

A time of giving in San Benito County

Community Foundation announces allocations to area nonprofits

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HOLLISTER

In a time when most nonprofits receive fewer private donations, the county's nonprofits need as much help as they can get and last month got just that. The Community Foundation for San Benito County passed out its 2010 grants last month to 35 different organizations, totaling \$431,743.

Some of the recipients included the Hollister Youth Alliance, the San Benito County Arts Council and the Aromas-San Juan Unified Schools. Several grants were awarded to business groups during the tough economy as well.

This year, the Community Foundation changed some of its grant qualifications because of the dire need at some of the nonprofits. Before the grants were given to organizations that would implement the money into projects that benefited the county but this year the Community Foundation gave grants to organizations that needed to pay for bills and payroll.

The foundation usually doesn't allow grants to be spent on personnel because when the grants stop the person could lose their job, but this year they gave a little leeway, said Gary Byrne, Community Foundation executive director.

"This year some are struggling to keep the lights on," he said.

The Community Food

"It's very important if I get the funding - if I didn't, I would have to reduce something and we are already on a shoestring budget."

Bank was one of the organizations that was struggling.

Previously, the Community Food Bank has used donations to pay for its operational cost but this year they have gone down too much to pay for the organization's basic cost, said Mary Ann Hughes, Community Food Bank executive director.

"Honestly, without the foundation we wouldn't have been able to keep the lights on," she said. "We were in serious trouble."

The food pantry received a total of \$40,000 from the Community Foundation, \$10,000 of which came directly from the county. The donation is slightly larger than last year.

"Especially in the scary economy their help has been priceless," Hughes said. "Without them we wouldn't literally have kept the lights on."

The donation was the largest single grant that was

given out.

Jovenes de Antano received \$30,000 from the foundation to help with the meals on wheels program and the senior support services.

The grant was a necessary step in keeping the service running, said Executive Director Pauline Valdivia.

"Hopefully, it will continue to be there for us," she said. "And that's how we succeed, with all the support from the community."

The grant money is a necessary part of the food services' funding, Valdivia said. The grant is part of a cash match system that allows the organization to gather government money - without it the organization couldn't produce meals.

"It's very important if I get the funding - if I didn't I would have to reduce something and we are already on a shoestring budget," she said.

Other extensive donations include six grants that totaled \$33,000 to the San Benito County Arts Council. Some of the money will go to the student film festival and the summer concert series.

The Economic Development Corporation received two grants that totaled \$45,000 that will help start the Wine Country Council and the Tech Center.

The grants are given out after a yearly six-month

process of applications and interviews, Byrne said. In late December each year the Community Foundation asks for a two-page letter that outline how much money is needed and what it will be spent on.

This year, it received 60 applications totaling \$1.4 million. The applicants are split into six different committees, representing the type of organization they are. The committees include community enhancement, agriculture & environment, education & youth, economic development, Health & Social Services and Arts & Culture.

Through March and April the committees, with are comprise of 6 to 10 people, will shrink down the applicants and award the grants to organizations in June, Byrne said.

Funding comes from four sources. The county donates stipulated money that can only be given to organizations that fund social services. This year the county donated a little more than \$70,000. Other donations include volunteer donated money, and Packard Foundation grants.

Funding from the United Way of the Silicon Valley, which totaled \$30,000, was saved to help establish the county's own United Way, Byrne said.

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The Recipients

The following will receive funds:

\$5,000: Friends of SBC Library on-line library card software and check out machines challenge match funding

\$12,500: YMCA Youth Development Support

\$12,500: SoCal CAL-Soap Provide Additional tutoring &/or advising

\$11,350: Go Kids Preschool Expulsion Prevention Program

\$15,000: CASA Continuation of capacity building

\$10,625: Hollister Youth Alliance continuation of Summer Enrichment Program & JobZone

\$2,750: Chamberlain's continuing education staff training

\$10,000: Hollister Youth Alliance high-risk neighborhood center

\$2,500: Chamberlain's special ed equipment challenge match funding

\$6,000: HDA for creation of a Strategic Brand; match funding

\$3,000: Chamber of Commerce to establish an SBC visitor's center

\$4,000: Chamber of Commerce Initiate Economic Gardening program

\$35,000: EDC startup Clean Energy Tech Center installments contingent on milestone achievements

\$10,000: EDC startup Wine Country Council; match funding for SBC overlay

\$7,088: Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program

\$10,000: Health Projects Center Support DelMar Caregiver Resource Center

\$20,000: Hazel Hawkins Chronic disease mgmt. Program

\$6,720: Community Solutions funds to provide bi-lingual case manager

\$4,000: Fit For Kids educate kids to make healthy choices

\$3,000: Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Stork's Nest Program

\$5,000: Homeless Coalition Van and salaried year round E.D.

\$20,000: Senior's Council AAA "required" government match funding for AAA programs

\$15,000: Emmaus House hire community liaison & volunteer coordinator

\$3,600: Senior Citizen's Legal Services legal support services for poor, disadvantaged or disabled seniors

\$4,000: Suicide Prevention prevention educations and crisis line

\$30,000: Jovenes de Antano Meals on wheels and senior support services

\$10,000: SBC Farm Bureau strengthen and promote ag in the classroom

\$1,000: Hollister Animal Shelter Volunteers emergency animal treatment

\$10,000: Pet Friends spay and neuter program

\$2,610: Nan Pipestem Wildlife Center educational materials

\$15,000: Resource Conservation District restoration permit coordination program

\$10,000: SBC Heritage Foundation develop capital improvements master plan for Bolado Park; challenge match

\$15,000: Fishes & Loaves feed the hungry & needy

\$6,500: Historical Society furnace and supplies

\$40,000: Community Food Bank operating funds

\$20,000: Aromas-San Juan Unified Schools finish athletic fields require "healthy" snack shack

\$18,500: SBC Arts Council Arts in the Schools

\$6,000: SBC Arts Council regular non-profit regranteeing

\$4,500: SBC Arts Council regranteeing to schools for art

\$2,000: SBC Arts Council leverage State matching \$\$\$

\$1,000: SBC Arts Council Student film festival

\$1,000: SBC Arts Council summer concert series

All organizations have until the end of the year to spend the grants awarded.