting area. Listening to her calls to her son, Chaplain Mishler realized she would need accommodations and contacted Patient Family Services. Once again the Respite House was available to serve a family in need. On Sunday afternoon, physicians implanted a defibrillator and pacemaker in the patient and by Tuesday morning, Chaplain Mishler received a hug and solid handshake with a thank you for use of the "haven" down the street.

The Respite House was built by funds raised through the five Rotary Clubs and community supporters and is leased to the Kaweah Delta Health Care District to operate and manage for a \$1 per year.

The Respite House, known as "Al's Place" in honor of Rotarian Al Fisher and "Sharon's Place" in honor of Sharon Shannon, provides two units, one with three bedrooms and two baths and the other with two bedrooms and two baths, plus a laundry rooms. The units are completely furnished and available for use at no charge.



## How can I help?

- \$1-\$999 Bronze \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$1,000-\$4,999 Silver \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$5000-\$9,999 Gold \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$10,000+ Platinum \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pay by: Visa, MasterCard, Am Express (please call me at \_\_\_\_\_ for card number)  
or, make checks payable to:

Visalia Rotary Community Foundation  
11878 Ave 328, Visalia CA 93291

Information: Shirle Reynolds at 559-334-6806

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# VRCF Grant Committee Update

The grant committee, under the leadership of Steve Chrisman, starts to meet each year in March to review grant applications. The grants this year equaled \$100,000, bringing the total awarded to \$1.173 million since the Foundation was formed in 1990. Local organizations that have received grants over the years include Golden State YMCA, Family Services, Visalia Education Foundation, Samaritan Center, and the ImagineU Children's Museum.

The Foundation funded 10 of the 13 requests submitted this year.



"The two largest grants this year support Foodlink, which provides nutritious food to families that might otherwise go without, and the Respite House, which will support families who's loved one is hospitalized," said Foundation Board Chairman Eric Shannon. "Through these and many other important projects, donations to the Rotary Foundation make a significant difference in the lives of people in our own community."

The recipient organizations, and the purpose of each grant, are:

- ACT for Women and Girls, \$5,000, to purchase a stove/oven, two computers, two desks and chairs.
- Assistance League, \$5,000, to assist with the Operation School Bell project.
- Blanket Ladies, \$5,000, to help purchase fabric, yarn and other supplies to make fleece blankets and comfort pillows for cancer patients.
- Foodlink of Tulare County, \$30,000, to assist with the purchase of a freezer unit for the food bank warehouse.
- Friends of the Fox Theatre, \$5,000, to assist with the LED upgrade of stage lighting.
- Happy Trails Riding Academy, \$5,000, to assist with the expansion of their all-purpose barn.
- Pro-Youth, \$6,000, to purchase two 3-D printers and curriculum for students ages 5 to 12.
- Visalia Emergency Aid Council, \$9,000, to fund sealing and striping of parking lots, security lighting and improvements to the overflow parking lot.
- Rotary Clubs of Visalia, \$20,000, to support the construction of the Rotary Respite House, to be operated by Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

If you are involved with a non-profit that needs support for a worthy project such as those listed above, grant applications are available on the VRCF website at [visaliarcfoundation.org](http://visaliarcfoundation.org). For more information, contact Steve Chrisman at 559-635-3542.

## Grants Committee

Steve Chrisman, Committee Chair

Members:

Tony Correia

Gary Paden

Paul Sonier

Larry Benevento

Peter Golombek

Marvin Hansen

Donn Ritter



## Financial Report

by Ryan Purkiss,  
Finance Chairman

As the Visalia Rotary Community Foundation approaches its 25th year, we are mindful of the connection between the past and the future. Having started in 1992, the principal of the Foundation's assets hit \$250,000 by 1997. This allowed us the opportunity to provide our first grant to the Good News Center, now the Bethlehem Center in the amount of \$7,000. Through the end of the 2015 fiscal year, our Foundation has provided in excess of \$1,000,000 in grants, not including scholarships, back to the community.

Thanks to ongoing contributions from the individuals, families, and our five local Rotary Clubs, the Foundation's assets have grown to over \$4,500,000. Through volatile markets, our strict adherence to our investment policy statement over the past 24 years has allowed us to continue to provide the community with ongoing support and make a difference in Visalia.

The Visalia Rotary Community Foundation encourages you to make a gift to your community and to your neighbors. Together, we can make today better and tomorrow the best.





## 2016-2017 Scholarships

Students across our community have different opportunities to be the recipient of a scholarship from the Visalia Rotary Community Foundation. The selection committee, under the leadership of Susan Lucas, distribute the following four scholarship programs yearly to qualified students. To date, a whopping **\$232,319** has been awarded to local high-achieving students to financially support their academic and career endeavors.

### The Provident Salierno Family Foundation Music Scholarship

This scholarship is for students interested in a music career who maintains a 3.0 or greater grade point average. The scholarship currently provides about \$1,000 a student per year at each of the five Visalia high schools.

### The Dwelle Four-Year Scholarship

A four-year college scholarship for the Redwood High School graduate who maintains a 2.8 or greater grade point average. The scholarship can be as much as \$5,000 per year for a full four years.

### The Richard B. "Dick" Watson \$2,000 STEM Scholarship

The Richard B. "Dick" Watson \$2,000 STEM Scholarship (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) scholarship consists of two, one-time scholarships awarded each year to students from either Redwood, Mt. Whitney, Golden West, or El Diamante high schools. Students must demonstrate excellence in both the classroom and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship for one female: \$2,000

Scholarship for one male: \$2,000

### The Robert Harrell Career and Technical Education Scholarship

This scholarship currently gives approximately 30 scholarships at \$1,000 each for various vocational technical programs. The scholarship is for a student who is from Visalia (or lives in Tulare County and is attending a vocational program in Visalia) and is pursuing a vocational technical school in an accredited institution. There are four application periods each year for the Robert Harrell Career and Technical Education Scholarship.

## 2016-2017 Scholarship Recipients

### Salierno Scholarships

#### Morgan Lari,

El Diamante High School

#### Leonardo Torres-Garcia,

Mt. Whitney High School

#### Carly Caviglia,

Golden West High School

### Dwelle Scholarships

#### Armando De Jesus Sanchez,

Redwood

### STEM Scholarships

#### Rubina Aujla, El Diamante

#### Dustin Newman, El Diamante

### Visalia Rotary Club Scholarships

#### Anindita Rajasekaran,

El Diamante

#### Juan Padilla, Mt. Whitney

#### Stephanie Valencia,

Sequoia High School

#### Antonia Sarria Rivera,

Central Valley

#### Kayla Carlisle, Redwood

#### Diana Tejeda-Gonzalez,

Golden West High School

### The Robert Harrell Career And Technical Education Scholarship

#### Shain Braziel

#### Lesly Carillo-Navarro

#### Jose Castro

#### Sinahi De Jesus Chavez Medina

#### Jose De Jesus Cortez Cervantes

#### Darcy Drake

#### Branee Jarrell

#### Jerry Lasquite

#### Steven Lusk

#### Luis Martinez

#### Katie Medina

#### Sierra Peters

#### Maria Solis

#### Alyssa Thomas

#### Alexander Workman

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