

Stevenson Philanthropy Project

Project Summary:

In 2020, Iva Winton P '24, '24 and Bryan Hillstrom '69, P '24, P '24 asked Stevenson School to work with a group of students to distribute \$25,000 to nonprofits in Monterey County from their foundation. In response, the school formed the Philanthropy Project student club, originally formed by eleven students in grades 9-12, to create a mission statement, release a grant application, review and score applications, interview non-profits, and make recommendations on how to allocate the funds. In 2021, the students were entrusted with \$50,000 to distribute to Monterey County non-profits.

Mission Statement:

The 2021 mission statement developed by the students is:

The Stevenson School Philanthropy Project aims to encourage friendly and informative interactions between Stevenson students and the Monterey County nonprofit community. We seek to build up, embrace, and empower our local community during these historically unprecedented times by providing support to those organizations who are assisting with essential services in our community to promote family stability. We hope to fund programs focusing on:

- Family health and safety programs with a focus on children, adults, and animals
- Educational opportunities and enhancements of virtual learning
- Job security and employment opportunities

Members of the 2021 Stevenson School Philanthropy club:

Donors:

Iva Winton & Bryan Hillstrom '69

Co-leaders: Sarah Barsamian '22, Hanna Lewis '21, & Andrew Mansour '21

Members: Emily Amador '23, Elliana Booth '21, Ashley Barsamian '24, Olive Bersamina '22, Holly Hillstrom '24, Georgina Maisto '22, Sadie Marinerstein '24, Noah Pope '23, Matthew Tam '22, Abby Yamashita '23, & Alesia Zhou '22

Staff advisors:

Corine Mink '87

Director of Parent Programs

Amy Elmore
Director of Advancement
Outside Consultant:
Mackenzie Little
Philanthropic Services Officer
Community Foundation for Monterey County

Project Steps:

- Met with donors to discuss the project and their parameters
- Developed a mission statement to guide the project and define funding priorities
- Researched the local non-profit landscape to identify qualifying agencies
- Researched how to post the grant opportunity in a fair and unbiased way for all to see
- Refined the grant application and Request for Funding Proposal for release
- Posted and advertised the grant
- Received 30 grant applications in 2021 (16 in 2020)
- Created a rubric to score the applications according to the mission statement and funding priorities
- Had group consultation meeting with Mackenzie Little from Community Foundation for Monterey County to discuss best practices
- Scored applications and began to narrow down the list of finalists
- Conducted Zoom interviews with each finalist (in lieu of a site visit due to Covid restrictions)
- All members reviewed all the recorded Zoom interviews
- Rescored each finalist
- Group discussion to help narrow down the field
- Determined how to distribute the \$50,000 based on:
 - Our mission
 - What they asked for
 - The impact we believed we could make
 - The most pressing needs considering the current COVID-19 issues
- Drafted letters to those that did not receive grant money and to those that did
- Sent emails notifying all applicants
- Released the funds to our grantees
- Will do a progress follow-up in the fall with all grantees

Organizations chosen to receive funding:

Jacob's Heart \$10,650

CASA \$6,000

Monterey County Rape Crisis Center \$4,000

Rancho Cielo \$4,900

Max's Helping Paws \$4,000

VNA \$5,650

Read to Me Project \$2,800

Found for Monterey County Free Libraries \$4,000

Catalyst Kids \$4,500

Housing Resource Center \$2,500

*\$1,000 was used in the fall to gift each of last year's grantees (5) \$200 to recognize their continued work in our community.