Letter from CEO

Preparing and submitting the Central Valley Community Foundation’s (CVCF) annual report to our partners, donors, and the communities of the Central Valley has been an important responsibility every year of our 52-year history. But, there is something about 2018 that makes this task particularly daunting. No matter how well written the following pages may be, there is no way they can adequately capture the contours of our communities’ work in 2018 to chart a new course for this dynamic region of California and the significance of this point in time.

Maybe it was the 500 volunteers who helped collect over 35,000 signatures and raise over $2 million to qualify and support a local ballot measure (Measure P) for Fresno’s parks and arts that made 2018 so remarkable. Or being one of just ten cities in the U.S. selected by the Kresge Foundation to participate in a national effort to address economic and racial disparities. It could also have been the work of eight local non-profits who were successful in receiving over $1 million in grant funding from the James Irvine Foundation for their neighborhood revitalization efforts, or the new Community Capital Collaborative launched with $5 million in support from JP Morgan Chase that distinguished the year. The truth is that 2018 was made extraordinary by all of these efforts, plus so many more that reflect the indefatigable determination of Central Valley residents to change the direction of their region.

At the Central Valley Community Foundation, we believe we are living in a very critical time in the Central Valley’s history — a point in time when our communities’ transformational efforts have never been stronger, but neither have the barriers that prevent a staggering number of people from opportunity.

The foot race between “community transformation” and “community decline” is on. Transformation requires an aggressive, unrelenting attack on the status quo; community partners who excel at collaboration and who put the interests of Valley residents at the center of their work; funders who invest in transformation; and residents who expect results in their communities and get involved to help ensure them.

Time will tell if transformation wins the race in the Central Valley. At the Central Valley Community Foundation, we accept the challenge of making sure it does. Given the pace and distance traveled in 2018, I like our chances.

Ashley Swearengin
President and CEO
Letter from Board Chair

From its inception more than 50 years ago, the Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) has pursued technical excellence in philanthropy management. Three years ago we added a second pursuit, excellence in regional leadership. The former pursuit is easily measured by meeting the standards for national accreditation, satisfying external auditors, meeting budget, achieving upper quarter investment returns for the funds we manage, and exceeding grant administration requirements. The board is proud of the organization’s continued excellence in philanthropy management and, in 2019, will invest in a new information management system to better serve staff and donor needs.

In our new pursuit, community leadership, we strive to learn how to make the philanthropic efforts of the region more strategic, more effective. Much of the philanthropy of the world is characterized by random acts of kindness. Precious philanthropic dollars are donated without a coordinated plan that takes into account regional needs that are prioritized around achieving the greatest good for the least expenditure. At CVCF we are searching for ways to change that pattern into what we refer to in our tagline as “effective philanthropy.”

What we mean by effective philanthropy is simply philanthropy that seeks to do the greatest good per dollar spent. This approach is beautifully illustrated in Bjorn Lomborg’s 2015 Nobel Laureates Guide to the Smartest Targets for the World. In it Lomborg states, “If we want to help the world, it is not about making a long list of all the good things to do, but it is about focusing on the very, very best things to do first.”

In 2019, CVCF will continue exploring the question of what are the “...best things for our region to do first.” Communities are organizing around that question in Bangladesh and India, and it is time for the Central Valley to do so as well. It is our hope that the region will develop a well-reasoned consensus of priorities and an implementation plan for regional transformation by the end of the year. It is an aggressive goal but it is the one we have chosen for 2019, and it is the key to making our collective philanthropy more effective. Stay tuned.

Alan Pierrot, M.D.
Board Chair
In 2018, CVCF launched the Friends of the Foundation, a new way to fundraise for operating support while informing, inspiring, and engaging our donors. The Friends of the Foundation is a group of 100 members who each contribute $2,500 in support of our mission-based work while participating in experiential learning dinners. Each Friend and their guest join CVCF for an unforgettable dining experience in unique locations where they hear from community leaders who are using innovative solutions to address our region’s most persistent challenges.

March 29, 2018

The first Friends of the Foundation dinner kicked off on a mild March evening amid the 1930s splendor of the historic Chandler Airport. The theme for the evening was all about building a legacy. We reflected on the legacy of Senator and Mrs. Chandler who donated the land for Chandler airfield to meet the need for the region’s budding aviation industry. And we shared how that legacy is benefiting the community nearly 100 years later, as Chandler Airport is now home to the groundbreaking environment-friendly Sustainable Aviation Project, the nation’s first all-production electric aircraft.

Our Friends were also joined by Phil Skei of Restore Fresno and Jason Spence of City of Refuge who shared the incredible work they are doing in some of Fresno’s most distressed neighborhoods. Their efforts are building a legacy of hope throughout the community, including in the neighborhoods surrounding Chandler Airport.
June 28, 2018

The theme for our June dinner was “Ingenuity and Innovation” and featured a mini *Shark Tank* competition where our guests heard pitches from three social entrepreneurs and voted on a winner to receive a $1,000 cash prize to support their business with second and third place winning smaller prizes. The activity was coordinated by Dr. Randy White, Executive Director of Spark Tank, a nonprofit micro-social enterprise accelerator. Businesses competing with Spark Tank must address a social concern, including employing people with barriers to employment, operating in an environmentally responsible manner, and/or meeting a community need.

After a tally of votes, residential landscaping company Rockpile Industries claimed the $1,000 prize. However, while votes were being counted, one of our guests approached Ashley Swearengin and let her know that he wanted each of the businesses to receive $1,000 and would donate the $1,250 needed to provide the additional prize money.

September 27, 2018

Our final dinner was all about parks and arts. We were delighted to showcase three local artists: master violinist Patrick Contreras, muralist Jason Esquivel, and artist Marcos Dorado. As the dinner was held at the San Joaquin River Center, we took time to honor our late friend Ted K. Martin and his lifelong love of the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers.

We also used the opportunity to present CVCF’s 2018 Founders Award to Joan Eaton and Paul Gibson for their unwavering dedication to the betterment of this community.

In 2019, Friends of the Foundation dinners will continue to explore the many remarkable people and places that practice and inspire creativity, ingenuity, and generosity in our community.
Education at Every Step

Fresno Cradle to Career (C2C) is a community-based partnership of cross sector leaders working collaboratively to improve key educational and health outcomes for all children in Fresno County. C2C’s mission is to strengthen community support systems through collaboration and capacity building so that all children and families may achieve success.

To deliver the best possible opportunities for early learning, access to healthcare, nutritional supports, developmental screenings, and safe and secure housing, C2C is developing The Preconception-5 Blueprint for Funding and Advocacy, a comprehensive plan toward cross-sector collaboration and collective impact for early childhood.

The completed plan will be adopted by the community in 2019, and institutions, initiatives, agencies, and non-profits will be able to direct their strategic plans and budgets toward a shared agenda.

College Pipeline Plan

Education, particularly post-secondary enrollment and completion, is a significant key to economic mobility. California needs 1.1 million more workers with bachelor’s degrees by 2030 to keep up with economic demand. In the Central Valley, we need 33,000 additional bachelor’s degrees in just the urban Fresno area to meet that need.

Since 2017, and with funding from the College Futures Foundation, CVCF is convening secondary and post-secondary leaders to develop a Fresno Region College Pipeline Plan to increase bachelor’s degree attainment and to develop an integrated educational system to ensure greater student success from kindergarten through college graduation.

70% of teen mothers drop out of school

Teen pregnancy rates in the San Joaquin Valley are consistently the highest in the state, and more than twice that of the Bay Area. Transformational Opportunities for Youth is a multi-year, re-granting initiative at CVCF funded by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Funded programs serve Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Merced, and Kings counties, providing reproductive health services, comprehensive sexuality education, or youth development initiatives aimed at reducing teen pregnancy.

Over the last 10 years, the Transformational Opportunities for Youth (formerly Teen Pregnancy Prevention) initiative has awarded 47 grants to 18 organizations, ensuring that teens and families are accurately educated on reproductive health and relationships. The programs funded through these initiatives have impacted over 60,000 people of varying age and ethnic background, with nearly 70% being Hispanic individuals in low income and rural areas.
The James McClatchy 25 Year Club Scholarship

James McClatchy was a fourth-generation family owner of The McClatchy Company, which publishes *The Fresno Bee*. His father, Carlos McClatchy, was the first editor of *The Fresno Bee* when it was founded in 1922. James devoted his life to journalism and was highly respected for his efforts on behalf of freedom of the press.

Per his wishes, scholarship programs were established at select community foundations across California to benefit current or former employees who provided at least twenty-five years of service to the Sacramento, Fresno, and/or Modesto Bee newspapers, as well as their family members.

The Bee Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in 2008 at the Central Valley Community Foundation and provides scholarships to current and former employees of *The Fresno Bee* and their family members.

Since 2008, the fund has awarded 172 scholarships totaling $214,000.

Paul (Doc) and Jean Chaffee Fund

Roeding Park Zoo opened in 1908 with two bears and roughly 50 birds. By 1947, its animal population had grown considerably to more than 100 animals. Dr. Paul “Doc” Chaffee became the first Director/Veterinarian of the Zoo during the 1960s and led the zoo through multiple transformations and expansions during his long tenure. After he passed in 1990, the zoo was renamed The Fresno Chaffee Zoo in his honor.

CVCF is proud to manage the Chaffee scholarship, established by Doc’s wife, Jean Chaffee, in honor of her late husband and his love of animals. In 2018, the fund awarded five scholarships to local students majoring in a field related to animal science, plant science, or botany.
The Path to Measure P

Louis Gundelfinger came to Fresno from Wurttemberg, Germany via New York and San Francisco. Gundelfinger made his fortune as a Fresno merchant and was highly regarded as a faithful civic leader and dedicated supporter of parks and arts. Gundelfinger believed that a community’s strength was rooted in its quality of life, and he played a dynamic role in helping Fresno cultivate its aesthetics, art, and culture through his service as one of the first leaders of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Among his many civic activities, he served as director of the Fresno Art Association and later helped form Fresno’s Parks Commission, overseeing the development of Roeding Park.

After his death, his daughter-in-law, Lulu, honored his passion for art and public spaces by establishing an endowed fund at CVCF (then the Fresno Regional Foundation).

Community members voice the need for investment and focus on parks through the City of Fresno General Plan process resulting in intent language to update the Parks Master Plan.

Fresno Boys and Men of Color & Fresno Building Healthy Communities circulate 350 surveys asking young people about the quality of and needs in Fresno’s Parks.

City of Fresno adopted the “1989 Master Plan for Parks and Recreation” as a component of the 1984 General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element. The plan was adopted but never funded or implemented.

Fresno Boys and Men of Color & Fresno Building Healthy Communities circulate 350 surveys asking young people about the quality of and needs in Fresno’s Parks.

Fresno began making budget cuts to parks during the Great Recession; by 2013, the City parks budget had been cut 52%.

Louis Gundelfinger passes away at age 89

The Louis Gundelfinger Endowed Fund is established at CVCF through the estate of Mr. Gundelfinger’s daughter-in-law, Lulu Staburn Gundelfinger. The Fund honors her father-in-law by providing sustained financial support for his life’s passion, Fresno’s arts and parks.

Fresno Parks Commission Established

City of Fresno allocates budget funds to update the parks master plan

Louis Gundelfinger

Parkscore
60th out of 60 large US cities

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City of Fresno allocates budget funds to update the parks master plan

Louis Gundelfinger

Parkscore
60th out of 60 large US cities
Remembering David McDonald

Successful businessman and dedicated philanthropist David McDonald was a visionary and a bold leader who spent his life building a better future for others. He was a driving force behind Measure P and believed that all residents should have access to clean and safe parks.

Mr. McDonald passed away in January 2019, leaving a legacy of unmatched generosity and hope for his community.
Thriving neighborhoods are critical to the long-term economic success of individuals, communities, and cities. With that in mind, JPMorgan Chase invested $5 million to support Fresno’s underserved neighborhoods. Through their PRO Neighborhoods competition, the firm has sparked the Fresno Community Capital Collaborative for Economic Mobility to target small business lending, affordable housing, and community-serving facilities to spur inclusive economic activity in Fresno’s disinvested neighborhoods. Fresno’s 3-year, $5 million grant award was one of just five awards nationwide in 2018 and the largest grant of its type ever for CVCF.

**CVCF’s Communities Organized for Resident Empowerment (CORE)** Initiative provides financial support and technical assistance to eight grassroots nonprofit organizations that support resident-led work to improve Fresno’s neighborhoods.

In 2019, each of the nonprofits will be featured in a micro-documentary as part of *This Day Fresno*, a series of films that features the work they are doing to improve their respective neighborhoods. The CORE Initiative is made possible by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation.

**PARTNERS IN THE FRESNO COMMUNITY CAPITAL COLLABORATIVE**
- Central Valley Community Foundation
- Access Plus Capital
- The Northern California Community Loan Fund
- Opportunity Fund
- Plus eleven CBO partners

**CVCF** has been a proud supporter of the arts for 52 years, and we are pleased to support the art of storytelling through film with The Big Tell film contest.

CVCF provides $5,000 grants to ten area filmmakers (both amateur and professional) to each create a 5-minute mini-documentary about an incredible person, place, or activity in the Central Valley. The films premiere at a free film festival-style Showcase.

We are very committed to promoting diversity among our filmmakers and the stories they tell, encouraging women, persons of color, veterans, and student filmmakers to apply.

- Over 700 people attended the red carpet Showcase at the historic Tower Theatre in Fresno.
- Filmmakers received one-on-one mentorship from Emmy-nominated documentarian Sascha Rice and technical support from our friends at CMAC.
- In the three months after the Showcase, the films were viewed over 90,000 times online.
We are grateful to our sponsors and partners for making The Big Tell such a success: Bank of America, CMAC, KSEE24, CBS47

Watch the films at www.TheBigTell.org

Filmmaker spotlights:

Orlando Gomez was such a hit with his film “Needle and Thread” about Dr. Fitzalbert M. Marius, the Valley’s first African American heart surgeon, that he was hired by Oakland-based Studiotobe production company to produce “This Day: Fresno,” a 12-month documentary about the rise of distressed neighborhoods in Fresno as part of CVCF’s CORE Initiative.

“Seva” is a film by Rippin Sindher about the Central Valley’s growing Sikh population. Since The Big Tell, Rippin is focused on expanding her mini-documentary into a feature, and has found other success including landing a feature romantic comedy deal, and an opportunity to shadow Ryan Murphy on his television series “9-1-1.”

In his film “Preying on Innocents,” Zachary Green, along with activist Shelley Ellis, profiled Tulare County law enforcement’s ongoing battle to combat human trafficking. He now travels the region, showing his film to spread awareness about the devastating impact of the sex trades in the Valley.

About the filmmakers

75 applications
6 counties
40% amateur
40% female
45% Hispanic
Age range 26-66

We are grateful to our sponsors and partners for making The Big Tell such a success: Bank of America, CMAC, KSEE24, CBS47

Watch the films at www.TheBigTell.org
A significant part of CVCF’s work is bringing people together to cultivate ideas, lift up community voices, and work together to implement a shared community vision for the region. We appreciate the many people who join us to determine how we can work together for improved economic opportunities, job creation, and community stabilization so that all people in the region can fully participate in an inclusive economy.

The Council of Business Sponsors (CBS) is an advisory body for CVCF’s work on major regional initiatives including higher education, transportation, housing, and inclusive economic development.

Each quarter, CBS members meet with CVCF staff leaders to review the progress on our goal of increasing the amount of investment in the region and improving civic infrastructure and philanthropy.

Thanks to the bold ideas and strong networks built through these convenings, CVCF has been tapped by Governor Newsom’s administration to provide valuable insight and direction on how the State can develop and promote opportunities for inclusive economic growth in the Central Valley and throughout California.

INLAND CA RISING

With 11 million residents, Inland California accounts for nearly 30 percent of the state’s population, and stretches from Stockton through Fresno, Merced, Bakersfield, and the Inland Empire.

Inland California Rising is a new coalition of higher education, civic, philanthropic, and community leaders from across the Central Valley and Inland Empire regions working together to raise the profile of the inland areas of the state. Throughout 2019, the coalition will conduct a series of summits to clarify priorities and identify strategies to address common issues, including higher education, health care, housing, transit, economic development, and transportation infrastructure.

CA Economic Summit

California Forward is a bi-partisan non-profit that has developed the Economic Roadmap, a statewide economic policy agenda focused on adding 1 million more skilled workers, 1 million more jobs, 1 million more acre feet of water, and 1 million more housing units to the state.

Since 2012, California Forward has organized a statewide economic policy forum, the Economic Summit, that brings all major regions of the state together for a two-day conference to focus on advancing the goals laid out in the Economic Roadmap.

In 2018, Fresno was selected to host the eighth Economic Summit, which is scheduled for November 7-8, 2019 and will attract over 700 business and civic leaders from around the state.

California Forward Leadership Council Member and CEO of CVCF Ashley Swearengin, and Oscar Chavez, Assistant Director at the Sonoma County Department of Human Services, announce the location of the 2019 California Economic Summit. (Photo Credits: Will Bucquoy/CAFwd)
Central Valley Legislators

The Central Valley Legislators Roundtable is a new initiative launched in April 2018 to bring community foundations together with staff from federal and state legislators representing the Central Valley. CVCF, along with Kern Community Foundation, Stanislaus Community Foundation, and Community Foundation of San Joaquin alternate hosting these quarterly convenings.

The meetings foster valuable opportunities for better communication among legislative staff to share and receive updates on the important work taking place in our Valley. The community foundations build relationships with their legislative counterparts on the important issues impacting our region to develop a coordinated strategy between philanthropic and government leaders.

In August 2018, nearly one hundred local advocates and community leaders joined with national policy and philanthropy experts in Fresno as a part of the national Shared Prosperity Partnership Initiative. This was Fresno's SP2 roundtable, and it explored how the city’s community, workforce, and economic development sectors could align programs and policies to enable low-income residents to contribute to and benefit from expanding opportunities for economic growth.

As Governor Newsom continues to call for “opportunity for all”—specifically the Central Valley—Fresno is poised to absorb tech jobs from the megaregion. The Valley to Valley report will inform on the most effective way to use our business advantages to drive inclusive economic development in the region.

CVCF is grateful to Bank of America, Wells Fargo, CSU Fresno, UC Merced, City of Fresno, and Lance Kashian & Company for their support of this initiative.
Funds That Drive Change

**Fund for Indian Subcontinent Heritage**

Fund for Indian Subcontinent Heritage (FISH) Philanthropy launched in 2017 at CVCF to improve the lives of underserved populations in the Central Valley. FISH Philanthropy’s vision is to unite the general community with the South Asian community, helping to break down barriers and shed misconceptions by promoting healthy conversations that make the community a better, safer, more understanding place.

In October, 2018, the organization held its first fundraiser to benefit the Marjaree Mason Center (MMC), Fresno County’s only dedicated provider of domestic violence shelter and support services, including education for victims and youth.

**FISH Philanthropy**

members presented a $20,000 check for the donation to Nicole Linder, Executive Director of MMC.

In one year, MMC can serve upwards of 5,000 women and children who are victims of domestic violence. It costs over $200 per day to house a family at the MMC safe house, and these much-needed funds from FISH Philanthropy will help MMC in their work to stop the generational cycle of domestic violence in our community.

**Amelia’s Angels**

Amelia Crystal Rodriguez was born on March 24, 2017. She was a miracle, born extremely premature, at only 24 weeks and weighing less than 2 pounds. Heroically, she endured many medical procedures, but passed away at just 6 ½ months old.

Preterm birth is the leading cause of death among infants in the United States, and at 10%, the Central Valley has the highest preterm birth rate in California. For the families of infants born premature, the journey to bring babies home includes significant emotional and financial hardship.

The Amelia’s Angels Fund at the Central Valley Community Foundation hopes to ease the financial burden for families of premature infants so they can focus on their child, not hospital costs.

The fund provides toys and other items for infants and children in neonatal and pediatric intensive care units (NICUs and PICUs) and financial assistance to their families to help with costs associated with food, lodging, travel costs, or if necessary, funeral expenses.

**Esther Asperger Fund for Child Abuse Prevention**

Studies show that a baby’s crying is the top trigger for abuse. Inexperienced parents, particularly young males, who are not prepared for the stresses of childcare may be more likely to respond with physical violence when experiencing stressful situations.

In June, 2018, the Esther Asperger Fund for Child Abuse Prevention at the Central Valley Community Foundation partnered with Valley PBS to create a media campaign to equip young parents with the tools, resources, and knowledge needed to prevent such tragedies from occurring.

The campaign, called, “Stop, Lay, Walk Away, Get Help” targets young parents, especially young men, to bring awareness of these facts and to share an important message: It’s okay to ask for help.

The Esther Asperger Fund for Child Abuse Prevention was established to honor the memory of Esther Asperger, who dedicated herself to her family and her community.

Each year, 29,000 children in California experience child abuse before the age of five.

According to the March of Dimes, the average cost of treatment for preterm infants in neonatal intensive care units is $5,770 per day.
This CRAFT-y Team Has a MIND for Robotics

CVCF is proud to host the Friends of Mindcraft Robotics Fund, which opened in 2018, where donors can support Fresno’s Edison High School’s Mindcraft Robotics Team #3495. The diverse group of students work together to create a working robot that competes in challenges with other high schools from around the country. In addition to the team members who design and construct the robot, the team also includes business students who manage the community outreach component and financial management. Mindcraft Robotics inspires youth to become innovators and critical thinkers by creating a growing interest in pursuing STEM-based careers.

Growing Hope in Gaza

Through a fund at CVCF, one local donor is contributing to American Near East Refugee Aid’s (Anera) Gaza Home Gardens and Food Security Program. With these funds, Anera provided each of 32 poor families with a greenhouse, fruit and vegetable seedlings, farming equipment, irrigation, and training so they could grow their own food to sustain their families.

The program promotes greater efficiency of limited land and water resources, and longer growing seasons. Many of the participating families are female-led households. In addition to the food they grow to support their families, they can sell surplus produce at nearby markets to supplement family income.

Protecting Red Hill

In Tulare County, deep in the Sierra National Forest lies a world of pristine rivers, lush forests, and ancient giant sequoias so immense they take your breath away. This is Red Hill, a 160-acre property that contains 110 giant sequoias in one of the world’s last unprotected giant sequoia groves.

In 2018, the Save the Redwoods League raised $4 million from more than 3,000 donors, including a contribution from The Ted Martin Legacy Fund at CVCF to purchase Red Hill, guaranteeing that the land will forever be protected.

Welcome New Funds 2018

- Amelia’s Angels Fund
- Brinker/Harding Gift Fund
- Children’s Museum of Fresno
- Central Valley Urban Institute
- David Viancourt Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Fresno Art Museum Anita Shanahan Endowment Fund
- Fresno Art Museum Education Endowment Fund
- Fresno Art Museum General Endowment Fund
- Fresno Art Museum Roxie Moradian Endowment Fund
- Fresno Philharmonic Endowment Fund
- Healthy Black Babies Fund
- JPMC PRO Neighborhoods
- James Irvine Foundation Fresno CORE Initiative
- KSEE24 Education Matters Scholarship Fund
- Latino Professionals Leadership Academy Fund
- Mindcraft FIRST Robotics Team #3495 Fund
- Next Generation Philanthropy Endowment Fund
- San Joaquin Valley Planned Giving Council Fund
- Teens That Care Fund
- Westland Farmers Charitable Fund & John C. Harris
- Whitney Humanities Fund

BY THE NUMBERS

2018 Revenue
$2,605,055

2018 Expenses
$2,085,490

Other Income
$622,673

Administrative Endowment Support
$392,696

Operating support from funders
$629,456

Admin Fees from funds
$960,230

Staff Compensation/Consultants
$1,392,494

Legal & Accounting
$44,611

Publications, Events, Advertising
$112,464

Rent, Telephone, IT
$291,491

Other Operating Expenses
$244,430

CVCF and Supporting Organizations Consolidating Statement of Financial Position Summary as of 12/31/18

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At CVCF, we believe community foundations should be agents of community transformation.

Donor-Advised Grantmaking
- Donor Advised Funds
- Field of Interest Funds
- Agency Funds
- Scholarship Funds
- Support Organization Funds
- Designated Funds

Foundation Initiated & Sponsored Projects
- Billion Dollar Challenge
- Local and Regional Coalition Building

Strategic Grant Making & Administration
- Regranting for Partners
- Board Discretionary Grant Funds

Community Transformation

Philanthropy Management

Our mission is to cultivate smart philanthropy, lead, and invest in solutions that build stronger communities.

The cover photo was taken at Yosemite National Park’s Sentinel Meadows View in Mariposa County by Khonesavanh Saysamongdy, 25, of Fresno. This photo was selected from among nearly 40 photos entered in a regional photo contest for our cover art. Photographers were asked to share a photo that best depicted this year’s focus on capturing special connections in our community and how our lives intersect with local culture, technology, art, and place. Thank you, Khonesavanh, for sharing your beautiful photo with all of us!