

VISALIA ROTARY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Update

"MOVING FORWARD . . . BY GIVING BACK."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was 1995 when Camp Tulequoia received the very first grant from the Foundation. Now, thirteen years later a cumulative one-half million dollars of grants have been made to thirty-five different community non-profit organizations. And, this does not count two-hundred thousand dollars in scholarship monies that have been distributed over the same time period.

In this issue two important grant recipients and important community organizations are briefly highlighted.

It is only through the generosity of many Rotarians and friends of the Foundation that this ongoing community grant support is possible. Thank you for this support.



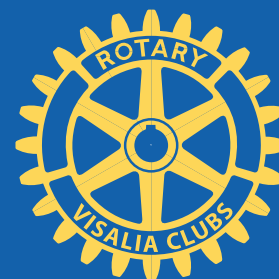
WILLIAM MARTIN

Scholarships Named for Bob Harrell Updated, Upgraded *Career Technological Education Scholarships Enhanced*

Former County Supervisor and Rotarian, Robert Harrell was a quiet leader deeply interested in this community. He advocated for many advancements including the expansion of opportunities in what was at that time called vocational education. Today, the Robert Harrell Career Technological Education Scholarships represent a continuation of his vision. Through continuing contributions to the Robert Harrell Fund, the endowment has increased such that future scholarship recipients will receive substantial improvement in benefits.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 grant year, Robert Harrell Scholarships will be given to one student at El Diamante High School, Golden West High School, Redwood High School, and Mt. Whitney High School. Each scholarship will be for \$500, renewable for three additional semesters for a total of \$2000. Requirements for renewal include being a full-time student, maintaining a minimum 2.5 grade point average, and enrolling in career technological education appropriate course work. Specific careers are not mandated allowing scholarships to be awarded based upon individual interests.

It is a reflection of the generosity of many that the underlying endowment of the Robert Harrell Scholarships has grown.



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SAVE THE DATE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Friday,
March 13th,
2009



A "green event" sponsored by Visalia Rotary Community Foundation to honor new Karl Weiss Fellows. Always a good time for all with food and beverage to satisfy all tastes.

Please plan to attend.

Seven Local Organizations Receive 2008 Grants

List Includes Some Less Publicized Non-Profits

Visalia Community Services Council, Aspiranet, and CA Love were "new names" added to the list of grant recipients this year.

Aspiranet's "My Steps," a program that assists young emancipated adults, received the largest grant, \$13,100. A number of the clients come from foster homes and are suddenly "on their own" at age eighteen. "My Steps" coaches skills necessary to find housing, employment, and social networks.

Visalia Community Services Council received \$10,000 for the youths at-risk summer jobs program. Reporting back, the Council stated that only one youth failed to complete the program and that additional youth placement was limited primarily by need for more funding and private sector summer jobs.

A \$12,000 grant assisted CA Love in the purchase of a used 7-8 passenger van used for their work with 12-17 year-old foster children.

The focus on young adults and youth was again displayed in grants awarded to more recognized names: Boys & Girls Club of Tulare County (\$11,400), Visalia YMCA Camp Program (\$6,500), Wish Upon a Star (\$4,000), and Imagine U Museum (\$10,000).

Since grants began in 1996, a total of one-half million dollars has been distributed to local non-profit organizations.



IRA Charitable Rollover Restored

The IRA Charitable Rollover is a tax incentive that allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income.

Update

As part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R.1424), signed into law on October 3, 2008, Congress restored and extended the IRA charitable rollover giving incentive through 2009.

Current Law

The reenacted IRA Charitable Rollover provision permits individuals age 70½ and above to make charitable donations of up to \$100,000 from IRAs and Roth IRAs without having to count the distributions as taxable income. The IRA Charitable Rollover is intended to benefit donors of all incomes, as well as big and small nonprof-its alike.

How does the IRA Rollover Work?

Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their IRAs.

ASPIRAnet

Raising Hope, Empowering Community.

A Significant New Resource in Visalia

Visit with Bridget or Ashley for just a few minutes and you understand the critical role that Aspiranet plays in their entrance into adulthood. *Emancipated*, a five-syllable word meaning these young ladies, having turned eighteen, are on their own. Aspiranet is assisting in their otherwise unaided first years of emancipation.

Bridget and Ashley each have a concept of their future: Bridget aspires to enter into child psychology while Ashley aspires to become a child care specialist. Much like others being aided by Aspiranet, they come from troubled- or foster- homes.

The fulfillment of the aspirations of Bridget and Ashley and ten other young men and women at this site are being aided by housing (two years), small budgets, counseling, and the comradeship of others with the need for temporary assistance while learning the skills of independent living.

Together Visalia Rotary Community Foundation and County Center Rotary Club teamed to provide a multipurpose center. Program Specialist Angela Leathers praises the center as a gathering place to share new experiences, to receive counseling, and to learn the skills needed to fulfill aspirations.



*Bridget, VRCF
Board Member
Peter Golombek,
Ashley pose with
plaque thanking
Visalia Rotary
Community Foun-
dation & County
Center Rotary
Club*

The distributions are included in the taxpayers' adjusted gross income (AGI), and taxpayers pay taxes on them. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits taxpayers to make donations directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs without counting them as part of their AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on them. This is particularly beneficial with larger estates.

Give Now

Only contributions made between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009, are eligible for the enhanced tax benefit.

Age Requirement

Donors must be 70½ years old or older when the distribution is made.

Donation Limit

A donor's total combined charitable IRA rollover contributions cannot exceed \$100,000 in any one year.

Consult your tax advisor or legal counsel for advice and information, and to be sure that such a donation is to your advantage.

GRANT APPLICATION 2009 Cycle

Application forms for grants to be awarded July 2009 can be downloaded in PDF format from a link found at www.visaliarotaryclub.com.

The Statement of Purpose included in the download details the characteristics of qualifying organizations.

Details of submission are in the download. Grant applications are best submitted in November, December, or January.



FoodLink Executive Director, Sandy Beals, emphasizes the importance of fresh produce in a healthy diet.

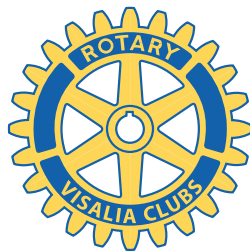
A Quick View of Past Grant Recipient

30 Years of Fighting Hunger in Tulare County



Talk to Ted Torres, Operations Manager at FoodLink, and you see a man proud of what the organization is able to do . . . but, a man who wants to do even more. He points out that last year 11 million pounds of food were distributed from the Spartan-like warehouse and headquarters of the organization. Ted points to a stack of 150 insulated coolers that are used for the children's summer lunch program. At thirteen different sites throughout the county vehicles deliver 75 coolers (and pick up 75 empties) each weekday and thus serve 15,000 meals throughout the summer. And, what is the next real important thing Ted wants? Answer: increasing success in FoodLink's healthy nutrition education program. Ted councils that it not just about calories but about overall nutritional balance.

Executive Director Sandy Beals remarks that Visalia Rotary Community Foundation has been repetitively helpful with grants, particularly the emergency \$25,000 grant for freeze relief. With no apology, she shows off a battered sign outside a walk-in freezer funded by Visalia Rotary Community Foundation, Land O Lakes Foundation, Emergency Assistance Program, and Kraft Foods. Hard working and self-effacing she points to the fresh fruits and vegetables that are donated by local agribusinesses. She is proud of the nutritional programs that are used to encourage healthy eating by including these essentials.



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