**PHILANTHROPY OVERVIEW**

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 **CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE – Carol Weldin**

**1. Describe the mission of your philanthropy.**

Founded in 1975, Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. The assistance dogs Canine Companions breeds, raises and trains aren’t just the ears, hands and legs of their human partners, they open up new opportunities and possibilities spreading joy to the lives of persons with disabilities; this leads to greater independence and confidence in navigating everyday life.

**2. Where does the majority of the funding for your philanthropy come from and how much is needed to operate?**

**78%** of the funding comes from individual contributions, whether persons gave direct donations, bequests, or donated to special events. The 22% balance of funding breakdown is as follows: ​ **12%** foundations, **8%** corporations, **2%** other sources, not including Governmental agencies.  The 2021 Northwest Region Training Center (Santa Rosa) operating budget is $3,373,912.  This budget covers operating expenses that support breeding, housing, and specialized training of future service dogs, along with training the disabled community that are partnered with their graduate dog, providing two-week extensive seminars, housing and meals at no cost to the recipient during advanced training.  Along with that is support for the lifetime of the dog and any future (successor) service dog they receive.

**3. What does your philanthropy use AWC’s financial award for?**

Canine Companions uses AWC's financial award to support programs in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties with **direct** funding for purchase of the following:

* **$25:** A new vest for a graduating service dog team; or puppy cape and vest for a puppy in training.
* **$50:** One month of food and toys for a dog in professional/advanced training, or a crate for two puppies as they are delivered to puppy raisers across the country.
* **$100:** Veterinary care for a dog in advanced training, or veterinary care and vaccinations for an 8-week-old puppy prior to being placed with a puppy raiser.

**4. What are your plans for AWC members to participate in next year?**

Assuming sheltering in place is lifted, there are local opportunities for volunteering such as booth staffing at awareness events in the local community; registration at the local fundraiser, Dog Fest (AWC ladies have been volunteering at this event in Oakland for several years); short-term fostering puppies in the local area; visits to the Santa Rosa Campus for VIP tours and training demonstrations; attendance at graduation and Campus/Training Center tour.

**5. How can you increase your hands on, done in a day activities for your philanthropy?**

Organizing collecting and donating new or gently used blankets and sheets, dog crates, providing approved new puppy and dog toys, wood pellets and newspapers for toilet training, and sewing puppy capes; attending puppy socialization events if appropriate, for a locally raised litter of puppies.

The local East Bay Chapter headquartered in Danville is currently comprised of: **78** human/canine graduate teams, **nine** breeder-caretakers, and **17** puppy raisers with **five** additional puppy raisers waiting for puppies to become eight weeks old.  There are currently **ten** local families who have applied for and are currently waiting for their new graduate dog, inclusive of service dogs, dogs for Veterans with PTSD and successor service dogs for persons who previously had a service dog that had either retired or passed away.  The cost to raise and train one of the service dogs is approximately $55,000; they are provided to a person with a disability free of charge.  For further information: [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org)

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   **GEORGE MARK CHILDREN’S HOME – Diane Stafford**

**1. Describe the mission of your philanthropy.**

As the first free-standing pediatric palliative care center in the United States, George Mark Children's House (GMCH) mission is to offer comprehensive, compassionate, life-affirming care to children facing a life-limiting diagnosis.  Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness.  This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness.   GMCH exists to serve families with children ages 0-21, by addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychosocial needs the children and of the entire family.    They strive to achieve the best quality of life possible from the moment of admission onward, through strong collaboration between families, the child's physician(s), and their interdisciplinary team.  Recent evidence shows that palliative care improves outcomes by increasing the family’s confidence in managing care at home,  thereby  reducing  unnecessary  emergency department visits and readmissions.

**2. Where does the majority of the funding for your philanthropy come from and how much is needed to operate?** George Mark Children's House relies largely on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporate donors for approximately 80% of their annual operating budget. Only a portion of the actual costs are funded by reimbursements from Medi-Cal and insurance companies. They get no federal funding. Since the field of pediatric palliative care is still relatively new in the United States, it has taken considerable time to educate insurance companies that this care is both available and less expensive than hospital care for the same level of service.

**3. What does your philanthropy use AWC's financial award for?**

All the monies we give to George Mark are earmarked specifically to be spent on the children and their families for special events that are held at George Mark throughout the year.   Events such as Picnic Day, Pumpkin Day, Easter, and Candy Cane Lane.   Of course, 2020 was different and the events were not held, so we sent the full amount to our contact, their Child Life Specialist.   She was thrilled to receive our donation and has advised us she has several projects in the works where they could use the funds.   Some of the ideas: provide workshops and materials free of charge to siblings; purchase instruments for their Music Therapy program; they are currently redesigning the Art Room to make it more accessible and inclusive for the patients and families; and another project is renovating their Playground.     All worthwhile projects to put our donation to good use.

**4. What are your plans for AWC members to participate in next year?**

I will begin again to take members on the tour of the House, a worthwhile experience for all who have been able to take the tour.  I will also continue to help with their special events by providing volunteers and purchasing items for the children and their families to enjoy.  I work closely with the Child Life Specialist who knows she can count on the women of AWC.

**5. How can you increase your hand's-on, done in a day activities for your philanthropy?**

We look forward to volunteering at the upcoming events, whatever they may be.  We are part of the team to help with their events during the year.  This is evolving and we take direction from the George Mark staff and their needs.     Whenever they ask for help, I will pass the information on to the members.  They know we are able and willing partners.

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 **HOSPICE FOUNDATION OF THE EAST BAY – Marybeth Anicich**

**1. Describe the mission of your philanthropy.**

Hospice East Bay is committed to providing the hospice and palliative care services that support and comfort people and their loved ones through the final stages of life. (From the Hospice Website)

**Hospice Vision**

To strengthen our role as a community leader in quality hospice, palliative care, and grief support; to build an environment of collaboration, celebration, opportunity, and growth, allowing us to embrace the changes that our patients experience.  (From the Hospice Website)

**2. Where does the majority of the funding for your philanthropy come from and how much is needed to operate?**

The majority of funding for Hospice comes from The Tree of Lights Ceremony.  Members are encouraged to make a donation in the name of a loved one, whose name will be read at our Tree of Lighting ceremony in December.  They purchase a “Memorial Light” with purchase levels ranging from $30-$5000.  The checks our made out to AWC and then one check is written to Hospice.  This year we chose to direct our funds specifically to Bruns House, located in Alamo.

**3. What does your philanthropy use AWC’s financial award for?**

Hospice has many needs; however, one essential need is to provide assistance to those patients who are without Medicare or other insurance.  Hospice is free to anyone who medically qualifies to be in their care, be it Palliative or end of life care.

**4. What are your plans for AWC members to participate in next year?**

Our plans are to continue with the basket of snacks and treats we bring over to Bruns House every three to four months, which are enjoyed by the visiting family members.  Spring and summer flowers are planted in the backyard every year and there is some discussion of flower planting in the front yard when the new planter boxes are built.

**5. How can you increase your hands on, done in a day activities for your philanthropy?**

Continue to reach out to my contact at Hospice to determine what are their concerns or needs and then make a plan to help them.

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 **FRIDAY NIGHT OUT – Noralyn Giles**

**1.  Describe the mission of your philanthropy.**

Friday Night Out is an inclusive, social, in-person, gathering for people with special abilities.  Our mission is to provide safe, inclusive, and fun gatherings once a month. Our goal is to give our participants an opportunity to build lifetime relationships and provide shared experiences. During COVID Friday Night Out has moved to a weekly meeting via ZOOM.  We have 50-60 participants on ZOOM.  In-person gatherings we have 70-80 people.

**2.  Where does the majority of the funding for your philanthropy come from and how much is needed to operate?**

Friday Night Out is funded solely by donations. We have one fundraiser a year which is a fashion show with Macy's.

Operating expenses for one year, as of today, would be a minimum of $10,700.00.  As we continue to grow our expenses will continue to grow, which we have witnessed.

3.  What does your philanthropy use AWC"s financial award for?

With the AWC donation we are able to provide our participants with a meal and event fun such as guests that provide fun activities.  We have had a magician, yoga, zumba, BINGO callers, direct-a-draw artists.  The AWC gift provides our participants connection with the community and each other.

**4.  What are your plans for AWC members to participate in next year?**

We have found that ZOOM has been a powerful tool in connecting our already isolated participants.  This next year we will continue to find several ways to connect such as pen pals, surprise packages on their porch, birthday cards, gift card drawings, and pizza deliveries.  The best way for AWC members to participate is to help provide $5.00-$10.00 gift cards, items for our porch surprises, allowing us to use the parking lot for drive through activities, pizza gift cards, and ideas for weekly meeting activities for zoom meetings (such as BINGO, charades, scattergories, etc.).

**5.  How can you increase your hands on, done in a day activities for your philanthropy?**

This is a difficult question since most of our activities are over the top active (and loud) in person or currently virtual.  The best way to support Friday Night Out is to be available for deliveries when we do porch surprises, provide goodies, gift cards, or help with our fashion show.

AWC does more for Friday Night Out than any other organization. We are thankful for that.

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 **VESTIA (Volunteer Emergency Services Team In Action) – Diane Levanthal**

**1. Describe the Mission of Your Philanthropy**

The mission of VESTIA was established in 1985 to provide supplemental support to at-risk individuals and families known to Contra Costa County employment and Human Services Department to families who are not eligible for federal or state assistance.

**2. Where Does the Majority of The Funding Come for VESTIA?**

VESTIA is a private, non-profit organization that relies mostly on donations.

In 2019 VESTIA received $605,406 in donations.  $69,028 for scholarships and grants and donor contributions’ $303,574 for in-kind donations and $232,804 for volunteer hours.

**3. HOW DOES WE CARE USE AWC’s FINANCIAL AWARD?**

* Back to School backpacks
* Emergency food programs
* Angel Tree project – gifts for foster children
* Holiday Helpers Warehouse – Provides donated gifts to families for holidays
* Foster Youth Scholarships – scholarships for foster children
* Community Closet -provides gently used clothing
* Lobby Book Program – provided books to those in the social service network
* Shelter and Food resources –
* Summer Programs – Provides week-long summer camp to at-risk children

**4. Plans for AWC Member Participation**

* Back to school backpacks
* Holiday Helpers
* Various collection as need arises

**5. Plans to Increase “Done in A Day” Activities**

**See above.**

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**WE CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

**– Judy Tura & Judy Schoen**

**1. Describe the Mission of Your Philanthropy**

We Care’s mission is to provide early intervention services to children ages 18 months to 5 years who have severe deficits in the areas of: social/emotional; developmental; behavioral and learning. We Care provides a safety net for these children through a state-run preschool for low-income families; the Denver Early Start program for children with autism as well as mental health services for children at risk due to abuse, neglect and trauma.

**2. Where Does the Majority of The Funding Come for We Care?**

We Care’s funding is 15% government contracts: 85% fundraising (private donors, foundations, corporations & community groups).

**3. How Does We Care Use AWC’s Financial Award?**

AWC’s financial donation is used to buy classroom materials to support early intervention programs.

**4. Plans for AWC Member Participation**

* Bi-annual AWC member tours of We Care facility
* Dad’s & Donuts Day (October)
* Mom’s Day (May)
* Children’s book drive to provide struggling families with reading & learning opportunities.

**5. Plans To Increase “Done In A Day” Activities**

    See above.

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**YOUTH HOMES – Peggy Fleming**

We're so grateful that the AWC continues to champion Youth Homes, and dedicate their time, creativity, and generosity to our youth and their wellbeing. Any nonprofit would be so fortunate to have this kind of support and partnership in the community. There is a day coming when we can all meet and give our thanks in person, and finally be safely together again.

**1. Describe the mission of Youth homes.**

Our mission is to connect, advocate, and empower – we support the expansion of opportunities for youth, young adult, and family well-being. For more than 55 years, Youth Homes has supported underserved youth and young adults with complex mental health and behavioral challenges. We provide a broad scope of services designed to empower young people and their families to create positive, sustainable change. Our programs support basic needs, create safe environments, and provide therapeutic support to build optimism, independence, and confidence for the future.

**2.  Where does the majority of funding for Youth Homes come from and how much is needed to operate?**

Youth Homes has an annual operating budget of $10.4 million, 90% of which comes from government funding in the form of service provision contracts through Contra Costa County.

**3. What does Youth Homes use AWC’s financial award for?**

Youth Homes uses funds generously given by the Alamo Women's Club as follows:

- **Unrestricted annual donations**: The funds received by your organization in 2020 enabled Youth Homes to maintain stability and continuity of care to youth and their families, both for our residential and community-based programs. These funds helped us meet the costs associated with web-based telehealth accounts, Covid-19 based residential staff salary incentives, and necessary field work (distanced provision of food, medicine, travel vouchers or other support) to connect resources to those of our clients who are most impacted by the pandemic disruptions.

 - **Other gifts**: As you know, the AWC has a long history of supporting Youth Homes clients in a wide variety of ways throughout the year. Most recently, we were delighted to distribute ALL of your donated Target gift cards to our residential and TAY youth in December, in the name of the Alamo Women's Club, as well as stockings and the gorgeous, varied knitted hats! The leftover Target credit sent to Cameron was used to directly fulfill leftover wish list items for our residential youth. The AWC also plays a critical, valued role in helping our youth who have newly aged out of foster care with the items it takes to make houses into homes, and to feel valued and seen as they embark on a next phase that can feel otherwise frightening and unsupported. This will continue to be a need for these youth and a valuable area of partnership with the AWC.

**4. What are your plans for AWC members to participate in next year?**

We would absolutely welcome the chance to create more partnership with AWC members during this next year and far beyond, both when it comes to volunteer opportunities, and especially opportunities for them to share their diverse skills and talents. Such opportunities will remain virtual for the time being due to the circumstances of the pandemic, but we also see that as an opportunity to eliminate logistical challenges around transportation and scheduling. Teaching via Zoom can be challenging, but we're all adapting and I'm excited about the way virtual learning can improve accessibility and engagement.

As you mention, the classes and knowledge-sharing your members would be able to provide our youth to support their independent living skills would be most valuable in 2021 and beyond. Daily skills, cooking, first aid, personal finance - the options are almost unlimited. Please feel free to suggest anything else that your members would like to offer - we know you are a talented group! Please contact Byron (byroni@youthhomes.org) directly for all suggestions about classes or workshops in support of independent living. He is also very interested in connecting the youth with any creative or artistic class offerings your members have to offer (photography, acrylic pouring, etc.) I think this would be a wonderful area of involvement.

Youth Homes is actively recruiting for a new director for Stepping Stones, and we look forward to having the right talent in the right role to best incorporate AWC knowledge as we collectively invest in the long-term well-being and employment of our transition-aged youth. It truly takes a village, and our youth have benefited so much from your partnership in this area. Until we have a new head of Stepping Stones, it makes the most sense to focus on independent living skills in the interim.

For any volunteer actively engaging and communicating with our youth, we do have a volunteer agreement that lists the terms and conditions on which the volunteers provide services to the agency. This is a more recent development, so going forward we'll need to make sure collect a waiver, a confidentiality agreement, and a signed Volunteer Liability Terms and Conditions document from the wonderful AWC volunteers. This will serve to make the relationship more formal. @Volunteers Danielle has done so much in this area and I will welcome her help making sure we have all the paperwork in place.

Everything that the AWC continues to do in the way of blankets and hats remain so welcome!

**5. AWC members would like more hands-on activities, maybe helping with the gardening program etc. Any suggestions would be welcomed.**

As previously stated, hands on activities are limited at this time due to Covid, and we are evolving our volunteer vision accordingly. Youth Homes is actively recruiting for an Enrichment Coordinator to be the point person for the variety of activities that will best channel creative expression, focus, and self-esteem for the youth in our residential programs. The number of calming and mindful enrichment programs are almost endless: art, pottery, crochet, knitting, cooking, guitar, yoga, etc. We know the Enrichment Coordinator will be able to bring in more volunteer engagement to this area of our programming, and we're excited to maintain the impact of these activities on the residential side. More to come!

In the meantime, independent living skills and classes around creative expression for our Aftercare clients would be a wonderful way for the members of the Alamo Women's Club to stay involved with our work.

 Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any follow up questions, or if there is other information I can provide.

We remain so grateful for all that you and the Alamo Women’s Club do to support our youth, the ways that all of you support these young people in celebration and in their critical milestones.

Kind regards,

Libby

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**The following philanthropies are reoccurring and do not need to be voted on.  The mission is listed to provide additional information about each of these philanthropies.**

***1. PENNY PINES – Sandy Donatoni***

**Describe the Mission of Your Philanthropy**

Penny Pines is a GFWC organization-wide philanthropy with every Club required to donate at least $68 each year to help the U.S. Forestry Service with reforestation of our national forests. At the start of the program in 1941, seedlings were produced for one cent, therefore $68 purchased seedlings for 10 acres.

(On a side note: In 1978 AWC was invited to participate in a time capsule by the California State Parks Foundation at Big Basin Redwood State Park. The time capsule is to be opened in 2028. We no longer have a record of what AWC included in the time capsule. It will be interesting to find out in 2028!)

***2. PURPLE PAILS – Beth Choirini***

**Describe the Mission of Your Philanthropy**

Purple Pails' mission is to collect items at each business meeting for the following:

* Toiletries for VESTIA
* Used eyeglasses for Lion’s Club
* Towels and sheets for Canine companions
* Baby Wipes for George Mark children’s Home
* Preschool books for We Care
* Other collections as needed

***3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH-TOGETHER WE GIVE - Vicki Koc & Jane Gebers***

**Describe the Mission of Your Philanthropy**

Our mission for 2020 was to provide hands on, done-in-a-day kinds of services whereby members could participate in philanthropic activities outside AWC’s defined philanthropies, and in ways other than singular monetary donations. However, due to the pandemic restrictions, we saw an opportunity to host one drive for each charity during the remaining months, from Sept through Dec, using our clubhouse as a drop off location for requested goods.