In 2015 / 2016 Wild Rivers Community Foundation gave $132,286 representing 112 grants and $83,250 in scholarships

Your neighbors made 127 gifts totaling more than $216,912
Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of the Wild Rivers Community Foundation (WRFC) Board and staff, we would like to thank you — our community partners, neighbors and donors — for another great year serving Del Norte and Curry Counties. Your continued collaboration helps our community to prosper in truly remarkable ways. Without your passion, commitment and desire to make our communities better we could not have achieved the following:

**Supporting youth and families:** The Wild Rivers Holiday Funding Partnership in December 2015 provided grants for twenty-five local organizations — touching the lives of more than 13,900 community members — supporting a wide range of services from providing coats and shoes, to meals, to ensuring children were provided gifts during the holiday season. The Summer Youth Mini-Grants awarded a total of $16,000 to over twenty-five Curry and Del Norte nonprofits. These organizations provided summer opportunities for more than 1,600 youth ranging from infants to 18-year-olds, living between Klamath and Port Orford.

**Investing in our youth, our future, and supporting community initiatives:** The gift of an electric car kit from the Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund helped kick-start a season of innovation for local high school students last year, and this February, WRFCF and the Del Norte County Unified School District revved the engines again and unveiled a new computer lab in the Career Technical Education Department of Del Norte High School. The lab modernizes shop classes with software for digital drafting and technical drawings that can be used with the schools 3D printers and other CTE programs. The new equipment continues to support college and career ready graduates.

**Nonprofit leadership and capacity building:** Wild Rivers Community Foundation has continued to support and convene nonprofit leaders in Curry and Del Norte Counties with regular nonprofit leader lunches and meetings featuring guest speakers and site visits.

**Building Healthy Communities work in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands:** This year Building Healthy Communities (BHC) has completed five years of community collaborations to improve health outcomes in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands. The BHC work is multi-faceted with specific focus on education and literacy, youth and opportunity youth, food systems and policy, and health career pathways. This spring, BHC partnered with community members to present a successful Literacy Symposium, where research was shared on local barriers to reading for youth and families, and community support was gathered around plans to transform the culture of literacy in our region.

Thank you for your commitment. It is with a shared vision and optimism that together we can continue to invest in the future and make the Wild Rivers Region a better place for all.

Sincerely,

John Babin
Board Chair, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

Gina Zottola
Director, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

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**WILD RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD**

**BACK ROW (from left):** Bev Westbrook, Harry Hoogesteger, Kara Miller, John Babin (Chair), Dale Thomas

**FRONT ROW (from left):** Dr. John Rush, Kevin Hartwick, Norma Fitzgerald, Dr. Kevin Caldwell, Rory Smith

**NOT PICTURED:** Gary Blatnick, Dan Brattain, William Follett, Becky Wood

**WILD RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF**

Gina Zottola
Director, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

Debra Redwine
Coordinator, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

Michelle Camillo
Director, Building Healthy Communities

Keri Mosey
Initiative Coordinator, Building Healthy Communities

**NOT PICTURED:** Nancy Raskauskas-Coons, Communications Manager, Building Healthy Communities; Makenzy Cervantez, Youth Media Coordinator, Building Healthy Communities

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**DEl NORTe’S WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Gina Zottola, Director of Wild Rivers Community Foundation was among the seven women chosen as “Women of the Year” by Sen. Mike McGuire in recognition of Women’s History Month. Award winners were nominated based on their hard work and extraordinary accomplishments throughout Northern California.

Gina was honored at a luncheon in March in Santa Rosa with the other women awarded from the state’s Senate District 2. A separate North Coast ceremony was held in honor of Gina in Del Norte as well as Kelli Grant and Connie Stewart of Trinity and Humboldt counties.
CONTENTS

2  Cal-Ore Life Flight N661TC Flight Team Memorial Scholarship Fund

3  Wild Rivers Community Foundation Funds

6  Griggs Gift: All Children Read and Succeed Fund

7  The 3 Read 23 Initiative

10 Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund R. Baird and Jane Rumiano Family Fund

13 Investing In The Next Generation of Leaders

14 Building Healthy Communities – The Last Five Years In Review

Inside Back Cover  Wild Rivers Community Foundation Board & Staff
MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED TO HONOR PILOT AND MEDICAL CREW LOST IN CAL-ORE LIFE FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Cal-Ore

CAL-ORE LIFE FLIGHT N661TC FLIGHT TEAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On July 29, 2016, a Cal-Ore Life Flight air medical plane crashed north of McKinleyville, CA. In addition to the patient, three Cal-Ore Life Flight personnel were on board: Pilot Larry Mills; Flight Nurse Deborah Kroon, RN, CCRN; and Certified Flight Paramedic Michelle Tarwater, FP-C, NREMT-P. There were no survivors.

Pilot Larry Mills, a man of few words and many smiles, was a volunteer firefighter for 12 years in his hometown in Illinois. Larry was an exceptional pilot with more than 20 years of flying experience. He said it was the only job in the world where he could do something he loved while being of service to others. Larry had been with Cal-Ore Life Flight since April of this year.

Flight Nurse Deborah Kroon came to this country from New Zealand. She spent 25 years as a critical care nurse working in hospitals across the U.S. When she arrived in Del Norte County in Northern California she fell in love with the area. She had been with Cal-Ore since October of 2014.

Certified Flight Paramedic Michelle Tarwater loved her noble work. She was especially proud to be one of the first in the region to receive National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians-Paramedic (NREMT-P) certification. Her mother said she knew Michelle would be a caregiver from the day she was born. Michelle had been with Cal-Ore since 2011.

This fund supports education for aviation, flight nursing, and flight paramedics in Curry and Del Norte Counties. Donations may be made online at hafoundation.org/cal-ore, or sent to Wild Rivers Community Foundation, 990 Front Street, Crescent City CA 95531.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING THIS MEMORIAL FUND IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN CREW. WE ARE PLEASED TO KEEP THEIR MEMORIES ALIVE BY ASSISTING STUDENTS IN PURSUITING A CAREER OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.

DAN BRATTAI
President, Cal-Ore
All Children Read and Succeed Fund $23,192

The All Children Read and Succeed Fund, established in 2012 by Jim and Gail Griggs, supports early childhood literacy in Del Norte County. The vision and inspiration is that every child in Del Norte County will be proficient readers. The fund targets tutoring programs to all children who are not at proficient levels for English Language Arts in the first, second and third grades. (2012)

Ed and Barbara Brattain Memorial Fund $45,138

Ed and Barbara believed that sometimes a little financial help could assist someone to achieve a life-changing goal that would enrich their life or improve their personal or family’s well-being. Thus, this fund is intended to benefit those in Curry and Del Norte County who may need that little extra amount to successfully complete a goal and is specifically for those who demonstrate that they have worked hard and are committed to obtaining their specific goal, but need extra support to successfully accomplish it. (2010)

Brattain Family Student Enrichment Fund $45,214

The Brattain Family Student Enrichment fund is intended for K-12 public school students in Curry and Del Norte Counties. The fund objective is to supplement a student’s school-sponsored activities by assisting with the payment of fees and costs. The target student is one with the desire to excel in a school program or activity, but who does not have the financial means to participate. Examples of this could be fees or uniform costs for a sport activity; travel expenses for a school-sponsored event that the student is involved in; fees for additional educational materials to enrich the student’s knowledge and education, etc. (2007)

Toni Brixey Memorial Scholarship Fund $13,575

A life-long resident of Del Norte County and a 30-year employee of Seaside and Sutter Coast Hospitals in nursing and administration, Toni Brixey was passionate about making a difference in the lives of others. She had an uncanny ability to make every situation better and to inspire others to do the same. When she unexpectedly passed away in 2010, her family, friends, co-workers and community were able to channel the love she had engendered in the community by establishing a memorial scholarship fund in her honor. Toni’s memory will live on forever, supporting the region’s health. (2011)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 990 Front St. • Crescent City, CA 95531 (707) 465-1238 • wildriverscf.org

Some donors request not to display their fund balance.
On July 29, 2016, a Cal-Ore Life Flight air medical plane crashed in northern California while transporting a patient to care. There were no survivors. In addition to the patient, there were three Cal-Ore Life Flight personnel on board: Pilot Larry Mills, Flight Nurse Deborah Kroon, RN, CCRN, and Certified Flight Paramedic Michelle Tarwater, FP-C, NREMT-P. To honor the fallen crew members, who gave their lives being of service to others, a memorial scholarship fund has been established to support education for aviation, flight nursing, and flight paramedics in Curry and Del Norte Counties. (2016)

Kevin Caldwell and Donna Sund-Caldwell moved to Crescent City from southern California in 1984. Both family physicians, they decided that Del Norte County was a great place to live and to raise their three children, Marisa, Dylan and Connor, who have now all successfully moved on to college educations. Kevin and Donna continue to operate their own family medicine practice, Redwood Medical Offices. Throughout the years, they have been involved in the local community in innumerable ways, with a focus on providing cultural and academic opportunities that create a nurturing environment for their own children as well as all children of the area. This fund has been created to ensure financial stability. (2006)

Our counties’ citizens are getting older and their loved one’s want a beautiful resting place for them. The Crescent City Cemetery has at times been in disrepair due to poor funding for maintenance. There are four organizations that are operating at the cemetery – Catholic Church, Odd Fellows, Masonic Lodge and the Del Norte Veterans. All donations go toward maintaining the appearance of the whole cemetery as needed. (2016)

Dean Cantwell grew up in Iowa and moved to Crescent City in 1992. He retired from a career as a contractor building major subdivisions in the Monterey and Santa Cruz area during the housing development boom. After spending years working in relatively affluent communities as a laborer, albeit a successful one, Dean developed a passion for helping young people improve themselves through education. Dean began contributing each year to Rotary’s annual Third Grade Dictionary Program whereby each third grader in Del Norte County is given their own dictionary, and through Rotary’s annual award of scholarship monies to deserving high school students. As the years passed, Dean developed a dream to create a four-year scholarship award to one deserving young person from Del Norte. Tommy and Donna Sparrow have fulfilled Dean’s most precious wish come true by honoring Dean’s wishes and making this scholarship a reality. (2013)

John and Barbara Cary moved to Curry County from southern California in January 2000 for work. They met their sophomore year of college at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Both were working in food service at the time. Coming full circle upon their retirement, both became active volunteers and board members at the Brookings Harbor Community Helpers Food Bank. Barb pursued her Master Gardener training, sharing her knowledge and love of growing vegetables with food bank clients. John and Barb built raised beds on food bank property to enhance the food bank fresh offerings and as a demonstration/learning tool. Seeds are available each spring for clients to try their hand at growing their own food. The Cary Family Fund is established to support charitable organizations within Curry County with an emphasis on food insecurity. (2015)

CASA – Del Norte Endowment Fund $6,497

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Del Norte was established as an independent program in 2002 to be a powerful voice for the abused and neglected children of Del Norte County. Their mission is to support and assist children in the juvenile dependency program by providing well-trained volunteers to advocate objectively in the child’s best interest. CASA Advocates provide a consistent and important one-on-one advocacy, which can make a lifetime difference to each child. CASA Advocates work with the child, the family,
juvenile court and supporting agencies to ensure each child is placed in a safe, permanent and loving home where they have the opportunity to fulfill their potential. In 2005, CASA of Del Norte received an anonymous donation to open an endowment fund. The purpose of the fund is to support on-going recruitment, screening and operation in the form of daily support to the CASA volunteer advocates. (2005)

Wayne Roberts & Kevin Hartwick Catch It Fund $3,050

The “Catch It” fund, established by local rodeo enthusiasts with the vision of enhancing and expanding programs and opportunities within the region for youth and their families, is intended to support and benefit local youth activities and agricultural pursuits directly or indirectly related to the Del Norte County Fair. (2006)

Circle of Change Endowment and Expendable Funds $21,213

Women of the Wild Rivers region have come together to form a giving circle with combined resources in order to support local charitable causes and enrich the lives of the members of our community by contributing funds to build and grow cultural, economic and educational programs within the region. The endowment fund is intended to provide a perpetual annual gift to the region for various projects and programs including those providing support to women, children, seniors, the arts and economic development. The expendable fund will support regional programs and projects as chosen by the members of the circle throughout the year. The expendable fund focus will be issues affecting women, children, seniors, the arts and economic development. (2008)

Coulson Family Fund $11,874

The Coulson Family Fund was established in 2013 by Betty and Walter Coulson and their children. Walter got his start in logging and loved the industry.

The Coulson Family Fund supports charitable work in our region by addressing changing needs as they arise. (2013)

Curry Health Network Equipment Fund $6,378

Curry Health Network consists of their hospital, Curry General Hospital, and a series of clinics in Brookings, Gold Beach and Port Orford, OR. It also includes their well-equipped new clinic setting at Curry Medical Center in Brookings. This fund has been set up to support the procurement of new equipment for the hospital and its outlying clinics. (2012)

Del Norte Area Fund $36,856

Del Norte Area Fund was established in 1988 with an initial gift provided by the late George and Millie Merriman. It was their hope that a foundation patterned after Humboldt Area Foundation could be established for Del Norte County. Fund income is designated for projects in the Del Norte area. (1988)

Del Norte Area Youth Fund $54,556

This advised endowment fund, a component fund of the Del Norte Area Fund, was established with proceeds from the Kid Town Project in Crescent City. It is intended to provide support for projects related to youth throughout Del Norte County. (2001)

Del Norte Child Care Council Fund $14,872

The Del Norte Child Care Council is a private non-profit corporation established in 1980. Its mission is to provide and support services that promote and encourage quality care, education, healthy growth and development of all children and families in the Wild Rivers Community. The agency provides childcare, referrals to services, childcare training, school age and preschool child care centers, traffic safety and car seat training, and supervised visitation and other child abuse prevention activities. The Council is governed by a volunteer board of directors and audited annually. Contributions to this fund will assist the Council in expanding and supporting its activities and services to the children of the Wild Rivers Community. (2005)

Del Norte County Historical Society Fund $29,325

Del Norte County Historical Society was established in 1951 by a group of citizens who wanted to record the rich history of Crescent City and Del Norte County. In 1965 the Society opened its museum in downtown Crescent City and took over operation and maintenance of Battery Point Lighthouse for the County through an agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard. The board of the Historical Society set up a fund with Wild Rivers Community Foundation in 2006 to bolster support for these and related efforts. The fund provides support for the museum’s research facility and the ongoing operations of both the museum and the lighthouse. Other financial support for the Society’s efforts comes in the form of volunteer labor, memberships, entrance fees and sales of books and other items at both facilities. (2006)

Del Norte County Public Library Discretionary Fund $5,970

The Del Norte County Public Library Discretionary Fund provides general support to the Library to enhance learning and ensure access to information throughout the Library’s service area. This fund was established to enable the Board of Directors for the Library, as fund advisors, to explore new ways to advance the Library’s mission. (2006)

Del Norte Library Foundation Fund $166,922

The Foundation was established in 1997 to ensure that the Del Norte Library will continue to meet the needs of the community in the future. Income from this endowment directly supports the library by purchasing needed items and enhancing library services. (1997)
Jim and Gail Griggs have a lifelong commitment to their communities are active supporters of youth programs, serve on various boards for hospitals, SPCA and the Panetta Institute. Jim and Gail were among the first to recognize the importance of our salmon and steelhead fisheries, creating the local Friends of the North Coast Fisheries Derby more than 35 years ago. The fishing derbies have helped to fundraise for the local fish hatcheries and set the example for current derbies held to this day.

Based in a study that the Griggs sponsored, they decided to start the All Children Read and Succeed Fund, which provided trained tutors for children. Although there was progress made, the Griggs were hoping for a larger impact.

Only about 50 percent of third graders were reading at third grade level and only 1 in 3 students entering kindergarten were kindergarten ready. In collaboration with a School Systems Implementation Team, which includes school administrators, educators and business leaders, Jim and Gail decided to make literacy for 3rd graders their focus.

Thanks to the Griggs dedication and commitment, the community was inspired to embrace literacy with a community wide project titled 3 Read 23.
Marcus, pictured here, is 18 months old and will enter 3rd grade by 2023. Little does he know, an entire community has come together to ensure that he and all other children in Del Norte will be able to read at grade level by then.

Research shows that being able to read at grade level by 3rd grade is pivotal in future success in school and adulthood.

This year, community members gathered to determine how to reach a goal of 100% of all 3rd graders reading at grade level – **3 Read 23** – for the 2016 Literacy Symposium. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Del Norte Unified School District, School Systems Implementation Team and Building Healthy Communities. More than 70 nonprofit organizations, governments and businesses came together to learn about the literacy research. Prior to the symposium, interviews were conducted with 27 families and 11 educators in the community to share their experience and insight into literacy in the region.

Insights and future experience maps are being shared throughout the community which include a map of goals for children ages 0-9. The community affirmed the goal of **3 Read 23** by completing commitment cards for future actions.

- play groups would be helpful, fun learning
- being able to have your baby with you at your workplace
- all 3 year olds get to spend a day in a group learning setting
Del Norte School and Community Garden Fund

Our school and community gardens beautify our neighborhoods, teach our children how to grow, cook, and enjoy healthy foods, provide space for families to grow their own food, and increase the self-sufficiency of our communities. Gardens provide spaces for healthy physical activity for the whole family. In many communities, gardens have been shown to increase property values and decrease crime in the surrounding neighborhood. Gardens also have financial needs. Tools break, soil needs amending and mulching, water bills need to be paid. New gardens need fences, hoses, raised beds, and more. This fund will support existing school and community gardens and provide start-up funds for new gardens to enhance the health and well-being of our community. (2015)

Del Norte Senior Center Endowment Fund $26,613

The Del Norte Senior Center Endowment Fund was established as a means of supplementing the funds received by the Del Norte Senior Center from Federal and State grants in order to carry out its programs for Del Norte County seniors. The ultimate goal of the Endowment Fund is to ensure the long-term continuation and expansion of the many life enriching and supporting programs for seniors through the Senior Center. The programs involve the three essential elements of healthy living for seniors: nutrition, health maintenance and socialization. This planned giving program will support the Senior Center in providing these services for generations to come. (2005)

Maritess Faith Demoret Memorial Fund $25,649

Originally from Pensacola, FL, Tess moved to Gasquet, CA in 2009 with her husband Robert Sewell. A deeply spiritual person, she had a strong connection with the natural world and a profound impact on the lives of the many people who loved her. Tess planned on returning to school to earn her MSW before she passed away in an auto accident at the age of 31. It was her dream to help children who are abused and create a kinder more loving world. This fund was established to carry on her dreams and protect the children who cannot protect themselves. Please help us honor her memory and carry on her dreams by helping this very righteous cause. (2011)

Duncan Family Fund $26,965

The Duncan Family Fund, established in 2005 by Anne Marie and Gregory Duncan, benefits children by supporting programs and projects in the Wild Rivers region. (2005)

Education For Life Hmong Scholarship $5,996

"It takes a whole community for a student to achieve education for life," shared the Rev. Dr. Paul Joseph T. Khamdy Yang. With that vision, in honor of Dr. Yang, to bridge the Hmong-American community and larger communities, and to support our Del Norte County Unified School District students’ future in higher education, Hmong American National Development Services established the Education for Life Hmong Scholarship on May 12, 2014. With the magnificent support of many community members, HANDS was founded by three Del Norte High School students: Jeremiah Yang, Jonathan Yang, and Destiny Yang. The Education for Life Hmong Scholarship is to be given to one recipient of Hmong decent and one out of the two recipients must be female. Thank you for your extravagant generosity for our children our future now. Education for life. (2015)

G. Russell Field Scholarship Trust Fund $129,831

G. Russell “Russ” Field, a photographer for the US. Navy and a longtime resident of Smith River died on February 10, 1998, leaving his estate to Humboldt Area Foundation for the creation of the G. Russell Field Scholarship Trust Fund. A memorial endowment fund, the annual net income provides scholarship awards to graduating seniors of Del Norte High School planning to attend four-year accredited colleges or universities and pursue courses of study in fields other than theology and chiropractic medicine. His trustee, Joan Field, confirmed that Russ denied himself a great deal in order to be able to create this fund to help young people, “our hope for the future.” (1999)

Friends of Brookings-Harbor Aquatic Center $3,390

Friends of the Brookings-Harbor Aquatic Center is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the development of a sustainable community aquatic center to enhance access to year-round fitness and recreational programming that will promote wellness and improve quality of life for every member of our community regardless of age, fitness level, or physical capabilities. We believe an indoor aquatic center offering active recreation and fitness programs affords countless avenues to address community wellness needs including concerns about health (obesity and chronic diseases), the economy (job creation), and society in general (after-school activities and opportunities for the disabled and seniors to remain active despite physical limitations). (2011)

Friends of the Del Norte County Fair Fund $6,094

This fund was the long-term vision of community partners and the 41st District Agricultural Association Board. The fund’s purpose is to finance special projects which will ultimately enhance the community’s overall use of our fairgrounds and support current and future projects and activities at the Del Norte County Fair. (2006)
Friends of the Wonder Bus $7,677

The first Family Resource Center (FRC) in Del Norte County was established in Crescent City to provide a warm, inviting and accessible place where families can enjoy variety of enriching activities and connect with many support services from community resource and referral services to school readiness programs. Central located in a neighborhood near schools and outdoor play fields, the FRC provides a safe, neutral and supportive environment that offers family fun activities, birthing classes, playgroups, parent support groups, nutrition education, early developmental screenings, books, games, and resources for check-out, parents and educator trainings, meeting space for partners, a children's garden, story times, movement and music, art and science activities, and parent education classes. The FRC is so valuable that First 5 Del Norte has committed to provide long-term financing to ensure the site is a permanent resource for the community. However, to expand activities and programs to serve more families, and meet current needs for children and youth, the FRC needs new financial community support. (2015)

Friends of Langlois Public Library Fund $25,736

The Friends of the Langlois Public library opened their fund to support the work of the Langlois Public Library. As an organization, they hope to grow their funds and use them for future library construction. This library plays an important role in the small community providing Langlois a central meeting place for many. (2011)

Friends of the Wonder Bus $7,677

The Wonder Bus is a mobile book & toy lending library. The Wonder Bus travels throughout Del Norte County offering enriching early literacy programs at preschools, apartments, elementary schools and community events. The Wonder Bus also serves Del Norte’s outlying, isolated communities. This collaborative effort provides accessible and responsive library and early literacy programs and services, educational resources for parents and skill-building tools to Del Norte’s children ages 0-8, including siblings, parents and caregivers. First 5 has funded the staffing of the Wonder Bus for many years. However, the current demand exceeds the resources needed to expand programs that help our children prepare for kindergarten and become successful readers in school. With community support of donations to this fund, the Wonder Bus will be able to serve more children and to provide new books and educational programs to Del Norte children. (2014)

Vivian & Leonard Goodwin Endowment Fund $10,533

The Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery is a non-profit ecological project working to increase and perpetuate the native runs of steelhead and chinook salmon in the Smith River, which is the last free-flowing river in California. The Fish Hatchery was built in 1968 entirely with donated funds, labor and materials. The property was donated and the hatchery sits at the confluence of Dominie and Rowdy Creek. The Vivian & Leonard Goodwin Endowment Fund was established to benefit the Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery. Mr. Goodwin, who founded the fund, passed away on August 16, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Vivian. (2006)

Green Diamond Resource Company Fund $15,837

The Green Diamond Resource Company Fund, established in 2005, will consider grant requests for fisheries and wildlife habitat restoration, forestry/habitat education and research. (2005)

Richard Hanson and Bonnie Cushman Memorial Fund $101,596

Richard Hanson and his sister, Bonnie (Hanson) Cushman, were life-long residents of Fort Dick. They both loved people and served the community in their own ways. Bonnie was always very proud of Richard's many years of service as chief of the Fort Dick Volunteer Fire Department. This fund was set up in their honor to continue lifting up the community they loved by supporting the bravery and dedication of the Fort Dick Volunteer Fire Department. The fund will aid them in acquiring new machinery and equipment, maintaining their buildings, and other such needs that arise. (2016)

Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund $2,859,283

When Gildard Hess was 19 years old he moved from Iowa to Oakland, CA. Though Gil had only completed one quarter of college before taking a job as a welder for a sheet metal manufacturing business, he became the owner and built the business from a few people to over 150 employees. Another of Gil Hess’ innovative achievements is his patented design of the baggage carousel, which is still used today in airports around the world. Married for 55 years, Gil and Ann Hess enjoyed great success in life and in business. In 1970, Gil and Ann retired to Del Norte County. Gil felt strongly about supporting students who may not shine in an academic setting, but share his visionary thinking and entrepreneurial spirit. Therefore, the Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund is primarily dedicated to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in Del Norte students. (2013)

Dr. Janis C. Heuser Feline Fund $12,401

The Dr. Janis C. Heuser Feline Fund was established in 2014, to support the total, loving care and keeping of cats and kittens including medical care, spay, neuter, a permanent

In March, community partners came together to celebrate a new Career Technical Education Computer Lab at Del Norte High School.

The computer lab was made possible by a partnership between Wild Rivers Community Foundation and Del Norte Unified School District.

Projects made possible by the new computers and software:

• Creation of vector patterns (geometrical formulas to represent images)

• Rendering and sending files to the school laser cut to etch into a piece of metal

• Rendering and sending files to the school laser cut to a CNC cutter (a computer controlled cutting machine) used for cutting various hard materials, such as wood, composites, aluminium, steel, plastics, and foams

• Software to plan and print-out dimensions for pieces to make wooden benches converted to picnic tables

shelter for abandoned cats and a retirement center. This endowment fund will support the work in Gold Beach and Central Curry County for providing complete and loving care and keeping of cats and kittens. Dr. Janis C. Heuser has been serving the needs of cats and kittens in Curry County for over 27 years. The endowment fund will continue her work now and in the future to provide ongoing support for cats and kittens in Curry County. (2014)

Amy Kaufmann Memorial Fund $12,468

Amy Kaufmann loved life. She enjoyed hiking, wilderness camping, snowboarding, mushroom hunting, fishing, rafting the Smith River, traveling, playing softball and she loved her job working at Dr. Peter Tardiff’s veterinary office. Amy loved all animals, especially her dog, “Green”. Amy was very concerned about the welfare of family pets and the alarming rate of unwanted and uncontrolled pet population. Part of the problem can be attributed to the limited financial resources of some pet owners. The Amy Kaufmann Memorial Fund was established after Amy’s life was tragically taken on January 25, 2010 at the age of 26. Amy was very actively involved in the free spay and neuter clinics in Crescent City and the Del Norte Humane Society’s K9 Olympics fundraiser. Amy’s Fund was created to be used in perpetuity for the spaying and neutering of Del Norte County cats and dogs. (2010)

Noel & Margaret LaCombe Fund $655,683

Mr. and Mrs. LaCombe, long-time residents of Crescent City, established this fund to provide scholarships to Del Norte High School graduating seniors. Noel and Margaret did not have the opportunity to further their education. Mr. LaCombe passed away in 1992 and Mrs. LaCombe, in January 1998. (1991)
Let the Music Play Fund

The Let the Music Play Fund was established in 2014 to support charitable work in the region with an emphasis on music and the arts for middle school students. Specifically, Act 1 of Let the Music Play Fund helped to support the purchasing of musical instruments for the music program at Smith River School. This fund will continue to serve as a vehicle to support music and the arts for our middle school students throughout Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands. (2014)

Lighthouse Repertory Theatre Performing Arts Center Building Fund $16,876

The Lighthouse Repertory Theatre Performing Arts Center Building Fund will provide the theater group the home it needs and a community arts center available for public use. Since LRT was founded in 1978, it has performed dozens of musicals, dramas and comedies for thousands of people in a school auditorium. The Lighthouse Repertory Theatre is organized to foster and produce the best obtainable and most adaptable plays of the living theatre for the entertainment and benefit of the community. (2005)

Martinelli Family Trust Fund $5,605

The Martinelli Family Trust was set up in 2005 by Thomas and Robin Martinelli. It was their intention to have this trust focus on the needs of children, the elderly and the disadvantaged of our community. Their initial funding of the trust will be used to help those in need of temporary housing, food, and on occasion, emergency pharmaceutical assistance. Hopefully, future funding will target various projects in the Wild Rivers Community. (2005)

Maureen McHugh Martinelli Spirit of Buona Ventura Memorial Endowment Fund $17,462


No Hungry Kids – Wild Rivers Coast $6,528

No hungry kids is the goal of this fund. Set up with the assistance of community partners, children’s nutritional needs will be addressed by providing meals and improving food security for children, primarily during the summer. This is to be accomplished through the coordination and facilitation of existing resources and contributions. (2008)

North Jetty Cats Plus Endowment Fund $11,414

The North Jetty Cats Plus Endowment Fund was established in 2005 to provide for the total care and keeping of cats and kittens in Curry County, OR including medical care, spaying, neutering and shelter. As an endowment fund, the capital will remain intact and the interest income will provide on-going support to North Jetty Cats Plus. Over the past thirteen years North Jetty Cats Plus has medically treated, spayed/neutered and adopted into loving homes nearly four thousand cats and kittens. This fund was established by Ursula Elliot and Janis C. Heuser, DVM to financially guarantee the medical and loving care demonstrated in the past will continue and expand in the future. Long-term goals include providing on-going support for a feline retirement center, shelter, boarding facilities, and a cat cemetery where cats can be laid to rest with gratitude and love. (2005)

Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Curry County Fund $48,899

In response to physician shortages, the Wild Rivers Community Foundation established the Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Curry County Fund. The fund helps recruit medical doctors by offering a medical school loan repayment plan, in yearly increments for each year served in Curry County, up to a maximum of four years. Applicants must serve in a needed field of medicine in Curry County for at least two years to qualify. (2008)

Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Del Norte Fund $280,932

In response to physician shortages the Wild Rivers Community Foundation established the Physician Recruitment Loan Repayment Del Norte Fund. The fund helps recruit medical doctors by offering a medical school loan repayment plan, in yearly increments for each year served in Del Norte County, up to a maximum of four years. Applicants must serve in a needed field of medicine in Del Norte County for at least two years to qualify. (2007)

Physicians of Sutter Coast Hospital Fund $138,162

Income from the Physicians of Sutter Coast Hospital Fund, an advised fund, is available for distribution to North Coast non-profit organizations to serve humanitarian, cultural, educational or charitable purposes. (1995)

Ray “Buck” Rosendahl Memorial Pet Assistance Fund $5,178

In 2004, Buck and his bride Tracie began an amazing and life changing journey together in beautiful Gold Beach, Oregon. There they opened and developed Woof’s Dog Bakery and Pet Supplies, a Holistic Pet Nutrition Center. With 2 locations on the Southern Oregon Coast, they touched many lives while making meaningful friendships along the way. Ray “Buck” Rosendahl left this earth on February 17, 2016 at his home with family and friends by his side after battling cancer. He was 71 years young. “Buck” will not be forgotten. The Ray “Buck” Rosendahl Memorial Pet Assistance Fund was
established in 2016 in his honor to provide support for the total care of animals in Curry County, Oregon. (2016)

**R. Baird & Jane Rumiano Family Fund** $54,622

Baird and Jane Rumiano have lived in Crescent City for most of their adult lives. They raised their two boys, Joby and Tony, in Del Norte. Both attended local school and completed their college education at Humboldt State University. Del Norte and Humboldt Counties have been good to the Rumianos. They wish to give back to the community by way of this fund intended to build financial stability, community participation and enrichment by supporting athletics, scholarships, training for volunteers and volunteerism and other programs supporting self-sufficiency in the people, the natural resources and the beauty of our area. Baird is owner of Rumiano Cheese Company and Jane has been a high school tennis coach and instructor for over 30 years and still continues her love of the game. (2009)

**Philip & Beth Schafer Fund** $36,628

Longtime residents of Del Norte County Philip and Beth Schafer have been avid supporters of the community and have established a fund to support the mission of a variety of charitable organizations in Del Norte County, i.e. the Scholarship Foundation, the Del Norte Library Foundation, Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery, the Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness (DNACA), St. Joseph’s Catholic School, CASA, Sutter Coast Hospital’s philanthropic fund and Lighthouse Repertory Theatre’s building fund. (2008)

**Search & Rescue Endowment Fund** $14,894

A young child with autism, Colin Buchanan was lost along the North Fork of the Smith River in 2004, while hiking and fishing with his father. When the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue received the call, they immediately recognized the severity of the situation for Colin, who is non-verbal and unable to call out for help. Search and Rescue responded quickly and the child was picked up by a helicopter 30 minutes before nightfall. Colin Buchanan’s family established this fund to provide on-going support to Search and Rescue for everyone in Del Norte County. They are a skilled team of committed community volunteers, providing ground searches, technical rescues, swift water rescues and dive rescues in coordination with the Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office. As the fund advisors, the Search and Rescue Board of Directors makes recommendations for expenditures. (2005)

**Smith River Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Restoration Fund** $9,827

This fund supports habitat restoration projects and related planning and education within the Smith River watershed.

The Smith River is legendary for its native salmon and steelhead. These fish have always been a part of the culture and human habitation within the watershed - beginning with Native Americans thousands of years ago to the local community and tourists visiting the watershed today. This fund represents the collaboration of three entities: Green Diamond Resource Company, Del Norte County’s largest private landowner, Smith River Alliance, a watershed organization founded in 1980 that is active in river and fish restoration projects, and Smith River Advisory Council, an independent group of representatives from public and private entities with a shared interest in watershed habitat restoration projects. (2005)

**Eileen A. Tardiff Memorial Fund** $14,525

Eileen Tardiff was a loving wife and mother of nine children. She was active in her local community before her diagnosis and struggle with dementia that resulted in her death in 2005. Through her illness, her family learned of the pressing need in the community for assistance in matters involving senior citizens. They established this field of interest fund in her memory to help ensure that seniors in our community receive the assistance they need. (2004)

**Dustin Weber Memorial Fund**

Dustin was twenty-five years old, adventurous, had a dazzling smile and was loved by all. He enjoyed hiking with his dad and riding his mountain bike. He was a graduate of Mountain View High School in Bend, OR. Dustin moved to Klamath, CA in February of 2011 to fix up a house that was given to him by his grandmother on Requa Hill. On March 11, 2011, Dustin and some friends went down to the Mouth of the Klamath to take pictures of the waves from the tsunami. Dustin was hit by a large surge wave while his back was turned and was swept out to sea. His body was removed in April, four hundred miles north in Astoria, Oregon. He may be gone but never forgotten. October 5, 1985 – March 11, 2011. (2012)

**Wild Rivers Community Fund** $16,360

The Wild Rivers Community Foundation inspires people and communities by facilitating dialogue and encouraging charitable giving to support the region now and forever. It works to keep local capital within the Wild Rivers region. This fund was established to provide opportunities for general discretionary giving to support the Wild Rivers Region. (2005)

**Wild Rivers Health Forever Fund** $19,551

As physicians who have raised their families in Del Norte County, they believe quality, accessible healthcare is essential to the future of the wild rivers coast of Northern California and Southern Oregon. The Wild Rivers Health Forever Fund is dedicated to preserving, improving and expanding healthcare services for the residents and visitors of the region. Fund goals include the addition of chemotherapy, kidney dialysis, cardiology, primary and specialty care physicians, nurses, and physician assistants. Simply, the commitment is to helping local residents receive quality, affordable healthcare without having to leave the area. (2013)
Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders

Every young person in Del Norte and Tribal Lands should have an opportunity to be a part of a supportive network of mentors with access to resources that foster lifelong health and success. Youth were an integral part of shaping opportunities for their peers in 2016, working side by side with community leaders, policymakers and employers to create opportunities this summer including; Redwood Voice, Youth Training Academy and the Youth Strategy Team.

2016 BHC Community Small Grants Program

Youth gave back in a new way this year awarding $11,000 in small grants to fourteen community projects they believed would have the most impact improving the health of their community. The team volunteered, learning how to manage grant-making from start to finish. They coordinated an intro-to-grant-writing workshop, resulting in many applications from youth and first-time grant writers. Grantees attended a banquet to share the amazing work that would be taking place.

Organizers help build minority youth leaders

Young men and women of various minority backgrounds, representative of Del Norte & Tribal lands, gained leadership skills, learned about health issues and policies and fostered new relationships through Sons & Brothers and Sisterhood Rising leadership camps that they can bring back to their community. Culminating with a trip to the state capitol, they discussed solutions with their legislators, advocating for justice, health, safety and success of young people.

Photo by Bryant Anderson III
Building Healthy Communities
Del Norte County and Adjacent Tribal Lands

The Last Five Years in Review
What is Building Healthy Communities?

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is a 10-year, statewide initiative funded by the California Endowment dedicated to advance statewide policy, and transform 14 of California’s communities most devastated by health inequities into places where all people have an opportunity to thrive. Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands was one of 14 communities selected in 2009 to participate in the initiative through the Wild Rivers Community Foundation.

Youth Have Access to New Opportunities. Parents Have a Voice.

After 5 years, the initiative is now at the halfway point, and results are showing. Over the course of BHC’s involvement in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands, hundreds of youth have gained meaningful career exposure, community service opportunities, leadership training and earned over $_____. Children have access to free breakfast and lunch throughout the summer and are able to now enjoy healthy salad bars and fresh drinking water in every school. Parents and families also now have new opportunities to have their voices heard through community organizing.

Classroom Management and Student Behavior Has Improved

The schools have also seen a major improvement in behavior and improved classroom management. Through the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) – a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students to achieve social, emotional and academic success. This new behavior program has greatly contributed to the dramatic reduction in suspension rates and absentees in Del Norte County Schools.

Uninsured Resident Rates Have Dropped

In local Health4All efforts, the percentage of Del Norte’s uninsured residents was reduced to about 18%, with the 0-17 age group reducing to only 4.2% uninsured. These efforts brought Del Norte up to match the average numbers for the State of California as a whole.

Residents Are Developing a More Powerful Voice

There has been an emphasis in growing local leaders, developing youth voice, and improving the experiences of the residents living in this community. Organizations such as True North Organizing Network (community grassroots organizing network) and Redwood Voice (youth media program) are working to amplify the voices of local residents of all ages and empower them to advocate for the changes they want to see in their community.

Through local voter registration and community organizing, young people have helped engage new residents as voters in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands. From school board to county board and tribal council elections, youth are taking civic engagement to a higher level working in partnership with county officials.

Photos by Bryant Anderson III
HOW TO GIVE

To learn more about planned giving options and to support causes you care about now and into the future, call (707) 465-1238.

Step 1
DECIDE WHEN YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR GIFT
Make your gift TODAY, or make a MONTHLY contribution charged to your credit card, or make a plan now to give AFTER YOUR LIFETIME

Step 2
IDENTIFY HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOUR GIFT
- CASH
- REAL PROPERTY
- STOCK
- OTHER ASSETS

Step 3
CHOOSE WHERE YOUR GIFT WILL BE DIRECTED
- To support Wild Rivers Community Foundation’s community programs, or
- To support unrestricted grantmaking that meets changing community needs, or
- To support community grantmaking that addresses specific causes through your fund or an existing fund listed in this publication

Photo by Amy Lee Photography
Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of the Wild Rivers Community Foundation (WRCF) Board and staff, we would like to thank you — our community partners, neighbors and donors — for another great year serving Del Norte and Curry Counties. Your continued collaboration helps our community to prosper in truly remarkable ways. Without your passion, commitment and desire to make our communities better we could not have achieved the following:

**Supporting youth and families:** The Wild Rivers Holiday Funding Partnership in December 2015 provided grants for twenty-five local organizations — touching the lives of more than 13,900 community members — supporting a wide range of services from providing coats and shoes, to meals, to ensuring children were provided gifts during the holiday season. The Summer Youth Mini-Grants awarded a total of $16,000 to over twenty-five Curry and Del Norte nonprofits. These organizations provided summer opportunities for more than 1,600 youth ranging from infants to 18-year-olds, living between Klamath and Port Orford.

**Investing in our youth, our future, and supporting community initiatives:** The gift of an electric car kit from the Gil & Ann H. Hess Memorial Fund helped kick-start a season of innovation for local high school students last year, and this February, WRCF and the Del Norte County Unified School District revived the engines again and unveiled a new computer lab in the Career Technical Education Department of Del Norte High School. The lab modernizes shop classes with software for digital drafting and technical drawings that can be used with the schools’ 3D printers and other CTE programs. The new equipment continues to support college and career ready graduates.

**Nonprofit leadership and capacity building:** Wild Rivers Community Foundation has continued to support and convene nonprofit leaders in Curry and Del Norte Counties with regular nonprofit leader lunches and meetings featuring guest speakers and site visits.

**Building Healthy Communities work in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands:** This year Building Healthy Communities (BHC) has completed five years of community collaborations to improve health outcomes in Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands. The BHC work is multi-faceted with specific focus on education and literacy, youth and opportunity youth, food systems and policy, and health career pathways. This spring, BHC partnered with community members to present a successful Literacy Symposium, where research was shared on local barriers to reading for youth and families, and community support was gathered around plans to transform the culture of literacy in our region.

Thank you for your commitment. It is with a shared vision and optimism that together we can continue to invest in the future and make the Wild Rivers Region a better place for all.

Sincerely,

John Babin
Board Chair, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

Gina Zottola
Director, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

Debra Redwine
Coordinator, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

Michelle Camillo
Director, Building Healthy Communities

Keri Mosey
Initiative Coordinator, Building Healthy Communities

Gina Zottola, Director of Wild Rivers Community Foundation was among the seven women chosen as “Women of the Year” by Sen. Mike McGuire in recognition of Women’s History Month. Award winners were nominated based on their hard work and extraordinary accomplishments throughout Northern California.

Gina was honored at a luncheon in March in Santa Rosa with the other women awarded from the state’s Senate District 2. A separate North Coast ceremony was held in honor of Gina in Del Norte as well as Kelli Grant and Connie Stewart of Trinity and Humboldt counties.

**WILD RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD**

**BACK ROW (from left):** Bev Westbrook, Harry Hoogesteger, Kara Miller, John Babin (Chair), Dale Thomas

**FRONT ROW (from left):** Dr. John Rush, Kevin Hartwick, Norma Fitzgerald, Dr. Kevin Caldwell, Rory Smith

**NOT PICTURED:** Gary Blatnick, Dan Brattain, William Follett, Becky Wood

**WILD RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF**

**Gina Zottola**
Director, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

**Debra Redwine**
Coordinator, Wild Rivers Community Foundation

**Michelle Camillo**
Director, Building Healthy Communities

**Keri Mosey**
Initiative Coordinator, Building Healthy Communities

**NOT PICTURED:** Nancy Raskauskas-Coons, Communications Manager, Building Healthy Communities; Makenzy Cervantez, Youth Media Coordinator, Building Healthy Communities

**Photos by Dot Dena G’s Photography**
In 2015 / 2016 Wild Rivers Community Foundation gave $132,286 representing 112 grants and $83,250 in scholarships. Your neighbors made 127 gifts totaling more than $216,912.