A Gift That Keeps On Giving

Endowed Funds with Community Foundation Santa Cruz County

At the Community Foundation, we're here to help you put your generosity to work. If you want to make a lasting impact for generations to come, the Foundation offers endowments to support many causes.

What is an endowment?

Preserve the Principal; Distribute Only the Earnings

An endowment is a fund invested to grow over time while continually generating earnings to support charitable causes. The Community Foundation invests the fund in long-term investment portfolios and grants a portion of the generated earnings annually. The original gift is preserved, ensuring a permanent source of funding for the community. It's designed to exist forever — a gift that keeps on giving.

Santa Cruz County Endowment

An Endowed Fund for the Greatest Community Needs

The Santa Cruz County Endowment serves our county's most critical needs as they emerge, in perpetuity. Needs may encompass a broad range of areas, such as health and human services, economic and community development, education, the arts, and the environment. Gifts to the Santa Cruz County Endowment allow us the flexibility to bring resources to the areas of greatest need, via our most trusted community partnerships, working in their specific areas of expertise. In this way, we can together do the most good, in the most efficient and effective ways, to create positive community impact forever.

Foundation Forever Endowment

An Endowed Fund for Community Foundation Santa Cruz County

The Foundation Forever Endowment was established to ensure the ongoing legacy of the work of the Foundation itself. This fund allows us to continue to support effective local nonprofits and individual donors alike in achieving their missions and their personal charitable giving goals. Giving to the Foundation Forever Endowment secures our role as the nexus of philanthropy within Santa Cruz County forever.

Santa Cruz County Scholarship Endowment

An Endowed Scholarship Fund to Support Local Students

The Santa Cruz County Scholarship Endowment is a community scholarship fund that exists to benefit students of our region forever. It gives the option for individuals, businesses, families, and friends to support the higher education costs facing local students. Gifts of all amounts, large or small, can be given to this fund to give students the opportunity to reach their educational dreams.

Santa Cruz County Climate Action Endowment

An Endowed Fund to Address Climate Change Locally

The Santa Cruz County Climate Action Endowment exists to ensure perpetual support to a wide range of climate-related concerns and climate-change-affected areas of our community. The current era demands attention, education, and resources be readily available for meaningful and long-lasting mitigation and resilience, beyond immediate disaster needs. A gift to this fund supports efforts by trusted local nonprofit partners acting to address the negative impacts of climate change and to ensure a beautiful and environmentally stable future for generations to come.

Disaster Response Support Endowment

An Endowed Fund to Help Santa Cruz County Respond and Recover from Disaster

The Disaster Response Support Endowment was established to invest perpetual resources that would allow the Foundation to respond immediately in the wake of a natural disaster. Throughout the pandemic, CZU fires and winter storms, the Foundation played a key role to coordinate efforts, raise and distribute funds to those local organizations that have the deepest roots and the most experience serving disaster-impacted communities, particularly those disproportionately affected like seniors, families with low incomes, the medically vulnerable, and Spanish- and indigenous-language-speaking communities. We have learned that the needs do not stop when the headlines go away and attention shifts. Rebuilding takes time — sometimes years — and the Disaster Response Endowment will ensure that resources do not dwindle after the immediate crisis fades.

Rise Forever Endowment

An Endowed Fund to Advance Racial Equity in Santa Cruz County

The Rise Forever Endowment is a newly established endowed fund dedicated to advancing racial equity across Santa Cruz County and ensuring that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are forever welcomed, supported, and uplifted here. Gifts to this fund will provide opportunities for upward economic mobility; celebrate, preserve, and perpetuate stories and culture; promote anti-racist policy; deliver essential services to allow for improved wellbeing and prosperity; and increase equity and grow sustained funding for communities of color.

Diversity Partnership Fund

An Endowed Fund to Support Inclusion and Partnerships for the LGBTQ+ Community

The Diversity Partnership Fund strengthens alliances, promotes respect, and enhances services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Santa Cruz County. The Partnership's efforts are vital to creating a more open, welcoming, and diverse county.

Fund for Women and Girls

An Endowed Fund to Ensure That Women and Girls Thrive

The Fund for Women and Girls provides resources to nonprofits that support girls in education, their well-being, and their opportunities to form a positive self-image. The fund supports women in securing financial stability and providing access to resources for a healthy life. When a woman thrives, a family thrives. When a family thrives, a community thrives.

Explore your giving options.

Connect with Hilary Bryant, Director of Donor Services:

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