

# EXCELLENCE GRANTS

*Because of you*



To Our Community,

As 2025 comes to a close, the Community Foundation of Lafayette is proud to celebrate more than 26 years of supporting local nonprofits in Lafayette and neighboring communities.

Through our annual Excellence Grants program, we have awarded more than **\$1.6 million to over 500 organizations** in the categories of Human Services, Seniors, Youth Development & Education and Arts & Culture. That's something to celebrate!

I often get asked, "Why should I donate to the Community Foundation when I can donate directly to an organization?" While that is certainly a wonderful option, when you give to the Community Foundation, you are not just supporting one organization, you are uplifting an entire network of local nonprofits doing meaningful, transformative work. Behind every grant is careful research, thoughtful vetting and deep understanding of our community's needs. We do the homework so you can give with confidence knowing your dollars are going where they will make the greatest impact.

## A Recap of Our Year

**37 Excellence Grants Given**—Your donations made a lasting impact on 37 local nonprofits. For example, the grant **Contra Costa Foster Friends** received directly impacted the well-being of Lafayette children living in foster care, **Contra Costa Senior Legal Services** was able to use its grant to provide free legal services to 15 seniors in Lafayette and **Las Trampas** used its grant for programs and services that support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Lafayette.

**4th Annual Lafayette Community Day**—In June, more than 200 community members came together to participate in projects throughout town and to celebrate their love and appreciation for Lafayette.

**16th Annual Senior Symposium**—In September, more than 150 seniors gathered for a day of connection, learning and community. A dynamic panel discussed the importance of staying engaged as we age while exhibitors shared valuable resources for seniors and caregivers.

**Denim & Diamonds**—Our generous community of donors saddled up for our western-themed, old-fashioned barn raiser that brought in more than **\$65,000 for local nonprofits to be awarded in our 2026 grants cycle.**

## What We Can Accomplish Together

As 2025 comes to a close, we are grateful for our donors who make our work possible. Together, your gifts create a powerful ripple effect that helps local nonprofits thrive and build a stronger, more compassionate community for everyone.

No donation is too small and every contribution becomes part of something bigger, uplifting lives and strengthening the place we all call home.

If you would like to join us in advancing our mission by becoming a board member or a community volunteer, please email us at [info@lafayettecf.org](mailto:info@lafayettecf.org).

From all of us at the Community Foundation of Lafayette, we wish you and your family a healthy, happy holiday season. **Please donate by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope, scanning the QR code or visiting [www.CFLafayette.org](http://www.CFLafayette.org).**

Sincerely,

*Cheryl A. Noll*

Cheryl A. Noll, President  
Community Foundation of Lafayette



2025 Excellence Grants Recipients

For over 25 years, the Community Foundation has given more than 500 Excellence Grants, totalling over \$1.6 million, to local nonprofits. Please read about those whose lives have been improved and our community that has been enhanced because of you.

## HELP A MOTHER OUT

*Help a Mother Out works to improve baby and family well-being by increasing access to diapers for families in need.*



Thanks to an Excellence Grant from the Community Foundation, Help a Mother Out provided 8,000 diapers to support local families through the Lamorinda Care Collective, which helps those in need by offering free essential items like clothing, school supplies and household goods. For many families, diapers are among the most urgently needed items, and are not covered by federal assistance programs. This donation arrived at exactly the right time. Every week, dozens of parents and caregivers, some traveling from as far as Sacramento and Stockton visit the Care Collective for support. With Help a Mother Out's support, the Collective has been able to provide reliable access to these essential items, reducing financial strain for parents and caregivers and ensuring that babies and toddlers have what they need to thrive.

## LAS TRAMPAS

*Las Trampas empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to realize their potential and lead meaningful lives in their communities.*



At 37, Sam had heard "no" too often, until Las Trampas. There, she was welcomed, encouraged to try new things, and supported by caring staff and teaching artists. Sam began painting, and when her first piece sold, she signed that she finally felt "seen as a grown-up." Though nonverbal, Sam's art now gives her a strong way to express herself, grow confidence, and make choices. This is what Las Trampas makes possible every day: community, creativity, and greater independence for adults with developmental disabilities. Support from the Community Foundation helps more people like Sam hear "yes" and find their place.

## EMPOWERED AGING

*Empowered Aging educates and empowers older adults and adults with disabilities so they can live with dignity, stay connected to what they love, and remain safe from neglect and abuse.*



During a visit to a skilled nursing facility made possible by an Excellence Grant from the Community Foundation of Lafayette, a Contra Costa County Ombudsman was approached by a resident distressed about unsafe meals and an unexpected discharge. Despite reporting a food allergy, she was repeatedly served spicy meals that caused her tongue to swell. The Ombudsman worked with staff to update her chart and ensure her dietary needs were met. When the resident also faced discharge due to a Medi-Cal coverage issue, the Ombudsman helped transfer her benefits to Contra Costa County—allowing her to remain safely in care. A simple meal complaint became a lifesaving action preserving her dignity and safety.

## PETER PAN FOUNDATION

*Peter Pan Foundation inspires children of all ages to reach their full potential through music and theater, building confidence, character, and creativity while fostering community and philanthropy.*



Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation, Peter Pan Foundation (PPF) expanded its costume collection, enabling more performers to participate in Children's Hospital and Make-A-Wish visits. This enhancement advances PPF's mission to bring joy, hope, and magic to those who need it most. With a broader range of characters, PPF enriched experiences for children and families across the community. Recently, performers joined NICU reunion celebrations at Alta Bates and John Muir hospitals, creating moments of joy and connection. One hospital administrator shared that PPF's presence "brought joy, awe, and a touch of magic to the celebration. It was truly a gift to witness the smiles and excitement PPF sparked in both children and adults alike."

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT CIRCLE

The Community Foundation of Lafayette created the Community Impact Circle (CIC) in 2024 to celebrate our 25th anniversary. This program provides a critical, ongoing funding stream for our four grant categories: Human Services, Seniors, Youth Development & Education and Arts & Culture. We invite you to join our dedicated members in building a strong future for Lafayette by making a pledge. Together, we can achieve far more for our community than any of us can accomplish alone.

### CIC Founding Members:

Kathy and Rick Bowles  
Carol Federighi  
Anne and Marshall Grodin  
Kathy and Mark Lefanowicz

### CIC Builders:

Karen and Tom Mulvaney  
The Nahas Family  
Suzy Pak and Mark Gundacker  
Laura and Eric Rudney

### CIC Ambassadors:

Diane Barbera  
The Bush Family  
Janet and Rick Cronk  
Jennifer and Mario DiPrisco  
Sierra and Tyler Higgins  
Robin Holt  
Linda Jenkins

Karen Maggio  
Anne Mitchell  
Mary and Scott Newman  
Cheryl Noll  
Maria and Daniel O'Leary  
The Sheldon Family

If you would like additional information, please email [info@lafayettecf.org](mailto:info@lafayettecf.org).

## FROM OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS

"Since moving to Lafayette, we have watched our little town grow and expand into what it is today. Lafayette is one of those fortunate towns that has kept pace with the times. Even more fortunate is the fact that there is always a cadre of smart and caring residents who are willing to volunteer to do whatever it takes in order for our town's slogan "Love Lafayette" to be meaningful. With the support of the Community Foundation of Lafayette, which, in turn, receives its support from all of us, we will be able to continue this dynamic love affair with the place we have chosen to live, work, play and raise families."

Betty and Todd La Porte

"As both business owners and lifelong residents of Lafayette, we are honored to support the Community Foundation of Lafayette. We've witnessed the Foundation's lasting impact in strengthening the community that shaped us and where we have raised our own family. Our support reflects our deep appreciation for the Foundation's vital role in fostering a strong and connected Lafayette."

Jill and David Douglas, Douglas Parking Company

### THANK YOU, BUSINESS PARTNERS

Platinum Partner: Eric & Laura Rudney  
Gold Partner: Douglas Parking  
Silver Partners: Dudum, Lafayette Car Wash & Detail Center, Indigo & Poppy, Rochford Real Estate, Wallace

## HOW YOU CAN DONATE

- With a major credit card online at [www.CFLafayette.org](http://www.CFLafayette.org) or by scanning the QR Code.
- With a check made payable to the Community Foundation of Lafayette mailed in the attached envelope.
- With a donation of appreciated stock through the Community Foundation's Charles Schwab account. For more information, please email [info@lafayettecf.org](mailto:info@lafayettecf.org).



## EXCELLENCE GRANTS FACTS

To learn more about the Excellence Grants program and to apply for a grant, please visit [www.CFLafayette.org](http://www.CFLafayette.org). The grant application will be available February 1, 2026.

501(c)(3) Tax ID #80-0022897

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

MY DONATION OF:

\$50       \$100

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Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU DONATE \$500 OR MORE,  
YOU MAY DIRECT 50% OF YOUR  
DONATION TO ONE OF OUR NEW  
FUNDS. PLEASE SELECT ONE:

- Friends of the Foundation
- Arts & Culture
- Seniors
- Human Services
- Youth Development & Education

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