



Investing in What Matters Most

In 2025, the Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) proudly granted a record \$51.9 million to strengthen and uplift our community. These funds were made possible through donor advised funds, Monterey County Gives! and charitable funds established by generous individuals, families and businesses.



Elkhorn Slough Foundation volunteers

Through our application-based Impact grants program, we awarded \$3.2 million across 88 grants — supporting initiatives that advance environmental stewardship, arts and culture, literacy, youth development, services for seniors and mental health programs. Many of these were multi-year investments designed to create lasting change.

Major Impact grants provided operational and program support to organizations such as Elkhorn Slough

Foundation, Harmony at Home, Monterey History and Art Association, Read to Me Project, Special Kids Connect and The Village Project, Inc. Small grants supported first-time applicants or programs with a narrower focus including Alisal Center for the Fine Arts, The Carmel Foundation, Everyone's Harvest, the Marine Mammal Center and YWCA Monterey County.

Supporting Our Neighbors Fund grants assisted nonprofits responding to urgent immigration and policy-related needs and Thrive Fund grants focused on reducing barriers in housing stability, education, workforce development and mental health.

Together, these grants reflect the power of philanthropy to create meaningful, measurable impact across Monterey County.

Supporting Our Neighbors: Meeting Urgent Needs

The Community Foundation for Monterey County created the Supporting Our Neighbors Fund to help nonprofits responding to urgent community needs related to immigration challenges and shifting public policies. From legal support to basic needs and mental health services, this fund strengthens the local safety net for those most at risk.

Thanks to a generous \$550,000 grant from The James Irvine Foundation, the fund launched with strong momentum and is already making a difference. The CFMC awarded \$420,000 to four nonprofits: \$100,000 to the ACTION Council of Monterey County to support immigrant families through community outreach and navigation services; \$185,000 to the Watsonville Law Center to expand legal services to immigrants in Monterey County; \$20,000 to the Epicenter of Monterey for Our Gente Queer and Trans Youth Collective and \$115,000 to support Ventures for programs and services.

The CFMC invites you to join us in growing the fund. Together, we can ensure that all Monterey County residents are seen, supported and safe. To learn more, visit: give.cfmco.org/SupportingOurNeighbors.



(l to r) Chris Benner, Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Norm Groot and Michael Castro spoke about the local impacts of policy changes at a Supporting Our Neighbors Donor Education panel



Dan Baldwin shared reflections and Foundation highlights at his last Legacy Society Luncheon as President/CEO

President's Message

Creating Positive Impact

Remember when we were little and time seemed to creep along? Waiting two weeks felt like two years. Hard to believe that

year-end 2025 is already months ago. Even though a bit of time has passed, I'm compelled to share some of the CFMC's 2025 successes.

Our number one data point is grantmaking. It is at the heart of what we do: deploy charitable assets. We granted a record \$51.9 million in 2025. The year-over-year growth in grantmaking speaks to a growing set of partners who align their philanthropy with the CFMC, the incredible philanthropic spirit of Monterey County, the generosity of the CFMC's donor advisors, scholarship funders (many of whom are local businesses) and those who have named the CFMC in their estate plan. All these elements roll together and allow us to grow our ability to invest in improving lives in Monterey County.

Our first print communication of the year must mention Monterey County Gives!. MC Gives is a partnership between the CFMC, Monterey County Weekly and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. I'm very sincere when I say the annual record total of gifts sets a bar we can't imagine crossing the following year. The 2024 campaign raised an amazing \$14.2 million, which was then granted to the participating nonprofits in early 2025. How could we top that? Astonishingly, the 2025 MC Gives raised

\$17.1 million. Congratulations to the nonprofits who worked hard to motivate their donors, and a huge shoutout to Monterey County's donor community. The support that comes through MC Gives is vital to our nonprofit community's ability to deliver critical services.

“ The CFMC has grown tremendously – assets, grants, funds, programs – but most importantly in impact. It's been my great honor to be part of it. – Dan Baldwin, President/CEO

We held a very successful Legacy Society Luncheon on February 26. Mary and Ken Wright, both past board members (Mary is a past chair) and longtime donor advisors spoke about their journey from volunteerism (an important form of philanthropy) to charitable giving. The joy of the Legacy Society Luncheon is in looking around the room and seeing all the folks who have committed financial resources in support of others. Whether through a donor advised fund, estate planning, charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust, Giving Matters.

Back to the speed of time passing. Having Mary Wright speak at the Legacy Society Luncheon was especially meaningful as she was a member of the search committee that brought me to the CFMC in 2010. That feels like 20 minutes ago. I recognize in my final year that the CFMC has grown tremendously – assets, grants, funds, programs – but most importantly in impact. It's been my great honor to be part of it.

MONTEREY COUNTY **GiVES!**

Joining Together for Big Ideas

The 2025 Monterey County Gives! campaign stood as a powerful reminder of what community looks like in moments of challenge. As families faced rising food insecurity, job loss and economic uncertainty, and local nonprofits navigated decreased or eliminated funding, Monterey County rose to the occasion with generosity, compassion and resolve.

Together, over 8,000 donors contributed an extraordinary \$17.1 million, supporting more than 200 local nonprofits. Matching funds and challenge grants helped maximize every gift, turning individual acts of giving into collective momentum when needed most.



continued on page 3

Honoring a Legacy of Women in Science

Shahin Hormozi Anable Scholarship



Leonard Anable created a scholarship to honor his wife, the late Shahin Hormozi Anable

Leonard Anable often says he's one of the lucky ones. He speaks with gratitude when remembering his late wife, Shahin Hormozi Anable—a brilliant, compassionate woman whose life was defined by perseverance, service and generosity.

Born in Iran, Shahin came to the U.S. on a scholarship to Arizona State University, one of just two women among 251 international math

and science students. She arrived with two dictionaries to learn English and declined a Homecoming Queen nomination to focus on her science labs. "I came to this country to get an education," she said.

She built a remarkable career as a clinical laboratory scientist and businesswoman, breaking barriers with her expertise and warmth. After marrying Leonard in 1983,

she made Monterey County her home, raising two sons and volunteering throughout the community.

To honor her memory, Leonard partnered with the Community Foundation to establish the Shahin Hormozi Anable Scholarship Fund for Women in Math and Science. Since 2021, the fund has supported female students with financial need and academic promise.



Recipient Nessa McMillan Kelly aspires to work in biotechnology. "This scholarship eases the financial burden of higher education while encouraging me to strive to make a positive impact in the world of science," she says. Through this fund,

Shahin's vision lives on, inspiring the next generation of women in STEM.

In 2025, the CFMC awarded \$2.1 million in scholarships to 514 students through more than 90 scholarships established by generous individuals, families and businesses.

To support scholarships or learn more about creating your own, visit cfmco.org/scholarships.

“ This scholarship eases the financial burden of higher education while encouraging me to strive to make a positive impact in the world of science. ”

– Scholarship recipient Nessa McMillan Kelly

Monterey County Gives! continued from page 2

More than a fundraising effort, MC Gives reflects the strength of a community that shows up for one another. This campaign helps support local nonprofits providing essential services, responding to urgent challenges and building pathways to a healthier, safer, more vibrant Monterey County for all. Thank you.

Monterey County Gives! is a special project of the CFMC, the Monterey County Weekly and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. Special thank you to Taylor Farms, Neumeier Poma Investment Counsel, Post Ranch Inn, Gunde & Ernie Posey Family Foundation, Colburn and Alana Jones Foundation of the CFMC, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Cannery Row Company, Cort Companies, Harden Foundation, Montage Health and two anonymous donors for their generous support of the match.



COAD Advancing Countywide Disaster Readiness

In 2025, the Monterey County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) made significant strides in strengthening local disaster preparedness and coordination. The network recruited more than two dozen member organizations, expanding its reach and deepening collaboration across the nonprofit sector. Membership provides access to tailored training and preparedness programming designed specifically for nonprofit partners, enhancing their capacity to respond during emergencies.

Building on this momentum in 2026, COAD is focusing on continued growth and impact. Priorities include expanding membership, hosting engaging quarterly convenings with strong nonprofit participation and conducting tabletop exercises in Big Sur, Pajaro and East Garrison. The COAD

also aims to increase outreach to South County organizations, secure additional grant funding to ensure program stability and maintain positive, trust-based relationships with communities throughout Monterey County.



COAD Manager Nick Zafiratos speaks at a quarterly convening held in partnership with the County's Department of Emergency Management

New Funds Established*

The Community Foundation holds more than 800 charitable funds created by individuals, families and businesses. To create a fund or explore other ways to give, please contact Director of Gift Planning Anna Faith at 831.375.9712 x126.



CABS established the Butch Kronlund Endowment Fund for the Community Association of Big Sur to support the organization's future through a permanent charitable resource and honor the legacy of Butch Kronlund. Learn more: cfmco.org/CABS.

AGENCY

Butch Kronlund Endowment Fund for the Community Association of Big Sur
The Diversity Center Endowment Fund

DONOR ADVISED

Betsey and Steve Pearson Family Fund
Borzini Family Fund
Costa Family Foundation
Lilley Family Fund
Marien Family Charitable Fund
Maya Hartman Rizzo and Gene Rizzo Fund
Ruth and Paul Flowers Charitable Fund
Salvatore and Virginia Saia Charitable Fund
The Kenneth Talmage Family Fund
The Roxann Gruber-Sheets Trust
Cindy Stein Fund
The Stanislaus Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST

Big Sur Fund - Fire Prevention and Emergency Support Endowment

SCHOLARSHIP

Brian Halfwassen Memorial Scholarship Fund
Charles E. and Claire R. Jacobson Scholarship Fund for Chartwell Students
Gen Giammanco Athletic Scholarship Fund
Montage Health Foundation Scholarship Fund
Ted Fehring Family/Carmel Host Lions Club Scholarship Fund

SPECIAL PURPOSE

Carmel Trust for Native Forest Science
One Main Street Repair Fund

STEWARDSHIP

NAMI Monterey County Stewardship Fund
Ventures Stewardship Fund

*Since November 2025



Legacy Society Welcomes New Members

The Legacy Society is comprised of visionary people who create enduring impact by partnering with the Foundation in their estate plans. We thank these new members (since November 2025) for making this meaningful decision.

Anonymous (3)

Thomas Fitzwater and Nancy Coss-Fitzwater

Salvador James Saia

Nancy C. Roberts

To learn more and view the full list, visit cfmco.org/Legacy.



Giving Together – Ken and Mary Wright



Ken and Mary Wright shared their story of giving at the Legacy Society Luncheon

Ken and Mary Wright have called Monterey County home for decades and have woven service into both their professional and personal lives. Ken moved to Big Sur in 1970 as a California Highway Patrol resident officer and later became co-owner of Glen Oaks Motel. Mary arrived in 1976 after beginning her career in public service, ultimately retiring 28 years later as the first

female California State Parks District Superintendent. They met in 1987 through the “park family” in Big Sur and have now been married 35 years.

Giving back has always been part of life in Big Sur. Ken was especially inspired by his late business partner, Doris Parker Fee, a remarkable philanthropist who supported countless local nonprofits and donated the land for the Big Sur Grange in 1949. When she passed away, Ken and

Mary created a donor advised fund at the CFMC to honor her legacy and simplify their own giving.

Mary later served on the CFMC Board from 2002–2008, including two terms as Board Chair. Ken served from 2013–2018. Their philanthropy reflects personal passions. Ken supports the Siembra Latinos Fund and disaster relief efforts countywide, while Mary champions women’s causes and environmental organizations.

“Whenever we give, it’s a great feeling.” — Ken and Mary Wright

They value partnership in their giving. “The CFMC knows the nonprofit community, knows the players. Their advice and expertise is much appreciated and helps guide our giving plans.” They love to amplify their giving each year through the Monterey County Gives! campaign.

The couple shared their giving story at the Legacy Society Luncheon noting, “The Community Foundation team understands local challenges. They ask all the right questions and have become our friends and confidants we can trust.”

Looking ahead, they feel confident their wishes will be honored. Says Mary, “They are truly our partner in giving.”



Legacy Society Luncheon

Legacy Society members, fundholders and friends gathered for the CFMC’s annual Legacy Society Luncheon at the Inn at Spanish Bay on February 26, 2026. Board Chair Elsa Mendoza Jimenez welcomed guests and President/CEO Dan Baldwin shared highlights from a record-breaking 2025.

Longtime fundholders Ken and Mary Wright reflected on how volunteerism has shaped their philanthropy and praised the ease and flexibility of partnering with the Foundation. Ceci Romero, Vice President of Philanthropic Services, highlighted the peace of mind that legacy planning provides and the lasting community benefits such generosity makes possible. Together, the afternoon celebrated the vision of and gratitude for the Legacy Society members’ shared commitment to strengthening our communities for generations to come.



(l to r) Senior Philanthropic Services Officer Alisa Smith with Becky and Nick Craft

(l to r) CFMC Board Treasurer Mary Claypool with Diane Ausonio



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

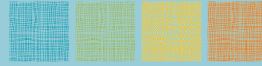
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Center for Nonprofit Excellence

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

CNE Board Empowerment Program Begins Year 2



The Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) offered its inaugural Board Empowerment Program (BEP) in 2025, investing directly in board leadership, structures and relationship-building for 12 diverse Monterey County nonprofits.

Each organization received a \$5,000 unrestricted grant along with nine months of customized coaching, peer learning and practical governance tools. The program was facilitated by Pure Momentum Consulting and supported by funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

“Strong board leadership is one of the most powerful levers nonprofits have for sustaining impact and deepening trust,” said CNE Director, Susie Polnaszek. “We created this unique program to meet organizations where they are and provide practical, flexible support to help their boards of directors build momentum.”

Templates, resources and insights from the pilot cohort are captured in the 2025 report, *Threads of Transformation: Stories & Tools of Nonprofit Board Empowerment*, which is available to nonprofit leaders

seeking to strengthen their own board culture, improve alignment and prepare for long-term stewardship.

“The tools and skills gained regarding fundraising have prepared our board to take on the challenges of our capital campaign.”

– Staci Alziebler-Perkins, Executive Director of Gathering for Women Monterey

Year two has begun with a cohort of local nonprofits and is facilitated by Coral Consulting. Additional funds from the Phyllis Geer Krystal Fund for Animal Welfare will support participation from animal welfare organizations. The program’s in-depth support complements other CNE programming for boards, such as the BoardConnect Reception and BoardReady training.

Learn how to partner with the CNE on the Board Empowerment Program or access the *Threads of Transformation* report at cfmco.org/CNE.

LEAD INSTITUTE Celebrates 15th Cohort in 2026

The CFMC welcomed 23 emerging nonprofit managers to its 2026 LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) Institute cohort. LEAD is offered by the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to foster strong, effective leadership in the local nonprofit sector.

“I’m excited to join this group to build a community and also learn from each other to grow in my professional career,” said Danny Ordaz, Program Manager, Ecology Action.

This year’s LEAD cohort features nonprofit professionals from diverse fields of nonprofit activity, including vital safety net agencies meeting essential human needs. The 2026 class includes participants from nonprofits based in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. They join a



2026 LEAD Cohort gathered at the Harden Foundation in Salinas

network of more than 200 accomplished nonprofit leaders who have engaged with LEAD since the program launched in 2009.

For more information, visit cfmco.org/LEAD.





2025 *Here for Good* CAMPAIGN

Thank You for Powering Here for Good

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported the 2025 Here for Good campaign. Thanks to the generosity of more than 125 donors, we raised \$771,000, a nearly 40% increase over 2024. Your investment strengthens Monterey County in meaningful and lasting ways. Gifts to the Here for Good Fund enable the CFMC to lead on critical community issues, respond swiftly to disasters, support nonprofit leaders through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence and sustain collaborative efforts such as the COAD (see page 4). A special thank you to Bertie Elliott, former Board Chair, whose generous \$100,000 challenge gift inspired additional giving and amplified the campaign's impact. Your support enables us to respond to urgent needs today while investing in long-term solutions for tomorrow. While the campaign has concluded, the work continues. Contributions to the Here for Good Fund are welcome year-round, ensuring we remain flexible, responsive and prepared to meet evolving community needs.

Learn more and see the 2025 donor list: cfmco.org/HereforGood.

CFMC Welcomes New Board Members

The Community Foundation for Monterey County is pleased to announce the addition of Tama Bistran, Scott Brubaker and Monica Lal to its Board of Directors.



Tama Bistran, the Chief Accounting Officer at Taylor Fresh Foods, has more than 30 years of financial accounting experience including seven years as the

Director of Accounting at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She serves on the boards of the Monterey County Food Bank, Digital NEST and as board chair for the Central Coast YMCA.



Scott Brubaker has been a wealth advisor and financial planner for 13 years on the Central Coast. He serves as Board/Executive Committee member and

Chair of the Investment Committee for the Hartnell College Foundation and Treasurer for the Monterey Bay Shields Fleet.



Monica Lal is President/CEO of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. After spending 25 years as a professional chef and working 10 years as an

estate manager, Monica joined the Chamber in 2019. She serves on several community boards and advisory councils and is an active member of the Rotary Club of Monterey and Dames d'Escoffier.

*We honor the memory of **Charles "Chuck"***

***Des Roches**, Attorney & Shareholder at Noland, Hamerly, Etienne & Hoss, a 2026 Board Member who passed away in February. A Monterey County resident since 1975, Chuck dedicated decades of service to local nonprofits and civic organizations. A trusted leader and generous volunteer, he will be greatly missed.*



2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elsa Mendoza Jimenez
Chair
Kathleen Lee
Vice Chair
Mary Claypool
Treasurer
Deneen Guss
Secretary

Tama Bistran
Scott Brubaker
Dr. Rolando Cabrera
Robert Cullen
Romero Jalomo
Monica Lal
Adriana Melgoza
René Mendez
Larry Oda
Julie Roth
John Tilley
Jennifer L. Walker
Tyler Williamson

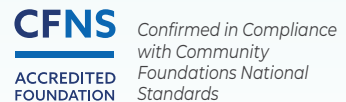
Daniel R. Baldwin
President/CEO



MONTEREY OFFICE
2354 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
831.375.9712

SALINAS OFFICE
945 S. Main Street, Suite 207
Salinas, CA 93901
831.754.5880

cfmco.org
info@cfmco.org
[f](#) [@](#) [in](#)



Inside

- Record Grants Awarded
- Giving Together - Ken and Mary Wright
- Celebrating Legacy Society Impact
- CNE Builds Leadership



The Community Foundation was recognized for our partnership with the County of Monterey Covid-19 Memorial Fund at the installation unveiling on March 10, 2026. (l to r) Brian Thayer, Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Michael Castro and Cecilia Romero

Join Us!

19th Annual
WOMEN'S FUND LUNCHEON
May 8, 2026

women's fund
of the community foundation
for monterey county

11:00 a.m. Networking Reception | 12-1:30 p.m. Program & Luncheon

Standing Strong for Women and Girls



Keynote Speaker: Christina Bellantoni

Professor of Professional Practice of Journalism at USC Annenberg, Christina is a longtime national journalist and political analyst covering all levels of government.

Don't miss the 19th Annual Women's Fund Luncheon on Friday, May 8, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa. Hear how Christina Bellantoni used her background as a journalist to bring light and accountability to the protection of women and girls. Proceeds fuel local scholarships and grants that build strength and resiliency.

Secure your tickets by April 24, 2026 or become a sponsor.
Visit: give.cfmco.org/WomensFund2026 or call 831.375.9712.

TICKETS:



SPECIAL THANKS

THANK YOU

 DIAMOND SPONSORS

Tonya Antle/Carmel Woman's Club

Kevin Ann Cartwright • Leavy-Galvin-Knight Family Foundation



The Women's Fund invests in women and girls now for a better future for us all.