



Community Health Fund

John Muir Health Building Bridges to Better Health

2020 IMPACT UPDATE

Listening, Learning, and Responding to Crises

COVID-19, a deep economic recession and protests stemming from systemic racism have changed the way the world operates. Like the rest of the country, Contra Costa County finds itself confronting three forces—one a disease, the others powerful social determinants of health (SDOH)—that pose an enormous threat to the well-being of the people the Community Health Fund is committed to serving.

Early in the pandemic, we decided that the best way for us to respond was to build on our longstanding approach of listening carefully to and partnering with our grantees. We reached out to leaders of these community nonprofits to determine how we could help. That led to creation of a special COVID-19 response fund that included easing the application process, and quickly delivering targeted grants. We then followed up to understand what worked, what didn't, and where we could best plug in our help going forward.

This was also the approach we used to support the three grantees whose original initiatives were compromised by the pandemic and who make up the centerpiece of this year's *Impact Update*. These truly innovative organizations—experts at addressing the SDOH—worked closely with us to adapt their original proposals so they could continue to provide, and even extend the remarkable services they offer to those most in need in Contra Costa County.

We are committed to deepening our listening and learning approach, using it as the foundation for connecting complementary organizations and facilitating lasting solutions that make the most of available resources. Combining this process with our



Kenneth Carlson
CHF CHAIR



Drew Robinson
CHF VICE CHAIR

Our partners—a group of savvy, compassionate, deeply committed nonprofits—are extraordinary.

—**Kenneth Carlson**
Chair, CHF

relatively small size makes us uniquely capable of responding quickly and nimbly to an ever-changing world. Perhaps that's why we recently received national recognition from *The Root Cause Coalition* in its [2020 Status of Health Equity Report](#).

Such an approach only works, however, when you have outstanding partners. As this year's report demonstrates, our partners—a group of savvy, compassionate, deeply committed nonprofits—are extraordinary. They exemplify so much of what is right in this moment, with their proven ability to deliver essential, at times life-saving services to people who face challenges to their health that have remained unaddressed for far too long—and that these ongoing crises exacerbate. We are honored to work alongside them.

CHF BOARD MEMBERS

Kenneth Carlson, **CHAIR**
Drew Robinson, **VICE CHAIR**
Ernesto Avila, **TREASURER**
Gail Cristancho, **SECRETARY**

Dominic Aliano
Carolyn Fong, RN, NP, PhD
Michelle Hernandez, PhD
Arthur Shingleton
Rina Shah, M.D.
Cynthia Turner

STAFF

Lillian Roselin
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mary Serrano
GRANTS & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS MANAGER

How to Sustain Promising Initiatives Through a Pandemic

CHF funding often addresses what are known as social determinants of health with programs that include workforce development, health education, case management, social support, healthy eating and nutrition, and support for aging in place. The organizations below are outstanding examples that understand how to address those social determinants.

We've been struck with the creative adaptations and resilience of our grantees through this pandemic. They are driven by a powerful commitment to and belief in the people they serve and an understanding that the stressors associated with the lives their constituents lead have a corrosive effect on health.

—**Lillian Roselin**
Executive Director, CHF

Organizations



Love Never Fails

Restores, educates, and protects survivors of human trafficking and their community

Original Plans

EAST CONTRA COSTA EXPANSION:

Hire a program manager to conduct an in-depth assessment of the health and wellness needs of human trafficking survivors in Contra Costa County and begin providing services to those survivors.

Adapted Plans



Unable to fully engage in street-level outreach during the pandemic, Love Never Fails has leveraged online tools to expand its outreach to human trafficking victims; worked with the city of Antioch to adopt and support a local hotel where they discovered human trafficking occurring; worked with the hotel owner to house vulnerable homeless and exploited individuals and bring in wraparound services; and built partnerships with organizations around East Contra Costa County.



John Muir Land Trust

Protects and cares for open space, ranches, farms, parkland and shoreline in the East Bay

PITTSBURG FAMILY HARVEST FARM:

In collaboration with First Place for Youth, Uplift Family Services, Youth Homes, and Contra Costa County Independent Living Skills Program pilot a two-year apprenticeship program for emancipated foster youth to learn important job skills, while building a supportive community with wrap-around social services, access to fresh food and guidance about continuing education.



When COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders delayed the initiative's start date, the partners developed protocols to protect their first cohort of emancipated foster youth at the worksite and during their commutes. To help establish a mental health foundation for the youths as they enter the adult workforce, the partners have created a supportive community at the farm and are extending it by building a network with other local nonprofits.



Mindful Life Project

Works to support the mental and emotional wellness of students, teacher, staff, leaders, and families through mindfulness programming

CONTRA COSTA EXPANSION:

Partner with Mt. Diablo and Pittsburg Unified School Districts to empower underserved students and their families, teachers and staff through mindfulness practice and other transformative skills.



With in-person classes suddenly impossible, Mindful Life Project turned to online Zoom service delivery. This enabled the organization to deliver services for students, teachers and parents in Pittsburg USD, a new partner, while also expanding Mindful Life Project's partnership with Mt. Diablo USD.

2020 Community Health Partners

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS

LOVE NEVER FAILS

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
SAFETY | HEALING | COMMUNITY

▶ **EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PROGRAM EXPANSION**

CONTRA COSTA CRISIS CENTER

▶ **SPANISH SPEAKING GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM**

MINDFUL LIFE PROJECT
CONTRA COSTA EXPANSION

HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Veteran Health Navigation PARTNERSHIP
Empowering Veterans through Compassionate Health Care

▶ **EAST CONTRA COSTA VETERAN HEALTH NAVIGATION PARTNERSHIP**

IMMIGRATION

JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES EAST BAY
COMMISSION IN ACTION | COMMITMENT TO ALL

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

▶ **NEW AMERICAN FAMILY STRENGTHENING INITIATIVE**

FOOD/HUNGER

Loaves and Fishes OF CONTRA COSTA
Nourishing Lives

TRINITY CENTER

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY EAST BAY

OPPORTUNITY JUNCTION
ON THE ROAD TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

▶ **CONTRA COSTA MEAL DELIVERY SERVICE**

ECONOMIC SECURITY

HEALTHCARE CAREERS PATHWAY INITIATIVE

PITTSBURG FAMILY HARVEST FARM INITIATIVE

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE FUND

California State University | East Bay Foundation | Choice in Aging | Contra Costa Senior Legal Services | Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano
International Rescue Committee | Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay | La Clínica de La Raza | Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
Los Medanos College Foundation | Meals on Wheels Diablo Region | Mindful Life Project | Monument Impact
Opportunity Junction | Village Community Resource Center

Power of PARTNERSHIP



Because of the support of John Muir Health—\$1 million per year—the Community Health Fund can carry out a unique community benefit function, distributing grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve the health and well-being of medically uninsured, underinsured, underserved, and vulnerable populations most at-risk for poor health in Central and East Contra Costa County.