

# Community Foundation

for San Benito County



Fall 2008

## Mission

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is dedicated to building a stronger community and enhancing the quality of life in San Benito County through the support of philanthropic activities.

## Funds

**General Endowment Funds** focus on general areas of interest in the community.

**Community Funds** serve specific needs within the community.

**Family Funds** continue to keep a family name recognized within the community forever.

**School Funds** augment programs that would have been eliminated due to loss of state funding and develop new programs that will allow schools to meet higher standards of excellence.

**Temporary Funds** are for special community projects and the Community Foundation acts as the fiscal agent.

## Dog Park Needed in Hollister; Interaction Builds Community

A burst of energy and a scramble of paws, claws digging hard into the ground, tongue flapping. A dog runs not just to chase the ball his owner has thrown, but for the sheer joy of running, and the Hollister Dog Owners Group (HDOG) is working towards the development of an official dog park to accommodate “man’s best friend” and his need to run!

Dog parks are special areas set aside for dogs to be off-leash. They swiftly turn into gathering places for dogs and owners, where dogs can romp and play while owners sit and chat. Dog parks bring people together. The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers. These interactions help neighbors get to know each other and build a sense of community.

Frank Klauer Park includes a creek overflow area that is currently utilized by dozens of people as an unofficial dog park. There is no shade, no water, no separated small and large dog areas, no secure double gated entry, and no rules. And, as most dog owners know, during those nice sunny days the park is unbearable!

An official dog park would be a much more safe, secure, and comfortable setting for everyone. The park would include a separate area for small and older, less-active dogs, benches, water fountains for both dogs and humans, waste bag dispensers, trash receptacles, an inner perimeter walking path, and a secure, double gated entry area. A bulletin board at the entrance would include announcements, rules, and other dog related communications.

## Inside

This newsletter features three new organizations in our community, and a fourth organization that has managed to grow their services even in these economically difficult times. The Community Foundation hopes you will support these groups with your time and your donations.



*A poorly maintained section of Frank Klauer Park (creek overflow) is currently the only area dog owners in Hollister are allowed to let their dogs run off-leash.*

*National  
Philanthropy Day  
November 14th*

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*Dark Horse Battalion were pumped to play on top of the Parking Garage; they had just won second place at the Gilroy Garlic Festival Battle of the Bands.*

## Local Musicians Take Flight Top of Hollister Parking Garage a Friendly Venue

San Benito County is home to more than 7,500 people between 15 and 24 years of age. With few choices for entertainment after school and during weekends, a teenager's preferred entertainment on a Friday night is "ice blocking" at Ridgemark or "virtual Frisbee golf" in the Target parking lot.

Among these young people are talented musicians who are members of the San Benito High School Rock Guitar Club. These are good kids, sons of City Employees, Doctors, and Landscape Architects, but the music they choose to play is often associated with troublemakers, making it difficult to find a friendly venue to play.

Last spring, the San Benito County Arts Council became aware of the need for positive opportunities, like a concert series, in order for these bands to elevate their potential success and self esteem through successful performances.

With the help of the Rock Guitar Club Advisor, Tom Rooth, the Rooftop Concert Series grew from concept to reality. Five bands performed for their friends and families during three Friday night concerts this past summer. Tristan Kane, the lead singer of Beeftone said, "I enjoyed the freedom of being able to just go up there and play, and letting anyone who wanted to listen come up for free."



*Yosh Astudillo (far right) leads members of the Rock Guitar Club through a variety of business scenarios during a workshop designed to introduce musicians to the real world of the recording industry.*

But before the bands were able to participate, they were required to attend a workshop conducted by Yosh Astudillo, a 1998 graduate of San Benito High School and now a Vice President of Deviant Records. The students connected with Yosh as he spoke their language, and before the workshop was over, they had established their own record label and learned the importance of building a fan base. They strategized timelines for recording and releasing CDs, and took on roles to promote their new label by working together to make a successful entry into a competitive industry. "Now that you guys are organized, you're the competition," Yosh told them. "It's up to you to make it happen."

The rooftop concerts also provided an opportunity for visual artists to create a poster and attend their own workshop conducted by local artist Shannon Grissom.

The Arts Council is pleased with the positive results of this project. Tom Rooth agrees and said, "[The students] learned more about performing and about the steps they need to consider taking to become professional musicians. This experience got them to truly start thinking ahead." 🎸

[sanbenitoarts.org](http://sanbenitoarts.org)  
831.636.2787

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All HDOG needs to get started is the perfect dog park site, land donated in exchange for the dedication of the park. Sponsors (businesses and individuals) will be needed to pay for water fountains, bag dispensers, and trash receptacles, and a local landscaper will be needed to assist with park maintenance in exchange for free publicity in newsletters and on the internet. The group also has plans to install benches and trees with plaques that will be sponsored in memory of a beloved pet.

In addition to being the catalyst for Hollister's first dog park, HDOG is working towards the establishment of a cohesive dog owners group, consisting of people who are willing to spend time and donate money towards the establishment of the park. This group will be responsible for educational efforts towards dog owners using the area, and will help with operations and maintenance once the park is established. The group will maintain ongoing com-



*A few of the members of HDOG "paws" for a photo while walking their dogs in the temporary park.*

munications with the Parks and Recreation Department personnel, and will act as a liaison to area park users.

HDOG will also advocate responsible dog ownership as they believe that the two work hand-in-hand—dog owners allied with other dog owners promoting responsible pet ownership! HDOG eagerly looks forward to the day when they are all together at the park, watching their lovable four-legged friends frolic in the splendor of their accomplishments! 🐾

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

# Youth Serving Agency Grows, Making a Difference for Individuals, Families, and Neighborhoods

The Hollister Youth Alliance (HYA) is a nonprofit, public benefit organization committed to reaching out to local youth and families in San Benito County. Founded in 1994, HYA's mission is to assist young people in developing skills so that they can contribute to the social and economic betterment of their community. Their efforts concentrate on developing youth opportunities and family support interventions that foster a healthy, safe, and educated community for all. These comprehensive services are provided in strategic and innovative ways through collaboration and advocacy.

## HYA Creates New Outreach Programs


During the last few years, HYA has grown from a small, grassroots, mostly volunteer organization, to one of the largest youth serving agencies in the County. The Youth Alliance has had to work harder and smarter because, like many other social services, it has consistently been asked to do more with less funding. Due to this increasing need for community services, HYA is often a bridge between groups to create meaningful outreach programs.

Club CASA is a popular school-based after school program, but the Youth Alliance also works with Probation, Community Services and

Workforce Development, Gavilan Community College, City of Hollister Recreation Division, Leadership San Benito County, and many other organizations in order to meet this need. Collaborative goals incorporate inclusive outreach and best practice models to make a difference for the individual, family, and neighborhood.

Currently, HYA serves over 400 children and teens each day with positive prevention programs, counseling and case management services. Additional community-wide educational outreach and professional development opportunities for adults is available as well. All programs are free and open to anyone residing in San Benito County.

As HYA continues to reach out and make a difference, it gratefully acknowledges the support and partnerships of volunteers and donors in keeping HYA programs available to the community.

Although there is much more work yet to be done, the Hollister Youth Alliance considers it an honor to provide these services for local youth and families. To find out more about our programs, please contact us at the address listed below. 

**Hollister Youth Alliance**  
310 Fourth Street  
831.636.2853  
[hollisteryouthalliance.org](http://hollisteryouthalliance.org)



*Children receive help in the homework club including enrichment on a variety of subjects.*



*Students and leaders in the Gavilan College Art 4 Change Program create a mural for the entrance of the Calavaras School Library.*

## What are youth saying about the Hollister Youth Alliance?

"I like coming here because no one picks on me," exclaimed an eleven year old girl when asked what she likes about the Drop Zone, a free drop-in program for preteens at the Hollister Community Center.

"CASA is cool because I get my homework done and my Program Leader is really nice," a student wrote about CASA, the school based after school program.

"I like working with the kids and helping out. It's fun," stated a teen worker about why he likes helping out at the Club CASA, the neighborhood based outreach program.

"I never knew there was anything like this in Hollister," another youth said.

## Help Us Update Our Mailing List

The Foundation is pleased to provide information to the community concerning our activities. We want to keep you informed of all the good things that are happening. However, if you are not interested in receiving this newsletter in the future, please let us know. We will regretfully remove you from our database.

*For Good  
For Ever*



## Directors

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**Sandy Rose**

**Bob Tiffany**

**Rebecca Wolf**



**Kathy Johnson**

Kathy has been active in the community with a variety of organizations and now brings much experience and knowledge regarding private and community foundations to our Board.



**Mike Grace**

Mike is a community member who has given much time and effort on local boards and organizations; he has stepped up to assume the role of Treasurer for the Foundation.



**Rebecca Wolf**

Rebecca was born in San Benito County and returns after a ten year absence with a wealth of new, innovative ideas to help with Community Foundation's role in the community.

## Educational Scholarships Honor Loved Ones

In 1999 Jeannine Porteur DiVincenzo, owner of Boutique de Lingerie began hosting the *Evening of Hope* fashion show in memory of her cousin, Juli-An Rowe, who lost her battle with breast cancer at the age of 45. These events were a great success and enabled us to donate funds to the Susan G. Komen and Lerner Lymph Edema Center in support of cancer research.

In 2003, Hope for a Cure established an endowment fund with the Foundation in memory of Juli-An Rowe, Karen Flaherty, who lost her battle with breast cancer at the age of 46, and Rose Anerich who battled breast cancer for 30 years.

This endowment fund, Hope for a Cure Memorial Educational Scholarship Grant Program, is open to students or high school graduates who have lost a grandparent, par-

ent, or guardian due to cancer and holds a residency in San Benito County, wishing to further pursue their education as a full-time student at an educational or vocational institution which offers an opportunity to improve his or her own future.

The Scholarship Fund has awarded 38 scholarships over the past six years to deserving students and the success of this fund has been due to generous donations from the community, businesses, and individuals who share a common goal—assuring that a cure to eradicate cancer is developed soon.

At the loss of your loved one due to all cancers, please consider your donation to provide educational scholarships in their memory. ☂

**Hope for a Cure  
Memorial Educational Scholarship Grant Program  
831.630.1924**



*The most recent recipients of the Hope for a Cure Memorial Educational Scholarship Grant Program pause for a photo.*

## Contact Us

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All inquiries are held in strict confidence.



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