Ribbon Cutting for Gerald “Bummy” Burstein Fund

The heart of a generous donor is often rooted in a simple philosophy of giving back to organizations and communities that have influenced their lives the most. Long-time Riverside resident, Gerald “Bummy” Burstein, is a glowing example of such a donor. Burstein states it best, “For all the achievements that I’ve had, I could not have accomplished them without the support of many others. For that, it is always important to give back. As the famous quote goes—‘it’s better to give than to receive.’”

Burstein has been a tireless leader and advocate in the deaf community for well over a half century. He has been a loyal supporter of students of his alma mater, Gallaudet University in the east, as well as helping local students and families in the deaf community over the past thirty-seven years as an educator and administrator at the California School for the Deaf, Riverside (CSDR).

Establishment of Bummy’s new endowed fund at TCF was recognized at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 4 at the Gerald “Bummy” Burstein Student Center at the CSDR. Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge issued a proclamation honoring Bummy, and says, “For many years, Bummy has been a great leader for the deaf community, and one of Riverside’s most remarkable and inspiring citizens.” Bummy’s new fund will permanently provide annual funds for scholarships and support for deaf students at the California School for the Deaf, Riverside, forever.

Like so many other donors that have endowed donor-advised funds with The Community Foundation, Bummy was referred recently by one of the Foundation’s professional advisory council members, Vic Karadakis of UBS. Establishment of Bummy’s new endowed fund at TCF was recognized at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 4 at the Gerald “Bummy” Burstein Student Center at the CSDR. Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge issued a proclamation honoring Bummy, and says, “For many years, Bummy has been a great leader for the deaf community, and one of Riverside’s most remarkable and inspiring citizens.” Bummy’s new fund will permanently provide annual funds for scholarships and support for deaf students at the California School for the Deaf, Riverside, forever.

The Community Foundation has been providing outstanding philanthropic leadership, advocacy and funding support for the region’s nonprofit sector, particularly in the past year or two. They are a vital partner towards improving the quality of life in the region and supporting Goodwill’s mission and programs.

Gerald Burstein, nicknamed “Bummy” because of his childhood love for ‘dem bunnies’, otherwise known as the Brooklyn Dodgers.
President Daniel Foster

A fter one year under my belt at The Community Foundation, my admiration and appreciation continues to grow for nonprofits and the creative ways that this outstanding foundation and its donors and supporters contribute tremendously to the betterment of our communities in this huge and diverse two-county region.

Yet, I believe we have a long way to go. We need to do more…in order to meet the severe needs and challenges facing so many in our region…particularly at this most difficult economic time.

In recent months, our Foundation’s outstanding board and staff have been asking itself several important and strategic questions, like: How can TCF better serve the growing needs, challenges, and opportunities within the region? How can TCF become more proactive “change agent” and community leadership organization? How can TCF act as a catalyst and/or conduit for attracting and leveraging more funding and resources towards critical quality of life and nonprofit needs within the region?

As an answer to some of these questions that we are currently pursuing is to initiate and develop a regional funders alliance. Our foundation is leading the effort to unite the 25-30 largest funders (public, private, corporate foundations and agencies) of community quality of life organizations in the region into a Funders Alliance. This newly launched collaborative earlier this month is aimed at strengthening the philanthropic and nonprofit sector via improved coordination, funding, capacity-building, and advocacy. This important and ambitious effort is only one of several new developments and initiatives at the Foundation aimed at generating new answers to these core fundamental strategic questions.

Please do not hesitate to share your own questions, ideas and suggestions with me (or our staff & board) regarding our Foundation. Listening to our donors, grantees, advisors, partners and communities is absolutely vital to keeping us focused on pursuing the most important work and initiatives for the benefit of our two-county region.

Finally, I am pleased to announce some good news and results from 2009. Inspite of the severe recession and general decline nationally in philathropic fundraising, TCF is particularly proud that we raised nearly $4 million in gifts and contributions (which exceeded our budgeted goal and expectations by nearly $1 million). Additionally, we are most happy to report to all of our current donors and funds an overall 23.8% increase to our overall foundation assets/funds portfolio - jumping from $52 million over the past year. More internal, due to our staff’s aggressiveness to develop new grants and cost-cutting measures, our operating budget achieved an unanticipated savings of nearly $11,000 in 2009, with the prospects for operational growth in 2010 and beyond.

Rodgers to our outstanding staff and Board for these excellent results – and, of course, we can’t thank our donors, supporters, partners, advisors, and agencies enough for their generosity at a time when the needs of our region are so great.

Daniel Foster  
President & CEO

Other News & Events...

Funders Alliance Launches

T he region’s first collaborative between the largest foundations/funders of nonprofit and community quality of life causes has formally launched this month. Daniel Foster, TCF’s President/CEO will be founding chairperson for the newly formed Funders Alliance consisting of 25-30 of the largest funders in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Over the past year, Foster has been working with regional philanthropic leaders in conceiving, stimulating and developing the Funders Alliance.

The purpose/goals for the collaborative will be to better coordinate each foundation’s/funder’s work in the region to leverage funding to attract increased national foundation and governmental funding; standardize grant application processes and evaluation systems; increase capacity building support for the community; develop new market research; and provide vital advocacy and leadership on important regional needs and issues.

Youth Grant Makers

A ter a very successful launch of the Youth Grantmakers Initiative in spring, 2009, the 2010 class of young grantmakers is preparing to distribute another $15,000 to youth-oriented nonprofits this spring.

The successful program in Riverside was a partnership with high schools in the Riverside and Alvord Unified School Districts. With developing partners and funding, TCF is currently working on expanding this model program to other areas in the region, such as Upland/Rancho Cucamonga, cities of San Bernardino, and the Apple Valley/Victorville areas.

TCF/Climate Plan Convene Regional Leaders on SB375

ew state legislation aimed at reducing traffic, air pollution and global warming will have significant impact on the future quality of life of the Inland Empire. SB 375 was passed in 2008 and requires Califo- ria’s regions to develop integrated land use, housing and transportation plans that reduce global warming emissions.

In April, The Community Foundation will be partnering with ClimatePlan to produce a convening a cross-section of planning, environmental and civic leaders from throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties to address the relationship between land use policy and climate change. The event’s moderator will be Michael Woo – a smart growth advocate, political leader, and Dean of the College of Environmental Design at Cal Poly Pomona.

“We are excited to work with The Community Foundation in bringing together key regional leaders in transportation, housing and land use planning in the Inland Empire and hear what the unique issues and challenges are regarding the implementation of SB 375” said Autumn Bernstein, Director of ClimatePlan, “2010 is a wonderful opportunity to bring together two of the largest counties in the nation and help plan for the future.”

Mike Tracey, TCF’s Vice President of Development and Director of the Foundation’s Environmental Initiative, said, “While the region can become a national model for a balanced, well-planned and sustainable approach to creating future communities, the important convening is designed to encourage dialogue, collaboration and teamwork in developing the dynamic and sustainable future of both counties.” TCF’s Environmental Initiative is actively developing funds for environmental education, land conservation, and best practice development.

For more information about TCF’s Environmental Initiative, please contact Mike Tracey at 951-684-4194.

Building Partnerships

TCF has initiated a development partnership between the Levitt Pavilions Foundation and city and cultural leaders in Riverside to build/renovate a new outdoor park amphitheater that will offer 50 professional concerts/performances free-of-charge to the community.