



# THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION

REDDING, CALIFORNIA

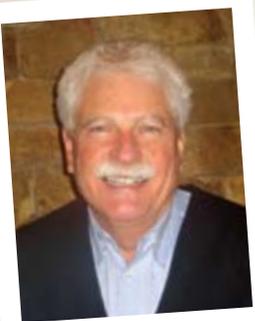


## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SPRING 2008

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### DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION:



We are pleased to update you on what's new at The McConnell Foundation.

At the end of 2006, our Strategic Plan was updated and priorities were developed for the next three to five years. Last year we expanded our grantmaking into Modoc, Trinity and

Tehama counties. Grants of \$30,000 and under are available in those counties through our McConnell Fund, administered by the Shasta Regional Community Foundation. We also increased the maximum amount available in Shasta and Siskiyou counties to \$50,000. Our

Board is delighted with the interest and the diversity of grants this expansion has generated.

Years ago we suspended our scholarship program because we were not satisfied with its effectiveness. Soon after, Foundation Board members decided that they would like to create a whole new program, and make a substantial multi-year commitment to ensure its success. Patterned somewhat after the scholarship program of the Ford Family Foundation in Roseburg, Oregon, we designed our own Scholars and Vista programs. Last spring, the first 38 recipients were awarded scholarships.

Other features in this issue of Community Connection are the expansion of our

international grantmaking into the Country of Laos (Lao People's Democratic Republic), and the award of three significant community grants in Weed, McArthur and Round Mountain.

We have also just completed a redesign of our website... more about that inside this publication. Communicating with you is a key priority of the Foundation. We hope you find this newsletter informative.

Sincerely,

Lee W. Salter  
President & CEO

# FOUR-YEAR DEGREES FROM CSU CHICO CAN NOW BE EARNED IN REDDING



The Foundation's Board is pleased to have partnered with CSU Chico and Shasta College to provide a new option for local residents to pursue a four-year degree in a public institution without having to leave the area.

Classes are being conducted in Shasta College's new Health Sciences and University Center, located at the north end of the Downtown Mall in Redding. The Foundation believes that increasing opportunities for area residents to pursue a higher education locally, whether at private or public

institutions, is critical for the well-being of our community.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of our higher education partners to provide a wider range of choices in pursuing a local university education.

Photos: Presidents Gary Lewis of Shasta College, Paul Zingg of CSU Chico, and Lee Salter of The McConnell Foundation roll out their new CSU Chico Four-year Degree Programs partnership at the new center in Redding.

## ACCIDENTAL PHILANTHROPISTS

Each year our Board and program staff attends the Council on Foundation's annual conference. COF is a membership organization made up of small, medium and large private, independent, corporate, family and community foundations. The conference is an opportunity for us to hear about new ideas, trends, legislative activity, and to network with some of the leading philanthropists in the world. Last year we enjoyed a keynote address in Seattle by Melinda French Gates, an

"entrepreneurial philanthropist." Ms. Gates shared a moving story about how she and her husband, Bill Gates, fell into philanthropy 10 years earlier than they had planned. Reading a story at their home about a thousand children dying a day in Africa because of the lack of a 15-cent measles vaccine compelled them to become philanthropists. Why not be a part of change now, they asked themselves?



### NEED A SPEAKER?

McConnell staff will gladly speak to any organization about the Foundation's history and current funding priorities. We welcome the opportunity to share the philosophies and mission of our work. If your organization, or a club you belong to, is interested in learning more about The McConnell Foundation, please call 226-6200, or email us at [info@mcconnellfoundation.org](mailto:info@mcconnellfoundation.org).

Photo: Dave Tanner, Kelly Salter, Karen Bennett and Shannon Phillips speak to Redding Rotary about the Foundation's funding priorities. Photo by Gary Engell of Crown Camera.



Photo: Foundation Directors Bob Blankenship, Doreeta Domke, Dick Stimpel and their spouses gather in Seattle at COF

# RECENT COMMUNITY GRANTS

## GRANTMAKING

The McConnell Foundation is an independent foundation located in Redding, California and funding primarily in rural Northern California. We are a broad-based funder and have awarded grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, public education, and government entities. We do not fund individuals.

Since the Foundation began actively making grants in 1989, it has awarded more than \$125 million in the areas of Arts & Culture, Community Vitality, Recreation, Social Services, and the Environment. Current areas of emphasis are Children, Youth & Education; Sustainable/Livable Communities; Scholarships; and our long-standing Yosemite Institute program. We began funding internationally in 1999, and now fund in the countries of Nepal and Laos.

## JENNIFER SKUCE PAVILION

The Intermountain Junior Rodeo Association was awarded \$250,000 to complete the Jennifer Skuce Pavilion in McArthur



(eastern Shasta County). The building, located on the Intermountain Fairgrounds, is a gift to the area in memory of Jennifer Skuce and will benefit the entire region.

Jennifer Skuce was the daughter of a family that has owned property in the area for over 30 years. She passed away in 2005 from cancer, but

not before working with her family to envision this project designed to enhance programs for youth. The Fairgrounds hosts not only rodeo and equestrian events, but community and school events, youth sports, and large community social gatherings. The pavilion will help meet all of these needs.

*“Betsy and I would once again like to thank The McConnell Foundation for the most generous donation made to the Pavilion to honor the memory of our daughter Jennifer. For us, her loss can never be made up, but it gives us comfort that so many deserving people will benefit from the Pavilion’s existence.”*

*From a thank you note from Jennifer’s parents, Dave & Betsy Skuce*

Local fundraising started with a cross-section of community members raising money and making in-kind contributions. Other groups and agencies have contributed to the project.

The pavilion will be completed and have its grand opening soon.

## A HEALTHY TRANSFORMATION

### *From Hill Country Community Clinic to Hill Country Health and Wellness Center*

Round Mountain’s Hill Country Community Clinic will undergo a significant building expansion and an increased emphasis on integrated health and community services.

The McConnell Foundation recently gave a \$1 million grant for the expanded services and facility, which is scheduled for completion in 2008.

This small community in Eastern Shasta County is thinking big. Not only will the facility expand, but they will take a much broader view of creating a healthier community. Rather than merely treating the symptoms of poor health, the Clinic will work to have an impact on underlying conditions that give rise to poverty and disease, with education and human connection at the heart of their strategy. Embracing the belief that true health is a result of a complex web of physical, emotional, psychological, and social factors has created these priorities:

- Providing comprehensive social supports that meet the needs of all ages, such as adult education; an asset-based approach to youth development with a Youth Advisory Board; an intergenerational program which will engage youth with participants in the Adult Day Health Program; implementation of a program in which a health educator supervises teens who will work with younger children in the prevention of obesity; and parenting education and support groups as well as “Mommy and Me” yoga and exercise classes.

- A building expansion that meets LEED silver certification standards, the green building rating system administered by the U.S. Green Building Council. Hill Country’s facility will be the first in Shasta County to meet these environmental standards, promoting occupant health and reducing the harmful aspects of new buildings and furnishings.

The real winners in this expansion, of course, are the community members whose lives will be transformed by this comprehensive view of health and well-being.



## WEED COMMUNITY CENTER

The Siskiyou Community Center was granted \$400,000 to construct the Weed Community Center, in order to provide year-round civic, social, cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities for Siskiyou County. The Community Center will be located on donated land adjacent to the College of the Siskiyous campus and will include a multi-purpose room and a commercial kitchen. Restrooms, showers and locker rooms will serve not only the Center, but the adjoining municipal

pool. Community outreach has been a key part of identifying the unmet needs of the area, and project supporters believe that the Center will serve as a hub where residents can access a variety of services, enhancing the community and celebrating its cultural diversity.

This last-dollars-in grant from the Foundation was made to complement the generous \$1 million lead gift from the Ford Family Foundation.

## REDDING SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FINDS A HOME

After an extensive three-year search of 150 potential locations for a new school site, Redding School of the Arts (RSA), a K-8 public charter school with an enrollment of 380 students, has entered into an agreement with the Foundation to build its new school off of Shasta View Drive, in Redding, on property owned by the Foundation. RSA is sponsored by Shasta Union High School District and its new charter, which includes a Mandarin language component, is sponsored by Gateway Unified School District.

RSA's architect for the building design is Kibler & Kibler. McConnell will provide the landscape and site development, designed by Trilogy Architecture. The Foundation's goal is that this school meet LEED sustainability certifications. McConnell will absorb the incremental costs of these specifications, should they exceed the design estimates by Kibler & Kibler. Phase I of the project is scheduled for completion in June of 2009. Phase II of the project will include an 800-seat Children's Theater and Community Center.

For more information about Redding School of the Arts contact Margaret Johnson, Co-Director, at 247-6933.



## INTERNATIONAL UPDATE



## EXPANSION INTO LAOS

In 2006, the Foundation's Board of Directors decided to expand the international program to an additional country. After in-depth exploration of several nations in Africa, Central and South America, and Southeast Asia, the decision was made to begin an international program in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The focus of the Foundation's Lao work is a three-year program to improve access to justice for the poor and rural citizens of the country, focusing particularly on women and ethnic communities.

The Foundation continues its funding in Nepal, with its current emphasis a decade-long peacebuilding initiative, which is guided by a volunteer steering committee of Nepali citizens.

## SUSTAINABILITY: REALLY, NOT JUST A BUZZWORD

On a few recent rainy days at The McConnell Foundation headquarters, dozens of staff members crowded around small tables, brainstorming ways to make choices about their space – and their work – more sustainable and environmentally efficient.

Sustainability – a word often used but perhaps little understood – really means making choices that meet the needs of the present without

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

With this principle in mind, staff broke into groups to discuss their own areas of influence. Grounds and maintenance people grappled with how to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of harmful chemicals; decided to immediately eliminate the use of Styrofoam containers and reduce the use of plastic; and talked about taking steps toward reducing water and energy use.

Program staff talked about how to make grants and run programs with environmental efficiency as a high priority. One goal might be to pursue LEED

certification for future capital projects. (LEED certification is the US Green Building Council's independent, third-party verification that a building project is environmentally responsible and is a healthy place to live and work.)

Also being researched is socially responsible investing.

Management has made it a goal to begin prioritizing exactly what steps can be taken – both in the immediate future and longer-term – to develop a real plan of action to become more sustainable as an organization. Out hope is to provide a model and be an inspiration for other organizations.





## JUST LAUNCHED

Our newly redesigned website has just made its debut. Foundation Communications staff worked collaboratively with Westside Creative, a Redding-based design firm. We enjoyed the ideas, energy and enthusiasm that Michael Tersieff and Jesse Rosten brought to the project. Goals of the redesign were to give Sue Ralston, the Foundation's Communications Associate, the ability to do our own content management in-house, to be able to keep our website fresh and current, and to provide a streamlined communications tool for our web visitors. We hope you'll check out our website at [www.mcconnellfoundation.org](http://www.mcconnellfoundation.org). *Let us know what you think.*

## TWO NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS COMPLETE THEIR FIRST YEAR

In 2006, the Board approved the development of two new scholarship programs, with the first recipients receiving awards in the spring of 2007: the McConnell Scholars Program, serving students attending four-year institutions, and the Vista Program, for students attending Shasta College and College of the Siskiyous. Twenty-six students from areas such as Tulelake, Yreka, Weaverville, Hayfork, Anderson and Redding were the first Scholars to receive scholarships to attend colleges such as UC Berkeley, UC Davis, CSU Chico, Cal Poly, MIT and Southern

Oregon University. Twelve students were awarded Vista scholarships. When fully implemented, these programs will benefit as many as 160 students annually.

"Launching McConnell's new scholarship programs was one of our highest priorities for 2007," said Doreeta Domke, Board Chair. "We have designed these programs to give students the opportunity to achieve their college goals, not only through financial support, but with the help of a vital personal connection."



## YOSEMITE FIELD TRIP

Foundation staff members were invited to Yosemite National Park in September to meet with Yosemite National Institute's (YNI) board chair, senior staff and field staff. The Foundation learned about YNI's plans to build a permanent home and campus in the Park. YNI

hopes to solidify its future site and plans in the next 12 to 18 months.

The McConnell Foundation has offered the Yosemite experience to North State high school students since 1989. More than 2,100 students and 284 adult chaperones have participated in this environmental education adventure.

If you are interested in learning more about the YNI program, check the Foundation's website or see your high school counselor.

*To learn more about Yosemite National Institute, visit [www.yni.org](http://www.yni.org).*

In April 2008, during the high school trip, the Foundation will hold its spring board meeting at Yosemite.



Photo: Lee Salter, Shannon Phillips, Ana Diaz Bachman, Jason Morris and Steve Lockhart

**CALLING ALL YI ALUMNI:** If you are an alum of Yosemite Institute, please take a moment to let us know about your YI experience. Don't forget to tell us what you are doing today, where you are living, and how the program affected you, by contacting [ana@mcconnellfoundation.org](mailto:ana@mcconnellfoundation.org).

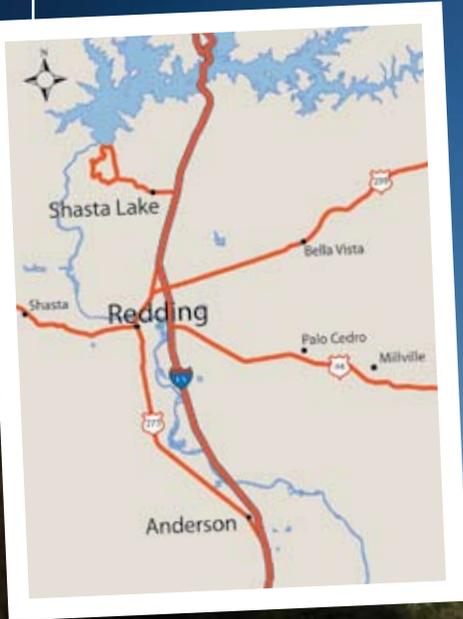


# THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION

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## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD - GET INVOLVED WITH REGIONAL GROWTH PLANNING



What does “quality of life” mean to you? Shasta County and its three incorporated cities – Anderson, the City of Shasta Lake and Redding – are projected to grow significantly in population over the next 40 years. If Shasta County continues to develop as it has in the past, will we continue to enjoy the same benefits and quality of life decades into the future?

ShastaFORWARD>>, a recently developed project, has the mission of developing a broadly and publicly supported vision for the future growth and development of the Shasta County region, and to enhance livability and assure fiscal and environmental sustainability for this and future generations to come.

Be part of the visioning and planning process that our region’s projected growth requires by participating in community outreach groups this spring. Three alternatives to the “Current Trend” growth scenarios will be developed in response to your input.

ShastaFORWARD>> is intended to accentuate rather than replace the General Plan and other existing planning processes by introducing new planning tools, new data, and more public input. The McConnell Foundation’s role is to help represent the non-profit community and to serve as a convener.

For more information visit [www.shastaforward.com](http://www.shastaforward.com) or call Dan Wayne at (530) 225-5486.

## OUR MISSION & VISION

The mission of The McConnell Foundation is helping build better communities through philanthropy.

## OUR VALUES

At The McConnell Foundation, we value working in partnership to help build better communities.

We value excellence and integrity, using our personnel, facilities, and financial resources for positive change.

We value long-term planning, working responsibly and respectfully with others, as well as encouraging creative ideas and entrepreneurial strategies.

Each individual at the Foundation makes a unique contribution to our team, working to strengthen and enrich our communities.

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## LET US KNOW

Questions or comments about something you’ve read? Please feel free to contact us at:  
[info@mcconnellfoundation.org](mailto:info@mcconnellfoundation.org).

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