



CFL's 2023 Grantee Celebration. Photo by Craig Isaacs, BluGoo Photography.

Collective Giving Results in a Healthy and Thriving Lafayette

PHOTOS BY CRAIG ISAACS, BLUEGOO PHOTOGRAPHY

Since its inception in 1999, the Community Foundation of Lafayette has awarded close to 500 Excellence Grants totaling over \$1.4M to nonprofits that offer programs and services throughout the local community. All grants fall into one of four funding categories: Human Services, Seniors, Youth Development & Education, and Arts & Culture. The Community Foundation created its four funding categories after undergoing a discovery process that involved researching the community's greatest needs and how those needs aligned with the philanthropic goals of the community and the desires of the Foundation's donors. After careful consideration by the Foundation's Grants Committee, each grantee is chosen for the stellar work they do within our community. The Community Foundation encourages any local nonprofit that falls within one of these funding categories to apply for a grant.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

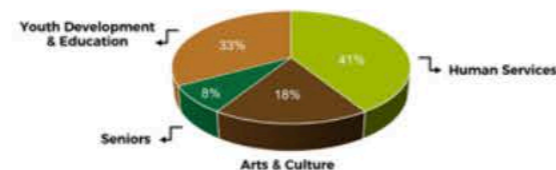
The Community Foundation accepts grant applications from 501c3 organizations primarily in the greater Contra Costa area. To be considered for a grant, organizations must provide services in at least one of the following areas: **Human Services** which includes organizations that provide food, shelter, clothing, and offer safety; **Seniors** which includes organizations that provide services for the senior community such as dementia care, senior transportation, senior housing, and meal delivery; **Youth Development & Education** which include organizations that encourage growth, provide resources for disenfranchised kids and programs that support youth empowerment and education; and **Arts & Culture** which includes nonprofits that provide various arts and cultural experiences such as theatrical and musical performances, poetry, concerts, music and theater camps, and educational opportunities.

Organizations can find the grant application on the Community Foundation's website. The Grants Committee is extremely dedicated to evaluating every application and thoroughly researches each nonprofit that submits a request. Many hours are spent understanding how an organization intends to use the grant money to make a positive impact on the community. Donors can be certain that their donations will be directed to nonprofits that the Foundation has identified as valued, worthy, and respected. This process and distribution of grants help to further strengthen Lafayette and our shared region. The grant application filing deadline is April 30 of each year.

HOW MANY GRANTEES DOES THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND EACH YEAR?

The Board of Directors determines the amount of funding to be given each year based on the Community Foundation's annual fundraising success. The Grants Committee makes grant allocation recommendations to the entire Board which then votes on the Committee's recommendations. For the past four years, the Community Foundation has funded an average of 35 grants each year. Last year, the Community Foundation awarded a record total of \$145,000 to 39 organizations.

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDED 39 GRANTS IN 2023. HERE IS A BREAKDOWN OF WHERE DONOR FUNDS WERE DIRECTED



A SWELL activity for kids (photo provided)

A 2023 GRANTEE - SWELL (STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER AT LAFAYETTE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER)

SWELL offers fun and engaging activities to support the emotional and social needs of teens through creative activities. Typical SWELL participants come to make friends to help the transition to middle school. The Excellence Grant that SWELL received went directly to supporting these kids who may feel vulnerable. This past summer, a brother and sister attended every day, helping them forge friendships with other teens and easing their transition to middle school.

25TH ANNIVERSARY GRANT

In recognition of the Community Foundation's 25th Anniversary, this year's Excellence Grants awards included one Silver Anniversary Award of \$25,000. Those nonprofits who applied were asked to propose a unique project or program that would have a lasting impact on the local Lafayette community.

HOW CAN THE LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION'S EXCELLENCE GRANTS PROGRAM?

Individual donors, family foundations, and business partners and sponsors are all vital to the Community Foundation's ability to address local needs by supporting essential community nonprofits. Every donation, whether \$50 or \$20,000, has a meaningful impact. Those who support the Community Foundation are part of an important act of collective giving and its power to generate a sustainable impact for the next 25 years and beyond. To donate to the Community Foundation and help build a stronger Lafayette, visit CFLafayette.org.



Early Alert Canines accepts its Excellence Grant in 2023

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's Senior Symposium on September 28 - Empowering Seniors and Caregivers. Follow CFL on IG or visit CFLafayette.org to learn more.

"Tom and I applaud the Community Foundation of Lafayette as a collective, and each of you individually, for the significant efforts to support institutions and organizations that help to make Lafayette a truly great place in which to live. We feel extremely lucky to be here and have found in giving back to our community we are more connected to our neighbors, our friends, and our town, and are a part of why the community continues to be a healthy, thriving place. We believe in supporting what we value."

—KAREN AND TOM MULVANEY



Together we are creating change and strengthening our community! Please join us!

Over \$1.4 million given to local nonprofits through our Excellence Grants program.

Celebrating 25 Years Of
Enhancing Life,
Culture And Community

Scan here to learn more and donate

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