

Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation
2017 Applications – Fall Cycle – Summaries

Note...A green star ★ will indicate those long-term, capable, well known and highly productive organizations which should not need extensive discussion, and may be eligible for a fast-track application in 2018.

ACADEMICS

- 1. California Strawberry Growers' Scholarship Fund** \$25,000 (of \$135,000) for scholarship support: The California Strawberry Growers' Scholarship Fund was established by the California Strawberry Commission in 1995 to enable children of strawberry field workers to further their educational and career goals. This scholarship program was developed to demonstrate the growers' appreciation and recognize the major contribution of field workers to the strawberry community. The fund is supported by California strawberry growers, shippers, processors and affiliated industries. Funds awarded can be applied toward any scholastic or vocational education program at any accredited institution. All students must reapply each year for continued funding and re-applications are reviewed annually by the Scholarship Fund Allocations Committee. Scholarship awards are intended to provide assistance with tuition, room and board, textbooks, and other educational expenses associated with college enrollment. NBRF funds would support awards to 30 Monterey County students, paid directly to the students' schools. Scholarship awards can range from \$400 - \$5,000 but tend to fall in the \$500 - \$1,200 range. *Recommendation: Decline. This feels like a program that should have more funding from strawberry growers than foundations. They received a 2015 NBRF grant for \$25,000 and submitted their evaluation one year late with no measurable outcomes. They submitted the other funders and NBRF was by far a larger funder than most ag companies. I think NBRF funds are better spent in collaboration with organizations who not only cut checks to students but support their difficult journey to a college degree.*
- 2. Junior Achievement of Northern California, Inc.** \$15,000 (of \$150,000) for Junior Achievement's Monterey County SUCCEED Project: Junior Achievement (JA) of Northern California runs volunteer-led education programs in local schools to prepare K-12th grade students to succeed in the global economy. Program curriculum focuses on hands-on activities about money management, workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship. Courses are led by trained volunteers from the local business community and are offered to schools at no cost. They also have a capstone program that includes worksite job shadows and business competitions. JA has been working in Monterey County for 13 years, partnering with 200 professionals to provide programs. This request would support JA's delivery of 15 K-12 classroom programs in Monterey County that serve 450 students out of a total of 4,200 countywide. JA recently completed a survey of their alumni and found that their students were 30% more likely to earn a Bachelor's degree, 67% more likely to have an advanced degree and 143% more likely to be involved with starting a business. *Recommendation: \$10,000. This is a hands-on program that connects academics with real-world business skills. They have committed volunteers, clear and consistent curriculum and a broad reach in Monterey County.*
- 3. ★ Life Is For Everyone, Inc.** \$10,000 (of \$119,000) for Operating Support: Life Is For Everyone, Inc. (LIFE) was founded in 1998 as a center-based program for school-aged youth, offering opportunities for academic support, life and social skills, and personal mentoring. Its mission is to serve the East Salinas community by investing in youth's educational life and social

development by partnering with their families and organizations who share the same commitment. LIFE offers up to 50 students individualized tutoring, homework assistance, study skills and mentoring Monday through Thursday from 3:30-5:00 pm. From 5:00-5:30 pm LIFE provides 30-minute sessions for life and social skills development. Once a week, as weather and daylight allow, LIFE has JUST RUN (a program of Big Sur International Marathon) activities for participants. Latino/a career speakers are also scheduled during this time to inspire and motivate students to stay in school and begin considering long-range life goals. Students hear stories of people who come from similar backgrounds and have achieved personal success. Supervised, structured recreation activities are offered on Fridays from 2:30-5:30pm and during the summer. Healthy snacks are served every day of the program. The LIFE program administers baseline reading assessments and consistently tracks student progress during the year. For the 2016 grant, they assessed that by the end of the year 95% of their students were reading at or above grade level. NBRF funds would support the general operations of this program.

Recommendation: \$10,000. This is a great example of a grassroots group that connects with their community and has a large impact for their students. 94% of their students are eligible for free or reduced lunch and come from extremely underserved community. Their results are remarkable for this community. They are also part of the Packard Youth Initiative which has provided great capacity building support to this organization.

- 4. Loaves, Fishes and Computers** \$12,000 (of \$101,593) for LFC Volunteer Program: Loaves, Fishes and Computers (LFC) was established in 2011 to support the technology needs of low income individuals, families, seniors and the disabled. LFC provides low-cost or free computers, technical assistance, repairs and refurbishment of local computer equipment. This is primarily done through a network of over 200 volunteers who help turn e-waste into useable technology for underserved communities. This request would support the AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator recruits, assists, and supports the work of 150 to 210 volunteers, ages 12-80+years. They help LFC's 3 staff members refurbish 400 to 500 computers per year, provide technical assistance and repairs, distribute computers to low-income recipients throughout Monterey County, and perform other vital tasks that benefit more than 3,300 people per year. Volunteers are trained in valuable technical, business, and customer service skills that help prepare them for additional education and/or employment. The volunteer crew is comprised of 30% (62) youth members (middle and high school students), who are generally interested in technology careers. *Recommendation: \$12,000. This program is not directly for youth and does not measure their success through the support of their youth volunteers. The application and evaluation barely even mentions the youth that they serve. That said, we have funded this crucial position for three straight years and the position is entirely reliant on our support. The organization is well run and does provide an important service to our community. I'd like to fund this grant and then spend the year working with them to either improve their metrics or give them a greater understanding of NBRF's youth mission.*
- 5. Monterey Peninsula College Foundation** \$35,000 (of \$196,000) for Evans College Incentive Program: The Monterey Peninsula College Foundation was formed in 1994 to raise funds to support students and instructional programs. This request would support their Evans College Incentive Program. The program works in partnership with local high schools, continuation schools, and youth service organizations to identify scholarship candidates who have a desire to attend college but face significant obstacles and lack the necessary resources and guidance. The majority of Evans College Incentive Program participants are first-generation college students, many speak English as their second language, and all reside in economically challenged

households. Each student participating in the Evans College Incentive Program has the opportunity to earn \$4,500 in financial assistance if they complete their studies at MPC and transfer to a four-year college or university. In addition to scholarship funds, Evans College Incentive Program participants receive personalized guidance to connect them with campus programs including textbook financial assistance and other student support services. Students receive assistance with admissions, financial aid applications, and class registration, among other important topics. Once enrolled in College Incentive, students must commit to: attending MPC full-time, maintaining a 2.3 GPA or higher, meeting with an MPC academic counselor at least once a semester, attending one-on-one mentoring activities facilitated by MPC Student Services which are designed to reinforce college readiness resources and promote student success, and regularly participate in monthly skill-building sessions. They expect to serve 130 students for the 2017-2018 school year. Results of the program include an 82% completion rate for first semester students (compared to 50.7% average for all of MPC) and 77% have gone on to enroll in their third college semester. *Recommendation: \$25,000. This program provides invaluable support to a population that is traditionally left behind in higher education. I was impressed with their final evaluation that included good results but also very thoughtful reflection on how they can continue to improve their service to support their students.*

6. Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove, Inc. \$8,680 (of \$32,505) for summer camp scholarships: The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History was established in 1883 and has been operated by the City of Pacific Grove since 1916. The Museum continues to be owned by the City of Pacific Grove, but the Museum is now operated by the nonprofit Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove to provide free admission and educational youth programming. This proposal is to support camp scholarships for summer 2018. This proposal would provide 28 student scholarships to week-long summer camps at the museum. This request is a follow-up to the 2016 NBRF grant that funded field-trips to underserved schools. The students from those schools would now be eligible for the week-long experience. The summer camps provide experiences to use scientific tools through hands-on activities, guided discussions and art projects. Themes of the camps include studying insects, local ecosystems, learning to become naturalists and a “Science Girls’ program just for young women. *Recommendation: \$8,000. I like that they are expanding to offer more substantial experiences to underserved youth through week-long camps. This would be the first year they run this program and didn’t yet have everything worked out (transportation, after-program care, etc.) but they are experienced in running their camp program. It has been a challenging year for the museum. Their director of exhibits and education was arrested and could not work at the museum until his case was eventually thrown out. Their Executive Director gave me a very honest and complete update on this situation which was certainly challenging. She immediately brought in legal support and also brought in an HR consultant to assist.*

7. Salinas Area Reading is Fundamental (SARIF) \$5,000 (of \$48,500) for Operating Support: SARIF was founded in 1975 to provide free books for children to promote literacy. They serve more than 17,000 pre-school through sixth grade students from Salinas, North Monterey County and Castroville. Each school receives three distributions of books per year and the schools only pay \$1 per student. This all-volunteer organization raises money to support the book purchases, purchases books and repackages them for the schools and gives them to volunteer school distributors to set up days at their schools for children to choose the books to take home and keep. Past results include: children enjoy choosing their books (over 98%), students say they read their books at school or at home (94%), students in grades K- 3 say they

share their book with their family and/or friends (75%) and students in grades 4-6 report that the book they have read inspires them to read more books by the same author or on the same subject (70%). *Recommendation: Decline. Books for children is always a good idea, but I feel that NBRF funds can be put to better use by supporting programs that not only distribute books but provide ongoing support to children to promote literacy.*

- 8. Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties** \$20,000 (of \$1,097,397) for Foster Grandparent Program: Founded in 1978, the mission of the Seniors Council is to enable older persons to function with independence and dignity in their homes and in the community to their fullest capacity. This request supports their Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) that recruits, trains and coordinates placement of Foster Grandparent volunteers into pre-school and elementary school classrooms as mentors and tutors to improve the academic achievement and social skills of students who would otherwise underachieve. They train and place 57 or more Foster Grandparents at a minimum of 24 school sites in the Monterey County area. The Foster Grandparents will contribute over 38,000 volunteer hours mentoring and tutoring a minimum of 175 pre-school and elementary school children so that appropriate age-specific social behaviors and academic goals can be achieved. Foster Grandparents receive a \$2.65 non-taxable hourly stipend that results in an increase in their economic self-sufficiency. Impact outcomes will be reported on 5 skills and abilities necessary for the child to increase academic achievement and in the long term, increase the potential of graduation from high school. FGP is funded primarily through federal funding but a 10% local match is required to run the program. *Recommendation: \$20,000. This is a new program to NBRF but I've been working with this group for many years. I've visited the program and am always impressed with their outcomes for students and for the grandparents. They have an excellent evaluation system and their program represents a real win-win for our community.*
- 9. SPCA for Monterey County** \$20,000 (of \$26,521) for Paws to Read: The SPCA for Monterey County was established in 1905 to assure the compassionate and humane treatment of all animals in our community. This request would support their "Paws to Read" program to improve students' literacy skills by reading out loud to an SPCA Pet Ambassador. SPCA staff or volunteers bring an adoptable pet to the school or library and the students take turn turns reading to the pet. Each student will spend approximately five minutes per session reading from either a book selected by their teacher or a book of their choosing and it can be in either English or Spanish. Students are encouraged to take their time and sound out more challenging words as they read to the pet with their staff or volunteer providing guidance and encouragement as appropriate. This also improves the shelter pets' listening and socialization skills, increasing their adoptability into new loving homes. Last school year nearly 750 students throughout Monterey County participated in the program that would visit schools on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis (depending on the school). *Recommendation: Decline. They have no way of knowing if the program actually improves literacy for the youth and the amount of time each student has to interact with the pet is rather limited. They also don't have a specific training program for the volunteers but rely on their own experience with literacy work to guide the students. In 2016, we funded a program that paired pets with troubled youth to support animal and human growth. That program has now ended due to the amount of effort it takes to work with that population and concerns that they couldn't measure the outcomes. Their final evaluation left me with the feeling that these programs are more for the animals than the youth involved, which is completely understandable since their mission is to support animals. I just don't think it is the best fit for NBRF.*

10. University Corporation at Monterey Bay on behalf of CSU Monterey Bay \$14,300 (of \$184,244) for South County Monterey 2+2+ 1 Collaborative Teacher Pathway Program - South Monterey County Teacher Mentoring Project: The University Corporation was established in 1994 to support CSUMB and its efforts to build a multicultural learning community for academic excellence. This request would support a collaborative program with Hartnell College to provide opportunities and support to high school students in South Monterey County in their efforts to become a teacher. The program was created to address the large teacher shortage in our region, particularly in the more rural areas of Monterey County. This pathway program starts in high school where nominated students will be assigned a teacher and college student mentor to help them with the college process. The students will take part in workshops and have individual meetings with mentors to guide them. The workshops are on topics such as applying to college, financial aid, success in college, careers in education, issues in education and leadership development. Once in college, Hartnell College offers the first two years of the Elementary Education Associate of Arts degree, which is a fully articulated program with CSUMB's Liberal Studies (LS) major. Upon completion of the AA degree, students who meet transfer requirements have guaranteed admission to CSUMB to complete the second two years of the LS BA degree. Graduates will continue on to complete a post baccalaureate teaching credential in Elementary Education at CSUMB. NBRF funds would focus on the high school students through stipends to the mentors and supporting the leadership workshops. They serve 40 high school students, 60 college students and 10 teacher mentors. *Recommendation: 14,300. This request highlights a strong collaboration between Hartnell and CSUMB that could support current students and better serve future students through homegrown teachers. The program is primarily funded through the Clare Gianinni Fund and Betsy Adler (the Program Officer and former NBRF lawyer) has only glowing remarks on the program.*

ARTS & TRADITIONS

11. Action Council \$15,000 (of \$71,000) for Palenke Arts operating support: Action Council has submitted this application on behalf of their fiscal sponsor, Palenke Arts. Palenke Arts was formed in August 2015 in Seaside by a committed group of artists, educators and community members in recognition of the urgent need of multicultural arts and music programs and events for the youth in our community. The mission of Palenke Arts is to educate and inspire the community through the arts. Their vision is to create a vibrant and inclusive multicultural arts center in the City of Seaside, offering courses and performances in a multitude of art forms. This request would fund a series of no-cost multicultural music and dance classes to be offered to Seaside elementary, middle and high school students at the new Palenke Arts facility located inside King Elementary School. The current classes that they offer include a children's chorus, Latin jazz workshop, hip hop dance, visual arts for elementary school children, Mariachi class, digital audio class for teenagers and an Afro Cuban percussion course. These programs serve 120 children and youth in Seaside. They have also put on a number of community arts festivals to bring together the community and showcase a diverse group of artists. They are currently collaborating with CPY, Monterey Pops, Monterey Jazz Festival, MPUSD and CSUMB's service learning institute to deliver their programs. *Recommendation: \$10,000. NBRF's grant to Palenke Arts last year had a deep impact for this very new and small organization. They are still learning and growing in their efforts but the progress they have made in just one year is impressive and sorely needed in this community.*

12. Alisal Center for Fine Arts \$15,000 (of \$566,750) for Operating Support: Alisal Center for the Fine Arts (ACFA) was established in 1986 to provide art instruction and highlight contemporary and cultural heritage to foster creativity and facilitate empowerment for the Alisal community. ACFA offers free weekly arts classes in Visual Arts, Community Theater, Percussion, Guitar, and youth cultural programs and directly serves around 2,000 weekly participants. These classes organize community exhibitions, festivals and performances which reach 30,000 community members annually. ACFA also partners with other community organizations to provide classroom and performance space. This request is for operating support to continue and expand reach through free programs and events. Results from their 2016 grant include 94% of students reporting that ACFA positively impacted them as artists and on a personal level, 99% of students reported that ACFA instructors also served as great mentors and 69% of students reported that they programs were challenging at an appropriate level. *Recommendation: \$15,000. ACFA plays an important role in a challenging community. It is a center for arts but also plays an important role in bringing out the community and promoting pride in their culture/neighborhood. Their budget includes \$325,800 that is a pass through for two additional organizations who have a fiscal sponsorship with ACFA. ACFA is a relatively small, grassroots organization that needs strong foundation support.*

13. Art in Action \$15,000 (of \$61,000) for Expanding Educational Equity in Monterey County Schools Through Art: Art in Action (AiA) was established in 1999 to inspire student thinking and creativity by providing visual arts programs through which they learn art history, appreciation and skills. AiA combines a K-8 curriculum based on student-centric discussions about works of art, lesson-specific art supplies, hands-on and online training of teachers and parent volunteers and support for schools. The schools implement their curriculum with the support of AiA trained teachers/volunteers and a program coordinator who works directly with the schools to troubleshoot and serve as a resource. The 12 lesson curriculum is aligned with Common Core Standards. The nonprofit is based up in Menlo Park and will serve over 100,000 students nationwide and in the Bay Area. NBRF funding would support the continuation of the Art in Action program in partnership with the Salinas Elementary School District in 39 of their underserved after-school centers impacting 930 K-5 students and the implementation of the program in the San Antonio Elementary School District serving 170 K-8 students in 9 classrooms. AiA provides training, on-going support, access to the online curriculum and art materials for each classroom. *Recommendation: \$10,000. This seems to be a structured way to get quality arts programs to more students who would typically not have access to such a program.*

14. California Missions Foundation \$8,000 (of \$26,000) for "All-Aboard-the-Bus" Field Trip Grant Program: The California Missions Foundation was established in 1998 to fund preservation activities and facilitate educational programs, conferences and scholarships. This statewide organization focuses on fundraising with a large board and one staff member. This request would support the "All-Aboard-the-Bus" Field Trip Program which makes it possible for fourth grade students from Title I schools to visit a local mission. All fourth grade classes in California study the Missions as part of their state-mandated social studies curriculum, and the ability to personally visit a Mission enhances the curriculum. Each year they send more than 2,400 Monterey County students plus more than 350 teachers and chaperones on these field trips by covering the cost of bus transportation. While visiting the missions on these field trips, the students hear from docents, trained staff and others about early life in California. They are

able to see artifacts up close, and learn more about the role the Mission and related sites played in early California. This request would be restricted to serve schools in Monterey County. *Recommendation: Decline. This would fund a one-time field trip which has an unknown impact on the children it serves.*

15. Carl Cherry Center for the Arts \$10,000 (of \$21,750) for Monterey County High School Poetry Awards: Carl Cherry Center for the Arts was founded in 1948 by a local artist to present arts and theater that explores contemporary issues. They currently operate a gallery space, sculpture garden and theater space in Carmel for a wide variety of arts programs and events. This request is to support their high school poetry awards, Thinking Out Loud. The awards provide the motivation to engage with high school students and promote literacy, creativity, community and an appreciation for their own voice. The Center offers workshops on poetry writing to high schools and promotes their award program to high schools countywide. For the upcoming poetry program, they intend to provide approximately 175 hours of writing instruction to students in 11 to 13 Monterey County high schools and Rancho Cielo and Silver Star Resource Center. Part of this effort involves including Spanish poems in the awards program. *Recommendation: \$8,000. I've attended a poetry workshop at a Salinas school and was very impressed with the quality of the instruction and the power that can come from students tapping into their own voice. I think it is great to combine these workshops with a publicized contest that provides incentives and a venue for further poetry exploration.*

16. First Night Monterey \$8,000 (of \$28,500) for Greenfield Cultural Arts Music Program: First Night Monterey (FNM) was founded in 1992 by a group of local arts and civic leaders to use the arts as a catalyst to build community. FNM's programs have grown from one large event on New Year's Eve into a year-round calendar of workshops, performances, exhibits and community festivals that explore current themes such as violence, community and the environment. This request is to support the Greenfield Cultural Arts Center (GCAC). GCAC is located in downtown Greenfield (in the old police building) and currently holds weekly traditional dance classes, visual art classes, Mariachi classes, choral group and computer classes. The new GCAC has been designed as a cultural facility with the building used primarily for the programming, production, presentation, and/or exhibition of cultural disciplines—such as traditional dance, film, literature, visual arts and music. The GCAC would use the grant funds for free arts education classes and community engagement events. The program serves over 80 youth in weekly programs and larger community events typically draw in more engagement (5,000 at the Greenfield Harvest Festival, 2,000 at special events/shows). Results from the 2016 NBRF grant include, 99% of the parents reporting that the camp was a positive influence and their child learned so much, pride in the mural project and pleased with the advanced level of art skills. *Recommendation: \$5,000. FNM has some ongoing organizational capacity problems with their administration. Their Executive Director is disorganized and hard to work with, typically submitting incomplete or incorrect forms. That said, Greenfield is an extremely underserved community that has very little programming for youth. FNM was able to run classes and a summer camp program for these youth and NBRF support of even a small amount can make a large impact in this community.*

17. Friends of Olympia Station dba Tandy Beal & Company \$20,000 (of \$73,080) for ArtSmart: Founded in 1972, Tandy Beal and Company (TBC) is one of the longest running arts organizations in the region and has toured nationally and internationally with 120 concert

works on four continents. ArtSmart is a series of in-school residencies and concerts, benefiting Monterey County schools and families. Funds will be used specifically to hire teaching artists, guest world artists, both as teachers and as performers, and administration to provide logistical and organizational support for eight-week residencies for third grade classrooms (807 students) in all elementary schools in Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD). ArtSmart's residency program, Dance Around the World (DATW) includes dance classes and creative problem solving exercises aligned with Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Content Standards, Common Core, Socio-Emotional Learning and Physical Education standards. DATW culminates with performances for the whole school and their families, featuring students and adult world dancers. DATW also offers pre-residency meetings with teachers, professional development for teachers. In addition, ArtSmart presents two concerts at Seaside High School for district families and in schools in Salinas and King City. NBRF funded this program in 2016 bringing this new program to 32 classes. They have recently contracted with a former principle who has created an evaluation system for the program and they expect more concrete measurements for future programs. *Recommendation: \$10,000. I was able to attend a final performance for a school in Seaside and was impressed to see whole classes performing dance pieces that integrate cultural practices of a specific country. The students performed and professional dancers performed their traditional dance as well. The combination of cultural appreciation and dance was nice and MPUSD has been making strong efforts to improve their arts program which should be supported.*

- 18. HARA Motion Picture Conservatory** \$10,000 (of \$151,550) for Get Discovered Summit: HARA Motion Picture Conservatory was established in 2011 to provide high school students with mentorship through experience as cast and crew of video productions to prepare them for a career path in the collaborative arts. They offer training classes that prepare students to take on key creative positions on video production projects during school holiday breaks to practice their new skills side by side with film industry professionals. HARA will offer a new 2-day introductory program three times throughout the year for students interested in acting, producing, and/or directing. Taught by industry filmmakers, the program is geared towards continuing education and job placement. Students from the training programs will then be part of an online mentoring group with weekly interactions and ongoing feedback/support. NBRF funding would provide the necessary resources for 100 low-income high school students to participate in the new weekend training program at no cost. These two-day training programs are a shift for the organization which in the past has worked to create a youth-produced full-length motion picture. *Recommendation: Decline. The financial situation and governance of this organization are of great concern. The organization is run by a husband and wife team who also run a for-profit media company and the lines between the two organizations are not clear. Their balance sheet showed current assets of \$24, owners' equity (not something that nonprofits have), outstanding payments to themselves and loans from their for-profit company. I believe they run good projects but do not have the capacity to run their own nonprofit. I would recommend that they run their program under the umbrella of a larger organization with stronger financial capacity.*

- 19. Monterey County Agriculture & Rural Life Museum (MCARLM)** \$16,000 (of \$23,886) for High School Internship Program: MCARLM was established in 1978 to celebrate the past, present and future of Salinas Valley agriculture and rural life. They operate a large museum, located in San Lorenzo Park in King City. The nucleus of the museum centers around a large collection of farm equipment and seven buildings including an agricultural exhibit bam, tractor bam, restored King City depot, one-room school house, irrigation museum, restored Spreckels

farm house and blacksmith shop. MCARLM hosts many community events and is a popular field trip spot for Monterey County elementary schools, currently serving more than 30 schools and over 2000 students. This request would support their high school internship program. The MCARLM Internship Program is a yearlong opportunity that provides high school students with a well-rounded experience which introduces them to all facets of working in a professional museum environment, including tours, exhibitions, research and educational programming. This program started with a Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation grant in 2016 which they are looking to expand upon in the upcoming year. The current program includes 4 high school students and NBRF funds would go towards student stipends (\$3,750 each) and to purchase a computer to assist the interns with their work at the museum. *Recommendation: \$10,000. MCARLM is a beautiful museum that has been expanding its offerings in recent years to the local community of King City. This particular program seems to help MCARLM but does only offer the experience to a few select students. I'd like to fund this particular expense and then work with them during the year to see if they can come in for a slightly larger program.*

- 20. Monterey County Symphony Association** \$25,000 (of \$105,000) for Music for the Schools: The Monterey County Symphony Association was established in 1947 to engage, education and excite our community through the performance and continual discovery of symphonic music. The symphony presents double performances of six concerts each year. This request would support the Music for the Schools program which includes a music curriculum for the schools, in-class visits, attendance at free-of-charge youth concerts, transportation assistance and a collaboration with Youth Music Monterey (YMM). During the upcoming school year, six Youth Concerts will be given to over 4,000 students from all over Monterey County. Bus scholarships are available to schools with financial need. Schools have the option to have the symphony's musicologist give a 30-minute assembly to schools who are attending the concerts. Programming for school visits includes education about instrument families, composer biographies, and theater etiquette. They hope to serve 75% of schools with the pre-concert assembly. This request would also support the side-by-side program with YMM where students receive coaching from symphony members and perform alongside the professional symphony. *Recommendation: \$15,000. I was pleased to hear about the music curriculum and in-school visits that are now a part of this program to make it more than just a one-time visit. It's great that they added bus scholarships to the program but they also recently stopped all Salinas concerts. The Symphony has a new Executive Director who has good energy and vision but the organization has been plagued by constant deficits and endowment spending. I hope that their new Executive Director and the move to two evening concerts at Sunset Center help shore up their finances as they are certainly an important county institution.*

- 21. Monterey Museum of Art** \$10,000 (of \$50,000) for School Visit Program: The Monterey Museum of Art (MMA) was established in 1959 to expand a passion for the visual arts and inspire appreciation of California art. MMA collects and cares for a permanent collection of art, and exhibitions include traveling exhibitions, presentations of the permanent collection, as well as community exhibitions showcasing works by participants of partnering organizations. The Museum also offers free Family Days, art camps and classes, scholarly lectures, artist-led workshops, musical events, an Afternoon Art Club for Kids, Spotlight Tours, and many other programs for all ages. This request would support their School Visit Program which reaches over 2,300 K-12 students from throughout Monterey County. The program supports teachers' efforts to meet the requirements for learning Standards through the exploration of Early California

paintings, photography, and contemporary art. The program provides students with first-hand experiences with art, and also allows students to express their own creativity through hands-on art making activities. Each visit lasts 1.5 – 2 hours and students rotate between gallery activities and hands-on activities. MMA provides students with free admission passes so they can return with their families. MMA provides transportation for 70% of the classrooms in need. *Recommendation: \$6,000. It is a great opportunity for students to be able to interact with our local museum but it is still a one-time event that doesn't measure their impact on the students. I would recommend staying at previous funding levels for the program.*

22. National Steinbeck Center \$5,000 (of \$17,850) for Steinbeck Young Authors Middle School Literacy Program: The mission of the National Steinbeck Center (NSC), founded in 1984 and opened in 1998, is to build community and celebrate creativity, inspired by the words of John Steinbeck. In addition to the museum display on John Steinbeck, NSC offers community programs such as the Mariachi Festival, the Day of the Dead exhibit and Festival, Comic Con, the Steinbeck Birthday Celebration, Steinbeck Young Authors Program and Day of Writing, and the Steinbeck Festival. This request would support the Steinbeck Young Authors Program. The program begins in local classrooms (serving 4,200 students) where teachers are provided with a curriculum that includes class activities, writing activities, reading recommendations and a rubric for assessment around the reading of Steinbeck's "The Gift". From that base, 2-3 students are selected from each class to attend a day of writing where students are coached individually by local professionals. In 2018, two days of writing will be offered, serving about 100 students each day. Students write an essay in the morning and then meet with coaches for 3-4 hours. The day culminates with an award ceremony where awards are presented to emerging, advanced writers, and students for whom English is a second language. *Recommendation: \$5,000. This program connects a famed local author to students through their curriculum and through the participation in an intense day of mentorship. NSC has had its challenges in the past but seems to be operating a much more sustainable model since CSUMB bought the building.*

23. Orchestra in the Schools \$15,000 (of \$146,080) for Operating Support: Orchestra in the Schools (OITS) was established as an independent nonprofit in 2014 but operated as a program at All Saints Day School since 1988. It is a children's symphony orchestra program that provides small and large group instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced musicians. Their programs currently serve 80-100 students from 25 schools for 27 weekly two-hour sessions throughout the school year. The sessions start with small instrumental sectionals and end with full orchestral rehearsals. They plan to perform four concerts during the upcoming school year including joint concerts with Youth Music Monterey and the Monterey County Pops!. This request is for operating support to cover the gap between the real cost of the program (\$1,100) and the amount charged for annual tuition (\$550). OITS also offered scholarships (\$7,800) to students who could not afford the tuition. *Recommendation: \$15,000. This is still a relatively new nonprofit who have done quite a bit of work to make the program viable and successful. They are part of CFMC's "Next Steps" grant program which provides support and capacity building expertise. This has been extremely helpful to the organization and I look forward to see how they grow in the years to come. The NBRF grant will make a large impact for this new/smaller organization.*

24. ★ Sunset Center \$30,000 (of \$185,000) for Arts-in-Education Program: The Sunset Cultural Center (SCC) was founded in 2003 to serve as a multi-purpose gathering place to present

performances, visual arts, educational programs and host public, private and community events. The SCC is home to several resident companies including the Carmel Bach Festival and the Monterey Symphony. This request is for a newly expanded portfolio of arts education programs. 1. Classroom Connections is their established program that brings SCC performers into the schools in a four-part arts program that serves 600-800 students from underserved schools countywide. 2. Turnaround Arts: California, is a federal program to specifically support arts education as an improvement tool in high poverty, underperforming schools. A Sunset Center staff person has been appointed as a Regional Coach for the two selected schools: Mary Chapa Academy (Greenfield) and MLK Jr. Elementary (Seaside). 3. The last new program is Partners in Education, which provides professional learning in the arts for teachers. Sunset Center will be arranging and hosting professional development arts integration workshops led by official Kennedy Center teaching artists for teachers in the N. Monterey County Unified School District. The two new programs are national initiatives where SCC was selected to participate. *Recommendation: \$20,000. I've seen the classroom connections program in person a few times and I've always been impressed with the consistency and quality of the programs. The other two programs are relatively new but I've heard from school administrators that they are well received and having a big impact.*

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- 25. Positive Discipline Community Resources'** \$10,000 (of \$29,000) for Parenting for Strong Communities: Positive Discipline Community Resources' (PDCR) just entered its seventh year as a formal nonprofit following 12 previous years of grassroots work. They promote Positive Discipline (PD), a brain development-based approach that teaches mutual respect and dignity to create more thriving families and a brighter future with children. Each PD program for parents and service providers are low-cost or free to be accessible to as many people as possible. This request would support their "Parenting for Strong Communities" Initiative which includes two 2-day workshops (in English and Spanish) and ongoing support to PD program providers in the spring of 2018. The trainings will certify 50 parent educators or those who work with children and families in group or one-on-one sessions. The ongoing support will be provided by PDCR via monthly Mentor Group meetings and coaching, as well as outreach for PD parenting programs in Monterey County. Results from their 2016 NBRF grant included: 77% increased knowledge of teaching children social and life skills instead of punishing them and 73% felt more confident in their ability to support parents. *Recommendation: \$10,000. This is a small, evidence based program that is also funded by First 5. They have good results, a solid evaluation system and their impact will go beyond the educators to the families they serve.*
- 26. ★ Raising a Reader** \$20,000 (of \$102,500) for Raising a Reader 3.0m (Monterey): Raising a Reader (RAR) is a national early literacy program that started a Monterey County affiliate in 2011 and is serving 2,200 children between the ages of birth to 8 years old. Funding is requested to continue support for family literacy program and to expand their program to an additional 180 children. RAR partners with local schools, libraries and development centers to form positive family literacy habits, which can lead to school and career success later in life. Children will receive the program through existing affiliates Monterey County Office of Education Head Start, King City Unified School District, Soledad Unified School District, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District and the Salinas Public Library. RAR provides literacy training to underserved families and bags that they fill with books for families to take home and establish

a routine of reading at home. They have conducted 32 independent evaluations that show that families who participate in the program have statistically significant increases in creating a reading-rich home environment, especially in at risk populations. *Recommendation: \$15,000. This is a cost-effective, research-based program that consistently produces high quality results.*

27. Teen Success, Inc. \$10,000 (of \$80,393) for Salinas Teen Success, Inc. Program: Teen Success was established in 2011 to help underserved teen mothers and their children become educated, self-sufficient, valued members of society. The program was originally developed in 1990 as a program of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, it became its own independent nonprofit in 2011 to broaden partnerships and reach more mothers. They currently operate in 8 cities throughout California. Using a two-generation approach, Teen Success, Inc. provides teen mothers with intensive services over 18 months to help them to complete high school and pursue postsecondary education, maintain their family size, and develop the skills to nurture their child's positive development. The Salinas Teen Success, Inc. Program provides: 1) One-on-one coaching to build on members' strengths and support them in identifying and finding solutions to challenges they face while building their skills to proactively work towards their goals, 2) Peer learning group to build knowledge and skills in the following areas - reproductive health, child development and parenting, and social emotional learning. The program will serve a minimum of 15 teen mothers and their children and will be operated in partnership with Harmony at Home. Harmony at Home will directly implement the program and Teen Success, Inc. provides the funding, curriculum, ongoing training, evaluation system, coaching and oversight of the program. In 2017, 97% of members who completed the program graduated high school or were making progress towards graduation, as compared to 38% of teen mothers nationally. 2% of members had a second pregnancy, as compared to 18% of teen mothers nationally. 96% of members report reading to their child regularly and 97% of members make it a point to teach their child new words. *Recommendation: \$5,000. This is a new applicant who serves a relatively small population. The services though seem rather intense and the population is certainly vulnerable and underserved. They also have a well-documented track record of success and have partnered with a great local organization for service delivery. I'd like to give them a smaller grant and track their progress in Salinas.*

28. ★ The Parenting Connection of Monterey County \$30,000 (of \$113,165) for Operating Support: Parent Connection Monterey County (PCMC) was originally founded in 2001 as Friends of Parents' Place to accept charitable donations on behalf of the Pacific Grove Unified School District Adult School Parents' Place program. In 2014, the nonprofit decided to broaden its scope of impact by directly offering parent-education programs to more parents and families in Monterey County at their new facility in Marina. They changed their name to more fully reflect the current mission and vision. This request is for general operating support for their Play and Learn Playgroups that provide facilitated support groups for parents to learn how to nurture the development of their young child. The parent-education playgroups are designed for families with young children at times when working families can participate. These programs will service around 126 families during the grant year. They also offer specialty classes for toddlers including Jump Into Art, Creative Tinkering, Sing with Me, as well as special classes for parents including Managing the Madness, Mommy and Me Exercise, Prepare for Potty Training, and Developing Healthy Sibling Relationships. PCMC runs a Maternal Mental Health Program to raise awareness about Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders and provide non-clinical community-based support for new parents. The program includes a bi-lingual warmline, and 3x

monthly facilitated support groups in Marina and Salinas. Data collected at the end of the Winter 2017 playgroup session shows that after attending the session, 93% of parents had an increase in knowledge of their child's overall physical and emotional health, 86% reported a greater ability to create a safe environment for their child, 93% had more knowledge about how children grow and develop, 100% reported more knowledge of family and parenting resources in the area, and 64% had more confidence in themselves as parents. *Recommendation: \$30,000. This is a small program that serves an important need for early childhood education for working parents. The NBRF grants have made a large impact on their program and their results are encouraging.*

ENVIRONMENT

29. Elkhorn Slough Foundation \$10,000 (of \$89,729) for Environmental Literacy: Youth Conservation Outreach: The Elkhorn Slough Foundation (ESF) was established in 1982 to conserve and restore the Elkhorn Slough and its watershed. ESF owns and stewards nearly 4,000 acres of land and promotes community involvement through education and volunteer programs to inspire conservation. This request would support their Youth Outreach which has three key projects; "Slough Crew," Moro Cojo Nature Guides, and the Carneros Creek Outdoor Classroom. These three programs are environmental literacy programs designed to raise awareness and importance of nature for local youth. The "Slough Crew" includes a field trip for 300 North Monterey County High School (NMCHS) freshmen to the Slough and is paired with a pre and post in-class curriculum about the environment and conservation. They also have 15-35 student members of their extra-curricular environmental club where members learn about local habitats and host events to promote environmental stewardship at NMCHS. The Moro Cojo Nature Guide program will train selected Slough Crew members to serve as paid nature guides. They piloted the program last year with two students and are looking to expand it moving forward. The Carneros Creek Outdoor Classroom is a fieldtrip program for elementary students to provide lessons on insects, Native American culture and science. The classroom is located within walking distance of the local elementary school and will serve nearly 500 students. Results from the 2016 NBRF grant included a 54% increase in understanding of the term watershed, 80% of freshman students stated the fieldtrip was the highlight of the year in their science class and 82% of Slough Crew members felt something good has come out of improving the Waste Free habitat (student gathering place). *Recommendation: \$7,000. NBRF funded this program in 2016 at the \$5,000 level (first time applicant). The grant was successful and the program is continuing to grow.*

30. O'Neill Sea Odyssey \$5,000 (of \$87,500) for Monterey County Ocean Education: O'Neill Sea Odyssey was established in 1997 to provide hands-on educational experiences that encourage the protection and preservation of the sea. They offer these experiences to 4th – 6th grade students from the Monterey and San Francisco Bay area. This request would support transportation costs for 50 classes (1,500 students) from Monterey County to participate in their program. The program consists of an ocean-going field trip, classroom science curriculum, and a community service project from Monterey County schools and community centers. Some examples of the community service projects include native plant restoration, rain catchment system for a park, Upper Carr Lake cleanup and recycling projects. The fieldtrip takes place on board a catamaran and includes three learning stations; navigation, ecology and marine biology.

They do a pre and post program survey and they expect that 75% of students will increase their knowledge in these areas. 2016 results included an increase from 73% to 95% of students agreeing that environmental awareness is important and 100% of teachers reported that their students “learned a lot”. *Recommendation: \$5,000. The program is unique and successful. NBRF has funded the program at this level since 2012.*

- 31. Ventana Wilderness Alliance** \$10,000 (of \$109,075) for Youth in Wilderness: Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) was established in 1998 to protect, preserve, and restore the wilderness qualities and biodiversity of the public lands within California’s northern Santa Lucia mountains and Big Sur coast. VWA works on this mission through three program areas: advocacy, stewardship and youth education. This request would support the Youth in Wilderness program (YiW). The YiW program is a no cost wilderness immersion program that serves youth participants from underrepresented and socio-economically disadvantaged communities in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties. YiW leads participants on multi-day backpacking expeditions in the Big Sur backcountry resulting in opportunities for self-discovery, life skill development, digital detox, and conservation ethics education. By providing all essential backpacking gear, food, and leadership at no-cost, YiW aims to temporarily eliminate economic barriers to outdoor recreation while educating and inspiring the next generation of wilderness stewards and advocates. The program serves 425 students, 62% are from Monterey County through partnerships with organizations like Rancho Cielo, CPY and Greenfield Science Workshop and typically lasts for three days and two nights. The program uses a pre and post-expedition evaluation and tracks key performance indicators to assess the program. *Recommendation: \$5,000. This seems like a great program to really immerse youth in nature. It seems like they have a good evaluation system so I’d like to give them a small introductory grant (first time applicant) and then track their progress.*

HEALTH

- 32. Coastal Kids Home Care** \$15,000 (of \$370,268) for Clinic on Wheels: Coastal Kids Home Care was established in 2005 to improve the quality of life for children healing from injury or short-term illness, living with chronic serious conditions, developmental problems, or at the end of life. They provide in-home pediatric medical care, therapies to ensure comfort, and social services to assist the entire family. These services are provided to any medically fragile child living in Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. This specific request would support their Clinic on Wheels program in Monterey County and more specifically three of their main programs. They include an in-home fitness program that provides skilled nursing for short-term needs to help an injured child get back to a healthy and active lifestyle. Another program is for vulnerable infants to address the concerns of new parents with an infant with congenital issues or other developmental concerns. This request would also support their program for children with developmental disabilities or congenital abnormalities to receive support from licensed therapists. Their Monterey County program typically serves 275 children, 70% of whom are from low-income, with 650 home visits. These funds are needed due to the low reimbursement rate for Medi-Cal, the main source of support for low-income families. *Recommendation: \$15,000. This is a critical gap in services for low-income families to prevent ER visits and provide services in a more comfortable setting.*

33. Community Emergency Response Volunteers of the Monterey Peninsula (CERV) \$5,800 (of \$6,800) for TEEN CERT in Monterey County: Safe, Resilient Youth and Communities: CERV was established in 2012 to promote and sustain preparedness, readiness and response to emergencies and critical events. They do this by supporting local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs, working to build public awareness of planning/preparing for emergencies, promoting individual and community capacity and organizing volunteers. This request would support a new, county-wide teen CERT training, by bringing in the nation's leading F.E.M.A. trainer of teen CERT trainers to conduct an intensive three-day train-the-trainers program. This training will teach and certify up to 30 local teens drawn from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, schools, etc. in Monterey County and provide local CERT leaders from around the county with specific training and certification as future teen CERT trainers in the county. *Recommendation: \$5,000. This is an organization new to NBRF but who I worked closely with last year during the Soberanes Fire. They are an all-volunteer run organization that manages to be quite effective with very few resources. This is a one-time project that could have lasting impact through training of trainers and having more youth involved with emergency preparedness. The training is scheduled to take place in November and is already full with a long waitlist. They understand that if we don't award the grant, they will continue to run the training out of their (small) organizational reserves.*

34. Community Human Services \$50,000 (of \$219,584) for Street Outreach Programs: Community Human Services (CHS) was established in 1969 to provide people of all ages with the tools and support to overcome addiction, mental illness and homelessness. CHS has a Joint Powers Authority board structure with representatives from 15 cities and school districts serving on the board of directors and making an annual financial contribution to CHS. They currently provide a wide variety of programs that include family service centers, residential and outpatient substance abuse counseling and recovery services, counseling programs, youth prevention and transition services, parent education and youth temporary and transitional housing. This request would support their Street Outreach Programs. The Street Outreach Program is part of Safe Place, a comprehensive program for runaway and homeless youth that provides everything from street outreach and survival aid to counseling and family reunification. Services offered through the Street Outreach Program include crisis intervention, Street Smart groups that provide education about sexual behavior and STD's, weekly Drop-In Night at the Monterey Youth Center which provides a hot meal and recreational activities for youth, 24-hour access to temporary shelter, informal street-based counseling and survival aid including food, clothing, and hygiene items. All services are free of charge. The program is based out of Safe Place in Monterey but provides outreach services to the greater Monterey Peninsula and Salinas and expects to serve 300 youth ages 11-24 during the grant year. In 2016, NBRF supported the first year of operations of Safe Place as a full-time emergency shelter. They have a measurement system that monitors progress from stages of "In Crisis" or "Vulnerable" through "Safe" and "Stable," toward a state of "Thriving." In order to measure these outcomes, counselors will complete pre- and post-treatment evaluations in a number of domains such as mental health, substance abuse, and housing. Of 102 clients who filled out exit matrices in FY2016/2017, 71% improved a minimum of 1 level on the Self-Sufficiency scale. *Recommendation: \$30,000. Bill and I went on a site visit to see the program in action. I was initially rather skeptical about the program but was very impressed with the passion and dedication of the staff along with the connection of the program to more intensive therapy. I was worried that this was just a temporary program for transitory youth, but it sounds like most of the youth spend a significant amount of time at Safe*

Place, primarily come from Monterey County and the staff actively work to take care of their basic needs in addition to finding a more permanent solution to their situation.

- 35. Food Bank for Monterey County** \$50,000 (of \$360,000) for Kids N.O.W. (Nutrition on Weekends): The Food Bank for Monterey County was established in 1990 to lead community efforts in the awareness and elimination of hunger. They serve 20% of the County's population (100,000 annually) through the distribution of free food through family markets and partnerships with local shelters, youth programs, treatment programs and senior groups who serve meals directly. This request is to support their Kids N.O.W. program that provide children at risk for hunger with food bags on Friday at school to get them through the weekends. The weekly bags provide packaged food and produce to children who often rely on school meals as their only stable source of nutrition. The program works with school districts where 90% of the children live in poverty (Salinas, King City and Gonzales). They currently have six sites and serve over 3,262 children each week and are preparing to open two additional sites serving another 400 students. The NBRF grant would go directly to food costs. *Recommendation: \$20,000. This program brings healthy food directly to the children who need it for weekend use. NBRF has only funded the food bank in response to their fire emergency in 2015. I have discussed this proposal with their Executive Director who understands that a smaller grant is likely.*
- 36. Hope, Horses & Kids** \$7,500 (of \$157,740) for Operating Support: Hope Horses & Kids (HHK) was established in 2010 to support children and youth with special needs and from disadvantaged backgrounds through equine assisted learning. They coordinate closely with trained special education teachers, social workers, and case managers to provide customized, tailored activities which respond to the very specific needs of their clients. They do this through individual mounted lessons and group groundwork lessons. They use the horse as a tool to help clients overcome motor, visual and sensory challenges. The horses also facilitate the recognition of non-verbal communication cues and can foster a greater sense of self-confidence, independence, responsibility, teamwork and social skills. They create an individualized program plan for each client to track their progress and served 2,499 children in 2016. This request would support their program for 260 special needs or disadvantaged children and youth. *Recommendation: \$5,000. This is still a rather new and small nonprofit but they have been working with CFMC as a part of their small nonprofit capacity building program which is bringing some good changes to their organizational capacity. I'd like to see where they go and also continue to work with them on a more systematic evaluation system.*
- 37. Josephine Kernes Memorial Pool** \$15,000 (of \$58,000) for Adaptive Aquatics for Children with Disabilities: the Josephine Kernes Memorial Pool has provided warm water exercise for people with disabilities for 45 years. Today, the newly renovated pool is open 44 hours a week with more than 10,000 sessions of adaptive aquatics scheduled each year. This request would support their programs for children with disabilities. Kernes Pool will provide therapeutic adaptive aquatic exercise and water safety services to 25 or more underserved children with special needs for one to three sessions a week resulting in more than 1,000 sessions each year. Many children with disabilities do not have strength, balance or coordination to participate in physical activities on land. Personalized warm-water exercise programs help increase strength and improve motor skills, encourage awareness and communication, and foster mental acuity. Working one-to-one with trained staff allows each child to achieve incremental successes that build confidence and self-esteem. NBRF funds would subsidize the program and provide partial

or full scholarships to children who otherwise would not be able to afford the service. Currently 80% of children attending are on partial or full scholarship. *Recommendation: \$10,000. This program has a long track record of success. Their final report stated that 100% of parents report improvement in fitness, water skills and an improvement to their quality of life.*

- 38. Sun Street Centers** \$30,000 (of \$845,785) for Safe Teens Empowerment Program (STEPS): Sun Street Centers was established in 1968 to prevent alcohol and drug addiction by offering education, prevention, treatment and recovery to individuals and families regardless of income level. Sun Street Centers provide a wide variety of services that generally fall under the categories of prevention, driving under the influence, counseling and recovery services that include housing and support. This request is for their STEPS program which falls into the prevention category and runs programs in Salinas, Seaside and Soledad. STEPS is a drug and alcohol prevention peer to peer mentoring after-school program of students representing local high schools and community service volunteers. STEPS participants are local high school students who are willing to take a leadership role at their school and in their families and communities to educate their peers and the public about the negative health and social consequences of drinking, smoking and other drugs, as well as bullying. This mentoring program starts with freshmen from the local public high schools and many of the students stay with the program for 3-4 years until high school graduation. The program meets twice a week, year-round to plan advocacy events and activities based on a monthly theme. NBRF funds would be used to expand existing prevention and anti-bullying activities to include town hall meetings on opioid addiction and DUI prevention. *Recommendation: \$20,000. I visited the program while the students were in their regular after school meeting at the Salinas site. They shared all of their actions that they do each month in the schools and it was rather impressive to see all the various advocacy that these students do to promote health. They are extremely organized and the students were engaged and excited.*

MENTORED GROWTH

- 39. Christine Marie Star Riders** \$30,000 (of \$60,000) for Christine Marie's Riding Stars: Christine Marie Star Riders (CMSR) was established in 2000 to maximize the potential of children to become independent, well-rounded, self-confident individuals through horseback riding. Their main program provides therapeutic programs to people with special needs. This request would support their Riding Stars program. The Riding Stars Project allows opportunities for "average" youth 11 to 19 to be part of CMSR providing them with leadership training in the organization and opportunities to utilize their learned skills with the other CMSR programs. Teens have the opportunity to develop skills working with individuals with disabilities, adaptability, community resources, team building, marketing, design and publication, entrepreneurship, horsemanship, ranch management, veterinary science and nonprofit management. The program serves 60 high school student leaders who in turn run the programs for 140 special needs children and their families. *Recommendation: Decline. This was one of the worst applications I have ever read. Every financial document was incorrect and inconsistent. They submitted two applications in one document and they were different. Their final report only included one-line answers to important questions and included an expense report showing over \$8,000 spent from NBRF funding than they received. Three of the five board members are also staff at the organization and the Executive Director is also the President of the board. I discussed this proposal with Kathy who was also frustrated that they submitted all the financial forms*

incorrectly. She received the same thing last year and worked hard to get the completed application. I do not have confidence in their governance or financial capacity and believe that they need to be declined in order to gain a full understand of the importance of these areas.

- 40. El Camino Real Futbol League** \$60,000 (of \$185,000) for Operating Support: El Camino Real Futbol League was formed in 2006 to provide Monterey County youth the ability to achieve academic excellence and lead healthy lifestyles using soccer as the vehicle to achieve these goals. The league has 17 teams and supports each youth through a health and wellness program, academic support program and a training and development program. They serve between 400 – 500 youth annually, ages 8-18, primarily from Salinas but are open to the entire county. *Recommendation: \$15,000. The organization understands that their request was rather high and is expecting a lower grant. They are a part of the Packard youth initiative that has been doing some great work with youth in East Salinas and helping organizations build their internal capacity.*
- 41. ★ Epicenter of Monterey** \$30,000 (of \$337,000) for Operating Support: The Epicenter opened its doors in 2014 and operates a youth center in downtown Salinas. The Epicenter integrates resources and services for all youth, with a particular focus on transition age foster youth. They partner with other organizations to bring educational, employment, housing, wellness, and etc. resources to the youth under one roof. The organization is run by youth, many of whom have recently aged out of the foster care system, to provide peer-to-peer support. They also have programs to provide employment and leadership opportunities to 50 foster youth annually, support a Foster Youth Liaison in Soledad High School to prepare foster youth for transitions, conferences on transition for youth, caregivers and systems professionals, state level advocacy work and has created a LGBTQ Youth Leadership Team to support inclusive programming, trainings and awareness campaigns. Through all of these programs, the Epicenter expects to serve 250 transition-age youth in 2017-2018. Specific outcomes from the 2016 grant included: 83% of youth have made progress towards employment, education, housing or wellness goals; 86% of youth reported feeling more valued and understood by peers and adults as a result of their participation; and 89% of youth leaders have demonstrated gains in Developmental Assets. *Recommendation: \$30,000. I am deeply impressed with this organization in terms of their youth-led philosophy, strong financial support for a new organization, and evaluation system. They are still so new but have progressed incredibly well and are truly a nonjudgmental resource for a very vulnerable population of youth.*
- 42. Gil Basketball Academy** \$10,000 (of \$127,500) for Youth Basketball Programs: Gil Basketball Academy (GBA) was established in 2009 to empower youth by developing their athletic skills, leadership, work ethic, world view and enhancing the commitment to the community. GBA offers camps, clinics, and individual sessions teaching athletes the skills and techniques of shooting, passing, dribbling, rebounding, and defense. The athletes are coached by Jose Gil and other volunteer coaches who all believe that GBA should teach confidence and character in addition to basketball. In addition to the basketball training, GBA provides recruitment services, college and cultural field trips and community service activities to give back to East Salinas. This request would support all of their youth basketball programs (except their travel programs). They expect to serve 350 students on a weekly basis with 1.5 hours per session devoted to skill development and character building. *Recommendation: \$5,000. This program is also a part of the Packard East Salinas youth program which has helped the*

organization grow. They have a reputation for good programs but their founder/ Executive Director is also still the chair of the board and I'd like to keep them at a smaller grant size until they have a clearer separation for better governance.

- 43. ★ Harmony at Home** \$30,000 (of \$1,432,455) for Operating Support: Harmony at Home (HAH) was established in 2004 to end the cycles of violence and abuse by empowering children and young adults with the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead healthy productive lives. HAH currently runs a school-based counseling program, classes for separated families, teen support and summer camp, an evidence-based bullying prevention program, and distributes a handbook for parents and caregivers of children exposed to domestic violence. They also serve as the implementing partner for the Teen Success, Inc. program (see summary in Early Childhood). This request for operating support will allow HAH to expand their services that will serve over 11,000 youth ages 6-18 during 2017-2018. The NBRF grant in 2016 supported the bullying prevention program and included the following results: 60% increase in student reporting to teachers, 10% decrease in the fear of bullying, 16% decrease in verbal bullying, and 21% increase in peer intervention. *Recommendation: \$25,000. I encouraged HAH to submit an operating request to better support an organization that has shown consistent results and expansion. They have strong programs and good relationships with local school districts.*
- 44. Wave Program** \$30,000 (of \$147,754) for Operating Support: The Wave Program was established in 2016 to provide a free three-week summer camp focused on sports but also promoting discipline, loyalty and a strong work ethic. The first camp took place in Pacific Grove July 10-28, 2017. The Wave Program had 241 participants and offered swimming lessons, basketball, baseball, football, volleyball, soccer, tennis, art classes, dance, music, nutrition, fitness, and more. The camp rotates through the activities and all students participate in each activity. The camp is only available to 10-12 year old boys and girls from Pacific Grove and takes place at the local high school. The entire program was funded by one family foundation who donated \$400,000 so that the program would run for at least three years. This request would support general operations that would allow the program to open up to 13 year olds and serve 400 children. Results from their first camp include: 100% of parents recommending the program, 95% of parents said their child learned a new character trait such as sportsmanship, leadership, independence and teamwork, and 90% of parents said their children met a new friend at the camp. *Recommendation: \$5,000. I met with their Executive Director to learn more about the program. I was initially hesitant due to the fact that the camp was only available to children in PG. I was convinced though that it was a good program that provided these middle school students a rather unique experience. The free program runs all day long which is helpful for working parents and has a commitment to remaining a free program. I think a smaller grant would allow us to track their progress and also give them a comparable amount to other brand new programs.*
- 45. YWCA Monterey County** \$28,237 (of \$158,750) for Youth Education and Advocacy: The YWCA Monterey County was established in 1973 and is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promotion of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA-Monterey County provides domestic violence prevention, education, crisis intervention and legal services that protect survivors while working to address the root causes of domestic violence. This request would support their Youth Education and Advocacy (YEA) program. YEA is a domestic violence prevention program focused on youth identifying healthy and unhealthy

behavior in all potential relationships. YEA utilizes evidence-based curriculums in five school sites in Monterey County, which include 'Safe Dates', 'Youth Empowerment Solutions', 'Joven Noble', 'Xinachtli', and new this year they are introducing a racial justice training model into all curriculums throughout the school sites. They expect to serve 150 youth (middle and high school students) in Salinas, Soledad, Marina and Seaside. The program meets once a week during the fall semester and then twice a week in the spring for participation in a youth-led advocacy project. *Recommendation: \$20,000. The YWCA as an organization has had quite a bit of turn-over in the last few years in their top leadership positions but seems to be heading in a more positive direction. This particular program has adopted some good curriculums and has had consistent staff.*



Statistics:

Number of applicants: **45**; New to us, **6**; returning after long absence, **3**. **All** are currently verified as 501c3s. Amount requested: **\$853,517** for Monterey County.

Allocations:

Due to the Community Center expense we still have a carryover, but our distributable amount has been running about \$2M.

- Assume we want to grant about that much: \$2,000,000 less CYI's \$800,000 = \$1,200,000 for Monterey County;
- Spring Cycle: Monterey County: \$699,000
- Fall Cycle: The rest: Target \$501,000. Actual allocation is at the board's discretion.
- Fall Cycle includes \$1,000 for the Young Philanthropist

Review Criteria:

Factors precluding consideration:

- Not within guidelines – programmatic, organizational, geographical, mission fit
- Neither 501c3, fiscally sponsored, nor an exempt (private) school
- Received after the deadline
- Unable to complete by the day after notification
- Failure to provide prior grant evaluation or other appropriate reporting

Factors leading to recommended denial (regardless of project merits):

- Mismatch with our mission – or theirs
- Inability to answer questions
- Large organization with effective fundraising resources

Negative factors:

- Incorrect, unclear or contradictory information
- Questionable sustainability of project or agency
- Not the best provider of the proposed service, compared with other applicants
- Not the best fit with our guidelines, compared with other applicants
- Not the most pressing need, compared with other applicants
- More than half of project budget requested, or more than one third of operations
- Less than full board support

Positive enhancements:

- Clear, instructions followed, guidelines observed
- Early childhood focus (0-third grade literacy/social/health component)
- Specifically youth-based mission