Giving Matters

Here for Good
Community Foundation
for Monterey County

A New Chapter

CFMC Welcomes President/CEO Gina Dalma

The Community Foundation for Monterey County (CFMC) is pleased to welcome Gina Dalma as its next President/CEO, beginning November 9, 2026. Gina brings more than 20 years of experience in strategic philanthropy, nonprofit leadership, public policy and donor engagement, along with a deep commitment to building more inclusive and vibrant communities.



Dan Baldwin welcomes President/CEO Gina Dalma

She most recently served as Chief Development Officer for the Global Fund for a New Economy. Previously, she spent nearly 16 years at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, lastly as Executive Vice President of Community Action, Policy and Strategy, where she led the foundation's impact and grantmaking work.



A longtime community foundation leader, Gina is excited to bring her experience to Monterey County and build on the CFMC's strong foundation.

"At their very best, community foundations are the heartbeat of our shared humanity—the places where people bring their finest assets, passions and purpose together to build something greater than themselves," she said. "Monterey County exemplifies this spirit. Our greatest strength lies in the extraordinary diversity of our people."

Originally from Mexico, Gina brings a personal commitment to creating a more sustainable, just and inclusive society. She has been recognized with the Athena Leadership Award and the Trailblazer Award from the Chicana Latina Foundation. She succeeds outgoing President/CEO Dan Baldwin, who retires in December following 16 years of leadership.

"I'm very pleased the CFMC board has hired such a capable CEO," says Dan. "I know first-hand she brings tremendous professional credentials, including deep understanding of community foundations, and life experience to the CFMC's work."

> **"The opportunity to continue driving a stronger, more vibrant, and more just Monterey County where every voice truly matters—is a profound privilege."** *–Gina Dalma*

SIEDI Launches Third Round

With renewed support from The James Irvine Foundation, the CFMC launched Round 3 of the SIEDI (Salinas Inclusive Enonomic Development Initiative). SIEDI will provide more than $2.5 million in grants to 16 partner organizations, building on a total investment of more than $9 million in economic development in the Salinas Valley.

The initiative strengthens collaboration among residents, nonprofits, employers and educational institutions to advance community-driven economic solutions around issues that matter most to them, including entrepreneurship and access to education, healthcare and childcare.

SIEDI

Round 3 emphasizes measurable results, collective influence and ensuring residents and community leaders help shape decisions affecting the Salinas Valley's economic future. Learn more: **cfmco.org/SIEDI**.



Dan Baldwin recognizes outgoing Board Chair Elsa Mendoza Jimenez at the 2026 Celebration of Philanthropy

President's Message
Lasting Impact

Fall at the Community Foundation for Monterey County means many things: year-end giving through the Here for Good campaign, donors wanting to start new or add to existing funds, lots of grants, the Celebration of Philanthropy, and, of course, Monterey County Gives!. This Fall, however, we have another major development: the beginning of Gina Dalma's tenure as CEO, only the third in the CFMC's long history.

First, Monterey County Gives!. MC Gives! has become Monterey County's go-to year-end giving vehicle. It is a partnership between the CFMC, Monterey County Weekly and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. We have all marveled at the year-over-year growth, leading to last year's amazing $17.1 million total.

There are many reasons why MC Gives! has become so vital to sustaining Monterey County's nonprofits: the matching fund ($1.7 million in 2025), Challenge Gifts (over $3 million in 2025), the website and ease of transactions, the Weekly's beautiful and very helpful print insert, and the efforts of our nonprofit partners in promoting MC Gives! as the preferred mechanism for year-end gifts. However, none of this works without the philanthropic spirit of Monterey County donors and their recognition that our nonprofits can't deliver vital programming without financial resources. It all comes together to deliver remarkable impact, improving lives for all of us who call Monterey County home.

After an extensive, nationwide search the CFMC's board selected Gina Dalma as our next President/CEO. You'll read elsewhere about Gina's background in community foundations and her passion for uplifting communities. I met Gina many years ago. I was leading public policy efforts for the League of California Community Foundations, our state association, and because Gina was doing similar work for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), she joined our public policy committee. While much of the committee's work was focused on proposed state legislation that would impact donor advised funds, Gina was leading efforts for SVCF addressing issues of educational equity and combating predatory lending. She was very impressive, and it led to larger roles within SVCF. It was wonderful to learn of her candidacy to be the CFMC's next CEO.

I'm not much on farewells as they can drift into self-aggrandizement. But let me reiterate what an honor it has been to be CEO of the CFMC and have the opportunity to facilitate philanthropy, grantmaking and programs that reach to all corners of this remarkable and diverse county. The CFMC is poised to continue to prosper and generate lasting impact for all of Monterey County.

Monterey County Gives! Season

The Monterey County Gives! campaign has become an integral part of the year-end giving season. In 2025, Monterey County Gives! raised a record $17.1 million thanks to the extraordinary generosity of over 8,000 donors.

Since 2010, the campaign has raised and granted more than $99 million for hundreds of Monterey County nonprofits. The cumulative impact of gifts large and small helps nonprofits stretch every donation further. Join the movement and make your gift November 12 through December 31, 2026 at **montereycountygives.com**.



Thank you to the 2026 matching fund sponsors: Taylor Farms, Neumeier Poma Investment Counsel, Gunde & Ernie Posey Family Foundation, Montage Health, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Cannery Row Company, Cort Companies, Harden Foundation, Colburn and Alana Jones Foundation of the CFMC, Post Ranch Inn and two anonymous donors for their generous support of the match.

Here for Good Community Foundation for Monterey County
MONTEREY COUNTY WEEKLY PRINT | WEB | MOBILE
MONTEREY PENINSULA FOUNDATION

Celebration of Philanthropy

Honors John and Annette Romans

The Community Foundation for Monterey County's annual Celebration of Philanthropy brought together community leaders, donors and nonprofit partners on October 7, 2026, at The Club at Pasadera. The event celebrated the power of giving and those strengthening communities throughout our region.

President/CEO Dan Baldwin shared the impact of the CFMC's accomplishments and introduced scholarship recipient Elizabeth Flores Ramirez from Soledad, who shared her inspiring journey as a first-generation college student now studying neuroscience at UC Berkeley.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Distinguished Trustee Award to John and Annette Romans, recognizing their extraordinary generosity and lasting contributions to education, youth development, historic preservation and local nonprofits.

Born and raised in Monterey County, the Romans have embraced the philosophy of "give where you live." They began partnering with the CFMC in 2016, establishing the Mission Ranches Fund to facilitate their community giving. In 2019, they created a donor advised fund to simplify their personal giving and continued supporting critical community needs, including the COVID-19 Relief Fund in 2020.



2026 Distinguished Trustee Award recipients John and Annette Romans

> **"John and Annette's generosity is truly inspiring and they have changed countless lives."**
>
> *–CFMC Board Chair Elsa Mendoza Jimenez*

Education has been a particular passion. The Romans have helped open doors for Hartnell College students through internships, scholarships and support for the college's King City campus. Their generosity has also benefited nursing, the arts, STEM education, food safety and numerous Hartnell programs. John further contributed his time by serving on the Hartnell College Foundation Board of Directors.

As Distinguished Trustees, the Romans designated a $10,000 CFMC grant to the Hartnell College Foundation, presenting the check to Hartnell College President Michael Gutierrez during the celebration.

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Be Here for Good

Help Build a Stronger Monterey County

The Here for Good Fund provides flexible resources that allow the CFMC to respond to changing circumstances and invest in solutions that strengthen our communities. From grants and scholarships to nonprofit effectiveness programs, community-led initiatives and disaster relief, your support empowers our work. Each gift helps us strengthen local nonprofits, facilitate grants and mobilize resources during disasters such as wildfires and floods.

Thanks to a generous gift of $150,000 by former CFMC Board Chair Bertie Bialek Elliott, your gift goes even further. Every contribution makes an important difference. Donors who give $1,000 or more by December 31, 2026, unless anonymous, will be recognized in our Annual Report. Learn more or give: **cfmco.org/HereforGood**.



Sal and Ada Lucido:
Preserving a Legacy

For Sal and Ada Lucido, philanthropy is about honoring family, protecting the environment and creating opportunities for future generations. The Lucidos partnered with the CFMC to establish three charitable funds: the Rancho Dos Arroyos Facilities and Maintenance Endowment, the Carl Young Memorial Earth Science Endowment and the E. Young Family Cyber Security Endowment.

Their commitment to conservation began decades ago when Sal helped establish an outpost within the Ventana Wilderness. The first four California condors arrived in 1996 through efforts involving the Ventana Wildlife Society. Today, the Rancho Dos Arroyos endowment supports essential infrastructure and stewardship, including roads, water systems and fire abatement.



View The Carl Young Story at cfmco.org/CarlYoung

The Lucidos established the Carl Young Memorial Earth Science Endowment fund in 2015 to honor their late son, Carl, and benefit students at Lake Tahoe Community College, where he taught. The fund helps prepare future leaders to address environmental challenges.

The family recently produced a meaningful video, The Carl Young Story, to honor Carl's life and work.



Ada and Sal Lucido partner with the CFMC to create opportunities for future generations

A tornado researcher with Team TWISTEX, his passion for earth science continues to inspire young students. Carl will be inducted into the Storm Chasing Hall of Fame in February 2027.

"This education will align my future with my values and give me the tools to turn my passion for environmental conservation into long-term work that benefits the rural communities I love."

– Carl Young scholarship recipient Stefania Stratidakis

The Lucido's generosity reflects a belief in the power of leaving a lasting impact. To read their story, visit: **cfmco.org/Lucido**.



Scene from The Plaskett Fire from CAL FIRE

Monterey County Fire Relief Fund Provides $240,000 in Support

As a philanthropic first responder, the CFMC helps mobilize resources when disaster strikes. Through the Monterey County Fire Relief Fund, the CFMC granted $240,000 to support people affected by the Timber and Plaskett fires. Grants included $130,000 to the Community Association of Big Sur for immediate relief and supplies, $30,000 to The Big Share for food support, $30,000 to the Big Sur Health Center for healthcare services and $30,000 to Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula for meals at evacuation centers. Additionally, $10,000 was granted both to Unlock Your Power who facilitated laundry services for firefighters and evacuated residents and ToolBank for flood preparedness kits.

The Monterey County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) manager, Nick Zafiratos, worked with response partners and community-based organizations to monitor emerging needs and support residents who had been displaced or affected by the fire, evacuations and temporary loss of work. We're grateful to the first responders who protect our communities and everyone whose generosity makes this assistance possible. Together, we can help our neighbors and support recovery when it's needed most. Learn more: **cfmco.org/FireRelief**.

Family Giving:
Julie Almquist and JoAnn Holbrook

For sisters Julie Almquist and JoAnn Holbrook, giving back is a family tradition. Their parents, Ted and Marie Fehring, settled in Carmel in 1945 and modeled a lifelong commitment to community service. Marie volunteered with Children's Home Society and Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, while Ted served through the Carmel Host Lions Club and local boards.



Sisters JoAnn Holbrook and Julie Almquist

In 2025, Julie expanded that legacy by establishing the Ted Fehring Family/ Carmel Host Lions Club Scholarship Fund at the CFMC.

Julie also uses IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions to support causes including education, youth mentoring and women's health. JoAnn supports the family funds, donates annually through Monterey County Gives! and is an active community volunteer.

"I love to see people doing good work to make a difference in people's lives. The Community Foundation made it simple." *— Julie Almquist*

Both sisters carried those values into their own lives. Today, they continue their family's legacy of giving in partnership with the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The sisters support the Ted Fehring Family/Carmel Host Lions Club Fund, established by their father in the 1990s.

For both sisters, giving is about passing their parents' values to future generations. "We hope that it will continue," Julie says. "That our kids carry on with a grateful mindset and think about how they can pay it forward. We appreciate and trust the guidance of the Community Foundation. They are true partners."

Julie encourages others to give what they can. "Whatever they can give, it doesn't take much, can literally change a person's life or create a new path. To be part of that is a great gift."

Women's Fund Luncheon Fuels Additional Grants

On Friday, May 8, 2026, nearly 600 people came together for the 19th Annual Women's Fund Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Monterey to invest in local women and girls.

Erin Clark, News Anchor KSBW 8; keynote speaker Christina Bellantoni, Professor of Professional Practice of Journalism at USC Annenberg; Elenis Tamayo, Women's Fund scholarship recipient; and Esmeralda Owen, Women's Fund Leadership Council Chair shared inspiring stories of resilience, community and hope.

Thanks to the event sponsors and everyone who joined us, more than $120,000 was raised for the Women's Fund, enabling us to immediately grant a total of $50,000 to the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center (MCRCC), YWCA Monterey County, Rising International and Set Free Monterey Bay for human trafficking prevention and survivor support.

These grants were in addition to the nearly $100,000 granted earlier for scholarships, women's health and emergency support for students. Together, we are transforming the lives of local women and girls. Learn more: **cfmco.org/womensfund**.



(l to r) Women's Fund speakers Cecilia Romero, Esmeralda Owen, Christina Bellantoni, Elenis Tamayo, Erin Clark

DIAMOND SPONSORS

Tonya Antle/Carmel Woman's Club
Kevin Ann Cartwright
Leavy-Galvin-Knight Family Foundation

The Eden8 Foundation
Mike & Sarasina Tuchen

Taylor FARMS



(l to r) Dan Baldwin with NMCF Honoree Nancy Ausonio and NMCF Advisory Council Chair Don Chapin

Celebrating a Decade of Local Giving in North Monterey County

On September 2, 2026, donors, supporters and friends gathered at the Club at Crazy Horse Ranch to celebrate 10 years of local giving through the Northern Monterey County Foundation (NMCF) and honor one of its founders, Nancy Ausonio.

The celebration recognized the NMCF's lasting impact on North Monterey County and Nancy's invaluable contributions to strengthening the community through philanthropy.

NMCF Advisory Council Chair, Don Chapin, CFMC President/CEO, Dan Baldwin, and Jessica McKillip, Executive Director of grant recipient ITN Monterey County, shared heartfelt remarks about the Foundation's work to improve quality of life for residents and Nancy's generosity and leadership.

Marilyn Vierra, Chief of Staff to Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church, presented Nancy with a certificate of recognition on behalf of Supervisor Church, honoring her philanthropic efforts and meaningful community impact.

As NMCF looks to the future, its commitment to local giving continues to grow. Together, the Foundation and its supporters are building an endowment to address North Monterey County's evolving needs for generations to come. Advisory Council members, past and present, are leading the way with generous contributions, helping ensure that local philanthropy continues to make a lasting difference in the region. Learn more: **cfmco.org/NMCF**.

Legacy Society

NEW MEMBERS

The Legacy Society is a group of visionary people who will create enduring impact by partnering with the Foundation in their estate plans. We thank these new members* for making this meaningful decision.

Anonymous (3)
John and Lynn Archer
Joel and Sharon Friedman
David and Carla Garnham
Thomas H. Hoivik
Christopher Manke and Lesley Miller Manke
Susan and Richard Murai
Lowell and Joanne Webster

To view the full list or learn more, visit: **cfmco.org/Legacy**.

**Since March 2026*

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.

AGENCY

Monterey Bay Power Over Parkinson's Endowment Fund

DONOR ADVISED

Christine Agel and Peter Gerbino Foundation
Lynn and John Archer Charitable Fund
Ferguson Family Fund
Haynes Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund
Lewis & Taylor Fund
Lowell and Joanne Webster Charitable Fund
Christopher Manke and Lesley Miller Manke Charitable Fund
Marylu and David Mesa Charitable Fund
Pacific Grove Gives Fund
Salvador J. Saia Charitable Fund
Suzanne Woodard Dorrance Fund for the Arts

SCHOLARSHIP

The Betty Gularte Student-Athlete Legacy of Commitment Scholarship
Learn and Earn Scholarship



Bill and Kathi Wojtkowski established the Wojtkowski Scholarship Fund

NCGA Foundation Scholarship
Preserve Community Foundation Scholarship Fund
Rising Voices Scholarship Fund
Wojtkowski Scholarship Fund

STEWARDSHIP

Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers Stewardship Fund
Mission San Antonio de Padua Foundation Stewardship Fund
Monterey Bay Power Over Parkinson's Stewardship Fund
Monterey County Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Fund
The Bridge Restoration Ministry Stewardship Fund

**Since March 2026*

Siembra Latinos Fund Honors Community Leadership and Collective Giving

The 9th Annual Siembra Latinos Celebration, held on September 12, 2026 at One Main Street in Salinas, was an inspiring evening celebrating Monterey County's Latino community and the power of collective giving.

A highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the 2026 Alfred Diaz-Infante Award to Anna Velazquez, Mayor of Soledad, in recognition of her longstanding commitment to public service and community advocacy. The award honors those who collaborate to advance positive change for the Latino community through education, housing, civic engagement, environmental justice, mentoring and more.



Siembra Latinos Fund Advisory Council with 2026 Alfred Diaz-Infante Award recipient Anna Velazquez

Shared Anna, "I believe in the seeds we have planted and I believe those seeds will one day grow into something greater than any one of us … that is what I love about the name Siembra Latinos. When you plant a seed, you don't always get to see the harvest, but you plant anyway. You nurture it … and the more we give, the more it multiplies."

The Siembra Latinos Fund has awarded more than $200,000 in grants to local nonprofits advancing economic mobility for Monterey County's Latino community, cultivating leadership and creating opportunities for a stronger, more inclusive future. Learn more: **cfmco.org/Siembra**.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

DIAMOND SPONSOR:

PLATINUM SPONSORS:
CalWater, Center for Community Advocacy (CCA), Monterey Bay Aquarium, Natividad Medical Foundation, Pacific Valley Bank, Trinidad and Lupe Gomez Family Fund, Wendy Root Askew, Anna Velazquez and Felipe Melchor

CFMC Staff & Board Updates

Janet Shing Named Vice President of Community Impact for the CFMC



Longtime staff member, Janet Shing, has been named Vice President of Community Impact. She was promoted to the role following the May 1 retirement of Laurel Lee-Alexander, who served the Foundation for 12 years. Janet has facilitated the CFMC's application-based grants, mentored grant officers, staffed board committees and served on local boards and groups focused on education, environment and aging.



Yvonne Ascher Joins the CFMC's Board of Directors

Yvonne Ascher is a Senior Attorney at Noland, Hamerly, Etienne & Hoss. She taught at Monterey College of Law for many years before retiring in 2025 and frequently speaks on estate-related topics to the public and fellow professionals.

A longtime community volunteer, Yvonne is the founding president of MY Museum (Monterey County Youth Museum), and has served on the boards of Congregation Beth Israel, the Alzheimer's Association of Monterey County and the Junior League of Monterey, among others.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President/CEO Dan Baldwin receives a Resolution from Supervisor Wendy Root Askew and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors recognizing his exemplary leadership, dedicated service and enduring contributions to improving the lives of Monterey County residents

Tax-Savvy Giving: **Make Your Generosity Go Further**

Thoughtful charitable giving can help you support the causes you care about while making the most of available tax benefits. The Community Foundation for Monterey County offers personalized guidance to help you explore tax-savvy giving strategies that align with your philanthropic and financial goals.

Donor Advised Funds: A donor advised fund (DAF) offers a flexible way to organize your charitable giving. You can establish a DAF at the CFMC with a gift of $5,000 or more, receive an immediate charitable tax deduction and recommend grants to qualified nonprofits over time. DAFs can help you simplify your giving, support multiple organizations, involve family members in philanthropy and create a lasting legacy.

Donate Appreciated Stock: Donating appreciated stocks directly to a qualified charitable organization or a donor advised fund may help you avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation while qualifying for a charitable income tax deduction. This can be a tax-efficient alternative to selling investments and donating the proceeds.

Give from Your IRA: If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to an eligible charity. If you are 73 or older, a QCD can count toward your required minimum distribution and be excluded from taxable income. Donor advised funds are not eligible to receive QCDs, but you can direct a QCD to other funds including Monterey County Gives!.



(l to r) CFMC's gift planning team Cecilia Romero and Anna Faith

Our gift planning team can help you explore these and other strategies to make your giving more effective. With local expertise and a commitment to strengthening our communities, the CFMC is your partner in philanthropy. Call 831.375.9712 or visit cfmco.org to learn more.

Tax benefits depend on individual circumstances. Consult your tax or financial advisor for guidance tailored to your financial and philanthropic goals.