

For Immediate Release

**Inspired Donors and a Can-Do Foundation
Produce a Three Continent-Wide Span of Projects to Enhance Education and Health for
Young People in Isolated Communities.**

Determined to Put their Money Where Their Hearts Are, Donors Peter & Jane Carpenter
Turned to Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, the Progressive Bay Area Foundation
Renowned For Innovative Approaches to Customized Giving.

Oakland, Ca (May 19, 2008) What do a tiny two-room schoolhouse in the Sierras, a new school for girls in Tanzania, and an orphanage in Bhutan have in common? One generous family in San Mateo County and their donor advised fund at Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF). Led by pioneering grantmaker Bill Somerville, PVF specializes in customizing giving for donors, and helped Peter and Jane Carpenter set up creative giving programs for each of these charitable projects spanning three continents.

- Silver Fork School in Pollock Pines, California, has received ongoing support from the Carpenters for over eight years to benefit the students attending this compact two-room schoolhouse in the Sierras. Through a program established by PVF and supported by the Carpenters, the teachers at this rural school with few “extras” are able to obtain funding for classroom science resources, summer school programs, art workshops, musical instruments, and field trips to broaden and enrich the learning environment for these students.
- When Stanford students started a service project in Tanzania, that grew into an organization - the Bahati Education Project – the Carpenters contributed advice and donated seed money to get the project off the ground. PVF helped to set up a Fund for Bahati Education, whose mission is to support Tanzanian women through its model of secondary education rooted in service to empower young women to be successful academics and leaders. Bahati is a Swahili word for “good fortune.” For more on the Tanzanian project visit: <http://www.bahatieducation.org/index.html>
<http://www.bahatieducation.org/story.html>

The Carpenters wrote from Iringa, Tanzania: “We are in Tanzania, visiting the site of a soon-to-be-established model secondary girls’ school that may well change how young women in Africa are educated and prepared for leadership. This project couldn't be happening without PVF's willingness to support truly innovative ideas. As usual, PVF does with ease what others consider difficult.”

- While traveling in Bhutan, the Carpenters were deeply impressed by the dedication and the needs at the Chorten Nebu Monastic School and Orphanage. Two hours by foot on a hilltop in the Punakha Valley, the 18th Century monastery houses and educates poor orphans from a nearby village. Needs ranged from a clean water supply and waste management infrastructure, to school support. Hoping to not only support the school and orphanage themselves, but to inspire others to contribute, the Carpenters contacted PVF. Happily the perfect vehicle for such support had already been developed at PVF, via PVF's Generosity in Action Fund, which supports educational and health projects in communities identified by travelers to developing countries. For more info on the Bhutan project visit: <http://www.generosityinaction.org/ChortenNebuSchool.htm>

Peter Carpenter said of the three programs, "This Bhutan project, plus the new school in Tanzania, and the two-room school in the Sierras that we are supporting via PVF make an interesting three continent example of PVF's reach and impact"

In addition to the above programs, the Carpenters have supported numerous efforts closer to home through their donor advised fund at PVF, including: Peninsula Habitat for Humanity (<http://www.peninsulahabitat.org>); Peninsula Stroke Association (<http://www.psastroke.org>); UC Berkeley, School of Public Health; Project Baobab, a Palo Alto based nonprofit supporting business education for Kenyan women (<http://www.projectbaobab.org>); Village Enterprise Fund, a San Carlos based nonprofit working with East African micro-enterprise support (<http://www.villageef.org>) and the Coevolution Institute, a San Francisco based nonprofit working to promote biodiversity protection through the adoption of widespread collaborative stewardship practices on open and working lands (<http://www.coevolution.org>).

In summarizing their work with PVF, Peter Carpenter said "PVF acts professionally and promptly and is very service-oriented. Our recommendations for grants are carried out within 48 hours and PVF is always available with their expertise in the nonprofit arena."

About Peter and Jane Shaw Carpenter:

Peter and Jane Carpenter reside in San Mateo County and are devoted to public service. In addition to serving on several nonprofit boards they are committed to charitable work at the local level and internationally. They are very active in their charitable endeavors and their excitement is infectious.

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

About Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

Since its inception in 1991, Oakland-based Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF) has distributed over \$55 million in grants to those who need it most; gaining national recognition for pioneering innovative approaches to grassroots philanthropy. Under the stewardship of Bill Somerville, PVF has operated as a “living lab”, incubating first-of-their-kind funding programs including: Immediate Response Grants delivered in less than 48 hours of request; First Response Disaster Relief, which guarantees \$25,000 to ten designated agencies addressing emergency food and shelter needs for the needy during a natural disaster; and the Juvenile Judges Program, which provides immediate grants to youth in the foster care system as identified by Juvenile Court Judges. In addition to their own programs, PVF works with donors and private foundations to customize their giving to specific areas or programs of interest. PVF is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity. Philanthropic Ventures Foundation. 1222 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, CA 94612. www.venturesfoundation.org

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