



Summer 2004

FOUNDATION MISSION

*The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation is to enhance and preserve the quality of life within the greater Rancho Santa Fe area by promoting responsible and effective philanthropy. In pursuit of this mission, the Foundation:*

- Will increase awareness and understanding of the unique role played by the Foundation in identifying community needs.
- Will assist in addressing those needs with financial awards and organizational support.
- Will assist donors in building and preserving enduring assets for charitable purposes in the greater Rancho Santa Fe area.

## Chairman's Column

We hope that the arrival of this newsletter finds you enjoying the lazy, hazy days of summer. However, the Foundation has been very busy and focused on the growth of our assets and the grants that we are making into the community.



Behind all of the activity, is the Strategic Plan which was originally adopted in May, 2003 and was revised again just a year later. Dorothy Ridings, CEO of the Council on Foundations once said that "Predictions, like News Year's resolutions are often made but rarely come true. The future often unfolds differently than our best guesses. But prognostications do serve a useful purpose: they force us to take a hard look at what's happening now and to try to figure out what it all means".

Bob Goldsmith, the Chairman of our Strategic Planning Committee, has spent countless hours talking with each of our Board Members and our Directors Emeritus. He has distilled their comments on the future of the Foundation with respect to the growth in assets, need in the community for charitable dollars and the ability of local residents to provide funding to make a difference. The end result is a 13 page document that tells a great story.

The value of the endowment of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation grew by nearly 70% in 2003 and has already grown by more than 50% this year. We manage 115 individual endowment funds and have granted more than \$500,000 into the community. This growth has not occurred randomly. It is the result of a well conceived Strategic Plan and the vision of the members of our Board. We do not have a crystal ball, but with a wonderful Executive Director, Christy Wilson (a Rancho Santa Fe native) and a prestigious Board of Directors we are benefiting from where we have come, we understand where we are now, and we know where we are going...

Gayle Gillies Mize  
Chairman

## Featured Donors

As our featured donors in this issue, we feel that LaVerne and Blaine Briggs exemplify the philanthropic spirit that exists in our community.



LaVerne and Blaine have lived in the Ranch for more than 20 years, and in fact Blaine served on the Foundation's Board of Directors in the early years. In November 2003, he was named Director Emeritus.

The Briggs have a private foundation that they set up in 1986, and Blaine has managed all aspects of that foundation, from investment management to grantmaking, by himself for the last 18 years. Blaine quickly admits that they got a lot of enjoyment from what they were able to do, from supporting young college students and church sponsored programs to building hospitals. But when they learned of the donor advised fund program at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, they made the decision to gradually phase-out their private foundation into their donor advised fund. They established **The LaVerne and Blaine Briggs Donor Advised Fund** in 1999.

When asked what the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation has given them, LaVerne was quick to answer that the fund at the Foundation had eased their burden. Blaine adds that a donor advised fund "saves time on details as you get older". They like the idea that they can still "pick and choose where their gifts will go" but now they are confident that their fund is being handled in a professional way and it is "one pot that we don't have to look after".

The Briggs admitted that they do not have a strategy for their philanthropy, but they look closely at the mission, management and business plan of the organization before they lend their support.

I asked them what advice they give to others interested in philanthropy: they encourage others to get involved and find out about the needs of an organization and how they can also "touch lives" each and every day.



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# Summer Quarterly

## Rancho Santa Fe Foundation Quarterly News

### Spring Grants Made to Sixteen Local Organizations

**Boys & Girls Clubs of San Dieguito - \$5,000** for **La Clase Magica** a free, computer based curriculum for academically challenged children attending after school programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

**Boy Scouts -Desert Pacific Council - \$10,000** to support **Scoutreach** a program which provides at-risk youth a safe and nurturing environment where they can learn leadership skills, build self-esteem and learn real life lessons through Scouting.

**Country Friends - \$1,000** for **shop re-model.**

**Family Literacy Foundation - \$5,000** to support **Youth Reading Role Models**, a community service program that facilitates high school youth volunteering their time after school to read aloud with pre-school children.

**Girl Scouts, San Diego Imperial Council - \$5,000** to support the **construction of an observatory** to house a \$15,000 telescope that they received as a gift.

**Helen Woodward Animal Center - \$3,400** to support the **Therapeutic Riding Program.**

**Kids Korps USA - \$4,750** for funding a **year-long leadership training program**, for Teen Korps members.

**Rancho Santa Fe Art Guild - \$3,000** for purchase of **office furniture** and **technical infrastructure.**

**Rancho Santa Fe Community Center - \$2,500** for purchase of an **additional computer** and **software upgrades.**

**Rancho Santa Fe Community School Endowment - \$5,000** for underwriting **Scholars Circle** programs.

**Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society - \$5,000** for funding for **Cultural Landscape Designation, painting of building, patio furniture restoration and installation of fire-proof door, office equipment.**

**Rancho Santa Fe Library Guild - \$4,000** in support of **Summer Reading Program.**

**Rancho Santa Fe School District - \$2,500** in support of **staff development of new reading and writing programs.**

**Rancho Santa Fe Seniors - \$5,000** for **Caring Hands**, a new program to bring purpose and a feeling of usefulness to the lives of RSF Seniors.

**Rancho Santa Fe Youth Soccer - \$5,000** for **soccer scholarships** and **on-going field maintenance.**

**San Diego Chamber Orchestra - \$5,000** for expanding **Carnival in the Classroom performances** and to initiate a series of **music education classes** for adults in Rancho Santa Fe.

**San Diego Symphony Orchestra - \$5,000** for their **Baton Challenge.**

**Torrey Pines High School Foundation - \$2,500** provides funds for **cameras** and **editing software programs** for the Video & Film Department.

**In addition to the above mentioned grants, discretionary funds help to underwrite**

**Rancho Santa Fe Community Calendar**

**Paver at RSF Community Center to honor Pat Merino's retirement**

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