

# BetterGiving Needs Assessment



Community Improvement



**BetterGiving**  
*The more you know, the better the gift.*

The San Diego Foundation

Nonprofits are an essential part of San Diego. They cater to the ever-changing and unique needs of our community. The San Diego Foundation values our nonprofit sector, and the work of these organizations to enhance San Diego. We understand that a thriving nonprofit sector is important to the success of San Diego.

The 2010 Community Needs Report highlights the organizations that have portraits in BetterGiving (as of November 2010) and their most pressing needs whether they are volunteer needs or financial support for operations and/or specific programs. We encourage you to learn more about the organizations and their needs. The Community Needs Report is segmented into the different types of nonprofits that serve our community including: Animal Advocacy, Arts, Culture and Humanities, Community Improvement, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services, Public Safety and Disaster and Youth Development. All of the current needs listed come directly from the nonprofits in our community and are in their voice. Please support these organizations as they provide essential programs and services to our community.

The San Diego Foundation is committed to connecting donors' passion with nonprofit needs. BetterGiving, a new online resource, helps us do just that with its easy search capability and access to "portraits" of nearly 250 organizations that make our community a better place to live. A portrait contains information on the organization's leadership, programs, needs, accomplishments and financials.

To learn more about BetterGiving and/or research organizations that you are passionate about, please visit [www.bettergivingsd.org](http://www.bettergivingsd.org) or call (619) 235-2300 and ask to speak to a member of our BetterGiving team.

## Empower San Diego

5858 Mount Alifan Drive  
Suite 235  
San Diego, CA 92111  
(619) 752-0576  
www.empowersandiego.org

### Mission Statement

EMPOWER San Diego advances progressive values and fosters local civil society by promoting civic participation and facilitating collaboration among community-based organizations.

### Current Needs Include:

- EMPOWER is currently seeking core operating support to meet a generous challenge grant put forth by one of our board members. We are seeking matching gifts to fulfill this challenge grant and build the capacity of EMPOWER -- now a grassroots community nonprofit with one half-time staff person and a budget of \$65,000 -- to become healthy and sustainable, with the power to effect systemic change across the San Diego region.

## Girls Think Tank



4392 Narragansett Ave  
c/o Rachel Jensen  
San Diego, CA 92107  
(619) 228-1686  
girlsthinktank.org

### Mission Statement

The Girls Think Tank inspires, empowers, and organizes members and the community to take action in order to ensure basic dignity for people in San Diego County.

### Current Needs Include:

- Funding for a full-time Executive Director, part-time staff and contractors.
- Funding for a dedicated office space and computer, phone, printer, fax machines, and other standard office items.

## Oaks & Acorns



4602 Kansas Street  
Suite 312  
San Diego, CA 92116  
(619) 795-7877  
www.oaks-acorns.org

### Mission Statement

Oaks & Acorns inspires, activates and sustains mutually rewarding solutions by promoting meaningful conversations and relationships among people of all ages. We envision a world that celebrates the mosaic of all generations exchanging wisdom, experience, and innovation.

### Current Needs Include:

- Operating and program funds to support three unique community projects.
- Fundraising support, including grant writing and grassroots fundraising.
- Experienced board members who can give time, talent and treasure.
- Funding for office space and equipment (copy machine, computers, printers, phone systems, A/V equipment, etc.)
- Web and Marketing/Communications support.

## Paradise Community Services, Inc.



PO Box 2418  
Valley Center, CA 92082  
(760) 751-8692  
www.paradisecommunity.org

### Mission Statement

Paradise Community Services focuses on families and provides assistance to children, seniors, and individuals by assessing their needs and identifying appropriate resources to improve their spiritual and physical conditions.

### Current Needs Include:

Like any small organization, our resources are limited. What we have been able to accomplish has been due to the support of dedicated volunteers and generous foundations. Paradise Community Services seeks funds to support our operations and mission.

## San Diego Womens Foundation



2508 Historic Decatur Road,  
Ste. 200  
San Diego, CA 92106  
(619) 235-2300  
www.sdwomensfoundation.org

### Mission Statement

The San Diego Women's Foundation (SDWF) educates and inspires women to engage in significant and sustainable philanthropy to strengthen the San Diego region.

### Current Needs Include:

- SDWF is a membership organization; therefore, members are what drive us...the more members, the more funds we have to invest back into the community to help nonprofits meet their needs. We have a goal of 300 members.
- Our endowment currently funds part of our operational budget. Due to the economic downturn endowment earnings have suffered causing our operating budget to also be stretched drastically for the past year. The SDWF welcomes donations to its endowment fund.

## United Policyholders



PMB 262  
110 Pacific Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 393-9990  
www.uphelp.org

### Mission Statement

United Policyholders is a national non-profit 501(c)3 consumer organization that helps solve insurance problems and advocates for fairness in insurance transactions.

### Current Needs Include:

- A fund earmarked for producing and distributing recovery tools and deploying staff and volunteers immediately following natural disasters. (\$100,000)
- Funding to hire one experienced employee to specialize in health, life, disability and long term care insurance matters. (\$80,000)
- Funding for new donor management database. (\$16,000)

## United Services Organization (USO) of San Diego



San Diego  
303 A Street  
Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 235-6503  
www.usosandiego.org

### Mission Statement

USO San Diego's mission is to enhance the quality of life of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and their families worldwide and to create a cooperative relationship between U.S. military communities and involved or supporting civilian communities.

### Current Needs Include:

USO San Diego's needs list focuses on updating infrastructure to improve our capability to deliver services and programs without increasing fixed costs, variable costs, or additional staff authorizations. These needs are due to USO San Diego's past focus on service and program delivery at the expense of capacity maintenance. Priority needs are:

- To update IT architecture and telephone systems will increase staff productivity by approximately 20% at a total cost of about \$80,000 in capital investment plus a modest increase in connectivity expenses.
- Storage space needs to be converted and reconfigured with current work space to add one staff work area and to align staff workspace the actual flow of work among staff members. Additionally, volunteer workspace needs to be reconstructed for greater efficiency to enable us to provide better service to our visiting service and family members. We estimate that reconstruction of both staff and volunteer workspace would increase work capacity by 15% and an informal estimate of reconstruction cost of \$110,000.

## Young Nonprofits Professional Network (YNPN) - San Diego



c/o Volunteer San Diego  
4699 Murphy Canyon Rd  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(619) 630-8261  
www.ynpnsandiego.org

### Mission Statement

The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN) promotes an efficient, viable, and inclusive nonprofit sector that supports the growth, learning, and development of young professionals. We engage and support future nonprofit and community leaders through professional development, networking and social opportunities designed for young people involved in the nonprofit community.

### Current Needs Include:

- YNPN San Diego primarily needs funding to build our capacity as an organization and serve our rapidly-expanding membership. The necessary funding would allow us to 1) hire consultants or staff; 2) develop our programs further; 3) improve our technology, a hallmark of our online networking programming.
- Donated space for in-person networking programs and professional development workshops.
- In-kind facilitators and trainers for professional development workshops.
- Volunteers to run YNPN San Diego programs, outreach, and leadership.
- In-kind facilitator and location for annual board retreat.



The San Diego Foundation enhances our community by working with individuals, businesses and organizations to establish charitable funds. Grants from these funds support charitable groups and programs working to improve the quality of life in San Diego County and beyond.

With hundreds of philanthropic partners, The San Diego Foundation supports nonprofit organizations and public institutions in fields such as the environment, science and technology, the arts, civic engagement, education, health and human services, and other areas of need as diverse as the region.



Questions?

BetterGiving at The San Diego Foundation

Contact [BetterGiving@sdfoundation.org](mailto:BetterGiving@sdfoundation.org) or (619) 235-2300.

[www.bettergivingsd.org](http://www.bettergivingsd.org)