

Committed  
to Pursuing

BIG

DREAMS



Central Valley  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## A LETTER FROM THE CEO



After two years of finding our mark and getting set to pursue transformational change at CVCF, the starter pistol sounded in 2019. Leaders across the community sprinted forward in the Fresno DRIVE (*Developing the Region's Inclusive and*

*Vibrant Economy*) Initiative, a planning process that brought together over 300 people representing 150 civic, private, and public organizations to focus on one thing – developing a ten-year investment plan to erase Fresno's chronic racial and economic disparities.

In less than six months, the DRIVE community partners developed a 10-year vision for the region; assessed over 100 ongoing initiatives; and ultimately developed a draft investment plan for 19 initiatives that collectively calls for over \$4 billion of investment in our community over the next ten years. In my 20+ years of community and economic development work in Fresno and the Central Valley, I have never seen this level of commitment by as broad and diverse a group of community leaders as those who have coalesced around the DRIVE leadership table.

The board, staff and donors at CVCF have played a variety of roles in the DRIVE Initiative, but it is clear our most important role has been encouraging and challenging the Fresno community to believe that transformational change is needed and, more importantly, transformational change *is possible*.

## A Great Community Foundation Pursues Big Dreams.

In December 2019, our long-time chairman, Dr. Alan Pierrot, put it best. At his last meeting serving as the chairman of the board, his parting gift to his colleagues included a placard reading, "A Great Community Foundation Pursues Big Dreams."

This is our commitment to you, the CVCF community of donors and partners. We are committed to pursuing big dreams. We accept the responsibilities, challenges and criticisms that accompany such a pursuit. And, we invite your accountability and support as we work to ensure CVCF becomes a great community foundation in support of the residents of the Central Valley.

**Ashley Swearengin**

*President & CEO*

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Excellence, Accountability, Impact.™

### ACCREDITATION

The National Standards for US Community Foundations seal exemplifies the highest standards of operational distinction and integrity in community philanthropy. CVCF has completed a rigorous 124-point inspection required to receive accreditation. We proudly display this seal as a demonstration of our commitment to excellence, accountability, and impact in community philanthropy.

## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



On behalf of The Central Valley Community Foundation Board of Directors and our team of dedicated staff members, I am pleased to present this year's Annual Report. 2019 brought new challenges to the Foundation along with

new and exciting opportunities to help our community come together and prosper.

The COVID-19 virus has brought unprecedented times to the Central Valley and to the entire country and world. Our normal routines and day-to-day lifestyles have changed dramatically, but what hasn't changed is CVCF's commitment to our mission and vision. Our 50-year history of philanthropy management and ability to deliver philanthropic solutions and investment expertise to our partners has never wavered. We prioritize service, and we take our oversight responsibility very seriously. We are committed to our relationships and remain good stewards of our capital.

Our focus on philanthropy management and community transformation hasn't changed, but it has become more strategic and ambitious than ever before. I am very proud of our performance and many accomplishments, but I know we have a lot more to do. The 2019 milestones highlighted in this report will help define our path going forward toward a more inclusive and vibrant community.

2019 was a truly remarkable year in many ways. We took on our greatest challenge ever when we launched the DRIVE (Developing the Regions Inclusive and Vibrant Economy) Initiative, a 10-year community investment plan focused on economic development, neighborhood development, and human capital. This investment-worthy business plan is more than a plan; it is a roadmap to our future.

Through DRIVE, we confronted economic and racial disparities and produced a shared vision for how we can move forward together.

# We produced a shared vision for how we can move forward together.

While leading DRIVE, the CVCF team also granted over \$7 million to area nonprofits working in education, youth development, neighborhood improvement, and environmental stewardship. The team also secured over \$5 million in new community leadership funds and operating support. The year featured other highlights including another blockbuster year for The Big Tell film contest, deepening engagement with the Council of Business Sponsors, and enhanced services for CVCF donors.

Let me close by thanking you for your continued support. You make the work our team does every day possible. I am honored to serve you and to be part of our community transformation.

**Rod Thornton**

*Board Chair*

## CVCF BY THE NUMBERS 2019

ASSETS	FUNDS
\$112 MILLION	262   26 NEW
SCHOLARSHIPS	GRANTS
276	774
\$895,390	\$7,275,236

## AUDITED FINANCIALS: OPERATIONS

### 2019 REVENUE

**\$2,973,428**

Admin fees from funds	\$1,010,459
Operating support from funders	\$910,182
Administrative endowment support	\$412,344
Other income	\$640,443

### 2019 EXPENSES

**\$2,341,950**

Staff compensation/consultants	\$1,488,763
Legal & accounting	\$50,565
Rent, telephone, IT	\$280,417
Publications, events, advertising	\$284,772
Other operating expenses	\$237,433

## CVCF AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION SUMMARY

AS OF 12/31/19

	CVCF	Support Orgs	Total
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$69,977,460	\$41,763,457	\$111,740,917
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	\$17,773,851	\$8,931,056	\$26,704,907
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	\$52,203,609	\$32,832,401	\$85,036,010

## CVCF STAFF

### Ashley Swearengin

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

### Kerri Horn

*Chief Financial Officer*

### Elliott Balch

*Chief Operating Officer*

### Gretchen Moore

*Chief Strategy Officer*

### Phuong Bui-Sears

*Program Associate*

### Breanna Galdamez (2020)

*Donor Services & AP Associate*

### Travis Jeffus

*Senior Staff Accountant*

### David Johnson (2019)

*Special Projects Officer*

### Hannah Johnson McAbee (2020)

*Director of Local Philanthropy*

### Yen Kilday

*Director of Programs and Evaluation*

### Laura Maciel

*Communications Manager*

### Sarah Moffat

*Director of External Affairs*

### Marcos Osorio

*Program Manager*

### Ann-Marie Padilla

*Program Officer, Projects & Scholarships*

### Artie Padilla (2020)

*Senior Program Officer*

### Laura Ramos

*Community Engagement Associate*

### Jessica Revis

*Executive Assistant*

### Claudia Ruiz-Alvarez

*Director of Donor Services*

### Aida Vareldjian (2020)

*Staff Accountant*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Diego Arambula

*Transcend Education*

### Hilda Cantu Montoy

*Montoy Law Corporation*

### Pastor DJ Criner

*Saint Rest Baptist Church*

### Hon. Mark Cullers

*Superior Court of California, County of Fresno*

### Joe Del Bosque

*Del Bosque Farms*

### Brandon Esraelian

*Richardson, Jones & Esraelian*

### Craig Fourchy

*UltraGro LLC*

### Lydia Herrera-Mata, M.D.

*Valley Health Team*

### Celia Maldonado-Arroyo

*(Secretary) Educator (ret.)*

### Mas Masumoto

*Masumoto Family Farm*

### Jim Maxwell

*Agriland Farming Company*

### Doug Morgan

*(Treasurer) Morgan & Company*

### Vivian Velasco Paz

*Fresno Dermatology Specialists*

### Alan Pierrot, M.D.

*(Chair Emeritus) Fresno Surgery Center (ret.)*

### Larry Powell

*Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (ret.)*

### J.P. Shamshoian

*Realty Concepts*

### Jolene Telles

*Business Owner*

### Rod Thornton

*(Chair) Principal Financial Group*

### Justin Vartanian

*Brouwer DeJong & Associates*

## CVCF ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, CVCF presents awards to remarkable people who give selflessly to improve our community.

The 2019 Founders Award recognized the late Dr. Morton G. Rosenstein in celebration of his outstanding vision and unparalleled commitment to philanthropy in the Central Valley. Dr. Rosenstein was a former CVCF Board Chair, a Fresno-area OB/GYN for 40 years, and a dedicated community leader. Dr. Rosenstein's wife, Donna Rosenstein, accepted the award on his behalf.

The 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Francine and Murray Farber in recognition of remarkable civic and philanthropy leadership and an enduring commitment to our community. Their continued support of educational initiatives for Fresno students includes the "Steve's Scholars" program, which has provided scholarships to more than 60 students who have completed nearly 3,000 hours of community service work.



Francine and Murray Farber receive the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award



Donna Rosenstein accepts the 2019 Founders Award for her late husband, Dr. Morton G. Rosenstein

# The Fresno DRIVE Initiative

DEVELOPING THE REGION'S INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT ECONOMY



In August 2018, a group of community and civic leaders gathered for a Shared Prosperity Partnership (SP2) roundtable with The Kresge Foundation to examine how the local economy performs for Fresno residents. Despite the hard work and diligent efforts made by local business and nonprofit leaders over the past two decades, data revealed that Fresno continues to rank at the bottom – both statewide and nationally – across measures including the economy, education, and overall quality of life.

According to The Brookings Institution, **Fresno needs 75,000 new “good and promising” jobs** to address underemployment and unemployment in the regional economy.



DRIVE Executive Committee meeting

Furthermore, **research from the Urban Institute ranks Fresno last, 59th out of 59 large cities in California, for racial and economic inclusion** and 263rd out of 274 cities nationwide. This research showed that not only is our economy in bad shape overall, it is significantly worse for people of color, especially Black people.

These difficult findings made it apparent that we needed a new approach, a path forward that could build on the existing, well-meaning work of local organizations to bolster the region's economy and its people, but this time with a clear focus on race equity.

## A NEW APPROACH

By Spring 2019, CVCF had assembled a strategic, 46-member group of civic, business, education, and community leaders to serve as a DRIVE Executive Committee to assemble the community's collective efforts into a cohesive, **10-year economic investment plan**.

The Fresno DRIVE Initiative was established, dedicated to answering the question:

**“What would it take to fundamentally transform the Greater Fresno Region by 2030 and create opportunities for all residents to achieve real economic mobility by fostering an economy that is inclusive, vibrant and sustainable?”**

Throughout the summer, the Executive Committee led a 300-person steering committee through a business planning process to examine comprehensive local data, develop shared values and vision on race equity, and carefully curate a set of initiatives to transform our economic trajectory.

The Steering Committee first took inventory of existing projects that related to DRIVE's 10-year vision. One hundred and six individual ideas and initiatives were assessed and refined into 25 major investment themes, which were then narrowed down to 19 investment areas. Steering Committee members organized into workgroup teams of public, private, and civic leaders to develop detailed business plans for each of the initiatives.

After four months of intense work, including a six-week sprint with the guidance of expert research and consulting partners, the committee produced the draft Fresno DRIVE Investment Plan. Each initiative within the plan focuses on one of three key areas – **Economic Development, Human Capital, and Neighborhood Development** – ranging from improving early childhood outcomes, to supporting next generation sustainable food technology systems, to building civic infrastructure and wealth in low opportunity neighborhoods.



Presentation of DRIVE plan to Governor Newsom

## A BOLD PLAN

The draft DRIVE Plan calls for **\$4.2 billion of public, private, and philanthropic investment over the next decade** to create real economic mobility for all residents. The data-backed initiatives include both scaling existing programs, as well as implementing new strategies. The through-line of each workplan is an unshakable commitment to race equity and a clear understanding of how it will benefit all Fresnoans, especially communities of color that have historically been left behind.

On October 31st at the State Capitol in Sacramento, a coalition of members presented the draft DRIVE Investment Plan to Governor Newsom. The following week, the plan was presented as part of the 2019 California Economic Summit hosted in downtown Fresno where Governor Newsom recognized the plan in his keynote address.

“I have been so impressed with this DRIVE coalition out of Fresno, this public-private partnership of the region’s leaders; they have put together a remarkable plan,” said



**46-person**  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**300-person**  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
representing 150 local organizations



**106 ideas**  
SUBMITTED FOR  
CONSIDERATION



**19**  
INVESTMENT AREAS  
selected for business plan workshopping



**6-week**  
SPRINT TO DRAFT THE PLAN



**5,252 hours**  
SPENT IN WORKGROUP TEAMS  
to complete the draft plan

Newsom. “What you put together, that document, is as good as it gets. It is the spirit of regions rising together and it’s a template for this state. It really is. And so my commitment to you is to make it real.”

The DRIVE Initiative capitalized on statewide momentum at a pivotal moment and effectively mobilized a diverse group of civic, community, and business leaders in record time. The initiative is intentionally ambitious – unprecedented in scope, scale, and focus – and there is much work ahead. The future of DRIVE includes developing the race equity plan, community engagement, further plan refinement, establishment of a governance structure, fundraising and, of course, the actual work laid out within each of the 19 initiatives.

The Fresno DRIVE Initiative is more than a plan – it is a clear and ambitious roadmap to inclusive prosperity for all Fresnoans. Guided by data, rooted in hard work, and fortified by strong partnerships, we look forward to the journey ahead.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS



**"For all too long we danced around the subject of race, and we've acknowledged that you can't have economic or academic success unless you start talking about racial disparity."**

**Dr. Carole Goldsmith**

*Fresno City College*

**"The reason why this is the right time in Fresno right now is because there are a couple of decades of great work that has been done by a multitude of organizations. We are at the point where we've got to bring all that work together. We've got to synchronize it. We can't go any further in silos. The time actually is right this moment, right now."**

**Oliver Baines**

*Central Valley New Market Tax Credit LLC*

**"This effort proves that inclusive growth is not just possible but that, when stated as a goal, it can bring together a community in ways more meaningful - and, I anticipate, ways more lasting - than any conversation that limits itself to simply focusing on growth."**

**Aneesh Raman**

*Senior Advisor, Economic Strategy and External Affairs  
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom*

**"If we keep saying 'Wait until tomorrow,' tomorrow will never come. But if we say we'll do it now, then yesterday is in the past, and tomorrow will be better than today. That's why I say now, and that's why I say Fresno."**

**Pastor D.J. Criner**

*Saint Rest Baptist Church*

"It's been difficult, it's been awkward, but it's also been really rewarding. And I think we have a path forward. It's just making sure we keep the racial equity at the forefront of the conversation."

**Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner**

*Central Valley Health Policy Institute at Fresno State*

"This is about a commitment by each participant, each actor in this region toward a common objective. And if that happens, Fresno will be successful."

**Marek Gootman**

*Brookings*

"Those were the a-ha moments for me: People are willing to have these challenging conversations and are willing to keep coming back to the table."

**Geri Yang-Johnson**

*Wells Fargo*

"Complex problems like inequality, race, and poverty require collaborative solutions. DRIVE offers a collaborative platform to address these complexities and to help make Fresno a more inclusive community; but to make it more inclusive requires hard work and those hard conversations."

**Joe Schilling**

*Urban Institute*

"People of color are lagging behind in entrepreneurship in our state and I wanted to be sure that our Governor heard that."

**Tara Lynn Gray**

*Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce*

## DRIVE Initiative Executive Committee

**Brian Angus**

*Fresno Economic  
Opportunities Commission*

**Diego Arambula**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Miguel Arias**

*City Councilmember, City of Fresno*

**Oliver Baines**

*Central Valley NMTC, LLC*

**Elliott Balch**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Keith Berghthold**

*Fresno Metro Ministry*

**Natasha Biasell**

*Ivy Public Relations*

**Heather Brown**

*Fresno Economic  
Opportunities Commission*

**Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher**

*Office of the Fresno County  
Superintendent of Schools*

**Eric Cederquist**

*Fresno Cradle to Career*

**Sandra Celedon**

*Fresno Building  
Healthy Communities*

**Pastor DJ Criner**

*Saint Rest Economic  
Development Corporation*

**Lee Ann Eager**

*Fresno County Economic  
Development Corporation*

**Tommy Esqueda**

*Fresno State University*

**Kelli Furtado**

*Fresno Housing Authority*

**Veronica Garibay**

*Leadership Counsel for Justice  
and Accountability*

**Linda Gleason**

*Fresno Cradle to Career*

**Dr. Carole Goldsmith**

*Fresno City College*

**Sabina Gonzalez-Eraña**

*The California Endowment*

**Tara Lynn Gray**

*Fresno Metro Black Chamber  
of Commerce*

**Tracewell Hanrahan**

*Fresno Housing Authority*

**Ismael Herrera**

*CA Forward*

**Tate Hill**

*Access Plus Capital*

**Yen Kilday**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Blake Konczal**

*Workforce Investment Board*

**Sarah Moffat**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Deborah Nankivell**

*Fresno Business Council*

**Dr. Ram Nunna**

*Fresno State University*

**Will Oliver**

*Fresno County Economic  
Development Corporation*

**Dr. Tania Pacheco-Werner**

*Central Valley Health  
Policy Institute*

**Artie Padilla**

*Every Neighborhood Partnership*

**Vivian Paz**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Lupe Perez**

*City of Fresno*

**Dr. Alan Pierrot**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Preston Prince**

*Fresno Housing Authority*

**Phoebe Seaton**

*Leadership Counsel for Justice  
and Accountability*

**Laneesha Senegal**

*Vision View*

**H Spees**

*Office of Mayor Lee Brand,  
City of Fresno*

**Ashley Swearengin**

*Central Valley  
Community Foundation*

**Genelle Taylor Kumpe**

*San Joaquin Valley  
Manufacturers Alliance*

**Ashley Werner**

*Leadership Counsel for Justice  
and Accountability*

**Sheri Wiedenhoefer**

*Fresno Pacific University*

**Pao Yang**

*The Fresno Center*

**Geri Yang-Johnson**

*Wells Fargo*

## DRIVE Initiative Consulting & Research Team

**Brookings Institution**

**Central Valley Health  
Policy Institute,  
Fresno State University**

**Jobs for the Future**

**McKinsey & Company**

**Urban Institute**

# Funds and Programs

## WELCOME NEW FUNDS!

CVCF is home to **262 funds**. In 2019, CVCF opened **26 new funds including:**

- The Robert Victor Levine Memorial Fund
- Whitney Legacy Fund
- Schroeder Foundation Fund
- Black Leaders Organizing Change Fund
- The Fresno Grizzlies Community Engagement Fund
- Healthy Black Babies Fund
- Jane Addams Community Development Corporation
- Wildfire Effect Fund
- Jan Richter Kappa Alpha Theta Scholarship Fund
- E. E. Carter Foundation Carter-Ayres Opportunity Award Fund
- Growing Resources for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
- Focus Forward Endowment Fund
- Central Valley Council of Charitable Gift Planners

If you have questions about opening a fund or supporting CVCF initiatives, please call Hannah Johnson McAbee (559) 825-6187.

## PARKINSON'S SUPPORT FUND

The Greater Fresno Parkinson's Support Group is helping people with Parkinson's Disease (PD), a neurodegenerative disorder that reduces mobility, balance, and flexibility in those who suffer from the disease. For 20 years, the group has provided support and resources to people with PD, their families, and caregivers.

The group has had a fund with CVCF since 2007, and in 2019 they were awarded a \$20,000 grant from the national Parkinson's Foundation to offer free exercise classes for people with PD. Exercise and movement helps to reduce stiffness and improves mobility, posture, balance, and walking for people suffering from PD. It also helps by slowing down the progression of the disease.

Thanks to this grant, a group of more than 40 members benefit from exercises including balance and stretching, boxing, and yoga four times a week. The group is looking for additional funding to continue these vital classes and have started doing virtual instruction so people can participate online from their homes.



# IMPACT MEDIA AND MEASUREMENT FUND

In 2019, CVCF established the Impact Media and Measurement Fund (IMMF) to increase civic education and participation based on a shared understanding of community challenges. The fund supports projects in three areas:



**Solutions Journalism**



**Community Network and Voice**



**Measurement and Accountability**

## IMMF PROJECTS

### THE BIG TELL

2019 marked the third year for The Big Tell, a regional filmmaking competition offering grants to 10 local filmmakers to each produce a 5-minute documentary featuring true stories of extraordinary people, places, and activities in the Central Valley. Each year, the films premiere to a full house at the Tower Theatre in Fresno. The Big Tell films can be seen online at [www.thebigtell.org](http://www.thebigtell.org) and are made possible with generous support from Bank of America and James B. McClatchy Foundation.



*"The Big Tell films do an incredible job of lifting authentic, creative, and diverse voices from throughout the Central Valley. James McClatchy would be proud of The Big Tell filmmakers for sharing local stories and using this platform to celebrate freedom of expression."*

**Priscilla Enriquez**

CEO, James B. McClatchy Foundation  
Sponsor, The Big Tell

Projects within the fund engage the public, amplify and connect community voices, change the regional narrative, improve resident involvement in local decision-making, and use research and data to promote accountability for local decision-makers.



The Big Tell Showcase at Tower Theater

CVCF receives a \$50,000 check for Neighborhood Champions from Bank of America



### NEIGHBORHOOD CHAMPIONS

Funded through a grant from Bank of America, this project is building a dashboard to collect data that measures the outcomes of the DRIVE Initiative and track progress on goals of equity and inclusion. CVCF was one of only 42 organizations nationwide selected for the inaugural Neighborhood Champions grant, established to help communities address complex societal challenges such as economic mobility.

*"This project is about delivering measurable impact, understanding the greatest needs in our community, and making progress on social priorities."*

**Mark Riley**

Area Market President, Bank of America

## EDUCATION LAB



Education Lab at The Fresno Bee is a team of four local journalists dedicated solely to education reporting and

community engagement. In the first six months, Education Lab hired the reporting team, hosted six community events and more than a dozen listening sessions, published more than 50 articles, and received over 500,000 website page views. Education Lab is made possible with generous support from:

- Joan Eaton and Paul Gibson
- State Center Community College District
- Central Valley Foundation (James B. McClatchy Foundation)
- Mr. and Mrs. Murray Farber
- Don and Sally Clark Foundation
- Weber Family Charitable Fund
- James Irvine Foundation

*"We all know that education is a key pathway to economic mobility. Education Lab is an opportunity to investigate and explore education issues that are critical to the advancement of the central San Joaquin Valley."*

**Joe Kieta**

Editor, The Fresno Bee

## FRESNOLAND LAB

A reporting engagement between Fresnoland and The Fresno Bee, this project includes four journalists focused on the issues of housing, land use, water access, and regional inequality. A critical component of the lab is the Civic Documenters program, which will train 24 citizen journalists to attend and document public meetings throughout the region. Fresnoland Lab is made possible with support from The James Irvine Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

## BRANCHES & ROOTS



Valley farmers and ranchers are proactively transitioning to sustainable and climate-friendly practices. Branches & Roots is a local, online media outlet designed to highlight the work of these individuals who are growing solutions that are good for their farms, communities, and land. These types of positive stories help change the narrative and challenge stereotypes about farming in the Valley.

*"Farmers and ranchers take great pride in their agricultural heritage and their ability to feed America. They are branching out to see what is possible for the future of farming by mixing new ideas and technology with time-honored water and soil conservation practices. It's time we hear their stories."*

**Laurel Angell**

Founder, Branches & Roots



*"We're dedicated to reporting on solutions, from local initiatives under way to solutions in other communities that we haven't yet explored in the Fresno region."*

**Danielle Bergstrom**

Policy and Engagement Editor, Fresnoland Lab

## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Friends of the Foundation is an annual fundraiser to support CVCF's annual operating budget. Each year, 100 "Friends" commit \$2,500 to attend three dinners, each held at a unique location throughout greater Fresno. Friends and their guests enjoy a themed evening designed to highlight remarkable local projects, programs, or initiatives.

CVCF kicked off the 2019 Friends of the Foundation dinner series in March at a 190-foot long table in the old press bay at The Fresno Bee with a gourmet twist on "breakfast for dinner." At the event, CVCF announced the launch of the Impact Media and Measurement Fund to support local journalism and community voices. Friends celebrated the legacy and impact of local reporters, authors, and storytellers.

In June, CVCF hosted a Friends dinner at Fresno State's Student Recreation Center. Guests enjoyed an evening of "molecular gastronomy" and an incredible physics demonstration from the famous Dr. Ray Hall, Professor of Physics at Fresno State (he has 1.8 million followers on Instagram!) to recognize the importance of STEM education for local students and their future careers.

In September, the final dinner of the year featured a 1940s throwback to old Hollywood supper clubs at the historic Rainbow Ballroom in downtown Fresno. The 95-year-old ballroom has a storied history hosting music legends including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Janis Joplin, Tina Turner, and more. Friends enjoyed a champagne fountain, a steak dinner, and gourmet treats from Stafford's Chocolates in Porterville.





Technical assistance and mentorship for the CORE cohort

## THIS DAY FRESNO

Told through the voices of residents, civic leaders, and neighborhood nonprofits, "This Day Fresno" is a series of micro-documentaries exploring the complex challenges facing our distressed communities, and the hope that arises when neighbors come together.

Each month from March through November, CVCF released a 2-minute video featuring a different neighborhood nonprofit to provide a behind-the-scenes look at Fresno's disinvested communities, and the stories of the amazing people working hard to improve their neighborhoods.

The featured nonprofits are part of the Communities Organized for Resident Empowerment (CORE) Initiative, made possible by The James Irvine Foundation. CORE provides financial support and technical assistance to eight grassroots nonprofit organizations that have been working diligently to combat difficult conditions in their neighborhoods, and uplifts residents as a driving force to transform the city.



# THIS DAY

Fresno

"One of the greatest things I've learned is the importance of being a neighbor – of knowing your neighbors and being able to really connect to the people who live around you. Everything else grows out of that. We care for the place where we live when we care for one another."

Esther Carver

Executive Director, Lowell Community Development Corporation

### CORE nonprofits:

- Live Again Fresno
- Chinatown Fresno Foundation
- Lowell CDC
- Saint Rest Community EDC
- Every Neighborhood Partnership
- A Hopeful Encounter
- El Dorado Park CDC
- Jakara Movement

# SHOOT FOR THE MOON

**Alan H. Pierrot, M.D.**

*Board Chairman, 2016-2019*

On December 10, 2019, we thanked Dr. Alan Pierrot for his service as Chairman of the Board of Directors. For four years, he gifted us with his leadership and vision, and on that day, he also gifted us with an item that we will treasure for years to come – a decorative plate with a message representing his vision for CVCF. The plate was originally a gift from his daughters, but he chose to pass it along to CVCF because he wanted future boards to “think big and be bold.”

The plate displays the message,

**“Shoot for the Moon.  
Even if you miss, you’ll  
land among the stars.”**



Dr. Pierrot presents decorative plate to CVCF Board of Directors

“It has been one of my prized possessions for years, and I have kept it in a place where I would see it almost every day to remind myself to be more hopeful, more creative, more positive,” said Pierrot. “And I can tell you for certain that my life has been so much more interesting and rewarding since I began striving for more moon shots. I vowed that I would work hard at being open to big ideas for the rest of my life and not to kill big ideas before they had a chance to germinate. I vowed to strive to live more hopefully.”

We are grateful that Alan continues his service as the CVCF Board Chair Emeritus, and we look forward to his continued leadership and ambitious vision for our region!



## About the Cover

The front cover photo was taken in Merced County by Francisco Higareda, 27, of Atwater, CA. The photo, entitled "Galaxy Merced," was selected from 57 photos entered in a regional contest to be the cover for CVCF's 2019 annual report. Photographers were asked to share a photo that best depicted the idea that we may come from different backgrounds and have different aspirations, but we belong to one another and to this Central Valley.

*Thank you, Francisco, for sharing your inspiring photo with us!*



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