CELEBRATING

The mission of the Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) is “To inspire philanthropy and be a catalyst for strengthening communities throughout Monterey County.” The annual Celebration of Philanthropy, held October 5th at The Club at Pasadera in Monterey, thanked the CFMC’s many donors and nonprofit partners for their support.

Each year the CFMC Board of Directors presents the Distinguished Trustee Award to an individual or couple who demonstrate philanthropic leadership in our region. Board Chair Teri Belli presented the 2022 award to Bruce and Linda Taylor.

“Bruce and Linda don’t seek accolades. They give because it is who they are. Wherever there is a need, there they are.”

— Teri Belli, 2022 CFMC Board Chair

The Taylors truly “Give Where They Live.” They (and the Taylor Farms company) consistently support hundreds of nonprofits with a focus on health and wellness, youth development and education. They helped transform Salinas by constructing the Taylor Farms headquarters in Salinas City Center.

At the Celebration, CFMC President/CEO Dan Baldwin recounted the Foundation’s critical work, including a record $36.6 million granted during 2021. Teri Belli recognized and thanked retiring board members Betsey Pearson, Fred Meurer and Nolan Kennedy for their service.

Bruce Taylor spoke about the need to continue giving in Salinas to improve the well-being of communities in Monterey County. As award recipients, the Taylors designated two $5,000 grants from the CFMC to the nonprofits of their choice, choosing Digital Nest and First Tee Monterey County.

The evening’s program also included remarks from Taylor Farms scholarship recipient Angela Diaz. The Taylor Farms Scholarship Program at the CFMC has awarded $3.1 million to children of full-time company employees since 2008.

To view photos of the event and a video of the full program, please visit cfmco.org/COP2022.

Community Impact Investment

The Community Impact Investment (CII) program is one of the many tools the CFMC employs to propel its vision of “Healthy, Safe, Vibrant Communities.”

The CFMC allocates a small percentage of its investment portfolio to make local placements that will create local impact. In its first phase, this took the form of loans to Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) who then reloan the funds to small businesses that would have trouble obtaining traditional financing. California FarmLink, Accion Opportunity Fund, and the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) on behalf of the El Pajaro Community Development Corporation all received loan capital from the CFMC that they then
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lent to start-up farmers, women entrepreneurs, family businesses in Pajaro and much more. All of the loans went through vigorous underwriting. The CFMC separately contracts with Community Capital Advisors, who provides twice yearly reports on the health and status of the loans, and also tracks impact such as jobs created and/or retained. Interest on the loans flows 100% back into the CFMC investment portfolio.

CII is overseen by a board committee, chaired by Nolan Kennedy. From the outset the committee investigated ways the program can impact affordable housing, a chronic problem in Monterey County. A loan to CHISPA, Monterey County’s largest nonprofit affordable housing developer, is supporting the construction of affordable housing units in King City.

Most recently, the CFMC loaned United Way for Monterey County $1 million to support the purchase of their Community Impact Center in downtown Salinas. The building purchase provides a centralized, single location for community benefit. The Center also offers rentable, income generating office space for other nonprofit or governmental organizations.

“The CFMC’s belief in the vision of a Community Impact Center and loan support not only helped us with initial financing, but demonstrated a commitment that inspired other funders,” said Katy Castagna, President and CEO of United Way Monterey County.

Outcomes and partnerships like these illustrate just how effective Community Impact Investment can be. Learn more: cfmco.org/ImpactInvestment.

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CNE 10 Years Strong: Focus on Leadership

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) is celebrating ten years of strengthening nonprofits serving Monterey County. CNE works with local nonprofits to be stronger, more resilient and equitable. It helps staff, boards and volunteers make meaningful connections to resources and one another.

While the CFMC has provided leadership and organizational development support to local nonprofits for more than twenty years, these programs officially became the “Center for Nonprofit Excellence” in 2012 to reflect a growing focus on capacity building methods proven to be most effective in the field.

On average, CNE works with more than 160 nonprofits each year, offering learning opportunities, toolkits, grant funding, consulting and more. CNE has awarded more than $500,000 in Organizational Development grants in the past ten years to boost local nonprofits’ effectiveness and resilience.

A key focus for 2022 is investing in leadership through Executive Director Roundtables, a Guide to Leadership Transitions and the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) Institute. For more information, visit cfmco.org/CNE.