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# SONOMA GIVES



Sonoma County is home to more than 3,896 registered nonprofit agencies and not-for-profit organizations that have raised \$1.2 billion. Those funds help connect the leaders, employees and volunteers of these organizations with the residents who are in need of a helping hand. With missions to help, nonprofits uplift those they serve and increase access to what the larger world has to offer.

This year's Sonoma Gives section profiles a number of organizations and agencies that offer a hand up. Literacyworks Center in Petaluma has given more than \$1 million in scholarships to low-income and low-literacy students in Sonoma County. Girls on the Run North Bay's purpose is bigger than outdoor activities — its one of empowerment,

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empathy and personal growth. North Bay Letterpress Arts in Sebastopol teaches creatives of all backgrounds how to produce unique art using old-school printing presses. The members of Sonoma County Taiko get together, make music and perform at different venues while Pennngrove's Bergin College of Canine Studies sets up dog trainers for success, and hands them a degree after completing the extensive two-year course. Quetzal Ecology in Rohnert Park takes money collected from recycling and sends it to rural school in Mexico to help fund students' school needs.

The impact from Sonoma County nonprofits goes beyond county lines, and those who benefit from their services have made positive impacts themselves.



## SONOMA COUNTY TAIKO



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Sonoma County Taiko drummers Alexa Riner, from left, Arn Shimizu and Deanne DiPietro lead members of Leadership Santa Rosa in an activity on Jan. 19 in Santa Rosa. “Taiko has been called the heartbeat of Japan,” Shimizu said.

# They’ve got the beat

Members share Japanese art form through drumming, performances

By KATHLEEN SCAVONE  
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Each resounding drum beat from the Sonoma County Taiko drummers is seemingly multipurpose in its ability to transport listeners to the Land of the Rising Sun.

While some of the drum beat-beat-beats resound deep in the chest cavity with tones that bring forth emotions to awaken and excite listeners, other percussive sounds are more tranquil and evocative of Japan’s swaying emerald bamboo stems or reminiscent of the sound of summer cicadas.

Next comes the click-click-clack of the drum that resembles a Japanese typhoon thunderstorm, then it mellows out to mimic gentle raindrops dancing on a mirror-like pond in a garden.

Members of Santa Rosa’s Sonoma County Taiko range from children who are learning to connect with their Japanese culture to a teacher in Lake County who wanted to learn the art form for her students.

In the United States, the word “taiko” means drum, but in Japan the word “wadaiko” is a specific word for the instrument. For many languages, words, sounds and meanings can change when finding their way into the United States vernacular.

“When words move from one language to another, they tend to lose a lot of subtlety of meaning,” said Alexa Riner, who started teaching at Sonoma County Taiko in 2010. “The syllable ‘wa’ wouldn’t mean anything to most Americans. ‘Wadaiko’ is basically ‘taiko’ with the ‘wa’ added, and the t changes to a d sound in Japanese when there is another syllable in front. They are related words and almost the same word.”

When learning taiko, students must also learn other Japanese words in order to understand the tradition and origins of this particular style of drumming.

“The word for sticks is bachi,” Riner said. “The really large sticks used on the biggest drums are made of soft woods, but we also use maple bachi, which is a new trend, and the more traditional hardwood called Kashi, which is a Japanese species of white oak.”

Different types of wood and the thickness of the stick affect the drum sound. The shape of the bachi also affects the tone, as well as where you hit the drum.



Meg Mizutani, right, of Sonoma County Taiko, teaches a group from Leadership Santa Rosa how to strike a drum on Jan. 19 in Santa Rosa.

### ABOUT SONOMA COUNTY TAIKO

Sonoma County Taiko’s roots date back to 1994, when a Japanese group called Kodo, who played locally, performed at Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. Three audience members were in awe of what they saw and took the steps to permanently bring taiko to Santa Rosa. The organization’s mission is to build a community of acceptance, harmony, and respect through members’ love of taiko.

**Location:** 3325 Regional Pkwy., Santa Rosa

**Donate:** <https://bit.ly/3SK2Mt5>

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For general use, it’s nice to have a hardwood bachi because the softwood sticks wear out much faster. At the same time, the drums cost a lot more than the sticks and it’s a lot of work to repair a damaged rim edge, so it’s better to have the sticks take most of the wear and tear.

Sonoma County Taiko’s roots date back to 1994 when a Japanese group called Kodo performed at Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. Three audience members were in awe of what they saw and took the steps to permanently bring taiko to Santa Rosa.

The group was originally formed under the umbrella of the Sonoma County Chapter of the Japanese American Citi-

zens League. Then, as the taiko group got bigger, the next step was to become an independent nonprofit entity.

With tireless work and devotion to the Japanese art and culture of taiko drumming, the founding members began to share and promote taiko as a cultural art form while garnering respect and acceptance throughout Sonoma County.

“Sonoma County Taiko nonprofit is a way to offer the taiko experience to everyone equally,” said board member Deanne DiPietro. “Our motivation is one of sharing, and not related to making money.”

According to Riner, funding comes from donations, performance fees, membership fees and space rental fees. It’s roughly 25% each. The organization is operated by volunteers with the exception of the instructors and bookings manager.

### Appreciating the culture

At Sonoma County Taiko, Japanese culture is integrated into each drumming session and aligns with their mission, “to build a community of acceptance, harmony, and respect through our love of taiko.”

“Taiko has been called the heartbeat of Japan,” said Sonoma County Taiko founding member Arn Shimizu. “It is an integral part of Japanese celebrations, religion and entertainment. It’s all designed to engender a love of society and the promotion of peace through

discipline. Taiko has connected me personally to my ethnic roots and allowed me to expand and explore my understanding of Japan.”

During a performance, greetings such as “ohayo gozaimasu” and “oyasumi nasai” are used and the drummers’ costumes harken back to Japan’s past.

One type of costume that is based on the garb of a traditional Japanese carpenter is known as haragake, which is a traditional black apron, while happi is a traditional tube-sleeved Japanese coat.

“We generally wear the happi, but sometimes the haragake is more appropriate, like for a strenuous piece. When playing odaiko (a ‘big, big drum’), for example, it can be nice to not have sleeves when you’re really exerting yourself,” Riner said. “This can also be true for more strenuous styles like Miyake or Yataibayashi, but it’s up to the specific group.”

Another performance outfit can include “yukata,” a lightweight summer kimono traditionally worn for the Japanese Obon or bon festival. Members of the Sonoma County Taiko group wear yukatas for big events and festivals, or if they want to add extra grace to the aesthetic of a particular song.

### The art of taiko

Taiko drumming is sometimes compared to martial arts



# TAIKO

CONTINUED FROM N2

in that it emphasizes physical and mental concentration, and training along with refined movement. Like any other discipline, after it is mastered, each person can develop their own approach and style. Taiko drummers are coached to loosen up and relax their movements without dissipating their energy.

It helps to allow energy flow from the “ki,” or center, to the earth beneath them, while also keeping the bashi, or bridge, connecting each drummer to one another during a performance.

Some drummers opt for more fluid movements, while others take a stronger or forceful approach in their drumming based on the tone of the piece or the position of the drum.

“Taiko is also called wadaiko. Wa means Japanese, [and] in addition, this character represents harmony. The harmony we can create by playing taiko together is beyond words,” said Sonoma County Taiko instructor Miwa Smith, who has been drumming since 1997.

Smith learned taiko from Grand Master Seiichi Tanaka, which is a great honor, since Tanaka is considered to be the father of taiko arts in North America.

Meg Mizutani’s experience in drumming goes back to 2006 and she believes this practice teaches harmony and respect through all of the age levels from children to adults.

“Many members have told us that they first came to Sonoma County Taiko to learn how to play taiko but they stayed with the group because of the community,” said Mizutani, who doubles as both taiko instructor and receptionist. “That’s when we realized our work was not



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Meg Mizutani, of Sonoma County Taiko, explains a drumming pattern on Jan. 19 in Santa Rosa.

just teaching and playing music, but building the community. Since it is a very simple instrument, taiko is a perfect tool for community building.”

## Music to the people

Richard Reeves remembers the days his late wife, Kathie, performed taiko. While dedicating herself to her Coyote Valley Elementary School second graders in Middletown in Lake County, Kathie was determined “to get out of her comfort zone” to learn the art of taiko for her students, according to Reeves.

She would drive from Lake County to Santa Rosa every week for nine years, and performed with the Sonoma County Taiko drummers at various venues. Like Kathie, many

drummers participate and enjoy the performances of the Sonoma County Taiko members, both in their Santa Rosa studio and at local events.

It’s this ancient practice, and the local taiko members, who continue to blend the contemporary with traditional music styles of Japan by tapping wood-and-skin instruments that draw in audiences during a performance. It’s the costumes worn that help set the tone for what percussions are to come.

And it’s the hard work, dedication, collaboration and community that the Sonoma County Taiko members have that continue to make them one of the local nonprofits that make Sonoma County a unique place to be.



Meg Mizutani, center, encourages members of Sonoma County Taiko and Leadership Santa Rosa members on Jan. 19 in Santa Rosa.



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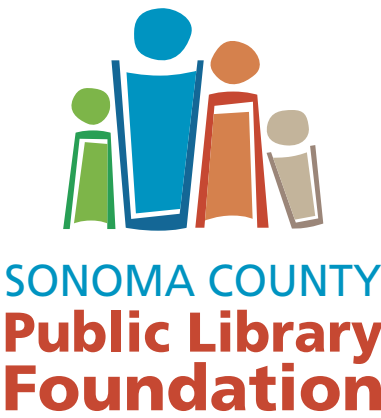
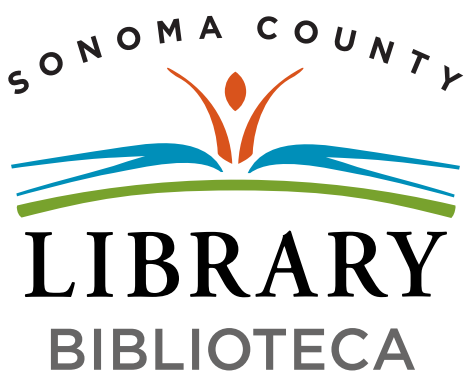


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QUETZAL ECOLOGY



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Sean Place and his daughter Ashley unload cans and bottles on Jan. 31 at a recycling center in Santa Rosa. Sean Place founded Quetzal Ecology, a group that assists six schools in the rural Mexican rainforest village of San Miguel Tzinacapan and neighboring Cuetzalan in the state of Puebla.

# Recycling uplifts schools in Mexico

*Small Rohnert Park nonprofit raises funds for projects and supplies*

By **DIANNE REBER HART**  
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Sean Place doesn't have much down time. When he isn't working full time at Safari West, he's volunteering on his days off or he's dedicating time before or after work to make a difference for impoverished schoolchildren in Mexico.

The Rohnert Park resident is the tireless founder of Quetzal Ecology, a grassroots organization that assists six schools in the rural, rainforest village of San Miguel Tzinacapan and neighboring Cuetzalan in the state of Puebla. By recycling discarded goods, Place and his supporters raise money for much-needed school projects and supplies.

At Safari West, Place "initiated an enormous recycling endeavor," said Nancy Lang, who, with her husband Peter Lang, established the Santa Rosa wildlife preserve and safari park in the late 1980s in the foothills of the Mayacamás Mountains.

"Sean is impassioned about providing critically needed supplies to the students and the community of San Miguel," she said. "On his days off, we often see Sean escorting potential donors on tours of Safari West while explaining how he has turned recycling at our park into computers and printers for a community in need."

Place, a maintenance worker at Safari West, increased the number of recycling bins — to about 20 — to help encourage the park's thousands of annual visitors to recycle beverage cans and bottles, rather than toss them into garbage cans. That effort alone significantly reduced the park's landfill waste.

He credits the Langs with wholeheartedly supporting the recycling project. He said it was their suggestion to utilize the park's recyclable materials to benefit Quetzal Ecology.

**Helping schoolchildren**

Working to help the environment through recycling is a natural mix for Safari West and



Ashley Place wears her Girl Scout pins along with a Quetzal Ecology shirt while dropping off recycling.

**ABOUT QUETZAL ECOLOGY**

Founded in 2020, Quetzal Ecology works to support the schools, teachers and the community of San Miguel Tzinacapan in the state of Puebla, Mexico.

Quetzal Ecology also supports conservation of the environment through education and recycling. Recycling is a vital method through which the group raises funds for its projects. The nonprofit has helped to complete 9 mural projects and its raincoat drive finished with more than 600 raincoats donated. The group also donated 187 books.

**Donate:** 150 Raley's Town Center, P.O. Box 2040, Rohnert Park, or email [QuetzalEcology@gmail.com](mailto:QuetzalEcology@gmail.com)

**More information:** <https://www.quetzalecology.com>

Quetzal Ecology. Not only are Mexican villagers and schoolchildren in the mountainous region benefiting from monies raised through their recycling efforts, but Quetzal Ecology is helping the environment and spreading a message of conservation both locally and

in San Miguel Tzinacapan, and its greater municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso.

In a Quetzal Ecology YouTube video, Place sums up the efforts in one sentence: "Recycling makes a difference."

By recycling California Redemption Value (CRV) beverage cans, bottles, old car batteries, aluminum tire rims, electrical wiring from old appliances and other materials, Place and his small but dedicated team of volunteers fund everything from basic school supplies to educational programming on a local radio station to construction expenses for a high school cafeteria. So far, they've raised more than half of the \$10,000 earmarked for the cafeteria, which also will serve as a community gathering place.

"It's going to be a gift for the community," he said.

Many students in the isolated town travel to school "on a pickup truck with benches and a plastic tarp (overhead)," Place said.

One elementary school doubles as a mechanic's garage on weekends. A cobblestone walkway still used in the Indigenous

Nahuat community dates to Aztec times. And three schools operate without electricity.

Students, though, are undeterred by the conditions at the schools. Students from preschool through high school receive help and donations from Quetzal Ecology.

"The kids are super intelligent," Place said. "It doesn't faze them, even in schools without electricity."

**Humble beginnings**

Place began fundraising several years before establishing Quetzal Ecology as a nonprofit in 2020.

"The same stuff I'm doing now, I was doing before I was a nonprofit," he said. "And we're still growing."

He used some of the funds he received through a settlement from the Tubbs Fire to pay legal fees to secure Quetzal Ecology as a bona fide nonprofit organization.

"It's amazing what documentation can do," said Place, whose nonprofit has raised about \$15,000 to date.

He and his children, Ashley,



# ECOLOGY

CONTINUED FROM N7

23, and Ethan, 19, lost their rental home, the family dog, Ernest, and all they owned in the catastrophic wildfires of 2017 that roared through their Mark West Springs neighborhood in Santa Rosa.

“It’s not just stuff we lost, it’s lives being changed,” Place said. He and his children moved in with relatives, displaced but grateful for the shelter and empathy they received.

Creating Quetzal Ecology “became my therapy,” he said. “It takes my mind away.”

The nonprofit evolved when he was in a relationship with a teacher from Mexico, a woman he met at a day camp in Santa Rosa where he was volunteering. After discovering the conditions in her village — and the wide-scale need for help — he stepped into action. Although the couple is no longer together, Place remains dedicated to helping the community.

“Have you ever visited a place and fallen in love with it?” he asked. “That’s what it was like.” The people — teachers, students, villagers — “made it very clear” he was welcome and appreciated, he said.

“It’s a matter of the people loving him, too,” said daughter Ashley, a senior at Sonoma State University and the Quetzal Ecology board of directors secretary. “He’s humble. He won’t ever say how much work he does.”

## Donating supplies

The family has a long history of dedication to community service.

“Ever since I was little he’s taught me how to help people in need,” Ashley said of her father, who serves as the nonprofit’s president. “He spends at least an hour after work each day sorting and working on recycling projects,



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

**Sean Place, left, and his daughter Ashley of Quetzal Ecology unload cans and bottles at a recycling center on Jan. 31 in Santa Rosa. Quetzal Ecology hosted a book drive for the community library in San Miguel Tzinacapan, Mexico, that brought in 187 new books in Spanish, including the popular Harry Potter series.**

and dedicates about five hours on each of his two days off, including driving to recycling centers to turn in materials for cash.”

He also leads donation drives and sets up informational tables outside local businesses, including several Sonoma County Latino businesses. A book drive for the community library in San Miguel Tzinacapan brought in 187 new books in Spanish, including the popular Harry Potter series. Place said the kids were very excited.

He also provided hundreds of rain ponchos to the village, courtesy of discounted pricing through Safari West. He was motivated to help after seeing a child wearing a garbage bag for protection from inclement weather.

Place even connected with a local restaurateur, who funded uniforms for a girls soccer team. He’s approached local stores

and businesses to secure donations of everything from pencils, crayons and notebooks to toothbrushes and toothpaste, clothing, eyeglasses and musical instruments — anything to fill a need.

A donation of chalk “was like gold to them,” Place said.

He even made a spontaneous (and successful) solicitation stop one day while driving past an auto dealership “that had Mexican flags out.” Place doesn’t hesitate to provide opportunities for others to help.

His daughter jokes that, “Dad always has his business card on him.” He acknowledged that around Rohnert Park, “I’m known.”

Place — who said he can get by with limited Spanish — is currently enrolled in a Spanish class to help expand his skills. He travels to Mexico about

twice each year to work directly with school officials and villagers, and sends boxes of supplies a few times a year. He maintains updates on the Quetzal Ecology website and Facebook page. His son Ethan, as well as Ashley’s fiancé, Kobe Weinstein, shoot videos and update the nonprofit’s website.

With the exception of treasurer Kimberly Robertson, other Quetzal Ecology board members are part of the San Miguel Tzinacapan community. Teacher Cinthia Anayely Carreon Mora has served on the board several years and said she is grateful for Quetzal Ecology and its supporters.

## Beyond school walls

The nonprofit not only helps schools, it supports cultural programs like community mural projects. Quetzal Ecology also provided aid for Hurricane

Grace relief and the coronavirus pandemic while continuing to emphasize the importance of caring for the environment. In February, community members, students and Quetzal Ecology volunteers planted 250 trees in Cuetzalan to improve vegetation in the region.

“Seeing the results obtained motivates us to continue working for the good of each one of the people who are benefited by (Quetzal Ecology),” Mora wrote in Spanish in an email.

Although the needs are significant, she said, Place provides a sense of hope and accomplishment and brings people together to help.

“Thanks to Sean we can believe that there is no difference between nationalities when a fighting heart for noble causes is shared, that the union overcomes any border and that he

has earned the gratitude and respect of the indigenous communities,” Mora wrote.

Place said villagers care deeply about one another, the land, and preserving their history and traditions.

He said there are many people and businesses that support Quetzal Ecology, which is named for the quetzal bird that’s sacred in indigenous Mexican mythology. The nonprofit’s logo features the bird in a design created by a young artist who graduated high school in San Miguel Tzinacapan.

Place is ingenious in finding unique ways to help. Rather than sell the 1971 Volkswagen Bug he’d owned for years, he traded it to a Rohnert Park family with little cash. They, and their extended family, vowed to give Place their recycled goods on an ongoing basis as payment.

Every effort makes a difference, he said, whether it’s a cash donation, school supplies or materials for recycling.

He’s pushed through the challenges and impacts of the Sonoma County wildfires, the coronavirus pandemic and the hurricane that hit the state of Puebla.

“I put a lot of my time and energy into this thing,” he said.

The gratitude in Mexico is beyond measure.

“They’re so appreciative for what little they have,” Place said. “They’re over the moon when they get new things.”

Looking ahead, Place and his small team hope to raise the additional monies needed for the high school cafeteria throughout 2023.

They will continue to respond to school and community needs as they are identified. They will also continue to donate \$100 every month to a San Miguel Tzinacapan radio station for educational programming that benefits people in the region.



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# GIRLS

CONTINUED FROM N10

her up with a “star chant” and positive affirmations of support.

The daughter of immigrant parents, Barajas, 27, said she was unable to participate in most after-school activities when she was growing up because of the cost, or her parents’ inability to provide transportation.

Now as an educator who bridges the gap between the challenges many students and families face on a daily basis, her goal is to continue that work outside of the classroom.

“I just felt like something in them reminded me of how I was at that age, and needing to share things that were going on in my day,” Barajas said.

She felt drawn to Girls on the Run because of its holistic approach to social and emotional well-being, physical activity, mental health and working together as a team.

Barajas stays active by hiking, walking and playing tennis. But, she pointed out, Girls on the Run isn’t about which athlete is the fastest or who can run the farthest.

“You think running is going to be the priority, but it’s about being there for yourself and your team,” she said. “Push yourself at your own pace, and when you feel ready, push yourself to do your best.”

Girls on the Run debuted in Sonoma County in 2007 in Santa Rosa. Last year, Laurel Stansberry, a 30-year-old kindergarten teacher at Kawana Springs Elementary School, approached administration about bringing the program to campus because she felt there was a need for more after-school activities for students.

The first session in spring 2022 drew eight girls, the minimum for the group to function. By fall, that number had grown to 13. Both Stansberry and Barajas share coaching duties.

Given her teaching demands, Stansberry said she is challenged finding the time and energy for the twice-a-week practices. But she feels the experience is worth the sacrifice.

“It forces me to be in the moment, to forget about the day and have a more positive experience,” she said. “Although it’s hard, it’s very worth it. Every time.”



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Teachers Laurel Stansberry, right, and Magali Barajas coach Girls on the Run at Kawana Springs Elementary School in Santa Rosa. Girls on the Run is in the Bellevue Unified and Santa Rosa City Unified school districts, and hopes to expand into Roseland.

**More county schools**

Girls on the Run North Bay has an annual budget of \$650,000 and employs a staff of five who are spread across the three counties. About \$450,000 of that amount is raised through grants, individual contributions, sponsorships and fundraising events, according to Todd.

Girls on the Run charges participants \$25 to \$185 for the 8- to 10-week program, which is also offered at no cost to those who

qualify for financial aid.

The Napa Valley Unified School District’s Board of Trustees recently voted to underwrite the program cost for girls who receive free school lunches, are homeless or in foster care, if they are on an independent learning plan or are an English language learner.

Todd said she’s hoping for similar partnerships in Sonoma County, where about 45% of participants currently receive financial aid. That compares to about 75% in Napa County.

Girls on the Run is in the Bellevue Unified and Santa Rosa City Unified school districts, and

has designs on expanding into Roseland, according to Todd. She said the program has also begun talks with the La Luz Center and El Verano Community School in Boyes Hot Springs.

“We want all girls to participate in the program if they choose to,” she said. “We don’t want their income level to hinder them.”

After 17 years at the helm, Todd said she still feels motivated by the joy of watching girls achieve that “a-ha” moment when they use words to express their feelings.

“This is the time my heart gets filled,” she said.

Gutierrez, who posts positive affirmations in a hallway of her home to help inspire and motivate her two girls, said Girls on the Run has helped lift Jeneva and Jada out of COVID-19 “depressions” and related feelings of isolation.

The program “really mirrors and echoes how I am raising my children,” she said.

As a bonus, family hikes are a lot more fun. Prior to Girls on the Run, these outings often devolved into tears.

“They were pretty lazy. My little one, she hated going on walks,” Gutierrez said. “Now, she goes out on a run and I mean, she kills it.”



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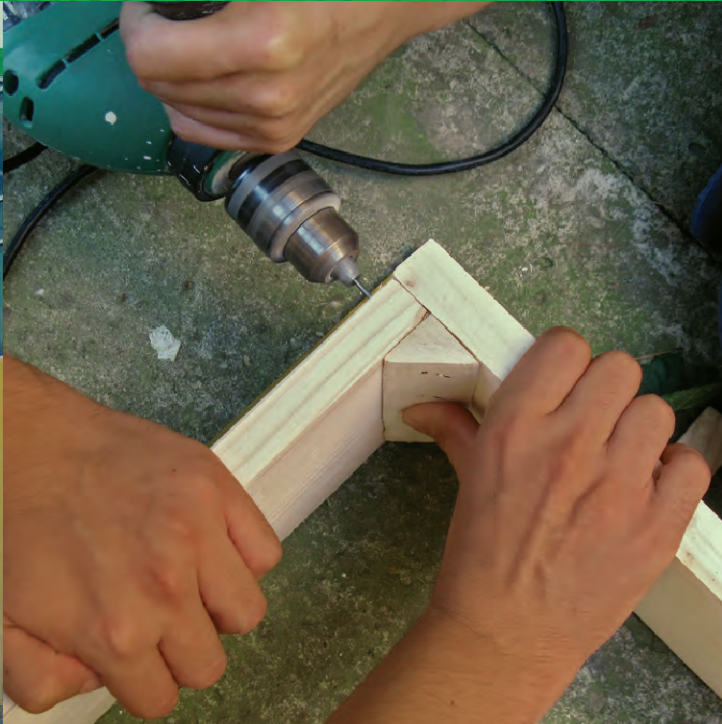
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LITERACYWORKS CENTER

# Team, students build literacy confidence

*Program has provided \$1,459,601 in scholarships to over 1,394 students*

By **NICOLE ZIMMERMAN**  
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

When Leticia Garcia Arango started classes at both Santa Rosa Junior College’s campus in 2016, she had little direction.

“I didn’t have a major. I didn’t know what I was doing,” the 24-year-old Petaluma resident said. “I wanted to go to a four-year college, but I just didn’t know how it worked.”

That all changed two years later when she became a client of the Literacyworks Center.

Registered with the California Department of Education as a professional development center, the Literacyworks Center has provided support for adult education since 1995. Established in partnership with SRJC on the Petaluma campus in 2015, the center offers personal and financial assistance to underserved adult learners to help them identify and achieve their educational goals. Of the 110 or so students the program accepts each semester, 90% are Latino.

Garcia Arango, who attended Casa Grande High School, entered SRJC as an ESL (English as a Second Language) learner because she tested below the college-ready level in English.

Due to the extra support she

**ABOUT LITERACYWORKS CENTER**

Established in 2001, the Literacyworks Center goal is to ensure that all individuals have the skills, support and opportunities to thrive in a complex and interconnected world. The organization advocates for and addresses the needs of local residents with low literacy skills. They also promote and celebrate lifelong learning in practice by showcasing writing and commentary.

As of fall 2022, the Literacyworks Center alumni have a total of 22 associate degrees, 17 transfers to universities, 78 certificates and 67 GED completions. The program also has provided \$1,459,601 in Adult Literacy Awards scholarships to over 1,394 low-income and low-literacy students in Sonoma County.

**Location:** 625 Second St., No. 107, Petaluma

**More information:** 707-981-8086, [info@literacyworks.org](mailto:info@literacyworks.org)

**Donate:** <https://www.literacyworks.org/donate>

received from the Literacyworks Center, she was able to complete an associate degree with honors from SRJC in 2019, then transferred to UCLA



CHAD SURMICK / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

**Literacyworks Recruiter and SRJC Outreach Specialist Enedina Vera discusses scholarship requirements with Literacyworks Center scholarship winners on March 7 in Santa Rosa.**

where she majored in sociology and minored in Chicano Studies. She’s first generation, and the first of five siblings in her family to graduate from college.

Now the Literacyworks Center alumna works part-time for the nonprofit organization to assist ESL learners whose primary language is Spanish. In addition to translation services, she helps new students navigate the educational system and connect with on-campus resources — from the food pantry to the Dream Center, which provides free immigration legal services

for undocumented students.

When the Literacyworks Center Director Chris Schultz learned Garcia Arango had returned to the area and was hired at SRJC as a part-time program assistant at the college’s Extended Opportunity Program and Services, he reached out and offered her a new position with the Literacyworks Center in November. She now helps parenting students as a CalWORKS adviser in addition to working 10 hours

TURN TO LITERACY » PAGE N15



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# LITERACY

CONTINUED FROM N14

per week for the Literacyworks Center. She has offices in both Santa Rosa and Petaluma, where she splits her time between campuses.

Schultz calls Garcia Arango “a dynamo.” He points out that her educational goals went against the odds, as only about 2% of students in the program get an associate degree. He added, her motivation and drive was “outstanding from day one.”

## Uplifting local students

In 2016, a family foundation in Sonoma County pledged \$200,000 per year to the Literacyworks Center, earmarked solely for student scholarships. Program participants received Adult Literacy Awards of \$1,000 per semester and students who had a child under 17, got \$1,500. The funds cover expenses such as books, transportation, childcare or anything that might hinder the student’s access to an education.

“This semester, we have 83 (students who received Adult Literacy Awards) as of this morning. And there’s no question that we can get more than 110,” Schulz said in January. “We now have a waiting list .... At this point in our program, we can get the 110 students, but we want to serve the students who are serious, self-directed, hopefully have children who will be inspired and go on.”

The Literacyworks Center Executive Director Paul Heavenridge said the organization has provided \$1,459,601 in Adult Literacy Awards scholarships to over 1,394 low-income and low-literacy students in Sonoma County.

To be eligible, learners must qualify as low-income and initially test below college level in reading, writing and math. Unlike most scholarship programs, there’s no



Literacyworks Recruiter and SRJC Outreach Specialist Enedina Vera discusses scholarship requirements with Literacyworks scholarship winners during a meeting on March 7 in Santa Rosa. The program also has provided \$1,459,601 in Adult Literacy Awards scholarships to over 1,394 low-income and low-literacy students in Sonoma County.

requirement to take a minimum number of units at SRJC, whether that’s a non-credit ESL course or a computer class — anything that gets students through the door.

Success is measured by each individual.

For instance, one woman took business classes so she could start her own catering company. Another, a widow with two children, gained the confidence to start her own cleaning business.

The Literacyworks Center has a less than 10% dropout rate each semester, far below the national average. Approximately 60% of incoming first-year students don’t make it through the first semester or two of community college and the retention rate has plummeted since the pandemic.

As of fall 2022, the Literacyworks Center alumni have a total of 22 associate degrees, 17 transfers to universities, 78 certificates and 67 GED completions.

“It has proven itself as

a model program,” said retired Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, an honorary board member. Rep. Woolsey also steers Friends of the Center, a volunteer group that promotes and publicizes Literacyworks Center programs. She calls it “the perfect thing to become involved in” following her resignation from Congress in 2013.

### Finding an advocate

Schultz said the center, which operates with a small staff, does not solicit applications. When the program began, the first 25 learners to receive Adult Literacy Awards were childcare workers from early childhood education programs, most of whom did not hold college degrees. The next year they had 75 participants.

Now the organization does outreach at sites like Tomales Elementary School, where many parents work on ranches and attend evening classes at the SRJC campuses. Referrals also come from

community partners such as the federally-funded High School Equivalency Program, which helps migratory and seasonal farmworkers gain employment or begin post-secondary education.

“It blows me away,” said the Literacyworks Center Executive Director Paul Heavenridge, who also serves as the Sonoma County Library commissioner for Petaluma. “I didn’t have that kind of stamina and I had all the privileges you can imagine.”

For the students who rely on the program, having an advocate is key to their success.

“Sometimes you just need one person to believe in you,” said Garcia Arango, who credits her success with the personal connections she made. “... I was really well connected. I had a whole village”

She said Schultz and the Literacyworks Center Executive Administrator Rita Sorpranith are on the list of allies who had a huge impact on her education.

In addition to utilizing Extended Opportunity Program and Services at SRJC, and the learning community the Puente Project while she was a student, Garcia Arango held a job as a student success coach and learned from the supervisors who mentored her.

### Bigger impact at play

Each semester, the Literacyworks Center students are required to see a college counselor and attend two informational workshops the organization offers. Another requirement is that they have in a one-on-one interview designed to assess the student needs as well as the program’s impact.

The final question asked during the one-on-one interview with students is: What’s the most important motivation in your life?

According to Schultz, nearly everyone names their family. “I want to be a model for my children so they know the value of education,” he said people

often say.

Students are also asked to contribute to Student Voices. Student Voices is a compilation of quotes and stories on the Literacywork Center’s website where students share how the program helped them achieve their goals.

“We want to serve students who are serious and self-directed,” he said. “Our job is to support them, have their back, and make sure that they stay in college.”

Alumni like Garcia Arango share their stories and hope to inspire others who may question their own ability to succeed. Seeing others in her cohort thrive certainly motivated her.

“It helps you envision it. It’s not impossible,” she said. “Yes, it’s hard, but it’s doable.”

Her younger sister, also an alumna of the Literacyworks Center, will graduate from UC Berkeley in June. They to encouraged their older sister to go back to school and attend SRJC. She did and was able to transfer to UC Riverside. Their two younger brothers, in middle school and high school, are already thinking about where to attend college.

Garcia Arango, who graduated from UCLA in 2021, is now determined to pursue a master’s degree and a possible career in higher education.

In October she won a travel fellowship for first-generation college students interested in the Education Leadership, Organizations, and Entrepreneurship Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she met professors, students and alumni.

“Seeing other people who’ve done it, who look like me, makes it more attainable,” she said.

Meanwhile, she’s always willing to help others.

“Literacyworks did so much for me that the only thing I can do is give it back.”

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NORTH BAY LETTERPRESS ARTS



PHOTOS BY BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Artist Lyn Dillin uses a letterpress to make prints on Feb. 16 at the North Bay Letterpress Arts’ 1,600-square-foot studio in Sebastopol.

# Old-school printers keep impressing

*Artists at Sebastopol studio craft books, prints while teaching history*

By **MATT VILLANO**  
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Long, long ago, it would take the better part of an entire day to set and print newspaper stories just like the one you’re reading right now. Typesetters would work around the clock to line up tiny pieces of metal with individual letters on each of them to form words, sentences and paragraphs to ultimately form a full story on a page. Once the entire story was set and locked, it was inked and then pressed with paper to create a print.

To make full newspapers, press operators would then print hundreds and thousands of copies by hand.

The process was arduous. Painstaking, even. Yet it paved the way for the digital publishing industry we know today.

Old-school publishing lives on inside a small studio next door to Handline restaurant on Gravenstein Highway in Sebastopol. Here, at North Bay Letterpress Arts, artists and members share their passion for old-school letterpress printing.

The studio has nine presses in all, as well as more than 250 different typefaces and 1,000 cutouts (which were basically the distant precursor to emojis). In addition to carrying on an art form, the organization is giving back to the local community in a big way. They’ve secured grant money to bring in local high school and junior high school students inside the space to teach them all about printing history.

“We’re at the crossroads of classical process and a creative approach,” said executive director Andrew Mecum, who joined the nonprofit a year ago. “We are giving people the art of letterpress, and we’re also giving them a connection to history.”

**Process creates magic**

The organization now known was formed as a nonprofit in spring 2015, and it grew out of the work of Eric Johnson’s Iota Press, which has had a public shop in Sebastopol since June 2009. Johnson began with the



Eric Johnson, founder of the North Bay Letterpress Arts nonprofit, puts together metal type pieces for a printing job in Sebastopol.

idea of teaching the craft of old-style letterpress printing, and exploring its range for making books and artistic prints. North Bay Letterpress Arts extended and amplified those goals.

With letterpress, blocks of ink-stained metal type are arranged in rows and pushed down onto paper.

In the eight years that have transpired since day one, North Bay Letterpress Arts has printed more than 200 books and art pieces. Many have been shown in galleries and at book fairs.

Today the 1,600-square-foot North Bay Letterpress Arts studio is a vibrant space of creativity. On any given day you might find four or five letterpress artists working on projects, toiling away to get a finished project of pamphlets or cards or small books just right.

There are nine presses in all, including one hand press, three platen presses, and three cylinder presses. The room also features a small library of printing books, as well as giant wooden cases that resemble map drawers. Inside each of these cabinets are thousands upon thousands of individual metal letters. These letters, in more than

250 different typefaces, form the basis of every print job the studio does.

“It’s taken us a while, but we’ve really put together a nice mix of historic material that really enable people to be creative when they come in here,” Mecum said.

The process of printing on a letterpress is physical — not quite like working in a factory, but something you can hear, smell and feel. Metal letters clink next to each other when they are placed on each press. When artists push down on press levers to make the actual print, the machines let out a loud whoosh of air. The pungent smell of ink pervades the air as it oozes over rollers on each press.

Studio printers often talk about a meditative state they go into while working the letterpress.

“You get going and all of a sudden, three hours have gone by,” said Katie Nealon, a past president of North Bay Letterpress Arts and one of the studio’s current instructors. “The process is creative and also very relaxing.”

Nealon, who has her own commercial printing studio and business next door, said she likes working with letter-

**ABOUT NORTH BAY LETTERPRESS ARTS**

North Bay Letterpress Arts is a center of teaching and practicing letterpress printing that was formed as a nonprofit group in the spring of 2015 in Sebastopol. The group of studio printers pay a membership fee to use the facilities. The shop hosts workshops, tours, exhibits, poetry readings, book launches, musical performances, movie nights and a virtual bemusement park.

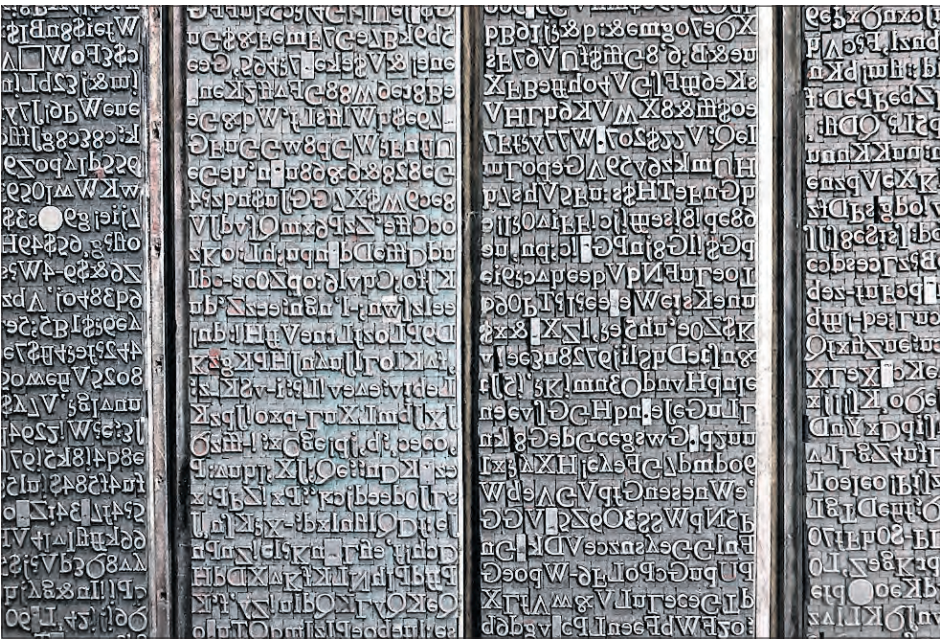
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Inside each of the cabinets at North Bay Letterpress Arts are thousands upon thousands of individual metal letters. These letters, in more than 250 different typefaces, form the basis of every print job the Sebastopol studio does.



Type wash, lacquer and kerosene sit in canisters on Feb. 16 at North Bay Letterpress Arts.



PHOTOS BY BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The studio has nine presses in all, as well as more than 250 different typefaces and 1,000 cutouts (which were basically the distant precursor to emojis).

## LETTERPRESS

CONTINUED FROM N19

“When you work in the analog physical world, you have to work with constraints,” he said. “You have to ask yourself, ‘How can I fix this problem right here in the moment?’ It’s a process-oriented art form. The process is where a lot of the magic comes from.”

### Students in the studio

Members — dubbed Studio Printers — keep North Bay Letterpress Arts running. Each of the 13 members receive a certain amount of studio time every week and can use the space as they see fit within their allotted hours.

The organization also sponsors regular field trips — many of which will be underwritten by a two-year, \$40,000 grant North Bay Letterpress Arts receives this April from the California Arts Council. The California Arts Council grants millions of dollars worth of funds to support artists, culture bearers and cultural workers throughout the state of California.

The Child Youth Development Grant will cover two years’ worth of workshops for North Bay K-12 students, as well as transportation. The cost to schools is zero.

Some schools have participated in workshops and field trips to North Bay Letterpress Arts already. Art Escape, in Sonoma, is one of them. Program director Elizabeth Feroze said she has accompanied students to the Sebastopol studio twice — once in 2019 and again in 2022. During both field trips, Mecum and the organization’s staff of volunteers led students in poster-making projects. They also gave kids a brief history and background on letterpress printmaking.

Feroze noted that before her students visited the first time, they had explored several other types of printmaking including collagraphs, lino cuts and etching. “Throwing in letterpress



North Bay Letterpress Arts Executive Director Andrew Mecum, right, talks with printer Lyn Dillin at the shop. The studio members are dubbed Studio Printers. Each of the members receives a certain amount of studio time every week during which they can use the space as they see fit.

was a fantastic addition (to the curriculum),“ she said. “(The students) had never been around equipment like that, and it was so cool to see the joy on their faces as they learned how to use old technology.”

Aurora Duley certainly had a memorable experience at North Bay Letterpress Arts. The 12-year-old visited earlier this year with a group from the Waldorf School of Mendocino County in Calpella. During the five-hour immersion class, Duley and her classmates wrote poems, then learned how to set type and apply ink to make prints of their words.

Duley said she appreciated how intricate the preparation was before printing.

“With a digital printer, you just push a button, and the

machine does all the work,” she said. “It was really cool to spend time setting everything up and making sure it was going to work exactly the way we wanted it to work.”

### Calendar full of events

In keeping with the notion of using the studio as a place to teach people about the art and history of letterpress, North Bay Letterpress Arts has put together a schedule of open-to-the-public workshops for the next few months.

All workshops include materials.

An “Intro to Letterpress” workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is \$100 per class. Available dates are Wednesday, April 12; Sunday, May 14; and Sunday, June 11. A

separate workshop revolving around letterpress cards will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is also \$100 per class. Available dates for this class are Sunday, March 26; and Sunday, May 28.

An additional workshop on concertinas, accordion books and pleated-fold books will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 19. The cost for this one is \$175.

Finally, another recurring class revolves around poetry — in this one, Nealon will work with students to compose three or four poems, then teach them the basics of typesetting. The \$75 class runs from 6-9 p.m., and is held on Wednesdays: April 12, May 17 and June 14.

Looking forward, Mecum said he is putting the finishing touches on a special workshop

in April that will pay tribute to comics and cartoons.

The calendar at North Bay Letterpress Arts is constantly evolving, part of an effort to keep the public engaged.

The nonprofit also will host open studio days where anybody can come in and be assisted to pull a print or two on one of the presses.

According to Mecum, this is his biggest challenge — keeping letterpress relevant in the digital age. Yes, the result of letterpress printing is beautiful, but he said it’s important never to fall in love with the product.

“This art form is entirely about process — printing is the easy part,” said Mecum. “When you’re working with technology this old journey always is in the destination.”






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# Events encourage outdoor adventures

There are more than 3,000 nonprofits registered in Sonoma County. These organizations raise funds and hold events that help benefit the communities and people they aim to uplift. Here is just a small sampling of upcoming events hosted by some of the county nonprofits. Be sure to check each event listing’s link or with the organization for any specific details relating to registering and any other questions.

## MARCH

### MONDAY, MARCH 20

**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Yoga Series 2023: Practice yoga at various farms and wineries all year long. All of the proceeds from this event will go to Food For Thought, a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the nutrition needs of people at risk of malnutrition and living with serious medical conditions and food insecurity in Sonoma County. Classes will be held about monthly, and all will be 75-minute, slow-flow Hatha/Vinyasa style for all levels, taught by Food For Thought’s development coordinator and local yoga teacher Elana, or another experienced instructor. Attendees will get the opportunity to learn more about the venue and their offerings either before or after class briefly, and we ask that you please stay to show them your support, as all sites are donated. \$25. 6-7:30 p.m., Monday, March 20. 5220 Ross Road, Sebastopol (Ron Rubin Winery). <https://bit.ly/3YWn5WH>

### MARCH 20-24

**FOR KIDS:** Spring Break Nature Camp: Landpath’s Spring Break Nature Camp is a nature-based day camp for kids 6-13. Spring break campers will learn and play while exploring the rich environment of Preston Farm and Winery. The 125-acre family farm is nestled between a meandering salmon-spawning stream and a sleepy stretch of former wagon trail. The Preston family has stewarded the land for the past 45 years and created a diversified farm

including vineyards, vegetables, fruit and olive trees, grain, and pastured livestock. Grounded in youth-centered discovery, campers will learn about organic farming as we plant, harvest, and discover the amazing biodiversity of life on the farm and in the streams that make this place so unique. We will learn about the unique life cycles of plants and animals, study beneficial insects, and play nature games in the fields and orchards. At the heart of our camp is the opportunity for every camper to build memorable connections with the land, a foundation for a healthy community that deeply values caring for each other and the land. Full payment is due at the time of registration and scholarships are available. There will be no deposits or partial payments (aside from pre-approved scholarship recipients). For more information, contact Lesly Caballero, [Lesly@landpaths.org](mailto:Lesly@landpaths.org), 707-544-7284, ext 109. \$320. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., March 20-24. 9282 W. Dry Creek Road, (Preston Farm and Winery). <https://bit.ly/41ktqNb>

Akira Supanich, 8, runs through a field of wildflowers trying to catch insects at the LandPaths Spring Break Nature Camp at Preston Farm in the Dry Creek Valley. Landpath’s Spring Break Nature Camp is a nature-based day camp for kids 6-13 that runs March 20-24.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2021



The volunteer Pied Piper of the LandPaths Spring Break Nature Camp plays the baritone horn while leading a group of kids through a field of wildflowers used as a cover crop at Preston Farm in the Dry Creek Valley.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 25

**FOR TEENS:** How to Draw “Peanuts”: Learn how to draw your favorite cartoon characters. Cartoonist Robert Pope has worked on “Peanuts,” Batman, Bugs Bunny, Scooby-Doo and many more. He will discuss his creative process and teach you how to draw some of the Peanuts Gang characters and more.

Price is included in museum admission and the event is free for museum members. 11 a.m., Saturday, March 25. Charles M. Schulz Museum, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. <https://bit.ly/3GCz83A>

**OUTDOORS:** Learn to Classify Wildlife Camera Photos: Learn how to classify wildlife

photos and videos recorded at LandPaths’ Bohemia Ecological Preserve and Riddell Preserve. Since 2014, LandPaths volunteers and staff have participated in a Wildlife Camera Program that helps develop an understanding of the animals present at LandPaths’ preserves while connecting people to land. This training is for anyone who’s looking to volunteer, either at home or in the LandPaths office, and anyone who wants to help to classify new photos and videos captured on the wildlife cameras. LandPaths will provide water, individually-packaged snacks, masks (for those who want them), access to the internet and access to the Google drive with wildlife photos. Bring a laptop. Limited desktop computers will be available for volunteers who are unable to bring a laptop. Please notify Benjamin Bravo if you need to use a desktop computer. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 25. 618 Fourth St., Suite 217,

TURN TO EVENTS » PAGE N25

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# EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM N24

Santa Rosa (LandPaths Office).  
<https://bit.ly/3lSKbyG>

**CREATIVE:** “Peanuts” in Publication: Celebrate the new “Peanuts” books “Snoopy Soars to Space” and “Adventures with Linus and Friends!” Join the creative team responsible for bringing “Peanuts” to the pages, including editorial director Lex Fajardo and artist Robert Pope. Learn how they adapted the classic comics into these new publications in this live presentation, followed by a book signing. Price is included in museum admission and the event is free for museum members. 2 p.m., Saturday, March 25. Charles M. Schulz Museum, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. <https://bit.ly/3GBsLNO>

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

**CREATIVE:** Letterpress Cards: Learn how to make cards on a letterpress at North Bay Letterpress Arts. Price: \$100 for the four-hour class and materials are included. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, March 26. 925-D Gravenstein Hwy. S., Sebastopol. <https://bit.ly/3lF3tal>

## APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

**CREATIVE:** Popeye The Sailor Man Animation Celebration: Have fun with a special screening of newly restored original “Popeye the Sailor” cartoons by Fleischer Studios in high definition. Join animation historians and special guest Jane Fleischer Reid for a discussion and Q&A after the screening. Price for the event is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$5 for youth. Tickets are available below and at the door. Members receive 20% off admission. Museum Theater seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. 7 p.m., Saturday, April 1. Charles M. Schulz Museum, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. <https://bit.ly/3X9AA1l>

**CRAFT FAIR:** Petaluma Elks Charity Craft and Vendor Faire: Over 60 crafters and vendors are selling items from holiday decor, gifts to collectibles and one-of-a-kind finds. Attendees will

find jewelry, clothes, pottery, glasswork, kids toys, books, dolls, miniatures, candles, soaps, furniture and more. There will be fresh pastries, coffee, hotdogs, soda and treats. Free. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 1-2. Elks Lodge No. 901, 2105 S. McDowell Blvd., Suite A, Petaluma. <https://elks901.org/craft/>

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

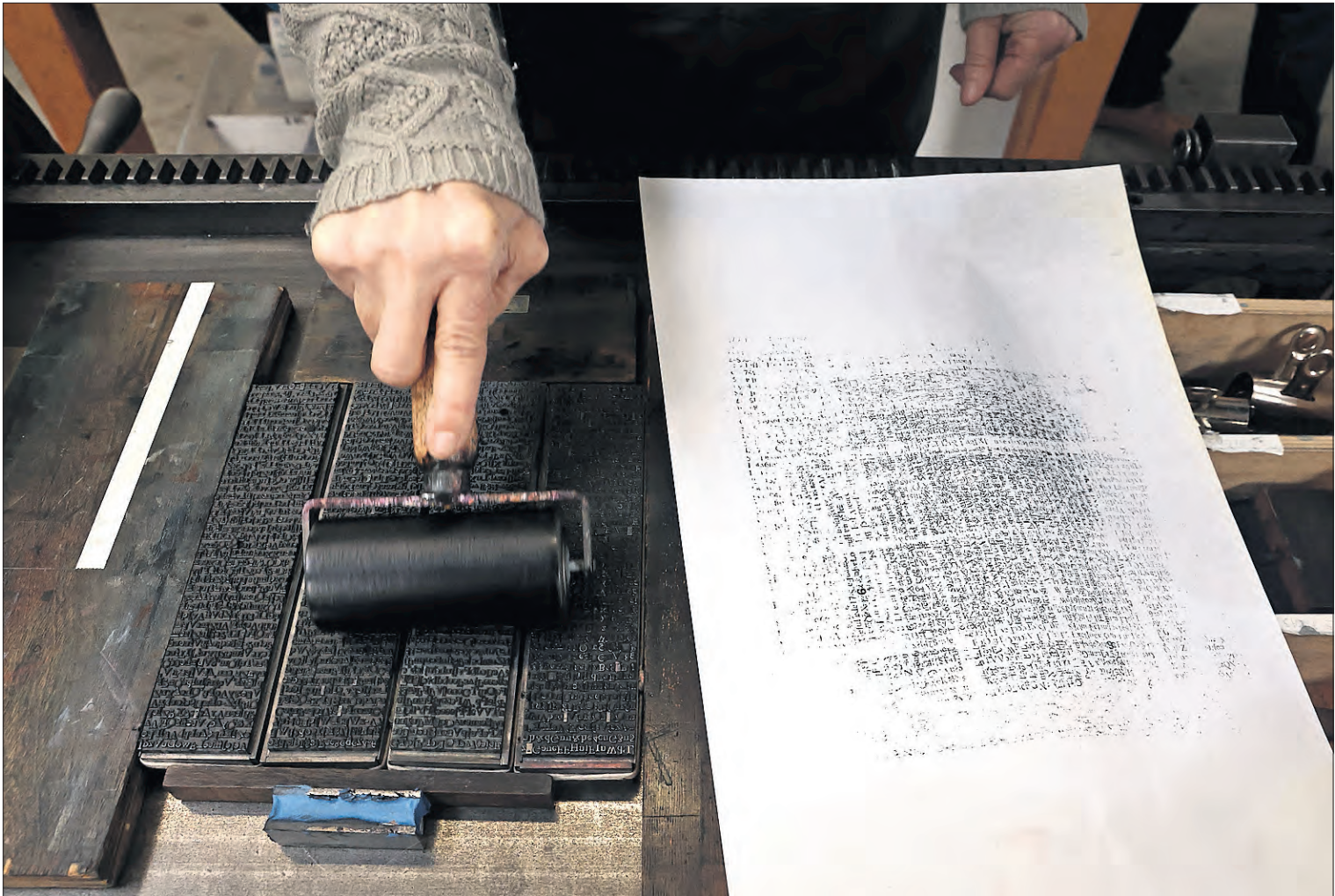
**CREATIVE:** Intro Letterpress: Learn how to use a letterpress at North Bay Letterpress Arts. Price: \$100 for the four-hour class and materials are included. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday, April 12. 925-D Gravenstein Hwy. S., Sebastopol. <https://bit.ly/3XnVYcm>

**CREATIVE:** At The Case: Poems And Instabook at North Bay Letterpress Arts. Price: \$75 for the three-hour class and materials are included. 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, April 12. 925-D Gravenstein

Hwy. S., Sebastopol. <https://bit.ly/3XnVYcm>

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

**PARADE:** Butter & Egg Days Parade and Festival: The 2023 parade highlights 40 years of tradition in Petaluma and is an opportunity to celebrate the community and history. This year the annual event celebrates the Ruby Jubilee Anniversary and the theme “There’s no Place Like Home,” which will incorporate artistic visions from the Land of Oz, ruby slippers, Earth and what makes Petaluma such a special hometown. The parade will showcase over 100 units with approximately 3,000 participants and 200 volunteers. There will be a variety of festival foods, crafts, arts, two large “kid areas,” and more spread over four city blocks. Parade entrants will need to incorporate the



BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Judi Goldberg rolls out ink on forms of random letters for an artistic effect on Feb. 16 at the North Bay Letterpress Arts studio in Sebastopol. Learn how to make cards on a letterpress on March 26.



KENT PORTER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Caroline Hennessy and her dad wait for the cutest little chick contest prior to the Petaluma Butter & Egg Days Parade and Festival. This year’s annual event is on April 22.

TURN TO EVENTS » PAGE N26



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# EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM N25

theme “There’s No Place Like Home” into their float design. The theme gives nonprofits, businesses, organizations and individuals lots of options for showing off their creativity in their designs. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 22. 100 Petaluma Boulevard N., Petaluma. <https://bit.ly/3ZzeEAH>

**CREATIVE:** Comic Artist Badge Workshop: Girl Scout Cadettes will earn and receive their Comic Artist badge in this special hands-on workshop at the Schulz Museum. Museum staff will teach Cadettes how to develop stories and characters and create a four-panel comic strip from beginning to end while completing all five steps of the Comic Artist badge. Girl Scouts can attend in person at the museum or online. Price is \$35 per Girl Scout and registration is required. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 22. Charles M. Schulz Museum, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. <https://bit.ly/3lhhdbu>

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Yoga Series 2023: Practice yoga at various farms and wineries all year long. All of the proceeds from this event will go to Food For Thought, a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of people at risk of malnutrition and living with serious medical conditions and food insecurity in Sonoma County. Classes will be held about monthly, and all will be 75-minute, slow-flow Hatha/Vinyasa style for all levels, taught by Food For Thought’s development coordinator and local yoga teacher, Elana, or another experienced instructor. Attendees will get the opportunity to learn more about the venue and their offerings either before or after class briefly, and we ask that you please stay to show them your support, as all sites are donated. 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, April 27. 13024 Green Valley Road, Sebastopol (Green Valley Farm + Mill). <https://bit.ly/3ZbUPPs>

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

**MUSEUM NIGHT:** Monte Schulz:



PH OTOS BY KENT PORTER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

The Human Race begins in downtown Santa Rosa. This year’s 5K will be from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on May 13.

**Metropolis:** Join author Monte Schulz for a book reading and discussion celebrating his newest book, “Metropolis.” Monte Schulz published his first novel in 1990 and spent the next 12 years writing the novel “Jazz Age,” which he wrote for his father, Charles M. Schulz. His sixth prose fiction novel, “Metropolis,” is described as “a dystopian narrative of love in a time of war and moral disintegration.” Monte Schulz will sign books after his talk. Included in museum admission. Price: Free for members. Museum Theater seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. 3 p.m., Sunday, April 30. Charles M. Schulz Museum, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. <https://bit.ly/3YJxxjV>

MAY

SATURDAY, MAY 13

**FUNDRAISING RACE:** Sonoma County Human Race: An estab-

lished icon in the community, the Human Race has raised over \$25 million for nearly 7,700 local nonprofits over the past 38 years. The race is a community-driven 5K fun run (walk or roll) in Sonoma County. This is a social and spirited way to race and raise thousands of dollars for your nonprofit organization or favorite cause. Nonprofits register online and individuals, businesses and organizations sign up to fundraise and run. Anyone can sign up and join a team or create a team and start raising money for their favorite nonprofits. 12:30-1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13. <https://bit.ly/3YT2gLI>

SUNDAY, MAY 21

**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Sonoma Sparkling Spring 2023 5K: Each Girls on the Run season comes to an end with a celebratory 5K.



Prior to the Human Race, Kim Caffrey, Shana Davis and Paige Davis do stretches in downtown Santa Rosa.

TURN TO EVENTS » PAGE N27

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# EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM N26

This closing event gives program participants of all abilities a tangible sense of accomplishment. Crossing the finish line instills confidence through completion and is a joyful moment program participants always remember. Every child in our program receives a commemorative medal to celebrate this incredible achievement. \$10-\$30. 8 a.m., Friday, May 12. 5450 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. (Rancho Cotate High School). <https://bit.ly/3kpANIM>

**FRIDAY, JULY 28**  
**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** 2023: Golf Tournament Charity Fund-raiser: Friday, July 28. 1340 19th Hole Dr., Windsor (Windsor Golf Club). <https://bit.ly/3kEjpKd>

**JULY 31-AUG. 7**  
**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Lazy Bear Week 2023: The biggest, hairiest, beefiest, burliest, craziest, laziest fundraising event. Lazy Bear Fund Inc. puts on one of the largest and most successful bear gatherings. For over 25 years they have entertained thousands in Guerneville during their annual event. Attendees enjoy pool parties, dance parties, campfires, live entertainment and DJs. All events are ages 21 and over. All of the profits for this event go to charity. The organization has raised over \$2.2 million for worthy causes. \$200. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. July 31-Aug. 7. <https://bit.ly/3Y5czLG>

## AUGUST

**SATURDAY, AUG. 5**  
**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Noche de Colores: La Luz hosts a colorful taste of Sonoma Valley's Latino heritage. From the wine of our rolling hills, to our historical buildings, to the food of our ancestors, to the music that makes us dance, Noche de Colores will take you on a whimsical experience of the magic and power of creating community. \$300 and up. 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 5. 98 E. Spain St., Sonoma (Sonoma Barracks). <https://bit.ly/3m6e4vO>

**SATURDAY, AUG. 12**  
**FAIR:** Gravenstein Apple Fair:



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Hundreds of big, burly and often hairy “bears” attend a pool party at the West Sonoma Inn and Spa at the 23rd annual Lazy Bear Week in Guerneville. The weeklong event from July 31-Aug. 7 is for those who are 21 and older.



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The Gravenstein Apple Fair at Sebastopol's Ragle Ranch Park. This year, the annual fair is from Aug.12-13.

Celebrate 50 years of the Gravenstein Apple Fair and Sonoma County Farm Trails with live music, all things Gravenstein,

local food, arts, crafts, activities for kids, farm demonstrations, craft cider, craft beer, premium wine, and VIP Lounge. Awarded

the first-ever Green Resolution for events by Sonoma County Zero Waste, the fair is proud to be 95% zero waste. Free. 10

a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 12-13. 500 Ragle Road, Sebastopol (Ragle Ranch Park). <https://bit.ly/3Zf4rsW>

## SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15

**FUNDRAISING EVENT:** Back to School Luncheon: Enjoy wine, appetizers, lunch and dessert in a beautiful setting while we update and educate you on our work in partnership with the K-8 Santa Rosa schools through Santa Rosa Education Foundation. Now more than ever, schools are in need of greater resources to deliver enrichment education. As a grant-making foundation, we invest in enrichment programs through an equity-focused approach, serving 6,000 students. \$65. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 15. 3330 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa (Bennett Valley Golf Course). <https://bit.ly/3xOZQ4K>



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It was announced at the fifth annual Employee Recognition Celebration in February that the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation has changed its name and will now be called the **Fundación de la Voz de los Viñedos**, which translates to *Voice of the Vineyards*. After 20 years, the name change better reflects the mission and work of the foundation in elevating and supporting Sonoma County vineyard employees and their families.

The new name “Fundación de la Voz de los Viñedos” was recommended by Jose Cervantes, a vineyard employee from Cornerstone Certified Vineyard and the 2019 Employee of the Year, and was selected by the Leadership Academy alumni group. According to Cervantes, the Leadership Academy alum said, “It was an honor to be included in this process and to be able to give our recommendations to the Foundation for the renaming. The new name represents what we do and that we have a voice.”



2022 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

JOSE ACEVES

DUTTON RANCH

54 YEARS

Jose Aceves is an exceptional employee who has been a dedicated part of Dutton Ranch and the Dutton family since 1969. Jose has done every job on the ranch, from field worker, tractor driver, truck driver, and foreman, to now supervisor. He has taught many employees how to farm here at Dutton Ranch, including helping teach Joe and Steve Dutton throughout their childhood. Jose has always been willing to help others and to do whatever was needed to get the job done. Of note, Jose’s only son, Jose De Jesus Aceves, grew up on Dutton Ranch and is now the Human Resources manager for the family-owned Dutton Ranch business. “Jose’s commitment to Dutton Ranch and his talent have made him a vital contributor to our success as a family business. We grew up with Jose. He is part of our family,” said Steve Dutton, president and co-owner of Dutton Ranch.



2023

Joe Dutton, Jose Aceves, and Steve Dutton



1971

Top Middle: Juan Sanchez (2020 Employee of the year), Top Right: Jose Aceves, Bottom Left: Steve Dutton

2022 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

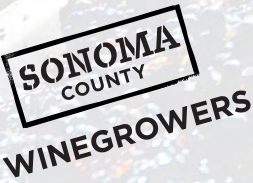
RUNNER-UP

JOSE GUADALUPE NUÑEZ

BEVILL VINEYARD MANAGEMENT

35 YEARS

Runner-up Jose Guadalupe Nuñez, or “Don Gualo” as he is called by his family, friends and co-workers, went to work for Bevill Vineyard Management in 1988. Over the past three-plus decades, Nuñez has demonstrated a true passion for farming. Not only does Jose share his experience and wisdom in the vineyards with his colleagues, but he also prepares, tends and harvests the Bevill employee garden each year. Nuñez is so valued that the company dedicated its newest workspace as the “Jose ‘Don Gualo’ Nuñez Conference Room” complete with a plaque recognizing Jose’s many contributions. “Don Gualo constantly displays teamwork and is always ready to help any and all who need it. His dedication to his craft is inspiring to all of us and I consider it an honor to have him on our team,” said Duff Bevill, managing partner at Bevill Vineyard Management.



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En Febrero, durante la quinta Celebración Anual de Reconocimiento de Empleados, se anunció que la Fundación de Productores de Uva del Condado de Sonoma cambió su nombre y ahora se llamará la Fundación de la Voz de los Viñedos, lo que se traduce como Voice of the Vineyards. Después de 20 años, el cambio de nombre refleja mejor la misión y el trabajo de la fundación para elevar y apoyar a los empleados de viñedo de Sonoma County y a sus familias.

El nuevo nombre “Fundación de la Voz de los Viñedos” fue recomendado por Jose Cervantes, empleado de los viñedos de Cornerstone Certified Vineyard y Empleado del Año 2019, y fue seleccionado por el grupo de ex alumnos de la Academia de Liderazgo. Según Cervantes, alumno de la Academia de Liderazgo, dijo: “Fue un honor estar incluido en este proceso y poder dar nuestras recomendaciones a la Fundación para el cambio de nombre. El nuevo nombre representa lo que hacemos y que tenemos voz”.



## EMPLEADO DEL AÑO 2022

### JOSE ACEVES DUTTON RANCH 54 AÑOS

Jose Aceves es un empleado excepcional quien ha sido una parte dedicada de Dutton Ranch y la familia Dutton desde 1969. Jose ha ejercido todas las labores en el rancho, desde ser trabajador del campo, conductor de tractor, conductor de camión, y capataz, ahora como supervisor. Le ha enseñado a muchos empleados cómo cultivar aquí en Dutton Ranch, incluso ayudó en enseñarle a Joe y Steve Dutton durante su infancia. Jose siempre ha estado dispuesto a ayudar a los demás y en hacer lo que sea necesario para lograr el trabajo. Cabe destacar que el único hijo de Jose, Jose De Jesus Aceves, se crió en Dutton Ranch y es ahora el gerente de Recursos Humanos de la empresa familiar Dutton Ranch. “El compromiso de Jose con Dutton Ranch y su talento lo han convertido en un contribuyente vital para nuestro éxito como empresa familiar. Crecimos con José. Es parte de nuestra familia”, dijo Steve Dutton, presidente y copropietario de Dutton Ranch.



2023  
Joe Dutton, Jose Aceves y Steve Dutton

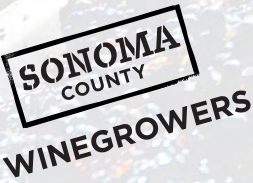


1971  
Arriba en el medio: Juan Sánchez (Empleado del año 2020), Arriba a la derecha: Jose Aceves, Abajo a la izquierda: Steve Dutton

## SUBCAMPEÓN DE EMPLEADO DEL AÑO 2022

### JOSE GUADALUPE NUÑEZ BEVILL VINEYARD MANAGEMENT 35 AÑOS

El subcampeón Jose Guadalupe Nuñez, o “Don Gualo”, como lo llaman su familia, amigos y compañeros de trabajo, comenzó a trabajar para Bevill Vineyard Management en 1988. Durante las últimas tres décadas, Nuñez ha demostrado una verdadera pasión por agricultura. Jose no solo comparte su experiencia y sabiduría de los viñedos con sus colegas, sino que también prepara, atiende y cosecha el jardín de los empleados de Bevill cada año. Nuñez es tan valorado que la compañía nombró su área de trabajo más reciente como la “Sala de conferencias Jose ‘Don Gualo’ Nuñez” completado con una placa que da reconocimiento a las muchas contribuciones de Jose. “Don Gualo constantemente demuestra el trabajo en equipo y siempre está dispuesto a prestar ayuda a todos y cada uno de los que lo necesiten. Su dedicación a su oficio nos inspira a todos y considero un honor tenerlo en nuestro equipo”, dijo Duff Bevill, socio gerente de Bevill Vineyard Management.



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BERGIN COLLEGE OF CANINE STUDIES

# A place to train the trainers

*Penngrove college teaches students how to turn dogs into service animals*

By **KASEY WILLIAMS**  
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Service animals are an indispensable resource for people with disabilities. And countless hours are spent by teams of professionals training these animals — most commonly dogs — to understand dozens of commands, ranging from opening doors to pulling manual wheelchairs and identifying potential hazards — all in service of their owner.

But who trains the trainers? After observing the beneficial role that donkeys played with helping disabled individuals abroad, Bonnie Bergin returned home to Santa Rosa in 1975 to implement that concept with canines. Shortly thereafter, Bergin founded Canine Companions for Independence in Cotati in an effort to train and connect service dogs to those in need.

When the organization began receiving requests to train more and more people who could then train service dogs, Bergin decided to open the Bergin College of Canine Studies in 1991 as a nonprofit service dog organization. Assistance Dog Institute is also a part of the college, but offers a degree after students complete the two-year program.

“When I created the service dog, I created Canine Companions to place the dogs,” Bergin said. “When I got this constant onslaught of people who wanted to learn how to do it — we were the only ones (at that time).”

The school itself has bounced around locations since its inception. It started in an old dentist office in Cotati, moved to another location in Rohnert Park, then to Sebastopol Road, over to Los Guilicos in Santa Rosa, back to the Sebastopol Road



CHAD SURMICK / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

**Hope Minton documents the progress of her dog, Douglas, on March 1 at the Bergin College of Canine Studies in Penngrove.**

property, then Labath Avenue in Rohnert Park, a temporary spot in an old hatchery in Penngrove, and finally to its current location on Old Redwood Highway. Eventually, the nonprofit hopes to make the permanent move to Oregon.

Despite all the moves and potential move, the college’s goal has remained the same: provide the means for second-year college students to obtain the skills and knowledge necessary to train service dogs for individuals living with a disability.

Before students are enrolled in Bergin

**ABOUT CANINE COMPANIONS**

Canine Companions provides service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in health care, criminal justice and educational settings through their Bergin College of Canine Studies program. Students who want to become certified service dog trainers can apply at the Assistance Dog Institute, where they will receive a degree at the end of the two-year program. Since the nonprofit’s founding in 1975, the dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost to clients.

**Donate:** <https://canine.org/donate/>

**More information:** 1-800-572-2275, <https://canine.org>

College of Canine Studies, they must go through general education requirements at another college or university, since classes like English and mathematics aren’t offered on this campus. Once accepted into the college, they then choose which academic track they want to take for the next two or more years. It’s here where students can enroll in the Assistance Dog Institute or the School of Business and Companion Dogs or learn through the certificate program. Bergin College of Canine Studies offers an associate, bachelor or master of science degree varying from one to three years in length.

Yayoi Jiko, a native of Osaka, Japan, is in the second semester of the Assistance Dog Institute’s dog education program and, when the spring semester wraps up, not only will she get her associate of science

TURN TO COLLEGE » PAGE N31

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*More than 85,000 children faced with serious injuries and congenital differences have benefited from the complex, compassionate care provided by the internationally noted team of doctors at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Northern California. Each patient's path to success is fueled by private donations and driven by excellence in treatment, teaching and research.*

**Treatment**

A broad range of specialists- from intensivists to surgeons to geneticists- work in concert to deliver comprehensive care in all Shriners specialties:

- Orthopaedics
- Burns
- Pediatric Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation
- Specialized Plastic Surgery
- Cleft Lip Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery

The multi-disciplinary team of professionals includes physical and occupational therapists, orthotists and prosthetists, teachers, child life specialists, social workers, therapeutic recreation specialists and advance practice nurses. All work with the medical team to give children the care, the skills, the opportunities and the guidance they need to lead active, productive lives.

**No Barriers to Care**

Determined to defy the odds, parents of children with complex medical conditions seek the life-saving, life-changing care provided by Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Admission to the program is based on two criteria: age and diagnosis. Any child under 18 is eligible for care if the child's condition is within the scope of services provided. While most referrals come from physicians, anyone can refer a child for care by calling the patient referral coordinator.

Patient Referral  
(916) 453-2191

**Be Part of a Caring Community**

Built on the philosophy that people can make a positive difference in the lives of others, Shriners Hospitals for Children has long recognized the importance of involving the community in its programs. Information on donor recognition and volunteer opportunities as well as prevention programs, medical lectures and other community outreach programs is just a phone call away.

Donation Opportunities  
(916) 453-2321

Volunteer Opportunities  
(916) 453-2087

Community Outreach Programs  
(916) 453-2018



**Shriners**  
**Children's™**  
Northern California





THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

# 100 LARGEST NONPROFITS IN SONOMA COUNTY

They serve people with disabilities and children from low-income families. They care for our aging neighbors and the region’s unhoused community. They leverage their networks to feed those who are hungry, treat those who are sick and even represent animals in court. Sonoma County is home to more than 3,896 registered nonprofit agencies and not-for-profit organizations, which raised \$1.2 billion in their most recent filing years, demonstrating a continued local commitment to service that has endured the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as months of economic upheaval. Through publicly available financial data, we took a look at how these nonprofit agencies stack up, and are sharing this data with you.

TURN TO NONPROFITS » PAGE N36

*“The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.”*

MOTHER TERESA, whose charity and aid work has been recognized throughout the world



Access to Mental Healthcare for All

For over 50 years, Buckelew Programs has taken action to meet the deepening need for mental health and substance-use services for Sonoma County residents. Your support helps us provide programs to empower individuals to shape healthy, purposeful lives for a stronger Sonoma.

**inRESPONSE**

- Athena House/ Hope Village
- Family Services Coordination
- Sonoma County Independent Living
- Suicide Prevention

For more information, visit  
**Bucklelew.org**







# WITH GRATITUDE

WE CONGRATULATE  
THE 2022 WINNERS OF  
OUR VINEYARD EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION PROGRAM



**Leandro Parra**  
Dos Viñas Vineyard Management  
3 YEARS



**Pablo Trujillo**  
Renteria Vineyard Management  
13 YEARS



**J. Isabel Reyes**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
3 YEARS



**Jorge Viruel**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
13 YEARS



**Patricio Cadena**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
18 YEARS



**Cirilo Contreras**  
Martinelli Vineyard Management  
30 YEARS



**Diana Reyes**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
2 YEARS



**Pedro Perez**  
Perez Farming Services  
18 YEARS



**Salvador Napoles**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
1 YEAR



**Lupe Martinez**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
25 YEARS



**Crispin Solorio**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
24 YEARS



**Jorge Negrete**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
9 YEARS



**Armando Reyes**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
15 YEARS



**Francisco Diaz**  
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards  
20 YEARS



**Gusmaro Arellano**  
Joseph Phelps Vineyards  
8 YEARS



**Jose Saldana**  
Jordan Vineyard & Winery  
6 YEARS



**Pedro Cabrera**  
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards  
3 YEARS



**Raymundo Calderon**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
37 YEARS



**Tim Campbell**  
St. Mark's Vineyard  
1 YEAR



**Carina De La Cruz Ruiz**  
Renteria Vineyard Management  
7 YEARS



**Eduardo Patino**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
10 YEARS



**Karina Martinez**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
3 YEARS



**Claudia Cruz**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
15 YEARS



**Juan Narvaez-Flores**  
Florence Vineyard  
12 YEARS



**Jose Horacio Lopez**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
29 YEARS



**Jose Guzman**  
Robert Young Vineyards  
40 YEARS



**Jose Luis Lopez**  
Hafner Vineyards  
30 YEARS



**Miguel Ramirez**  
Atlas Vineyard Management  
3 YEARS



**Juan Hernandez**  
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards  
27 YEARS



**Rufino Mendez**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
17 YEARS



**Gerardo Lopez**  
Hafner Vineyards  
40 YEARS



**Jose Guadalupe Nuñez**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
35 YEARS



**Isaul Macias Sr.**  
HOCV-AVV Joint Venture  
50 YEARS



**Armando Gonzalez**  
Robert Young Vineyards  
40 YEARS



**Salvador Rodriguez**  
Tri-Valley Vineyard Management  
32 YEARS



**Jose Elias Avila**  
Lynmar Estate  
11 YEARS



**Sergio Favela Lopez**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
4 YEARS



**Maria Hernandez**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
4 YEARS



**Sal Jimenez Sandoval**  
Vino Farms  
3 YEARS



**Rogelio Pérez Aparicio**  
Sangiacomo Family Vineyards  
13 YEARS



**Horacio Lopez**  
Emeritus Vineyards  
10 YEARS



**Jose Aceves**  
Dutton Ranch  
54 YEARS



**Martin Aleman**  
Hafner Vineyards  
30 YEARS



**Antonio Lozoida**  
Dutton Ranch  
35 YEARS



**Jose Aparicio**  
Sangiacomo Family Vineyards  
13 YEARS



**Alberto Cardenas**  
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards  
19 YEARS



**Salvador Buenrostro**  
Emeritus Vineyards  
7 YEARS



**Arturo Nunez Patino**  
Rio Lago Ranch  
20 YEARS



**Eustacio Torres**  
Renteria Vineyard Management  
13 YEARS



**Rosendo Avila**  
Emeritus Vineyards  
23 YEARS



**Gerardo de Jesus Rodriguez**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
11 YEARS



THANK YOU TO BAHCO AND ZENITH AGRIBUSINESS SOLUTIONS FOR SPONSORING OUR EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CELEBRATION AND SUPPORTING OUR VINEYARD WORKFORCE.

TO LEARN MORE OR INVEST IN OUR LOCAL VINEYARD EMPLOYEES, PLEASE VISIT SCGGF.ORG







# CON GRATITUD

FELICITAMOS A LOS GANADORES DE NUESTRO PROGRAMA DE RECONOCIMIENTO A LOS EMPLEADOS DE VIÑEDO DEL 2022



**Leandro Parra**  
Dos Viñas Vineyard Management  
3 AÑOS



**Pablo Trujillo**  
Renteria Vineyard Management  
13 AÑOS



**J. Isabel Reyes**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
3 AÑOS



**Jorge Viruel**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
13 AÑOS



**Patricio Cadena**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
18 AÑOS



**Cirilo Contreras**  
Martinelli Vineyard Management  
30 AÑOS



**Diana Reyes**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
2 AÑOS



**Pedro Perez**  
Perez Farming Services  
18 AÑOS



**Salvador Napoles**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
1 AÑO



**Lupe Martinez**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
25 AÑOS



**Crispin Solorio**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
24 AÑOS



**Jorge Negrete**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
9 AÑOS



**Armando Reyes**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
15 AÑOS



**Francisco Diaz**  
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards  
20 AÑOS



**Gusmaro Arellano**  
Joseph Phelps Vineyards  
8 AÑOS



**Jose Saldana**  
Jordan Vineyard & Winery  
6 AÑOS



**Pedro Cabrera**  
St. Francis Winery & Vineyards  
3 AÑOS



**Raymundo Calderon**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
37 AÑOS



**Tim Campbell**  
St. Mark's Vineyard  
1 AÑO



**Carina De La Cruz Ruiz**  
Renteria Vineyard Management  
7 AÑOS



**Eduardo Patino**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
10 AÑOS



**Karina Martinez**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
3 AÑOS



**Claudia Cruz**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
15 AÑOS



**Juan Narvaez-Flores**  
Florence Vineyard  
12 AÑOS



**Jose Horacio Lopez**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
29 AÑOS



**Jose Guzman**  
Robert Young Vineyards  
40 AÑOS



**Jose Luis Lopez**  
Hafner Vineyards  
30 AÑOS



**Miguel Ramirez**  
Atlas Vineyard Management  
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**Juan Hernandez**  
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HOCV-AVV Joint Venture  
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**Armando Gonzalez**  
Robert Young Vineyards  
40 AÑOS



**Salvador Rodriguez**  
Tri-Valley Vineyard Management  
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**Jose Elias Avila**  
Lynmar Estate  
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**Sergio Favela Lopez**  
Cornerstone Certified Vineyard  
4 AÑOS



**Maria Hernandez**  
Bevill Vineyard Management  
4 AÑOS



**Sal Jimenez Sandoval**  
Vino Farms  
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**Rogelio Pérez Aparicio**  
Sangiacomo Family Vineyards  
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Renteria Vineyard Management  
13 AÑOS



**Rosendo Avila**  
Emeritus Vineyards  
23 AÑOS



**Gerardo de Jesus Rodriguez**  
Redwood Empire Vineyard Management  
11 AÑOS



GRACIAS A BAHCO Y ZENITH AGRIBUSINESS SOLUTIONS POR PATROCINAR NUESTRA CELEBRACIÓN DE RECONOCIMIENTO A LOS EMPLEADOS Y APOYAR A NUESTRA FUERZA LABORAL VITICULTORA.

PARA APRENDER MÁS O INVERTIR EN NUESTROS EMPLEADOS VITICULTORES LOCALES, VISITE SCGGF.ORG







No. 1: Santa Rosa Community Health Centers



No. 2: Canine Companions



No. 3: Redwood Empire Food Bank

NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N33

The following data was obtained through research using ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer and Guidestar, as well as publicly available information on the California Secretary of State’s website. The Press Democrat used most recent annual revenue for this ranking, and excluded credit unions, tourism and membership organizations, homeowners associations and other mutual benefit nonprofits in an effort to more accurately portray the traditional nonprofit landscape in Sonoma County.

If you believe you’ve discovered an error in the following list, email [elissa.torres@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:elissa.torres@pressdemocrat.com).




At **Alexander Valley Healthcare** our mission is to provide patient-centered, high quality and affordable care to our patients throughout Northern Sonoma County. We’re proud recipients of the **Spirit of Sonoma Award** for our community-wide COVID-19 vaccination efforts and are now certified as a **Community Access Partner** in the **Sonoma County Coordinated Entry System**.

**NEW Fall 2025:**  
**Alexander Valley Health & Wellness Center**  
coming to downtown Cloverdale. Benefit from our fully integrated, expanded services all under one roof. For more information visit <https://alexandervalleyhealthcare.org/wellnesscenter/>

**Providing:**  
Family Medicine  
General Dentistry  
Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Services  
Financial and Nutritional Services



[www.alexandervalleyhealthcare.org](http://www.alexandervalleyhealthcare.org)  
This ad is made possible through the generous support of our friends at Karma Dog Construction



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# NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N36

**1 Santa Rosa Community Health Centers:** Santa Rosa, \$79.9 million. Santa Rosa Community Health Centers is comprised of eight locations that provide primary health care and health education to underserved people in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. 707-583-8839, srhealth.org

**2 Canine Companions:** Santa Rosa, \$77.8 million. This organization works to enhance the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs. 707-577-1700, canine.org

**3 Redwood Empire Food Bank:** Santa Rosa, \$70.7 million. This food bank is the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. 707-523-7900, refb.org

**4 Petaluma Health Center:** Petaluma, \$67.3 million. Petaluma Health Center provides primary medical care for all ages, regardless of ability to pay. 707-559-7500, phealthcenter.org

**5 St. Joseph Home Care Network:** Santa Rosa, \$42.2 million. This home care network provides in-home nursing care, therapy, social services and personal assistance. 707-206-9124, stjosephhomecare.org

**6 Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa:** Santa Rosa, \$39.5 million. Catholic Charities is a human services agency serving those most in need and of all faiths, primarily seniors, immigrants, and families facing poverty and/or homelessness. Offices in Sonoma, Napa, and Lake counties. 707-528-8712, srcharities.org

**7 Sonoma Academy:** Santa Rosa, \$31.5 million. Sonoma Academy is a private, co-ed college preparatory high school. 707-545-1770, sonomaacademy.org

**8 Community Foundation of Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$31.1 million. The Community Foundation of Sonoma County works to connect people, ideas and resources to benefit the community. 707-579-4073, sonomacf.org

**9 Sonoma County Indian Health Project Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$28.7 million. This organization maintains a comprehensive health care system to serve the needs and traditional values of the Sonoma County American Indian Community. 707-521-4545, schp.org

**10 Nation's Finest:** Santa Rosa, \$25.7 million. Nation's Finest offers community-based programs and services for veterans and their families. 707-578-2785, vetsresource.org

**11 Roseland Charter School:** Santa Rosa, \$25.6 million. Roseland Charter School is a K-12 charter school. 707-545-0102, roselandsd.org

**12 Community Child Care Council of Sonoma Co. (4Cs Sonoma County):** Santa Rosa, \$25.2 million. Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County operates 11 Sonoma County child development centers and preschools providing quality, accessible, affordable preschool and child care services for children, families and child care professionals. 707-544-3077, sonoma4cs.org

**13 United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay:** Petaluma, \$22 million. United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay promotes and supports a full quality of life for people with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities. 707-766-9990, ucpnb.org

**14 Bay Area Environmental Research Institute:** Petaluma, \$22 million. The Bay Area Environmental Research Institute promotes and conducts research in the environmental sciences, particularly atmospheric science. 707-938-9387, baeri.org

**15 Alternative Family Services Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$21.5 million. Alternative Family Services has a mission to support vulnerable children and families in need of stability, safety, and wellbeing. 707-576-7700, afs4kids.org

**16 West County Health Centers:** Guerneville, \$20.5 million. This is a community health center serving western Sonoma County providing medical, dental and mental health care services, with sites in Sebastopol, Occidental, Guerneville and Forestville. 707-869-5977, wchealth.org



KENT PORTER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Allyson Gonyo, from left, Michelle Williams and Meghan Bhoyal load up Canine Companions for Independence dogs to begin their journey to Columbus, Ohio, as the puppies further their service dog training. The dogs were crated and flown by pilot Josh Hochberg at the Sonoma Jet Center.



BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Congressman Jared Huffman tours the Petaluma Health Center with a group of senior staff including Chief Operating Officer Tiffany Jimenez, left, in Petaluma.



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Sonoma Land Trust board members Liz Fisher, left, Frank Dean and Gymmel Trembly pause in Santa Rosa.



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2021

Nation's Finest President and CEO Chris Johnson, left, talks with Windsor Veterans Village residents John Shinnick and Kenneth Gray during an opening ceremony in Windsor.

**17 Becoming Independent:** Santa Rosa, \$18.5 million. Becoming Independent is a community-based service organization established over 40 years ago to help people with disabilities live meaningful and productive lives in Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties. 707-524-6600, becomingindependent.org

**18 Alliance Medical Center:** Healdsburg, \$17.8 million. This is a community health center serving low-income residents of Healdsburg and Windsor with medical and

dental services. 707-385-2306, alliancemed.org

**19 North Bay Rehabilitation Services:** Rohnert Park, \$17.7 million. North Bay Rehabilitation Services provides vocational rehabilitation for people with various disabilities. 707-585-1991, nbrs.org

**20 California Human Development Corp.:** Santa Rosa, \$15.5 million. California Human Development Corp. creates job training, housing, recovery and other services for farmworkers, day laborers and people with disabilities.

707-523-1155, californiahumandevelopment.org/

**21 Redwood Empire:** Santa Rosa, \$15.1 million. This organization is dedicated to developing, maintaining programs that place people with disabilities and other special needs in productive and competitive jobs. 707-523-0550, gire.org

**22 Point Blue Conservation Science:** Petaluma, \$14.9 million. The mission of Point Blue Conservation Science is to conserve birds and other wildlife ecosystems through scientific research, restoration, outreach and partnership. 707-781-2555, pointblue.org

**23 Animal Legal Defense Fund:** Cotati, \$14.7 million. The Animal Legal Defense Fund's mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. 707-795-2533, aldf.org

**24 Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation:** Santa Rosa, \$13.3 million. This foundation raises funds to support programs, scholarships, facilities, and special projects of Santa Rosa Junior College. 707-527-4348, santarosa.edu/foundation



BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Alba Estrada Lopez, STRAW education manager with Point Blue Conservation Science, teaches students from McNear Elementary School in Petaluma.

**25 Redwood Community Health Network:** Petaluma, \$13 million. Redwood Community Health Network supports medical clinics with the implementation of comprehensive IT systems, collaborative support service programs and other duties. 707-792-7900, aliadoshealth.org

**26 Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$12.8 million. This human services agency founded in 1967 has a mission to partner with low-income families and individuals to help them achieve economic and social stability, reduce poverty, build community and advocate for social and economic justice. 707-544-6911, capsonoma.org

**27 Sonoma Valley Community Health Center:** Sonoma, \$12.7 million. The Sonoma Valley Community Health Center provides health care for those in need, especially the underserved of Sonoma Valley. 707-939-6070, svchc.org

**28 Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$12.1 million. This club's mission is to enable all young people, especially those most in need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens through after-school programs and summer programs. 707-528-7977, bgccsc.org

**29 Burbank Housing Development Corp.:** Santa Rosa, \$11.9 million. Burbank Housing Development is dedicated to increasing the supply of housing in Sonoma County so that low-income people of all ages, backgrounds and special needs will have a better opportunity to live in decent and affordable housing. 707-526-9782, burbankhousing.org

**30 Anova Education and Behavior Consultation Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$11.2 million. This nonprofit is a specialized education institution. 707-527-7032, anovaeducation.org

**31 Grantmakers Concerned With Immigrants and Refugees:** Sebastopol, \$11 million. The organization seeks to attain grant contributions from the philanthropic field to address the needs of immigrant and refugee populations. 707-313-5367, gcir.org

**32 Sonoma Land Trust:** Santa Rosa, \$10.8 million. Sonoma Land Trust protects the scenic, natural, agricultural and open landscapes of Sonoma County for the benefit of the community and future generations. 707-526-6930, sonomalandtrust.org

**33 TLC Child & Family Services:** Sebastopol, \$10.3





# Child Care Facilities Grant Grant Opportunity Announcement

Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County in collaboration with Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County (4Cs) is administering **funds to be used towards the improvement, expansion, and construction of child care facilities in Sonoma County** but outside of Santa Rosa. We are accepting applications from the following:

Early child care providers interested in capital improvements to their sites to preserve, enhance, or expand existing childcare spaces and maintain or increase their capacity to serve children from birth to five years old.

Early childcare providers, interested in securing capital to develop viable, well-designed, and high-quality child care facilities.

**The goal is to increase access to high-quality child care options through expansion and retention of child care slots for working families in the greater Sonoma County area.** Please visit our website for further detailed information about this grant opportunity.

# Subsidio para Instalaciones de Cuidado Infantil Anuncio de oportunidad de subsidio

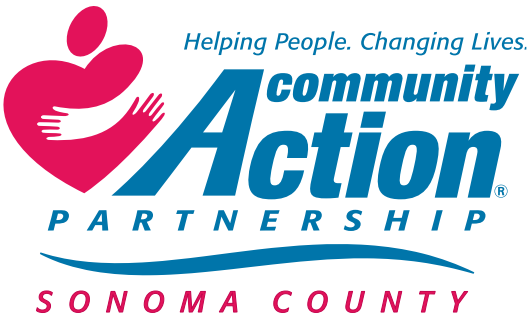
Community Action Partnership del condado de Sonoma en colaboración con Community Child Care Council del condado de Sonoma (4Cs) está administrando **fondos que se utilizarán para el mejoramiento, expansión y construcción de instalaciones de cuidado infantil** en el condado de Sonoma pero fuera de los límites de la ciudad de Santa Rosa. Estamos aceptando solicitudes de los siguientes:

Proveedores de cuidado infantil de temprana edad interesados en mejorar el capital en sus centros para preservar, mejorar o ampliar los espacios de cuidado infantil existentes y mantener o aumentar su capacidad para atender a niños desde el nacimiento hasta los cinco años.

Proveedores de cuidado infantil, interesados en obtener capital para desarrollar instalaciones de cuidado infantil viables, bien diseñadas y de alta calidad.

**El objetivo es aumentar el acceso a opciones de cuidado infantil de alta calidad a través de la expansión y retención de espacios de cuidado infantil para familias que trabajan en el área metropolitana del condado de Sonoma.** Por favor, lea nuestro documento de información sobre subsidios para obtener más información detallada sobre esta oportunidad de subsidio.





[www.caponoma.org/child-care-facilities-grant](http://www.caponoma.org/child-care-facilities-grant)







# CALIFORNIA MORTGAGE RELIEF WORKS. AND THERE'S HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS.

 Up to \$80,000 for past-due mortgage payments	 <b>PROPERTY TAXES</b> Up to \$20,000 for delinquent property taxes	 <b>PARTIAL CLAIM/LOAN DEFERRAL</b> Up to \$80,000 to reduce or eliminate a COVID-related partial claim second mortgage or loan deferral	 <b>REVERSE MORTGAGE</b> Up to \$80,000 to help with late taxes and homeowners insurance for reverse mortgages
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\*Qualified applicants may apply for additional funding; maximum of \$80,000 in total assistance per eligible household.



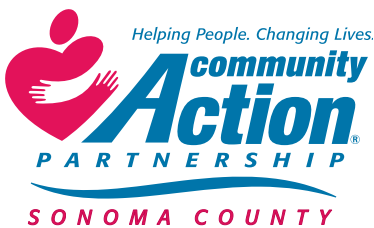
The California Mortgage Relief Program has already provided **millions of dollars in assistance to thousands of California homeowners** struggling with financial hardships.

This government program is **FREE** and **HERE TO HELP.**  
There is **nothing to pay back.**



**APPLY ONLINE TODAY AT**  
**CaMortgageRelief.org**

**CALL WITH QUESTIONS**  
**1-888-840-2594**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.**



[www.capsonoma.org](http://www.capsonoma.org)



# NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N37

million. TLC Child & Family Services provides foster care for area families. 707-823-7300, [tlc4kids.org](http://tlc4kids.org)

**34 Sonoma Country Day School:** Santa Rosa, \$10.3 million. Sonoma Country Day School is a private primary school. 707-284-3200, [scds.org](http://scds.org)

**35 Sonoma State University Foundation:** Rohnert Park, \$10.2 million. This foundation receives and administers endowment gifts and planned giving that enhances and promotes Sonoma State's educational mission. 707-664-3251, [sonoma.edu](http://sonoma.edu)

**36 Association of Behavior Consultants:** Petaluma, \$9.9 million. The Association of Behavior Consultants provides behavior modification services to developmentally disabled individuals. 707-575-3290.

**37 Science and Nonduality:** Sebastopol, \$9.7 million. The mission of Science and Nonduality is to forge a new paradigm in spirituality based on timeless wisdom traditions of the world, informed by cutting-edge science, and grounded in direct experience. 848-590-6981, [scienceandnonduality.com](http://scienceandnonduality.com)

**38 Paws for Purple Hearts:** Penngrove, \$9.3 million. Paws for Purple Hearts provides trained service dogs for military service members and those with PTSD, mobility issues and traumatic brain injuries. 707-238-5110, [pawsforpurplehearts.org](http://pawsforpurplehearts.org)

**39 Larry L. Hillblom Foundation Inc.:** Petaluma, \$9.3 million. This is a private foundation in support of medical research. 707-762-6691, [llhf.org](http://llhf.org)

**40 Child Parent Institute:** Santa Rosa, \$9.1 million. The Child Parent Institute is a parent education and children's mental health agency, with the mission to end child abuse and strengthen the health of children, parents and families through parent education, therapy services and a school for emotionally challenged children. 707-585-6108, [calparents.org](http://calparents.org)



The Circus Waldissima, completely created by circus students at Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm, performed three shows at the school March 24 and 25 in an authentic European big-top circus tent. Circus performers, above, help an audience member celebrate her birthday.



Volunteers distribute meals at the St. Vincent de Paul Society dining room in Santa Rosa.

**41 Social Advocates for Youth:** Santa Rosa, \$7.7 million. Social Advocates for Youth has a mission of helping youth and families throughout Sonoma County by providing housing, counseling, education and employment programs. 707-544-3299, [saysc.org](http://saysc.org)

**42 Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm:** Santa Rosa, \$7.6 million. This is a private primary and secondary school. 707-575-7194, [summerfieldws.org](http://summerfieldws.org)

**43 Inquiring Systems Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$7.5 million. Inquiring Systems offers training and technical assistance in ethically directed business development and management. 707-939-3900, [inquiringsystems.org](http://inquiringsystems.org)

**44 Rural California Broadcasting Corp. KRCB-TV Channel 22:** Rohnert Park, \$7.2 million. This organization provides educational television and radio broadcasting in Northern California. 707-584-2000, [norcalpublicmedia.org](http://norcalpublicmedia.org)

**45 Redwood Gospel Mission Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$7.1 million. Redwood Gospel Mission provides services for people who are homeless or in need. 707-578-1830, [srmission.org](http://srmission.org)

**46 Pepperwood Foundation:** Santa Rosa, \$6.7 million. This foundation operates a 3,200-acre scientific preserve to engage students, volunteers and scientists in applied conservation. 707-591-9310, [pepperwoodpreserve.org](http://pepperwoodpreserve.org)

**47 Alexander Valley Healthcare:** Cloverdale, \$6.5 million. Alexander Valley Healthcare is a primary medical care provider. 707-894-4229, [alexandervallehealthcare.org](http://alexandervallehealthcare.org)

**48 St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Rohnert Park, \$6.2 million. The St. Vincent De Paul Society provides support to those in need through low-cost sales and gifts of food and merchandise. 707-584-1579, [svdp-sonoma.org](http://svdp-sonoma.org)

**49 Drug Abuse Alternatives Center:** Santa Rosa, \$6.2 million. Drug Abuse Alternatives has a mission of turning lives around by providing healthy alternatives to alcohol and drug use. 707-571-2233, [daacinfo.org](http://daacinfo.org)

**50 PEP Housing:** Petaluma, \$6.2 million. PEP Housing is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing limited-income seniors with quality affordable housing, housing support services and advocacy. 707-762-2336, [pephousing.org](http://pephousing.org)

**51 COTS (Committee on the Shelterless):** Petaluma, \$6.2 million. COTS provides shelter, housing, food and transformative programs and services for homeless children and adults. 707-765-6530, [cots.org](http://cots.org)

**52 West County Community Services:** Guerneville, \$5.8 million. This nonprofit provides employment, housing, mental health and counseling services for at-risk and

TURN TO NONPROFITS » PAGE N44

# Meals on Wheels More than a Meal®

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**M**eals on Wheels ensures no senior is left behind and is a permanent or temporary solution for seniors 60 or better that are homebound and unable to drive. Temporary solutions include: seniors returning home from hospitalization and the ability to enjoy a daily meal until they have recovered, or emergency starts for seniors needing service immediately due to medical or other personal hardships.

- Extend independence and health enabling seniors to age while living independently at home
- Nutritious heart-healthy, low-sodium, meals providing one-third of the recommended dietary requirements for seniors
- Chef-inspired meal choices that include vegetarian options
- Providing a daily well-check and a brief reprieve from loneliness and isolation
- 9 out of 10 say Meals on Wheels helps them live independently
- Daily home-delivered meals help keep 8 out of 10 recipients who have previously fallen from falling again

When I had my hip surgery, I knew I was in for a long recovery and was not going to be able to drive during my rehabilitation. A nurse recommended that I call Meals on Wheels. I'm so glad I did. I didn't know how I was going to eat. This service was a god send!  
~Anonymous Temporary MOW Recipient

Thank you so much for taking care of my mother. She raves about your service and food and I want you to know just how much I really appreciate you, and all you have done.  
~Family Member of Client

My immediate family lives out of the area, and it was getting more difficult for me to prepare meals. My neighbor introduced me to Meals on Wheels and it has really helped me to eat better.  
~Anonymous



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or to volunteer or donate,  
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- ✓ Bring artists into our local classrooms.
- ✓ Introduce young students to live theater.
- ✓ Connect more children to the arts with free summer camps.
- ✓ Loan free musical instruments to students so that everyone has a chance to play.
- ✓ Make our visual art collection available to all.
- ✓ Offer arts education resources to local teachers.
- ✓ Link local families across generations through community events.
- ✓ Establish partnerships that expand opportunities to see and to make art.



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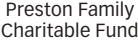
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VANTREO  
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Connecting our community  
through the arts across

Schools

Homes

Stages





# MISSION

To improve the health, safety, and well-being of the community by delivering equitable programs that promote health and safety, improve quality of life, and foster a culture of preparedness.

*"Better Together"*

## VALUES      COMMUNITY - COLLABORATION - COMMITMENT AND EQUITY



### Hora de Recursos Comunitarios Community Resource Hour

Nuestra Comunidad (NC) tendrá una sesión semanal de apoyo a la salud mental y habilidades de autocuidado todos los lunes, de 10:00 a.m. a 11:30 a.m. a través de Zoom.



Nuestra Comunidad (NC) is hosting a weekly mental health support and self-care skills workshop every Monday, 10:00am to 11:30am through Zoom.

## PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

**Disaster Preparedness**

**9-1-1 Awareness**

**Youth Leadership & Resilience**

**Health & Wellness**

**Mental Health**

With YOUR help we can create more resilient communities. **DONATE TODAY!**

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# YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

## *When Disaster Strikes, AMR Sonoma Life Support Answers the Call*

Whether it’s wildfires, flooding or freezing temperatures, AMR Sonoma Life Support knows how to handle severe conditions in Sonoma County, where we have provided EMS care for 30 years. So, whatever “Mother Nature” hands us, we answer the call, providing the highest quality of emergency care to our community, especially in a disaster.

As a locally based and nationally supported organization, we know relationships matter, resources matter and reliability matters — priorities that were, are and will remain our commitment to you.

For more information, visit  
[amr.net/sonoma-county](https://amr.net/sonoma-county)



# NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N40

vulnerable populations. 707-823-1640, westcountyservices.org

**53 Council on Aging Services for Seniors:** Santa Rosa, \$5.8 million. This senior services agency provides social, financial, legal and nutrition services to promote well-being and help aging residents maintain independence. 707-525-0143, councilonaging.com

**54 Sonoma County Family YMCA:** Santa Rosa, \$5.8 million. The Sonoma County YMCA offers health and wellness programs for all ages, including a fitness center, child care, preschool, pool, camps and youth sports. 707-545-9622, scfymca.org

**55 Greenacre Homes:** Sebastopol, \$5.7 million. Greenacre Homes provides residential care and education of developmentally disabled boys. 707-823-8722, greenacre-homes.org

**56 Humane Society of Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$5.6 million. This organization receives and administers gifts, program revenues and bequests that are used to support its animal shelters and programs that benefit animals and people in Sonoma County. 707-542-0882, sonomahumane.org

**57 Integrated Resources Institute:** Sebastopol, \$5.3 million. Integrated Resources Institute offers consulting and education for the rehabilitation field and job placement services for persons with disabilities. 714-337-7566, inmentorworks.org

**58 Sonoma County Fair & Exposition Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$5.3 million. This nonprofit organization operates Sonoma County Fairgrounds, including an annual county fair, through an agreement with Sonoma County. 707-545-4200, sonomacountyfair.com

**59 Credo High School:** Rohnert Park, \$5.3 million. This is a public, college preparatory charter high school that employs Waldorf methodology. 707-664-0600, credohigh.org

**60 Redwood Community Health Coalition:** Petaluma, \$5.2 million. The Redwood Community Health Coalition is a network of health centers in Sonoma, Napa, Marin, and Yolo counties that provides high-quality cost-efficient care to all, regardless of ability to pay. 707-285-2967, aliadoshealth.org



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Danny Morey, 15, paints a bird house for Christmas at Greenacre Homes and School in Sebastopol. Greenacre Homes provides residential care and education of developmentally disabled boys.



KENT PORTER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Jamie Olivera, 1, gets her face painted on Feb. 25 during the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation's Vineyard Employee of the Year awards at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa.



ERIK CASTRO / FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2021

Credo High School senior Maija Lindstedt, 18, prunes trees on Red Tail Trail during Happy Trails, a volunteer event that provides maintenance at Taylor Mountain Regional Park in Santa Rosa.

and colleges through research, training, and the dissemination of educational materials. 707-568-3800, cars-rp.org

**62 Petaluma People Services Center:** Petaluma, \$5.2 million. This is a human services agency with a broad scope of services, including counseling, job placement, gang prevention, daily hot meals, rides to the doctor, case management and financial assistance for homeless prevention. 707-765-8488, petaluma-people.org

TURN TO NONPROFITS » PAGE N45



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to End Hunger in Our Community.

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Visit our website  
[refb.org](https://refb.org)

Thank you, Sonoma Clean Power, for helping us End Hunger in Our Community.



# NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N44

**63 Pathways Charter School:** Rohnert Park, \$5 million. Pathways Charter School supports individualized home-based independent study for students in grades K-12 in five North Bay counties. 707-585-6510, [pathwayscharter.org](https://pathwayscharter.org)

**64 Ceres Community Project:** Sebastopol, \$4.9 million. At Ceres Community Project, teens volunteer as gardeners and chefs preparing nutritious meals for families facing a life-threatening illness. 707-829-5833, [ceresproject.org](https://ceresproject.org)

**65 LandPaths:** Santa Rosa, \$4.9 million. Landpaths is an environmental conservation organization with educational programs. 707-544-7284, [LandPaths.Org](https://LandPaths.Org)

**66 Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley:** Sonoma, \$4.8 million. This nonprofit's mission is to provide positive opportunities for youth to learn and succeed. 707-938-8603, [bgcsonoma.org](https://bgcsonoma.org)

**67 Interfaith Shelter Network:** Santa Rosa, \$4.7 million. The Interfaith Shelter Network offers housing and other services for homeless men, women and children in Sonoma County. 707-546-7907, [ifsn.org](https://ifsn.org)

**68 Pediatric Dental Initiative of the North Coast Inc.:** Windsor, \$4.4 million. A sustainable dentistry resource serving low-income children of Northern California who need safe sedation for dental treatment, Pediatric Dental Initiative of the North Coast also provides oral health and prevention education. 707-837-8833, [pdisurgerycenter.org](https://pdisurgerycenter.org)

**69 Burbank Housing Management Corp.:** Santa Rosa, \$4.3 million. This non-profit provides management services, compliance and community service activities for affordable housing properties in Sonoma County. 707-526-9782, [burbankhousing.org](https://burbankhousing.org)

**70 Spring Hill Montessori:** Petaluma, \$4.2 million. Spring Hill Montessori is a nonprofit local charter School. 707-763-9222, [springhillmontessori.org](https://springhillmontessori.org)



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Ceres Community Project “delivery angel” Elise Curtis, 16, delivers meals, flowers and a handwritten note to a client in Santa Rosa. Curtis, with the help of her mom, serving as driver, has been delivering meals to those in need for 3 years.

**71 Institute of Noetic Sciences:** Petaluma, \$4.2 million. This is a research institute studying the mind and consciousness. 707-775-3500, [noetic.org](https://noetic.org)

**72 Frank Doyle Trust:** Santa Rosa, \$4.2 million. This trust provides scholarships for Santa Rosa Junior College students and funding for the upkeep of Doyle Park. 707-524-3117.

**73 Early Learning Institute:** Rohnert Park, \$4.1 million. The Early Learning Institute serves young children with special needs and their families. 707-591-0170, [earlylearninginstitute.com](https://earlylearninginstitute.com)

**74 Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation:** Sonoma, \$4 million. The Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation cultivates community support and raises

funds for Sonoma Valley Hospital. 707-935-5070, [svhfoundation.com](https://svhfoundation.com)

**75 Santa Rosa Symphony:** Santa Rosa, \$3.9 million. The North Bay's premier orchestra, and resident orchestra of the Green Music Center, the Santa Rosa Symphony provides high-quality musical performances including classical, pops and choral works and music education for schools and youth orchestras. 707-546-7097, [santarosasympphony.com](https://santarosasympphony.com)

**76 Northern California Volleyball Association:** Santa Rosa, \$3.8 million. This club has a mission to develop the game of volleyball on an amateur basis among youths and adults of the Northern California and Northern



BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Lesly Caballero Garcia, the senior bilingual education field specialist at LandPaths, pauses at Bayer Farm in Santa Rosa.

TURN TO NONPROFITS » PAGE N51

# Supporting our communities

SCP is proud to partner with Redwood Empire Food Bank to fight local food insecurity.

Join us in helping our neighbors in need.

Visit [refb.org](https://refb.org) for ways to give.



## Sonoma Clean Power

[sonomacleanpower.org](https://sonomacleanpower.org)





# SAY is here for Sonoma County youth when they need us most.



## How Does SAY Help?

### Emergency & Housing Support

SAY offers a range of safe housing and emergency services.

- Teen shelter and young adult shelter
- Youth Crisis Hotline
- Support for trafficking survivors
- Housing for pregnant or parenting youth

### Counseling

We provide mental health services to youth and families.

- Individual and Family therapy
- School-Based Mental Health Services
- Grief support

### Work Experience

We prepare youth for the future.

- Job readiness training
- Career workshops
- 1:1 Support
- Financial literacy education



**SAY**  
Social Advocates for Youth



NEED HELP RIGHT NOW? **CALL 24/7 1-888-729-0012**

### SAY’s Big Event is Back!

April 29, 2023  
Wine Reception  
Dinner  
Auction  
Tickets \$250

Interested in attending? Contact Sonia Byck-Barwick at 707-867-4763



SAY is pleased to announce the return of our spring fundraiser. Join us for an evening of resilience, courage, and hope as we honor the many facets of our youth and the services SAY provides to ensure their futures are bright.

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Love has always been at the heart of Clover Sonoma and we’ve always believed in giving back. In fact, we’re committed to donating at least 5% of our annual profits to support what’s dear to us - elevating dairy, empowering future generations and supporting our community. Below are just a few of the organizations we are proud to support.

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# Thank you, Son 35 Years

Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, with your generous support, **COTS served a total of 1,012 people across all our programs**, including:



Help us Celebrate 35 Years of COTS with  
**Hops for Homes!**



**Our biggest fundraiser of the year!**





# Sonoma County, for of COTS!

35 years ago, Laure Reichel and Mary Isaak founded COTS as a grassroots battle against homelessness. Since then, our organization has grown to include a variety of housing, shelter, and service solutions to help us meet clients where they're at with dignity, care, and inclusivity.

Now with innovative projects underway like People's Village and Studios at Montero, COTS is able to serve even more of those most vulnerable in our community, changing the way we address homelessness in Sonoma County.

We hope you'll join us in our mission to assist those experiencing homelessness in finding and keeping housing, increasing self-sufficiency, and improving well-being, as well as our vision of a community where everyone has a place to call home.

Find out more at [cots.org](https://cots.org)

“There is no doubt in my mind that I would still be living underneath a freeway overpass if it were not for Petaluma Sober Circle, Randy, Robin, Christina, Billy, and everyone else at MIC.

—Former Mary Isaak Center resident JM, now stably housed

*Bring on the beer, food and fun!*

A benefit supporting COTS' initiatives to help families and individuals find and keeping housing.

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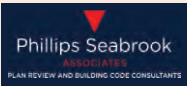
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WHAT NONPROFIT SECTORS ARE RESIDENTS DONATING TO?



**\$297.8 MILLION**  
Amount donated to health care, including Santa Rosa Community Health Centers, Petaluma Health Center and others. It is nearly a quarter of the revenue raised by the county's top 100 nonprofits and benefits hundreds of thousands of residents.



**\$233.4 MILLION**  
Investments in Sonoma County's children, including donations to nonprofit private schools, daycares and Boys and Girls Clubs — but excluding high schools and post-secondary foundations — account for nearly 20% of the revenue among the county's top 100 nonprofits.



**\$11.9 MILLION**  
Despite representing 21% of Sonoma County's population, people older than 55 are the target group for just two of the county's nonprofits — PEP Housing and the Council on Aging.



**\$149.1 MILLION**  
Bolstered by increased government investment at the state and local level, including the voter-approved Measure O sales tax, mental health and homelessness is a major recipient of nonprofit funding in the county. Catholic Charities' \$39.5 million in revenue in 2021 led all nonprofits that focused on people struggling with mental health, substance abuse and homelessness.

**\$101.6 MILLION**  
Led by United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay (\$22 million) and Becoming Independent (\$18.5 million), nonprofits focused on helping residents with disabilities raised more than \$100 million, making the sector one of the best performing in the county.



**\$62.4 MILLION**  
Among the top 100 nonprofits, six center their work on the environment, climate and conservation. And the top two revenue generators among them are based in Petaluma — the Bay Area Environmental Research Institute and Point Blue Conservation Science.

# A deeper dive into nonprofit rankings, figures



By **TYLER SILVY**  
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Sonoma County is home to more than 3,896 registered nonprofit agencies and not-for-profit organizations and raised \$1.2 billion according to their most recent filing years. Through publicly available financial

data, we took a look at how these nonprofit agencies stack up, and are sharing this data with you. The following data was obtained through research using ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer and Guidestar, as well as publicly available information on the California Secretary of State website.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Although many of Sonoma County's largest nonprofits provide services countywide — or even beyond — charting the locations of the county's top charitable organizations can help put the region's giving into greater perspective. Take a look at where Sonoma County's top nonprofits are located, and how that compares to the location's population ranking in the county. As of July 2021, Sonoma County's population is at 485,887, according to the U.S. Census.

<div><b>SANTA ROSA</b></div> <div>176,938 Population</div> <div>52 Nonprofits registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> 9 of the top 10 local nonprofits call Santa Rosa home. The only outlier is the Petaluma Health Center.</div>	<div><b>UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF SONOMA COUNTY</b></div> <div>11,863 Population of the unincorporated towns of Guerneville, Forestville, Penngrove and Eldridge.</div> <div>3 Nonprofits call Guerneville home. Number 17 on the top 100 list is West County Health Centers, which brought in \$20.5 million in 2020.</div> <div>3 Nonprofits call Forestville, Penngrove and Eldridge home.</div> <div><b>\$45 MILLION</b> The total revenue made by the Guerneville, Forestville, Penngrove and Eldridge nonprofits.</div> <div><b>FOOD FOR THOUGHT</b></div> <div>Forestville serves as headquarters for one nonprofit Food for Thought. The organization provides nutrition and other services for people affected by HIV/AIDS.</div> <div><div>ERIK CASTRO / FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2021</div><b>Garden Manager Sorrel Allen checks on the compost in the worm bin at the Food For Thought garden in Forestville.</b></div> <div><b>PAWS FOR PURPLE HEARTS</b></div> <div>Penngrove's lone nonprofit is Paws for Purple Hearts, an organization that trains service dogs for military service members and those with PTSD, mobility issues and traumatic brain injuries.</div> <div><b>SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER</b></div> <div>Eldridge is home to the Sonoma Ecology Center, which raised \$3.1 million in 2021 to enhance and sustain ecological health in Sonoma Valley.</div> <div><div>ALVIN A.H. JORNADA / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2020</div><b>Volunteers help Sonoma Ecology Center restoration program manager Mark Newhouser, left, with a stack of straw wattles.</b></div>	<div><b>PETALUMA</b></div> <div>59,403 Population</div> <div>16 Nonprofits registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Among Petaluma's 16 nonprofits are organizations that focus on health, disability services, climate and conservation. But there's just one education-centered nonprofit: Live Oak Charter School, which raised \$3 million and calls the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds home. The Petaluma Educational Foundation, which raises money for schools across the county's second-largest city, ranked 175th, with \$883,641 in revenue.</div> <div><b>WINDSOR</b></div> <div>26,039 Population</div> <div>1 Nonprofit registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> The lone Windsor-based nonprofit among Sonoma County's top 100 is the Pediatric Dental Initiative of the North Coast, Inc. With \$4.4 million in revenue in 2021, this organization serves children from low-income families and also provides educational programming.</div> <div><b>SONOMA</b></div> <div>10,644 Population</div> <div>7 Nonprofits registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Sonoma's top nonprofit is the Sonoma Valley Community Health Center, which raised \$12.7 million in 2020 to provide health care for underserved populations in Sonoma Valley.</div> <div><b>COTATI</b></div> <div>7,498 Population</div> <div>1 Nonprofit registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Cotati's lone nonprofit is the Animal Legal Defense Fund, which aims to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system.</div>
<div><b>ROHNERT PARK</b></div> <div>44,411 Population</div> <div>7 Nonprofits registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Coming in at No. 20, Rohnert Park's highest earning nonprofit is North Bay Rehabilitation Services.</div>		
<div><b>HEALDSBURG</b></div> <div>11,275 Population</div> <div>2 Nonprofits registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> The 19th ranked Alliance Medical Center is one of Healdsburg's two nonprofits. The organization raised \$17.8 million in 2021 to provide medical and dental services to low-income residents in Healdsburg and Windsor.</div>		
<div><b>CLOVERDALE</b></div> <div>8,954 Population</div> <div>1 Nonprofit registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Alexander Valley Healthcare, a primary medical care provider, is Cloverdale's lone nonprofit.</div>		
<div><b>SEBASTOPOL</b></div> <div>7,448 Population</div> <div>7 Nonprofits registered here</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Sebastopol's nonprofits run the gamut from organizations concerned with immigrants and refugees, to a housing development and new-age religion. The eclectic mix fits well with this unique west county town.</div>		



Tony Paine, from left, “Sister Yanita Letgo,” of the Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and Dan Samson at Our Long Table. The gala at Vine Hill House in Sebastopol was a benefit for Food For Thought.

DARRYL BUSH  
FOR THE PRESS  
DEMOCRAT, 2022



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

A hockey helmet worn by Charles Schulz with his nickname “Sparky” written inside at the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa.



KENT PORTER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

At a Los Cien meeting on Feb. 17, Ernesto Oliveras asks questions to Santa Rosa Police Chief John Cregan, Sonoma County Sheriff Eddie Ingram and Sonoma County District Attorney Carla Rodriguez at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa.



KENT PORTER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2022

Mo Torres installs siding while working on a Burbank Housing project for seniors in Santa Rosa.

## NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N45

Nevada areas. 415-550-7582, ncva.com

**77Community Support Network:** Santa Rosa, \$3.8 million. The Community Support Network provides support, housing and dignity to individuals with mental health challenges. 707-575-0979, communitysupportnet.org

**78Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center:** Santa Rosa, \$3.7 million. This nonprofit museum preserves, displays and interprets the art of Charles M. Schulz. Offers tours, classes, camps and workshops. 707-579-4452, schulzmuseum.org

**79Presentation School:** Sonoma, \$3.7 million. Presentation School is a private primary school. 707-935-0122, presentationschool.com

**80Luther Burbank Center for the Arts:** Santa Rosa, \$3.6

million. The North Bay’s premier arts center, the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts hosts performances in music, dance, theater, comedy and spoken word, plus education-through-the-arts programs for children and adults, as well as facility rentals for community events. 707-527-7006, lutherburbankcenter.org

**81Food For Thought:** Forestville, \$3.6 million. Food for Thought provides food, nutrition and other services to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

707-877-1647, ftfdbank.org

**82Healdsburg School:** Healdsburg, \$3.5 million. Healdsburg School is a nonprofit private school. 707-433-4847, thehealdsburgschool.org

**83Legal Aid of Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$3.4 million. This organization has a mission to promote social justice and advance basic human rights for vulnerable people in our community. 707-542-6664, legalaidsc.org

**84Carpenters Housing Corp.:** Santa Rosa, \$3.3 million.


Carpenters Housing Corp. provides public housing for low-income families and people with various disabilities. 707-546-1797.


**85Burbank Housing Communities Corporation:** Santa Rosa, \$3.3 million. This nonprofit owns and operates affordable rental housing. 707-526-9782.


**86Sebastopol Independent Charter School, Inc.:** Sebastopol, \$3.3 million.


TURN TO NONPROFITS » PAGE N52

## HANNA CENTER IS CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO HEAL AND GROW.

- 

The new Community Mental Health Hub provides treatment and support services for people of all ages in Sonoma.
- 

Hanna Center’s High School is evolving into a Nonpublic school in the fall of 2023, building on 75 years of transformative care for students with unique educational needs, including Career Tech Education and Vocational Training.
- 

Our Residential Program is expanding to include Transitional Housing for foster youth aging out of care.
- 

Hanna Institute equips and empowers individuals and organizations with the trauma-informed tools they need to help people in their community.

HANNACENTER.ORG





ALVIN A.H. JORNADA / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2020

Ecologist and biologist Dan Levitis of Sonoma Ecology Center briefs participants before they embark on a fire ecology forensics hike at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Kenwood.



ROBBI PENGELLY / SONOMA INDEX-TRIBUNE, 2020

Kory Stradinger, right, executive director of Sweetwater Spectrum, and Chris Hoover, facilities manager, observe the chickens that supply eggs to the residents of the housing facility in Sonoma.



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2016

Sookbin Choi, 67, works out in the Stay Fit Forever exercise class at the YMCA in Santa Rosa.



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2017

Olwyne Nesbitt pumps her fist while riding a recumbent exercise bike at the YMCA in Santa Rosa.

# NONPROFITS

CONTINUED FROM N51

Sebastopol Independent Charter School is a K-8 public charter school that teaches the Waldorf education system. 707-824-9700, [sebastopolcharter.org](http://sebastopolcharter.org)

**87Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$3.2 million. Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based organization that builds modest, affordable homes in partnership with local communities and families in need. 707-578-7707, [habitatso.org](http://habitatso.org)

**88YWCA of Sonoma County:** Santa Rosa, \$3.2 million. The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. 707-546-9922, [ywcasc.org](http://ywcasc.org)

**89Sonoma Ecology Center:** Eldridge, \$3.1 million. The Sonoma Ecology Center works with the community to enhance and sustain ecological health in Sonoma Valley. 707-996-0712, [sonomaecology-center.org](http://sonomaecology-center.org)

**90Robert & Shirley Harris Family Foundation:** Santa Rosa, \$3.1 million. This family foundation makes grants to charitable organizations. 707-545-6110.

**91Chinese Christian Mission:** Petaluma, \$3.1 million. This organization conducts evangelism among the Chinese community locally and through foreign missions. 707-762-1314, [ccmusa.org](http://ccmusa.org)

**92CS Fund:** Petaluma, \$3 million. This fund is dedi-



ROBBI PENGELLY / SONOMA INDEX-TRIBUNE, 2022

La Luz Center helped set up in-person voting in Boyes Hot Springs on Election Day.

cated to protecting human and environmental health, preserving biodiversity, preventing the commodification of life, and defending democracy. 707-874-2942, [csfund.org](http://csfund.org)

**93Woodland Star Charter School:** Sonoma, \$3 million. The Woodland Star Charter School is a primary charter school. 707-996-3849, [woodlandstarschool.org](http://woodlandstarschool.org)

**94Sweetwater Spectrum:** Sonoma, \$3 million. Sweetwater Spectrum is a continuing care facility for adults

with autism. 707-996-3104, [sweetwaterspectrum.org](http://sweetwaterspectrum.org)

**95La Luz Center:** Sonoma, \$3 million. This group gives assistance to recent immigrants in the Sonoma Valley. 707-938-5131, [laluzcenter.org](http://laluzcenter.org)

**96Live Oak Charter School:** Petaluma, \$3 million. Live Oak Charter School is a K-8 charter school. 707-762-9020, [liveoakcharter.org](http://liveoakcharter.org)

**97River To Coast Children's Services:** Guerneville, \$2.8 million. This nonprofit provides resources, referrals and

support to families and child care providers in western Sonoma County. 707-869-3613, [rccservices.org](http://rccservices.org)

**98Extended Child Care:** Santa Rosa, \$2.7 million. Extended Child Care provides before- and after-school programs at 10 sites for the Mark West, Wright and Windsor school districts. 707-545-2402, [extcc.org](http://extcc.org)

**99Odd Fellows Cemetery Association of Santa Rosa Inc.:** Santa Rosa, \$2.6 million. This nonprofit offers cemetery

and burial services. 707-542-1586.

**100United Way of the Wine Country:** Santa Rosa, \$2.5 million. This nonprofit serves local populations, as well as those in Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt and Del Norte counties, by mobilizing the caring power of our community through leadership, community engagement and investment including education, financial stability and health initiatives. 707-528-4485, [unitedwaywinecountry.org](http://unitedwaywinecountry.org)



# SPEAK UP FOR CHILDREN





## BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER!

### Quarterly Trainings! Sign up today!

**[sonomacasa.org](https://sonomacasa.org)**  
**707-565-6375**

The CASA Program is committed to recruiting, training and supervising volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom, classroom, and community.

Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership  
Presents



### The 3rd Annual Heart of Sonoma County Awards

To recognize, honor, and celebrate Sonoma County's nonprofit volunteers, leaders, and organizations.

**8 Award Categories. \$35,000 in Awards!**

- Corporate Community Service
- Volunteer of the Year
- Excellence in Board Leadership
- Excellence in Innovation

- Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Excellence in Leadership
- Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence
- Lifetime Achievement



Nominate here!

**Nominate online by April 7, 2023 by 5:00 PM**



## Plant Sale

**Saturday & Sunday, April 22 & 23**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**6550 Railroad Ave. Forestville, CA 95436**

Celebrate Earth Day weekend and get ready to plant your 2023 garden at Food For Thought's very own plant sale!

All proceeds benefit Food For Thought, providing food + love to thousands of Sonoma County residents living with serious medical conditions.

**Buy organic veggie starts, herbs, native plants, & flowers!**

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



[FFTfoodbank.org/plant-sale](https://FFTfoodbank.org/plant-sale)







YOU CAN HELP  
REBUILD OUR  
SCHOOL



RebuildAnova.org

# Sonoma County Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink orchid flowers with green leaves in the background.

## ORCHIDS FOR EVERYONE

### April 1 - 2, 2023

Sat 10 - 5 & Sun 10 - 4

Free Orchid Care Classes  
Door Prizes & Raffle  
Free Parking • Admission \$10  
\$1 Off Single Admission with Ad

[sonomaorchids.com](http://sonomaorchids.com)  
Veteran's Building: 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa

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# THANK YOU

## *The Salvation Army of Santa Rosa/Sonoma County*

wants to thank the organizations and businesses that supported us last year, especially during the holidays of 2022. We are so appreciative of the In-Kind donations of food, monetary donations and for allowing our Bell Ringers to stand outside of their stores during the Christmas Season.

We are extremely grateful for the support of Guy Fieri and family, and The Guy Fieri Foundation, The Safeway Stores throughout Sonoma County, The Raleys stores, The CVS Stores, Oliver’s Markets, Coddington Mall, Montgomery Village, Lucky’s, The Walmart Stores in Sonoma County, Costco, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Macy’s Downtown for our Back-To-School Event, Manly Automotive Group, The Hansel Auto Group, The Santa Rosa Rotary Club, The Oakmont Rotary Club, The Sunrise Rotary Club Of Santa Rosa, The Rotary Club of Windsor, The Exchange Club, The Kiwanis Club of Santa Rosa, The Windsor Kiwanis Club, Cruisin North Car Club, The Local Coast Guard, and the many Private Donors and Volunteers who support The Salvation Army Of Santa Rosa/Sonoma County with their time and financial gifts.

We also want to thank our dedicated Advisory Board that walk beside us, giving of their time, talents, and financial support.



Due to this amazing support, The Salvation Army of Santa Rosa/Sonoma County will bring hope, support and healing to many people throughout Sonoma County in this New Year. We will be able to feed thousands of families and individuals who are in need. We will be able to provide afterschool programs with tutoring and mentoring for local children and teens, as well as our anti-gang/anti-violence programs through The Salvation Army Double-Punches Boxing Program. We will be able to provide rent and utility assistance for families and individuals in need, emergency help for those impacted by disasters in our community, clean living houses through our Transitional Living Program for those in recovery from addictions, as well as programs for senior citizens at our Senior Activity Center.

Thank you to the Santa Rosa and Sonoma County residents, businesses and organizations who supported The Salvation Army in 2022.

*You will make 2023 a better year for those in need here in our community.*



# FIND WHAT MATTERS MOST. FIND YOUR REASON TO GIVE.

Safe spaces for kids to learn and grow. Minimizing isolation and stress for adults, families and seniors. Teaching kids lifesaving water skills. These are just a few of the many reasons the Y needs your help more than ever.



**DONATE TODAY.  
@ SCFYMCA.ORG**

**Sonoma County Family YMCA • [scfymca.org](https://scfymca.org)**  
1111 College Ave. SR • 545-9622

The Y is an inclusive, charitable organization that enriches community through the areas of Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.