



# Under the Oak

The Newsletter of the Yolo Community Foundation  
*Matching the philanthropic interests of donors with the needs and opportunities  
of the Yolo County community*

**Volume 2, Issue 1**

**October 2007**

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**From Executive Director, Cath Posehn**

What do you prize about Yolo County?

Ask any resident and the answer will vary: our cultural richness and diversity, agricultural heritage, natural beauty, educational and economic opportunities, livable scale, unique neighborhoods...the list goes on.

Reasons for making a charitable donation express these values and are also varied and personal. Yet there is a common inspiration: to give so that our communities become even better places to live.

Whatever your motivation, you will find a

home at the Yolo Community Foundation. Through your generosity, values, and vision, you initiate a giving cycle that creates new possibilities in the lives of others.

We are eager to share with you in this newsletter some of the inspiring things happening at YCF. These successes reflect the collaborative efforts of donors, community leaders and advisors, board members, and nonprofit partners. We welcome your involvement!

**YCF's Yolo Youth Service Awards Program**

Yolo Community Foundation has launched the Yolo Youth Service Awards, an innovative leadership development program.

The awards are designed to recognize the personal commitment to service which leadership requires. Each YYSA award will honor a high school senior who has dedicated substantial vol-

unteer service to a local nonprofit during the last two years of high school.

A financial award of \$2,000 will be divided between the graduating student and the nonprofit served. The student's portion must be used for further education.

This new awards program is in keeping with YCF's

role of fostering a civically engaged community and vibrant nonprofit sector.

Notes YCF Board Chair Maggie Burns, "Young leaders need opportunities to develop their skills and be taken seriously as contributors to the county's well-being. YYSA seeks to validate youth engagement

*(Continued on page 4)*

**November 13 — Philanthropy Day**

Consider the profound impact that philanthropy has on our communities. Its effect is not something that can simply be measured in dollars — it is made evident through programs and services implemented, individuals connected to causes, civic participation fostered, and improved well being for both those who give and those who

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## Casson Scholarship Awarded

In June, YCF's **Timothy Casson Memorial Scholarship Fund** awarded its annual scholarship to Ashley Kraintz. The fund provides \$1,000 to a Winters High School senior who plans to enter a trade or technical school. Ashley is the first in her family to attend college, and she intends to study pharmacy.

Established by Paul and Gail Casson to honor their deceased son, the Timothy Casson Memorial Scholarship Fund is supported primarily through an an-

nual BBQ, known as *Picnic in the Park*, held in Winters. This family event features good food, horseshoes and other games, and a drawing to win beautiful, handmade quilts sewn by Gail. The Fund also accepts direct donations.

About receiving the award Ashley said, "This scholarship will make it possible for me to achieve my goals and also sets an example for my two younger siblings to attend college."

Read about other recent grants awarded through YCF on page 3.

## Save the Date — November 13 is Philanthropy Day *(cont'd from page 1)*

receive. During the month of November, communities across the country will be celebrating the contributions of philanthropy and those active in it.

YCF is proud to host the first ever celebration of **Yolo County Philanthropy Day**, planned for Tuesday, November 13 at the Heidrick Ag History Center. The event is our way of paying tribute to local donors and the impact of philanthropy in our community. YCF has invited local nonprofits to recognize and appreciate their superstars – those who have through their generosity and service enriched the work of our community organizations. Donors do not often have the opportunity to meet one another; this event will be a mixer for all to enjoy.

If you are nonprofit organization professional and would like to attend or to honor someone for their service, contact YCF to learn more.

## Meet our new Board Members!

**Nancy Shapiro** is an acclaimed artist and jewelry designer, as well as a retired organic farmer and seed producer. Before moving to Davis, Shapiro lived for 16 years on the banks of the Rio Grande in Northern New

Mexico, where she and her husband, Howard, were certified organic farmers and orchard keepers. Together they founded Seeds of Change, an organic seed and food company, to demonstrate their commitment to biodiversity, organic sustainable agriculture, and organic seed production.



Cath Posehn

Nancy brings this expertise to our Board, as well as sharing her experience with community outreach, education, and development. She also volunteers with the U.C. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Educational Program, the Arboretum, and the local Audubon Society. She and her husband have a daughter, Sedra, who works at the San Diego Foundation.

**Mike O'Donahue** brings to our Board experience in nonprofit management and organizational development. Currently Executive Director of Heidrick Ag History Center, Mike has worked for the California Rangeland Trust, the Sacramento Tree Foundation, and the Nantucket Historic District Commission. From this background blending preservation and agriculture, Mike is well versed in tax credit and conservation easement programs for both rural and urban land use situations.



Cath Posehn

Mike is a native Californian who grew up in a small Iowa farming community, where his father's family has farmed for four generations. He is also an architecture buff, having both studied architecture and worked in historic preservation, as well as personally renovating a number of historic homes. He is a member of the Woodland Sunrise Rotary Club, a father of three, and grandfather of two.

## Faces of Philanthropy — Meet George W. Hinkle

Each issue, we will use this space to introduce you to people who have supported the mission of YCF with their time, talent, and financial resources.

George Hinkle is a local treasure.

This athletic octogenarian bubbles with delight when he is enthusiastic about something. And he is enthusiastic about many things!

For one, he is an avid practitioner of living a healthy life. It wasn't always so. When George was 48, his doctor asked, "How long do you want to live?" The answer: "I want to outlive my dad." The doctor replied, "Right now my money is on your dad," and he advised George to quit smoking, lose some weight, and exercise.

By the age of 50, running in 10K competitive events became part of George's routine and later, at 57, he ran his first marathon. He has since run three. Today, his routine is to walk or run three days, weight train three days, and bike on Sunday. A cancer survivor, George credits his excellent physical condition with helping him to fight that disease.

George is also a tap dancer. He has performed several times this year —

in May at the Veterans Memorial Theatre and this summer at American Cancer Society's Relay for Life events in Davis, Auburn, and Woodland.

In addition, George takes time to volunteer for Citizens Who Care and for Rebuilding Together, as well as serve on the Davis Senior Citizens Commission.



John Sterling

Did we mention he loves to tell jokes?

A year or so ago, having acquired a sizable amount of money from the sale of property in South San Francisco, George realized that for the first time he had the means to make a substantial financial contribution to others. A retired barber, teacher, and realtor, he had never thought of himself as a philanthropist. A friend suggested he talk to the Yolo Community Foundation.

YCF helped George set up a donor advised fund, which enables donors to participate in grant making. George formulated this guide for his giving: 1) give locally; 2) the more people benefitting, the better; 3) support activities that improve people's lives.

With his donor advised fund, George makes recommendations to YCF for projects that fulfill his criteria. Read the grants list below to see the organizations his fund has supported so far.

George says, "Probably the biggest benefit I see is that YCF makes sure that the organizations are doing what they are supposed to do. But most of all I have the enjoyment of being involved and seeing what my gift can do while I'm still around. It's a nice feeling."

### What will your legacy be?

As we approach the holiday season, please take advantage of the benefits of year-end giving through the Yolo Community Foundation.

As a home grown resource for local philanthropy, we can help you support the causes and organizations that are nearest and dearest to your heart.

Community foundations like YCF make it easy for you to achieve your charitable goals.

We look forward to working with you!

## Caring for our Community — Recent YCF Grants

### Acme Fund

Davis Senior Center's Resource Guide  
Rebuilding Together

### George W. Hinkle Fund

Relay for Life of Davis  
Yolo County Transportation Program  
Road to Recovery of Woodland  
Citizens Who Care  
Woodland's Community Care Car  
Meals On Wheels  
Rebuilding Together  
Yolo Crisis Nursery

### Wide, Wide World Fund

Winters District Chamber of Commerce's Job Readiness Program at Winters High School

### Yolo County Association of Realtors Annual Giving Fund

Ecumenical Ministries  
Meals on Wheels  
Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center  
Short Term Emergency Aid Committee  
The Wayfarer Center  
Yolo County Adult Day Health Center

### **Our Founders' Circle**

Margaret S. Burns &  
Roy Bellhorn

Casson & Son Carpet  
Care

Dan Dowling

Desmond, Nolan,  
Livaich & Cunningham

First Northern Bank

Harder+Company  
Community Research

Joan Q. Hogan

Mohini Jain Family  
Foundation

Mortimer Schwartz &  
Giovanna Oettinger

*Add your name  
to this list!  
Call us to find out how.*

## **Youth Service Awards Program Announced** *(cont'd from page 1)*

while also supporting the nonprofits that see youth as a community resource.”

Local high schools received program materials at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. The application must be submitted jointly by the student and the nonprofit, describing the student's volunteer role and the effect of this service on the organization.

Applications are due in February, and awards will be announced in April. For more information, contact the Foundation at [info@yolocf.org](mailto:info@yolocf.org).

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### **Mark your calendars!**

#### **Nonprofit Roundtable**

(This brownbag gathering of Yolo County's nonprofit leaders meets at noon at the Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland.)

November 9 — Topic: Major donor development

December 7 — Topic: Boards of directors

#### **Yolo County Philanthropy Day Awards Event**

November 13, 5:30 p.m., Heidrick Ag History Center — All area nonprofits are invited to participate. Contact YCF to order tickets (\$15/per person).



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