

# The San Diego Foundation Chair's and President's Report

A Monthly Report to the Community

*A Monthly  
Communication from:  
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April 1, 2001



*The San Diego Foundation's purpose is to improve the quality of life in all of our communities by promoting and increasing responsible and effective philanthropy.*

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## Donors Receive Tax Benefits and Help the Community at the Same Time

Now that tax season is upon us, we would like to share with you the story of two of our fund advisors who received a tax benefit by establishing a fund at The Foundation.

### *Roderick M. and Sylvia L. Sherwood Roderick M. and Sylvia L. Sherwood Fund, 1998*

Now retired, Rod and Sylvia Sherwood have enjoyed many years of giving financial and volunteer support to the communities in which they have lived. With a gift of appreciated stock, they established a Designated Endowment fund at The San Diego Foundation. Not only did this charitable contribution give them a noticeable tax deduction, but it allowed them to support San Diego children's organizations.

"Our vision is to provide yearly financial support to the Boys and Girls Club of San Marcos and the San Diego Center for Children," they explain. "We established our fund to benefit the youth of the community and to help abused children." The Boys and Girls Club of San Marcos is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth of all backgrounds in the San Marcos area. The San Diego Center for Children provides an array of quality therapeutic and educational services, focusing its efforts on improving the lives of children and families struggling with emotional and developmental challenges in the home, school, and community.

This same dual benefit is available to you. Please contact **Charlene Pryor** at 619-235-2300 to learn more about maximizing your money at tax time while contributing to the community.

## You Can Improve Science and Technology Education in San Diego

More than ever before in the history of humankind, science and technology are an ever-present component of our everyday lives. While the information age and advances in the sciences are progressing rapidly, our educational and training programs in these areas are not. In our schools, our students have fallen behind those in other countries in science and math education, especially at the high school level. Quality math and science education helps to ensure that our young people will have quality employment opportunities in science, engineering, and technology.

To answer your questions and better inform you about these critical issues, The San Diego Foundation has assembled a group of Science and Technology specialists. These volunteers will provide you with their extensive community knowledge and help make you aware of grantmaking opportunities in these areas. They have identified three key areas in which your philanthropy can have a positive and lasting impact on Science and Technology in San Diego:

- Promote youth literacy and interest in science math and technology.
- Increase computer skills, especially among youth, seniors, and in rural communities.
- Strengthen teachers' ability to provide math and science education.

To learn more about how you make a difference in science and technology in San Diego, please call **Ned Smith**, our Director, Science & Technology Analysis & Strategy, at 619-235-2300.





**New Fund Highlights**

*Tom Adler and Louise DeCarl-Adler  
Tom and Louise DeCarl Adler Fund, 2001*

Tom Adler and his immediate family left Vienna, Austria in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution. After spending more than twenty-five years as a trial lawyer specializing in civil rights litigation, he now serves as a mediator and arbitrator. He feels very fortunate to have had the benefits of a democratic society, and would like to assist others in achieving their goals who would not otherwise have been able to do so. Louise De Carl-Adler is a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. She came from a modest background, which, without help from scholarships, would not have permitted her to go to college. She entered the legal profession at a time when women lawyers were rare and discrimination against them rampant. Because of her background, she strongly supports causes which promote and protect the education, health, and the reproductive freedom of women.

*Dr. and Mrs. Merlin Woesner  
Dr. Merlin and Velma Woesner Fund, 2000  
"Leaving a Legacy"*

Dr. Merlin and Velma Woesner established an advised endowment fund primarily so that their philanthropic endeavors may continue to live on after them in perpetuity. Their primary philanthropic goals are to aid and support nonprofit research in basic, applied, and clinical research in the biotechnology and medical fields. They see great promise and progress in these fields during the new millennium for the benefit of mankind. Merlin practiced radiology in Los Angeles County, and Velma was a nurse. They have two grown children, Randall and Carolyn. The couple retired to San Diego in 1987 and live in North County.

You too can support issues you feel strongly about, or leave a legacy of philanthropic giving, by establishing a charitable giving fund at The San Diego Foundation. Please contact **Charlene Pryor** at 619-235-2300 if you are interested in establishing a fund.

**Highlights from the Meeting of the Board of Governors, March 21, 2001**

- The following new funds were approved:  
**Mission Bay Hospital Auxiliary  
Scholarship Fund**  
**Nellie Warren Walker and Ruth Walker  
Sweeney Fund**  
**Charles and Alicia Foster Family Fund**  
**San Diego Social Venture Partners Fund**  
**Albert W. and Mildred Hubbard  
Scholarship Fund**
- Advised Fund Recommendations were reviewed and approved. Total grant-making to date came to \$24,623,713. The total number of grants made to date was 1,700.
- Dr. Sandra Daley reported on the Social Capital Benchmark Survey, the results of which were released on March 1. Several conclusions were highlighted:
  1. San Diegans scored highest (93 of an expected score of 100) in *Social Trust*, which measures how much we trust most other people, including our neighbors, coworkers, shop clerks, and police, and *Diversity of Friendships*, or the degree to which our social networks are diverse.
  2. San Diegans scored the lowest (73 of an expected score of 100) in *Conventional Politics*, which measures how many people are registered to vote, actually vote, express an interest in politics, are knowledgeable about political affairs, and read the paper regularly.
  3. One of the challenges for San Diego in building social capital is our long commuting times. On average, San Diegans spend almost 30 minutes per day commuting, more than the national average of 25.8 minutes. Researchers have found that each 10 minutes of additional commuting time cuts all forms of social capital by 10 percent.

The Foundation has been investing resources through our Civil Society Program to help San Diego reach its full potential of social capital. If you would like to learn more, please call **Patricia Sinay** at 619-235-2300.

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