

# 34 years of creative grantmaking



2024 Report



philanthropic  
ventures  
foundation

# A Year in Review



## Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

A big thank you to the generosity of our donors and the dedication of the organizations we are so honored to be partners with. In 2024, PVF hit a high water mark. The \$49M in grants and disbursements we distributed last year was the most we have ever made. Cumulatively, PVF has contributed \$281M to our communities.

But 2025 is looking like a year of great uncertainty in the world. So many things we have taken for granted in our lives, our country and in the world are but shifting sands under our feet. What does it all mean for us? It means the need is greater. It means we will continue to serve that need to the best of our abilities. We will do what we have always done to be a voice and force for good in our communities.

We promise to not be crushed by fear and anxiety. We will tap into the 'adventure' in 'venture' of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation. We will be a showcase for what philanthropy could be and think about new and unimagined ways of serving our communities and beyond.

We promise to be the foundation that says 'yes' when everyone says 'no'.

- James Higa, Executive Director



Image courtesy of the Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Project

# 2024 Grants and Disbursements

1991-2024 Total Grants and Disbursements: \$281,194,561

2024	\$49,391,149
2023	\$ 23,606,908
2022	\$ 20,791,459
2021	\$ 16,664,611
2020	\$ 12,679,134
2019	\$ 9,923,834
2018	\$ 9,682,479
2017	\$ 9,542,360
2016	\$ 9,728,767
2015	\$ 12,930,666
2014	\$ 8,101,645
2013	\$ 11,074,198
2012	\$ 10,790,794
2011	\$ 8,153,167
2010	\$ 5,631,548
2009	\$ 4,351,187
2008	\$ 4,339,116
2007	\$ 4,537,652
2006	\$ 5,073,979
2005	\$ 4,609,819
2004	\$ 5,219,721
2003	\$ 5,267,973
2002	\$ 4,047,374
2001	\$ 3,798,773
2000	\$ 4,562,190
1999	\$ 2,470,228
1998	\$ 2,665,877
1997	\$ 1,862,006
1996	\$ 1,081,189
1995	\$ 1,775,415
1994	\$ 3,832,494
1993	\$ 2,116,342
1992	\$ 666,113
1991	\$ 224,394

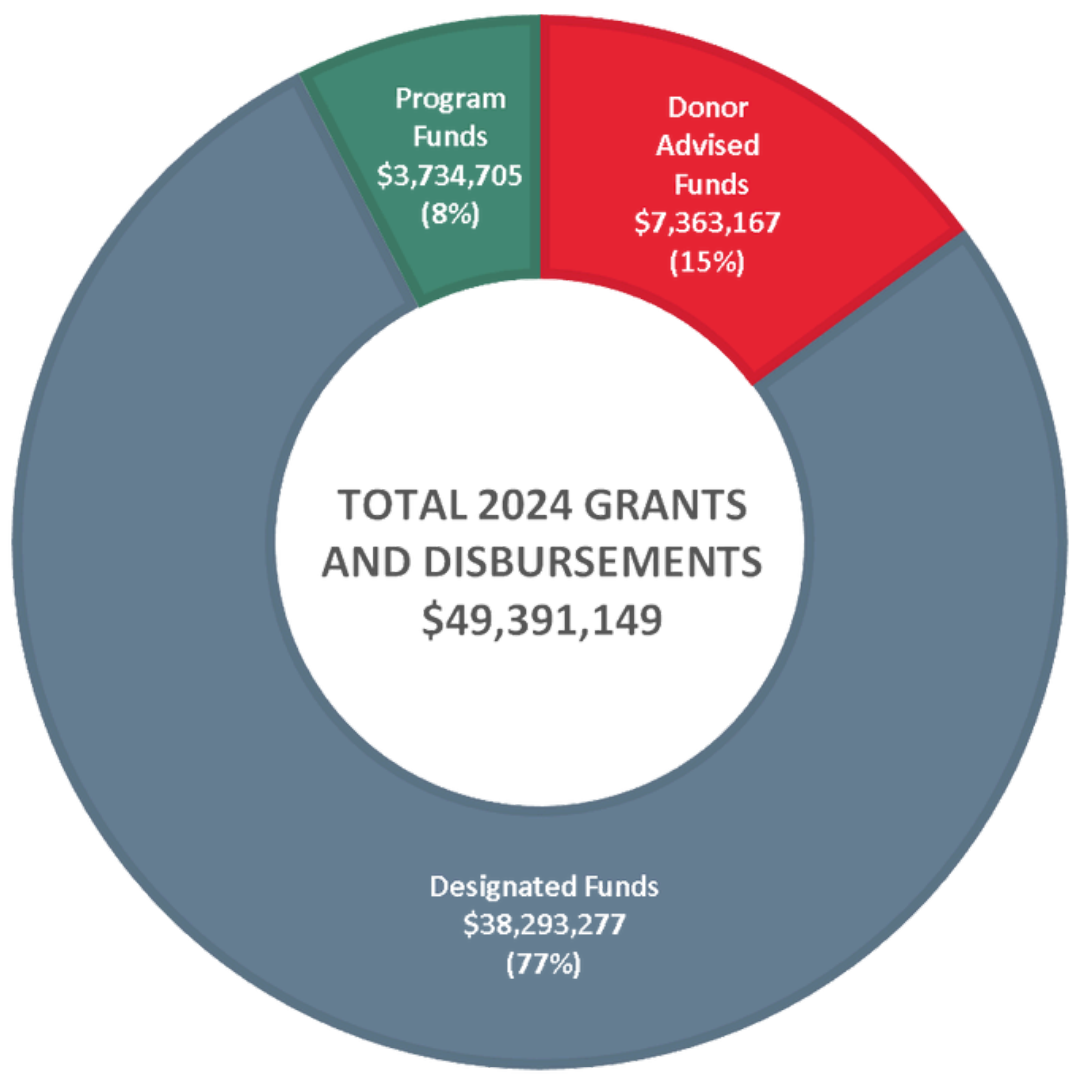




Image courtesy of the Childress Family Foundation Scholarship

# Programs

We aspire to transform philanthropy and make it more responsive and collaborative to meet the needs of our community. We identify needs that can be met with philanthropic support, and then we devise program ideas to help tackle the issues head on. From this drive to address unmet needs came the idea of immediate-response grants, in which we provide funds within a 48-hour turnaround. We have established a variety of immediate-response grant programs, benefiting teachers as well as social workers and juvenile court judges who work with youth in foster care.

Foundations, individual donors, and businesses partner with PVF to establish unique immediate-response grant programs because of our grassroots giving expertise. We have created and administered programs for the following donors:

Ballmer Group

Cocokind

Emily Benatar Foundation

Frank H. & Eva B. Buck Fdn

The California Endowment

David & Lucile Packard Fdn

Emerging Bilingual Collaborative

Eucalyptus Foundation

Flora Family Foundation

GIRLBOSS Foundation

Walter & Elise Haas Fund

Heising-Simons Foundation

Hellman Foundation

Herbst Foundation

James B. McClatchy Foundation

Susan Byrd Fund

The Lurie Foundation

Maxwell|Hanrahan Foundation

Meta Local Community Fund

John & Marcia Goldman Foundation

Peery Family Foundation

Sand Hill Foundation

San Francisco Foundation

Sobrato Philanthropies

Thomas J. Long Foundation

United Way Bay Area

The Westly Foundation

Y&H Soda Foundation

**We are open to new ideas and are ready to tackle pressing issues.**

**Are you interested in setting up a customized giving program?**

Please contact:

Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer  
dhawk@venturesfoundation.org  
(510) 645-1890

**"Your contribution has made a significant impact on the quality of education and care that we are able to provide to our students. The smiles, laughter, and progress we witness in our classroom every day are a testament to the difference your generosity has made in the lives of these children." - Special Education Teacher in Contra Costa County**



# Program Distributions

In 2024, we administered the following programs in partnership with our donors:

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Arts Resource Grants	Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers to enhance art programs. Supported by the Westly Foundation.	\$17,989
Buck Mini Grants	Northern California	Grants for public school teachers to enhance instruction.	\$12,975
Childress Family Foundation Scholarship	Lakewood, CA	Scholarships to recognize student athletes at Mayfair High School and support their college education.	\$42,500
English Learners Workforce Initiative Fund	California	Grants to provide strapped school system leaders with sustained supports to help them link the available resources to their local needs and apply for the funding opportunities.	\$87,295
Environmental Science Resource Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to enhance environmental science curriculum. Supported by the Maxwell   Hanrahan Foundation and the Susan Byrd Fund.	\$290,000
Geballe Excursion Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers to take TK-12th grade students on one-day field trips. Supported by the Maxwell   Hanrahan Foundation and the Eucalyptus Foundation.	\$300,000
Grace Scholarships	United States	Undergraduate scholarships to international students from Zimbabwe to attend U.S. college universities.	\$121,500
Heising-Simons Foundation Education Program Capacity Building Fund	United States	Grants to Heising-Simons Foundation Education Program Grantees to support their capacity building needs.	\$475,000



*Image courtesy of the Tom Ford Fellowship*

# Program Distributions

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Judy Macias Young Leaders Scholarship Fund	Half Moon Bay, CA	College scholarships for graduating Half Moon Bay High School female students.	\$12,500
Mathematics Resource Grants	Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers to enhance their math lessons for preschool-3rd grade students. Supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation.	\$18,375
Meta Local Community Fund	San Mateo County, CA	Grants to support non-profit programs providing services to the local community. Supported by Meta.	\$100,000
Sand Hill & Tom Ford Fellowships	Stanford, CA	Fellowships for Stanford University students to intern at foundations. Supported by the Sand Hill Foundation.	\$165,000
Science Resource Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to enhance science instruction in the classroom through hands-on learning.	\$13,500
Special Education Resource Grants	Alameda & Contra Costa Counties, CA	Grants for public school teachers and therapists serving TK-12th grade students with moderate to extensive needs. Supported by the Thomas J. Long Foundation.	\$34,621
Social Worker/CASA Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants to support the needs of foster youth as requested by Social Workers and Court Appointed Special Advocates.	\$50,238
Technology, Engineering & Design Thinking Resource Grants	Alameda & San Mateo County, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to support STEM curriculum in their classrooms. Supported by the Maxwell   Hanrahan Foundation.	\$70,000



Image courtesy of a Grace Scholar

# Program Distributions

Program	Location	Description	Amount
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Fund	California	Campaign to inform key audiences about investments being made in early education that expand programs and create new opportunities, including implementation of UPK in California.	\$1,564,025
Visiting Artist in the Classroom Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for public school teachers, grades TK-12, to have an artist visit their classrooms. Supported by the Maxwell   Hanrahan Foundation and the Eucalyptus Foundation.	\$70,000
Youth Opportunity Grants	Bay Area, CA	Grants for middle school students to participate in extracurricular activities. Supported by the Susan Byrd Fund.	\$88,000
Various Other Programs	--	--	\$27,070

**2024 Program Distributions: \$3,560,587.45**

"As a refugee, accessing funding for higher education is one of the biggest challenges I have faced. Without the ability to work, saving money for college was nearly impossible. When I received the Grace Scholarship, it was truly a dream come true, as it allowed me to focus on my studies without the constant worry of financial instability." - Grace Scholarship Recipient



Image courtesy of the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

# Donor Advised Funds

We think of our donors as investors, people who see philanthropy as investments in positive change. When people want to do exciting giving, they turn to PVF. PVF offers a variety of services to individuals, families, businesses, and foundations through Donor Advised Funds. We make grants to charitable projects that donors recommend, consult and strategize with donors on their giving plan, and help them navigate through the world of nonprofit programs. Donors benefit from our philanthropic expertise, extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community, and experience in turning ideas into action.

In 2024, we administered the following donor advised funds:

Anonymous III Fund  
Albert J. Horn Philanthropic Fund  
Bailard Foundation Fund  
Bergstrom Foundation Fund  
Peter & Jane Carpenter Fund  
Colby & Sonali Giving Fund  
Childress Family Foundation  
Doberstyn Fund  
Esperanza Fund  
Farmhill Scholarship Fund  
Gerber-Doyle Fund  
Barbara Jean & Allen L. Grimm Fund  
Horizons Unlimited Fund  
Hellman-Breslau Fund

Issac Yunhu Lee Memorial Fund  
Joanna Katz Fund  
Katchadourian Family Fund  
Lance Hope Warrior Fund  
Lockard-Marduel Fund  
Lurie Family Fund  
Maloney Family Fund  
Margaret Lamping Fund  
Medvin Fund  
Millar-Montrose Fund  
Orr Family Fund  
Pasturel Family Fund  
Peery Family Fund  
Jason & Lisa Peery Fund

James & Ursula Williams Fund  
Petersmeyer Fund  
Purcell Family Fund  
Relfe Fund  
Mike Scott Fund  
Bill Somerville Fund  
Task Rabbit for Good  
TruLove Cares Fund  
Waverley Fund  
Whitehouse-Heffernan Family Fund  
Williams Family Fund  
Cole Wilbur Fund  
Yochum-Otani Fund  
YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Fund

**Are you interested in setting up  
a Donor Advised Fund?**

Please contact:  
Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer  
[dhawk@venturesfoundation.org](mailto:dhawk@venturesfoundation.org)  
(510) 645-1890

**2024 Donor Advised Grants: \$7,363,167.13**

**“At PVF, we recognize the potential of the philanthropic dollar and seek to maximize its impact by responding creatively to requests and community needs. When we discover outstanding people doing outstanding charitable work, we take the opportunity to develop relationships, make introductions to donors and invite donors to tackle new giving programs. Donors benefit from our philanthropic expertise, extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community and experience in turning ideas into action.”**



# Safety Net Grants

We began PVF to do something different — to bring joy, simplicity, trust and effectiveness to grantmaking. We knew the answer was not more — more paper, more procedures, more obstacles, more time. We believed that if giving grants involved fewer, simpler processes, every dollar would work harder and do more.

PVF places high trust in outstanding individuals and programs, demonstrates flexibility and creativity in grant-making, and takes the initiative in providing funding when it is needed. These grants, made without applications and based on trust, are unique in the grantmaking sector. Our ability to respond to community needs on a discretionary and immediate basis is made possible by bequests and gifts to PVF's endowment and by undesignated gifts from donors. PVF is proud to have their confidence.

**2024 Safety Net Grants: \$174,117.54**



**Would you like to learn how you can support PVF's endowment?**

Please contact:  
James Higa, Executive Director  
[jhiga@venturesfoundation.org](mailto:jhiga@venturesfoundation.org)  
(510) 645-1890

**“Critical intervention funding is being at the right place at the right time. It is at these times when smaller funds can have impact. If there is trust in the relationship, marvelous things can transpire. No matter how big the program, there is always room for being there when it counts.” - Bill Somerville, PVF Founder**



# Designated Fund Disbursements

In the spirit of expanding philanthropy and promoting outstanding charitable work, PVF serves as the fiscal sponsor for projects that do charitable work, but do not yet have their tax exempt status. PVF's Designated Funds allow multiple donors to receive a tax deduction for contributing to a charitable program. A Designated Fund provides donors with flexibility, enabling them to target support for innovative ideas. PVF manages the funds and prepares financial reports for the program leaders.

Are you interested in setting up a Designated Fund?

Please contact:  
 Dawn Hawk, Chief Operating Officer  
[dhawk@venturesfoundation.org](mailto:dhawk@venturesfoundation.org)  
 (510) 645-1890

In 2024, we administered the following designated funds:

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
15 Percent Pledge	United States	Charitable initiative created with the goal of advocating for and supporting Black-owned businesses and Black entrepreneurs to achieve equity by partnering with retailers to diversify their shelves and commit 15 percent of their purchasing power to Black-owned businesses.	\$3,944,510
3Ls The Academy	Oakland, CA	Charitable initiative committed to helping children break cycles of poverty by providing them with opportunities for literacy in their own neighborhoods.	\$189,791
Aide Au Zanskar - USA	India	Project to support the Lamdon Model High School in the Zanskar region of Kashmir, India.	\$12,040
ACTAI Global	International	Supports environmental conservation and economic empowerment via entrepreneurship.	\$468,488
Afghan Refugee	United States	Charitable initiative that seeks to support and empower Afghan refugees in the United States.	\$31,631



Image courtesy of Harriet's Apothecary

# Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Agency By Design Oakland	Oakland, CA	Aims to redefine what learning looks like in schools through maker-centered education.	\$475,384
AI Product Bootcamp	Bay Area, CA	An AI product management bootcamp for people from underrepresented groups such as refugees and low-income communities.	\$20,000
API Giving Project	Bay Area, CA	Aims to strengthen Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the Bay Area through local investments in community-led programs.	\$17,000
Archaeology in Action	Peru	Mission is to promote hands-on research and teaching in scientific archaeology.	\$152,351
Bay Area Border Relief	Bay Area, CA	Aims to assist immigrating families and the nonprofit agencies that support them with immediate urgent needs.	\$11,013
Beatitude House Catholic Worker	Guadalupe, CA	Serves the working poor of Guadalupe, CA through food, clothing, medical clinic, hospitality, and advocacy.	\$21,070
Better Earth	United States	Mission is to foster a deeper culture of hope, altruism, and collective action by inspiring and empowering individuals and communities to create a better world for present and future generations.	\$134,045
Breaking the Mold	United States	Works to inspire white men to interrupt inequality and advance equity.	\$29,400
Bright Minds	Nigeria and Cameroon	Dedicated to educating and empowering girls in Nigeria and Cameroon.	\$197,275
Building Belonging	United States	Mission is to build a world where everyone and everything belongs by identifying the design principles of the world we desire, refine them in shared practice, and seek points of maximum leverage for transformation.	\$263,016
Computing Connections	United States	Mission is to help computer scientists secure the resources needed to access healthy work environments.	\$17,040



Image courtesy of Time + Tide Foundation

# Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Coralus (formerly SheEO)	United States	Aims to democratize venture capital and create a new economic model of radically generous women creating change through local communities and impact through global scale.	\$265,467
CreativeMornings	United States	Aims to be in community through volunteer communities, events, and infrastructure, creating virtual and in-person spaces where humans, regardless of their geography, identity or ability, can build the skills, courage and connections they need to live a creative life.	\$740,188
Catholic Worker House	Bay Area, CA	Assistance to the poor through housing, food, and education programs.	\$299,000
Delta Education Collective	Uganda	Charitable initiative whose mission is to revolutionize the quality of primary education available to all children.	\$236,519
Direct Impact Africa	Zambia	Creates economic self-sufficiency and empowerment amongst rural African villagers by fostering co-op based community owned projects.	\$130,135
Forest & Tree	Oakland, CA	Provides young people in grades TK-12 with outdoor learning experiences away from the four walls of a traditional classroom in order to develop a stronger sense of self, community and connection with the natural world.	\$136,635
Generative Art Foundation	United States	Aims to promote and elevate generative art and creative coding as a meaningful artistic practice.	\$100,306
Generosity in Action	International	Supports educational and health projects in communities identified by travelers to developing countries.	\$105,600
Giving Gap	United States	Leveraging their expertise in philanthropy and technology, the founders created a robust digital platform that centralizes the nation's Black-founded nonprofits to make it easy for you and your organization to connect with them.	\$623,962



Image courtesy of Oakstop Effect

# Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
H2Open Doors	International	Mission is to provide safe drinking water to rural areas of emerging countries, reducing infant mortality and improving community health.	\$48,941
Hate is A Virus	United States	Movement to combat the xenophobia and racism against Asian Americans fueled by COVID.	\$327,213
Hella Heart Oakland	Oakland, CA	Giving circle that supports mental health and wellness initiatives to improve the conditions of Asian/Asian American women and girls -- and immigrants -- in Oakland.	\$29,488
IDEAL	Bay Area, CA	Fosters innovative teaching and learning through creative arts-based practice that cultivates liberatory learning spaces.	\$129,208
Isiain Foundation	Bay Area, CA	Aims to dismantle racism and bring an overt change by using art, education, information and media to liberate those most impacted by systemic racism.	\$24,656
Jackie Speier Foundation	San Mateo County, CA	Supports solutions to the issues of the feminization of poverty in San Mateo County, with projects like the Baby Bonus Project.	\$9,097
Lesedi Schools and Clinic	Zimbabwe	Mission is the prevention or relief of poverty in Zimbabwe through education, training, and healthcare.	\$494,250
Manzanita Works	San Mateo County, CA	Directs financial resources where most needed to support workers and workers' families.	\$43,571
New Light Wellness	Bay Area, CA and International	Strives to create safe spaces, empower narrative change, offer wrap-around wellness resources steeped with language access and cultural humility.	\$34,282
Oakland Thrives / Rise East	Oakland, CA	A 10-year collective effort to make deep and lasting improvements in the health and well-being of children and families in East Oakland.	\$24,418,850




Image courtesy of the Route 66 Pathway project

# Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Oakstop Effect	Oakland, CA	Focuses on increasing social inclusion and curating accessible environments for BIPOC professionals in Oakland.	\$1,080,297
Ohana Family Resource	Ashland, OR	Mission is to provide curriculum, trainings, and support to parents and teachers to build strong physical and neural foundations needed to nurture resiliency and regulation in children.	\$10,808
Peninsula Book Collaborative	Daly City, CA	Charitable initiative whose mission is to build and grow the next generation of book lovers.	\$9,156
Perennial Sunflower Project	United States	Supports the movement of white men who are committed to sharing and building power with marginalized people and communities.	\$291,429
Project Luangwa	Zambia	Community empowerment through the benefits of tourism, by improving education and gender equality in the Luangwa Valley.	\$50,080
Reckon With	United States	Envisions a country where the truth about our history of racial inequality is confronted, and racial justice is realized.	\$99,286
Resilia Academy	United States	Strengthens the capacity of nonprofit organizations and leaders who are on the front lines of the world's most important issues.	\$1,182,675
Route 66 Pathway Project	United States	Supports the research, documentation, visualization and communication of historic Route 66.	\$15,572
Sherlyn Chew Music	Bay Area, CA	Mission is to support music education for Chinese music groups.	\$9,735
Sustainable Future Outdoor Academy	Bay Area, CA	Aims to teach young people how to lead sustainable lives and influence their families, schools and communities to do the same.	\$205,679



Image courtesy of Hella Heart Oakland

# Designated Fund Disbursements

Fund	Location	Mission	Amount
Tafika Fund	Zambia	Charitable initiative whose mission is to sustainably uplift the Mwanza community in Eastern Zambia.	\$28,300
Toledo Institute for Development & Environment	Belize	Engages stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of all.	\$61,952
Time + Tide Foundation	Zambia	Facilitates economic and educational opportunities for traditionally under valued groups of children and adults.	\$137,345
Turning Basin Labs	Bay Area, CA	Aims to develop a platform and infrastructure to support low income workers in the Bay Area.	\$397,664
We Are Enough	United States	Aims to grow women’s wealth, especially women of color, and educate women how and why to invest in women owned and led businesses.	\$416,342
Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Project	United States	Aims to inspire grassroots activism and education, to connect organizations and communities to each other, and to “build bridges, not walls”.	\$63,049
Various Other Designated Funds	--	--	\$52,488

## 2024 Designated Fund Disbursements: \$38,293,276.73

“There are many, many, many ways that PVF has given the Catholic Worker House in San Mateo County invaluable support. When all is said and done, just as important as the money has been the trust that PVF has given to each and all of us.” - Lawrence Purcell, Catholic Worker House



# Our Team

## Foundation Staff

**James Higa**  
Executive Director

**Dawn Hawk**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Sheryl Young**  
San Mateo County Program Director

**Savannah Lira**  
Program Manager

**Aly Quiroz-Perez**  
Grants Administrator

**Cayman Bentley**  
Gifts Administrator and Social Media Manager

**Andrea Smith**  
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**Kari Jo Bliss**  
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