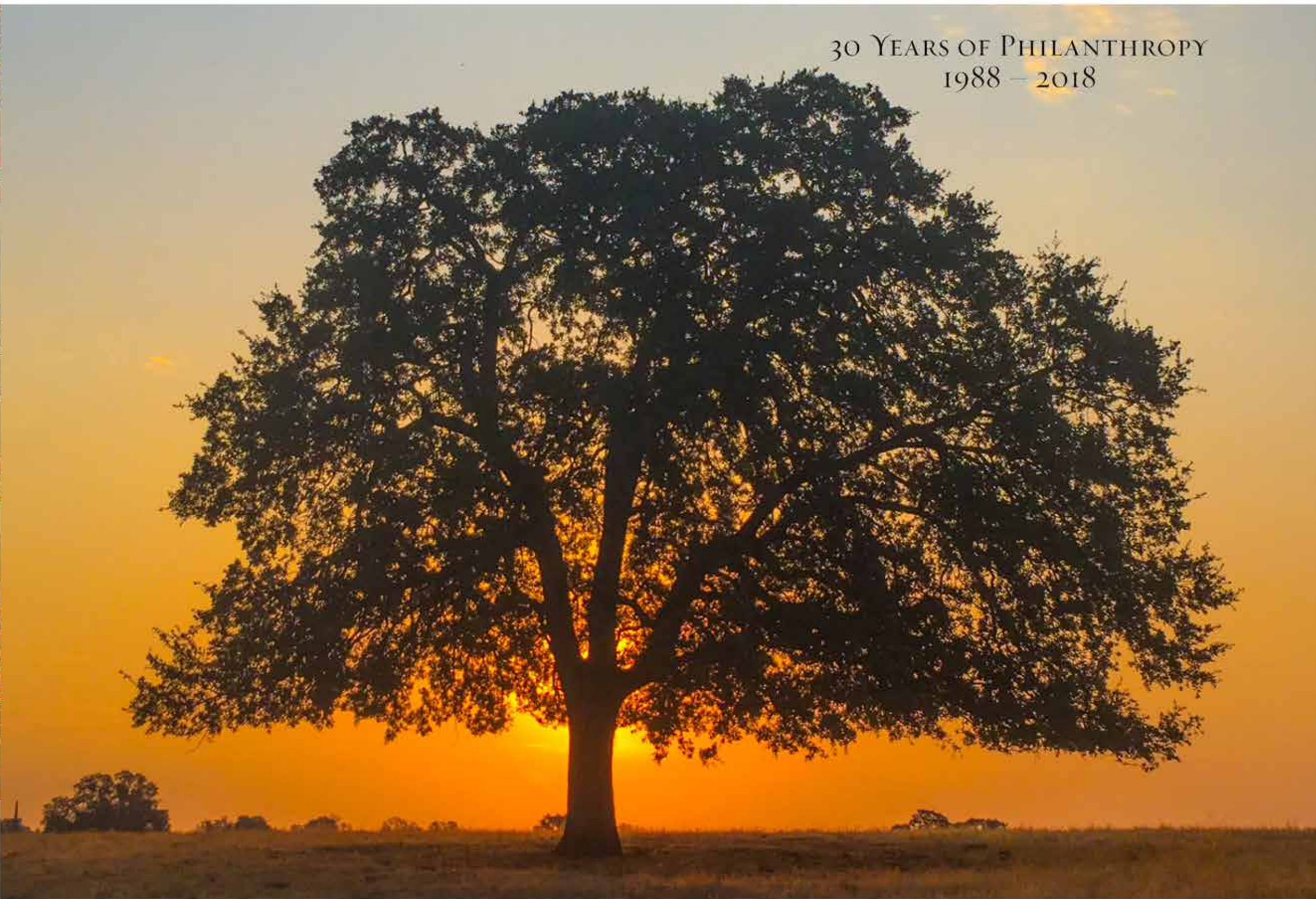


FUTURE



THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION
PAST & PRESENT

30 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY
1988 – 2018



HEALTH CARE

INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY VITALITY

EDUCATION

SOCIAL SERVICES

ARTS & CULTURE

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES
ENVIRONMENT

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ABOUT THE McCONNELLS



Carl and Leah McConnell

Carl Russell McConnell was born on Oct. 27, 1905, the only child of Dr. Carl Philip McConnell and his wife, Dr. Agnes Russell Darling, respected physicians in the Chicago area. Carl visited Northern California with his parents, and they purchased a tract of land on Clear Creek near Happy Camp. Young Carl relocated to the area. Leah Fairchild was born Jan. 23, 1905, in Humbug, California (then a mining camp near Yreka) to humble circumstances. Her father, Benjamin Fairchild, was a miner, and her mother, Maria Fairchild, kept house and raised their four children. Leah was the second eldest. She was working at a title company in Yreka when she met Carl McConnell. The couple, who came from very different backgrounds, married July 3, 1938, and shared an interesting life. The couple had no children together, and divided their time between homes and ranches throughout Northern California until Carl's death in 1985. The McConnells were involved in a variety of business and real estate partnerships, and were among the largest shareholders of Farmers Insurance Group. The Foundation's assets derive substantially from that long-held insurance stock, which was sold in 1988.



LEADERSHIP OF JOHN MANCASOLA

Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

From the President & CEO, John Mancasola

Redding was a great place to be born and spend my childhood. It is where I met my wife, Molly, and where we raised our five children. This community is where I have worked my entire adult life and where I plan to live and work into the foreseeable future.

I joined The McConnell Foundation Board of Directors in 1991, after developing a relationship with Leah McConnell as her legal representative while serving as a partner at the firm Carr, Kennedy, Peterson & Frost. In 1993, I became an employee of Mrs. McConnell and the Foundation, and in 2017, I became President & CEO of the Foundation when Lee Salter semi-retired.

The Foundation as we know it today would not exist but for Lee Salter. Obviously, the McConnells provided the finances, but it was Lee's vision to create an organization with a sense of permanence. Lee's "activator" strength combined with a high level of risk taking during his 30-year tenure, were instrumental in the development of Lema Ranch, which is home to the Foundation's headquarters; the Foundation's support of Turtle Bay Exploration Park; and the funding of the Sundial Bridge and Redding School of the Arts.



John and Lee

Our historical grantmaking has evolved geographically, programmatically and strategically. The Foundation began by giving small grants for tangible projects in Shasta and Siskiyou counties, later expanding into Modoc, Trinity and Tehama counties, and extending our reach internationally to the countries of Nepal and Laos.

As time has progressed so has our work. At the core of our successful philanthropy is a group of committed, passionate individuals. All good ideas begin with people.

We strive to be a resource where people can share their hopes and fears for their communities. Together, we build strong partnerships that integrate the public, private and nonprofit sectors to promote change and build better communities. The idea can be basic or complex. When capacity and community readiness coalesce, the outcome can be transformative.

Thank you for helping us to create impact and please help us to continue to support positive changes in the future with your inspiration and ideas.

"EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER
WANTED IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF FEAR."

GEORGE ADDAIR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



“AS A BOARD IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS OF THE RESOURCES TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED.”

Past Directors' Years of Service
 Carl R. McConnell 1964-1985 Leah F. McConnell 1964-1993 Benjamin H. Fairchild 1964-1982
 Samuel Taylor 1964-1992 Leonard B. Nelson 1985-2000 William B. Nystrom 1988-2002 Richard J. Stimpel 2000-2012

About Our Directors



Robert P. Blankenship was born in Arcata, California, and spent most of his life in Redding as a career police officer. In 2001 Bob served as the President of the California Police Chiefs Association, and in 2002 he retired after serving as Redding's Chief of Police for 13 years. That same year, he joined the Foundation's Board. Bob and his wife, Jean, enjoy gardening and raising birds and miniature animals. They have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.



William W. Cox was born and raised in Redding. He has enjoyed participating in the community all of his life and has served on a variety of city council committees, nonprofit and corporate boards. Horseback packing into the surrounding wilderness was a favorite pastime of Bill and his wife, Juanita, before they started their commercial real estate business. When Leah McConnell was alive, Bill represented her in real estate matters. After retiring from real estate, Bill joined the Foundation Board in 2012. Bill and Juanita enjoy time with family and seeing more of the country in their motorhome.



Doreeta J. Domke was born in Henryetta, Oklahoma. She and her husband, Donald, moved from Southern California to Redding in 1956. In 1957 Doreeta "Dee" went to work for Redding's first, and then only, television station where she met Carl and Leah McConnell, who were principal stockholders in KRCR Channel 7. She joined the Foundation Board in 1993, and retired as the General Manager of the television station in 1995. The Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce honored Dee as the 2013 Citizen of the Year. She's active in the nonprofit community, and enjoys traveling and spending time with her grown children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



John A. Mancasola was born and raised in Redding, where his family owned a chain of grocery stores. John attended Stanford University and earned a law degree from USC. While working for the law firm Carr, Kennedy, Peterson & Frost in Redding, John represented Leah McConnell and the Foundation. In 1991 John joined the Foundation Board. In 1993 he became an employee of Leah McConnell and of the Foundation. John became a full-time employee of the Foundation upon Leah's death in 1995, and became President & CEO of the Foundation in 2017. John and his wife, Molly, have five grown children, and are involved in homeschooling and family activities.



Lee W. Salter was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin. He earned a degree in accounting at CSU, Chico and began his career as an IRS agent, which led to his receiving his CPA certificate. Lee then attended McGeorge School of Law and in 1977 went to work at Carr, Kennedy, Peterson & Frost. In 1985 he began representing Leah McConnell, joining the Board the same year. Leaving the law partnership in 1989 he became an employee of Leah McConnell and the Foundation. After Leah's death in 1995, he became the full-time President & CEO of the Foundation. Lee and his wife, Judy, enjoy traveling and spending time with their grown children and grandchildren. Lee transitioned to part time in 2017 and retired in 2018.



Richard J. Stimpel Director Emeritus, was born in Norman, Oklahoma. In his twenties, he was a rodeo cowboy and rode horses and bulls. In 1958 he moved to Redding from Idaho for a highway construction job. In 1969 he started his own construction company, Stimpel-Wiebelhaus Associates. He retired in 2000, the same year he joined the Foundation Board. In 2012, Dick retired from the Foundation Board. He and his wife, Mary, enjoy traveling and spending time with their grown children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Doreeta "Dee" Domke

I first met Lee Salter in 1991 at a Rotary meeting. Two years later, Lee and Bill Nystrom, a former McConnell Board member, invited me to join The McConnell Foundation Board and thus began a 25-year-plus working relationship.

Recently, Lee retired from the Foundation. It is difficult to pay tribute to a man who has had such a significant impact on the North State for decades. It is my honor to share some of Lee's attributes from colleagues, business partners and grantees:

Lee is a visionary with big dreams for Northern California.

Lee has changed lives and communities through his leadership. Lee is a courageous leader.

Lee has taken risks that afforded the Foundation the opportunity to do more than even Carl and Leah McConnell envisioned.

Vision for doing big important things is his legacy. He appreciates good work.

Largely responsible for building the Foundation into what it is today.

He put his head down, worked hard, and amazing things happened.

The Foundation and community were lucky that the first person was the right person.

Lee always did what he thought was right. When he did a project, he did it right.

Tenacious. Accomplished. Guiding light. Enlightened leader.

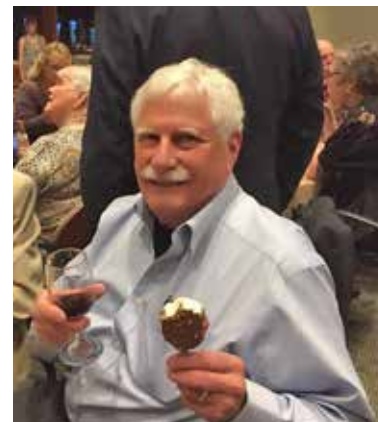
Quiet and persistent approach to helping the community grow.

Quiet vision that permeates the room.

Lee knows when to speak, what the key issues are, he is quick to see possibilities and benefits to the community.

Lee sharpens your ideas. Impressive ability to hold the detail and the big picture.

Each of us at the Foundation owes Lee a debt of gratitude and we are happy that he is still an active Board member. In his spare time, he is advancing his woodworking skills and enjoying traveling, hunting, and fishing, as well as time with his family and friends.



Lee at his "Career in Philanthropy" party.

30 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY

THE BOOK UNFOLDS:

MAJOR GRANTS

McCONNELL FUND GRANTS

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMS

PRIORITIES

WAYS WE GIVE

Grantmaking

The McConnell Foundation is a broad-based funder, giving in the areas of arts & culture, the environment, education, community vitality, health care, international, livable communities, recreation and social services. The grants described in the pages that follow are a small sampling of the past 30 years of giving. Periodically, the Board focuses on strategic planning, carefully considering its current giving and its future areas of interest. As new areas are identified, the Board can respond to needs that arise within the communities it serves — initially Shasta and Siskiyou counties, but that has expanded to include Modoc, Tehama and Trinity counties, as well as the countries of Nepal and Laos. In establishing the Foundation, the McConnells placed no geographic or programmatic restrictions on the areas of giving, allowing an entrepreneurial approach to funding. The Board attempts to identify worthy projects — projects for which it can leverage the creative energy that grant seekers have already demonstrated. Key to the culture and the success of its grantmaking programs is the recognition that, as a funder, the Foundation is just one element in the success of a project. Community organizers, committed volunteers and mission-driven nonprofits all provide the vision and the focus it takes to realize the success of their projects.

Shasta Regional Community Foundation

Shasta Regional Community Foundation is a resource-building organization dedicated to promoting philanthropy by connecting people who care with causes that matter in the North State. Throughout its 18 years, the Community Foundation has awarded over \$23 million in grants to area nonprofit organizations and public entities through the generosity of over 120 fund holders and donors.

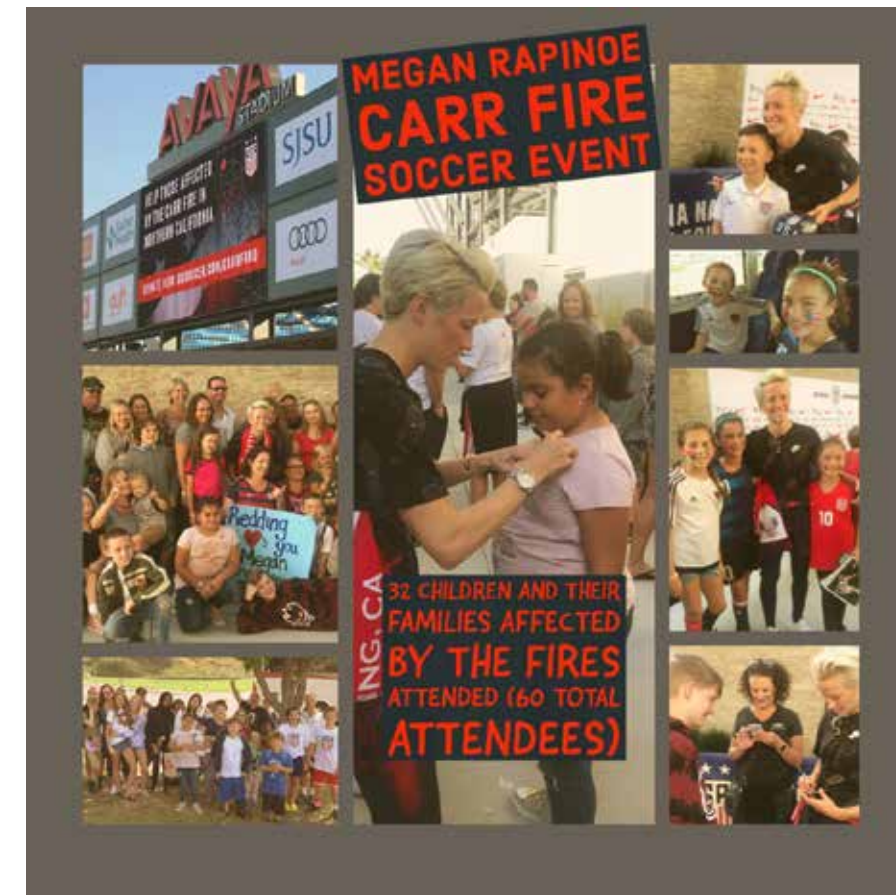


The Shasta Regional Community Foundation grew out of the successful Grant & Resource Center, of which The McConnell Foundation was a founding funder. The McConnell Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of the Shasta Regional Community Foundation since its inception. As a founding funder, early on, The McConnell Foundation established The McConnell Fund, entrusting the Community Foundation to administer its general grantmaking program in the five-county region McConnell serves. This support encouraged others to establish donor funds.

Beyond grantmaking, Shasta Regional Community Foundation hosts North State Giving Tuesday — a 14-hour online giving event for local nonprofits in the region. In 2018, a total of \$870,000 was raised for 178 nonprofits in Shasta and Siskiyou counties. The online giving campaign takes place at www.northstategives.org and is designed to raise awareness of philanthropy in the region and to offer nonprofit organizations the opportunity to gain exposure and begin relationships with new donors. This event takes place every year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year was especially generous given the Community Foundation raised nearly \$4.5 million dollars for Carr Fire recovery efforts this fall.

The McConnell Fund

In 2001 the Foundation established a fund at the Shasta Regional Community Foundation to pass some of its funding, and decisions related to that giving, to community leaders and the Community Foundation. Community leaders serve as grant review panels, making decisions on funding. These committees, which the Community Foundation oversees, are given the opportunity to learn about grantmaking processes and put into practice the principles of philanthropy. Approximately \$742,000 is annually awarded in grants of \$50,000 or less to Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties.



Recovery is a Work in Progress

Charity fills the human heart and spirit, and it quickly rises to the occasion during community tragedies. Our geographic grantmaking areas have endured their share of disasters in the past few years. The 2014 Boles Fire struck the city of Weed in Siskiyou County. The 2015 Gorkha earthquake devastated Nepal, and the 2018 collapse of a dam in southeast Laos created widespread flooding. Then there was the 2017 Helena Fire in Trinity County; the 2018 Klamathon Fire in Siskiyou County; the Ferguson Fire near Yosemite; and the Carr, Hirz, Hat and Delta fires in Shasta County and the recent Camp Fire in Butte County.

We are grateful to city, county and state personnel; firefighters; law enforcement; those in the fields of education, health care, and social services; nonprofit providers; and business community members who respond during these unexpected times of need. In the midst of smoke, fire, rubble or floodwaters, local heroes surround us.

Our historical giving has been responsive and long-term, involving building and rebuilding, enhancing a place or an organization, reinforcing strength or capacity, supporting a hope or a dream, enhancing a vision or fixing an omission. The Foundation's role in the recent Carr Fire recovery efforts, following our \$100,000 donation to the SRCF Community Disaster Relief Fund, will be responsive and open-ended. We are happy to admit that our best work comes from supporting ordinary people taking extraordinary action in response to community need. Our commitment is to help our communities reinforce their capacity to rebound and move forward.

Charity will always be our gut level response to a crisis. When others are struggling, we want to make things better. Philanthropy often picks up where charity leaves off.

ONE SAFE PLACE



One SAFE Place - Redding, California

Community activist Gretchen Peterson began offering her home as the first safe house in Shasta County in the 1970s. It was there that she voluntarily provided shelter and care for women and children affected by domestic violence.

The local chapter of the American Association of University Women recognized Mrs. Peterson's efforts in 1978 and worked with her to make it official. The Shasta Women's Refuge formed the following year and served as the first domestic violence crisis intervention program in Shasta County. In 1982, a local home — later known as Peterson House — was converted into a communal-style shelter to help thousands of women, children and men break the cycle of violence.

The Shasta County District Attorney's Office received a grant from the National Family Justice Center Alliance in 2010 and opened the Shasta Family Justice Center to provide a co-located service model for domestic and family violence-related issues. Seeing the potential for greater success through shared resources, the Shasta Women's Refuge and the Shasta Family Justice Center joined hands in January 2012, forming One SAFE Place that combined a co-located client services model with a full service state-of-the-art shelter residence.



One SAFE Place opened the Sierra Center campus at 2250 Benton Drive in 2015. Administration moved into the building in 2017, which officially located all services into one place. One SAFE Place is a nonprofit organization and provides all offerings free of charge. It partners with several other organizations and agencies to provide a safe place for clients, volunteers, social workers and donors, who are all collaborating to end violence in Shasta County. The McConnell Foundation provided a \$1 million grant with heartfelt support for this organization and its work.



SISKIYOU ICE RINK



Siskiyou Ice Rink - Mt. Shasta, California

The Siskiyou Ice Rink became a reality in 1999 thanks to generous financial support from the Mt. Shasta community and surrounding areas, as well as major funding from The McConnell Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation and The Ben Cheney Foundation.

Owned and maintained by the Mt. Shasta Recreation & Parks District and managed by Friends of the Rink, this popular, wintertime recreation facility is located in picturesque Shastice Park at the base of Mt. Shasta. Skaters enjoy both daytime and evening skate sessions from November through February. One may even catch a glimpse of the mountain while skating under a starry, full moon sky.

The Siskiyou Ice Rink measures 85 x 200 feet, making it the only NHL regulation-size outdoor rink in the North State. The youth hockey program attracts kids of all ages, and adult competitive teams from near and far look forward to the annual "All-Night" hockey tournament.

A local skater noted "Skating on an open-air rink is a thrill, especially with majestic Mt. Shasta watching over your shoulder!"



Associated Charitable Resources of Southern Siskiyou - Mt. Shasta, California

Winter outdoor recreation opportunities abound in the North State! A grant from The McConnell Fund provided new ice skates and skating equipment for those coming to enjoy the ice rink in Mt. Shasta. Now, visitors and residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy a day on the ice.



Redding City Identity Project

Redding City Identity Project - Redding, California

The Redding City Identity Project (RCIP) is a collaborative citywide initiative focused on improving the image and reputation of the city of Redding. The RCIP was created in 2017 by the Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce through its 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Forward Redding Foundation.

Identity is defined as, “who you are, the way you think about yourself, the way you are viewed by the world and the characteristics that define you.” When applied to a city, identity is closely connected to brand, image and reputation. A city’s image is crucial to its competitive advantage as a place to live, vacation and invest. As a city becomes more appealing, it’s better positioned for job creation, increased revenue and improved quality of life for its citizens.

Before launching the project publicly, the RCIP team privately met with over 120 members of the community to gather collective input. The team was consistently given positive feedback regarding the timing of the RCIP coordinating well with the incredible momentum building within the city of Redding. The finalizing of the Downtown Redding Transportation Plan and the Downtown Redding Specific Plan update, the opening of the Sheraton Hotel at the Sundial Bridge, the Cultural Arts District designation and many significant projects like the K2/McConnell project are all moving the community in the right direction. The Chamber believes the RCIP will add an important element to the recipe for a healthy, revitalized city.

The RCIP will facilitate community collaboration and incorporate best practices while creating and implementing 20 strategies by 2020 to activate and improve Redding’s image and reputation. The process for the RCIP includes a research and development phase, the invitation of community input and collaboration, development of a strategy for actionable items, as well as the implementation of those items.

The outcomes of this initiative are intended to activate increases in the following areas: community pride, marketing effectiveness (economic development, entrepreneurialism, employee recruitment, downtown development and tourism), and residential and commercial property values.



Mayers Memorial - Fall River Mills, California

What began with a single gift more than 60 years ago, will now continue to grow thanks to the generosity of many gifts. For six decades, Mayers Memorial Hospital has been committed to providing outstanding patient-centered healthcare to the rural, intermountain communities of Shasta, Modoc and Lassen counties. The gift of a six-acre parcel of land in Fall River Mills provided the location to build the original hospital, and now, \$3 million in donations will help to provide a 10,740-square-foot expansion. The new wing will allow the hospital to meet state seismic requirements and will house emergency services, laboratory and imaging. In addition, the project will provide seismic retrofits and updates to the existing facility.

The total project cost is \$18.3 million, with the majority funded by a low-interest USDA loan of \$15,323,600. In order to raise the remaining \$3 million, the Mayers Intermountain Healthcare Foundation initiated a community campaign led by Foundation CEO Marlene McArthur. Donations poured in from Mayers’ staff, physicians and board members; community members; regional industry leaders; the Hatchet Ridge Wind Project; and foundations, including a \$1 million investment from The McConnell Foundation.

Mayers Memorial issued the following statement: “We are grateful to everyone at The McConnell Foundation for working with our organization on this amazing new hospital wing project. In the 60 years Mayers Memorial has served our community, we continuously strive to improve the quality of healthcare we provide our community.”





“THE POWER OF COMMUNITY TO CREATE HEALTH IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY PHYSICIAN, CLINIC OR HOSPITAL.”

MARK HYMAN



Hill Country Health and Wellness Center - Round Mountain, California

Hill Country Health and Wellness Center is a true health care home for its patients, dedicated to healing the whole person. Integrated medical, dental, chiropractic and mental health services are available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Patients can find information, education, services and support to keep them well, and help when they are sick. Hill Country serves people from all over Shasta County. The McConnell Foundation’s role in this project was a \$1 million grant.



Center of Hope - Redding, California

Building on Hill Country’s reputation for quality care delivered with kindness, the Center of Hope is a comprehensive place of wellness offering health care, mental health services, addiction treatment and dental care for 7,700 Shasta County residents, along with supported housing for 16 young students transitioning out of homelessness. Scheduled for completion in late 2020, the Center of Hope is Hill Country Community Clinic’s latest effort to improve the health of Shasta County.

Over the past 10 years Hill Country has developed an intensive, holistic approach to helping patients with complex health and social needs to regain health and hope. Care teams based at the Center of Hope will support 300-400 people in the community who are suffering from chronic disease, mental illness, addiction, poverty and homelessness. A wellness and recovery center will provide vocational and life skills training for participants. Research has shown that 50 percent of health care costs are incurred by just five percent of patients. Helping these patients stabilize their health and living situations will result in improved quality of life for these individuals, and community-wide savings in health care, public safety and other safety net costs.

The Center of Hope will have a positive economic impact on Redding. A projected 108 permanent full-time jobs will be created. Ten part-time positions at the Center itself will be filled by students in on-campus housing, preparing them for entry into the general job market. Permanent annual tax revenue is estimated to be \$2.5 million.

Hill Country’s vision for the project is a response to Redding’s high rates of addiction, mental illness and homelessness. The estimated number of chronically homeless people in Redding is 300. While not all of these individuals will be open to help, the Center of Hope is scaled to have a major impact. As the name implies it is more than a medical facility. It is a hub of restored health and hope.

The McConnell Foundation is participating in this project by donating the property from the Foundation’s real estate portfolio for the Center.





Intermountain Community Center - 1991



Intermountain Community Center - 2018

Intermountain Community Center - Burney, California

Intermountain region residents have been receiving services at the Intermountain Community Center since 1991. The Center exists solely because The McConnell Foundation took a giant leap of faith in late 1990 when it purchased a long vacant Bank of America building on Main Street in Burney. The Foundation deeded the property to Mayers Memorial Hospital for a youth center, and the Intermountain Community Center opened its doors in February 1991.

What began as a teen center and afterschool program soon expanded. During the summer of 1991, a dining room and kitchen, supported by The McConnell Foundation, were added to prepare and serve meals for seniors, and a preschool program opened. In 1997, Mayers Memorial Hospital divested itself of the Center and created a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation — Tri County Community Network (TCCN).

Services have evolved and expanded over time. The Center currently operates the only center-based (unsubsidized) preschool and school-age care and education program in the region. TCCN prepares unemployed and under-employed adults for work success and self-sufficiency, and assures compliance with CalWORKS requirements. Residents with mental health challenges, as well as those seeking housing and employment, can access the assistance they need. Parents can receive training and support, and regular activities are available for children and their families. TCCN also offers financial literacy and nutrition classes and a home-based English learners program for Hispanic families. The Center serves as the venue for a church, an alcohol diversion program, dance classes, AA groups, Girl Scout troops and community meetings.

The McConnell Foundation has been an ongoing valued partner. Not only has it encouraged and championed growth, it has contributed in a variety of ways to the health and sustainability of the Tri County Community Network and the big, beautiful building known as the Intermountain Community Center.

“THE CENTER AND THE RESIDENTS OF
THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION ARE FOREVER
INDEBTED TO THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION
FOR ENRICHING SO MANY LIVES.”

CINDY DODDS, TCCN

SVNet - Surprise Valley, California

Derk Steggewentz immigrated to the United States in 1997 to work in the software industry. Following the dot-com crash he moved to Fort Bidwell, a small mountain town in northeastern California, where he could hang glide and hike.

Then he encountered the slow internet service. “It seemed that every few days the internet would go out all over town,” Derk said. He didn’t want to move and had an idea. He scavenged pieces of pipe, received old railroad ties from a neighbor, bought some computer hardware, built a repeater and received approval to put it on a mountaintop.

Soon Derk was enjoying high speed internet and his neighbors wanted it as well. Derk had a waiting list, not only from his town, but from three others in Surprise Valley, and parts of rural Nevada — thus SVNet was born.

Local businessman Len Holsworth learned of the venture and wanted to help him obtain a grant. Uncertain, Derk replied, “I’ll eventually get everyone hooked up. It’ll take time, but as I get the money I can do it.” Maybe Derk could wait, but the Surprise Valley communities couldn’t. They wanted high speed internet now.



The idea that faster, low-cost internet could help existing businesses and schools, provide backup for emergency communications, and attract businesses and families to the area, fascinated Len. He set up a meeting with representatives from state and federal legislators, and locals attending praised Derknet. The officials looked puzzled and one asked, “I thought we were talking about SVNet, what’s Derknet?”

“Oh that’s SVNet, but everyone calls it Derknet,” said Derk. Soon they were calling it Derknet too, and realized that if it could work in remote Surprise Valley, it could work in rural areas across the nation. Though they supported the concept, they didn’t have an immediate funding source and suggested The McConnell Foundation.

McConnell staff member Shannon Phillips visited the area to learn about Derknet. She promised to discuss the project with the McConnell Board, and encouraged the group to write a grant request. Friends, neighbors, politicians, business owners, an electric company, and the chamber of commerce, worked together to help with the process.

On May 19, 2017, Derk learned that the entire grant request for \$47,050 was approved. Now residents could access an alternative source for internet, which would prove valuable during wildfires the following year. As fire burned communication lines shutting down phone and internet service to the entire county, Derknet was still up and running, providing contact with the outside world. As another potential lifesaving measure, Derk was able to install SVNet as a communications backup for a local hospital and pointed out ways it could save hundreds of dollars a month in internet and phone bills.

Ten years ago Derk arrived in Fort Bidwell without friends, a job or reliable internet. Now he has all three and the community has benefited from his presence. A McConnell Foundation grant made Derknet possible, and for that, everyone is grateful.

STORY TELLING



LOVE YOUR LIBRARY



“As a child, I spent many hours at story hour with Tehama County Children’s Librarian ‘Miss Sally.’ It was so exciting to return to the library to work with Miss Sally, this time managing the construction of the new Tehama County Library in Red Bluff. My great interest and dedication to the project was influenced by the fact that my young son, Isaac, now attends the weekly story hour with Miss Sally. Isaac’s excitement and joy participating in these weekly adventures reminds me just how important this is to his learning and development.” Tom Provine

Tehama County Library - Red Bluff, California

The Tehama County Library moved from the historic Kraft Library into a repurposed grocery store building in 1986, and even though staff and patrons missed the classic historic ambience, the larger space allowed for an expansion of services and programs, including a children’s story hour.

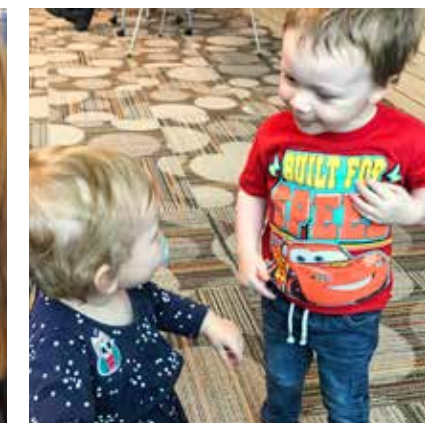
The library needed to be relocated again in 2014 to enable the construction of a state-funded re-entry facility as a result of the AB 109 realignment of criminal offenders. After reviewing 26 sites, it was determined that a complete remodel of the Red Bluff Daily News building would allow the County to preserve a part of local history, while incorporating modern technology and patron-friendly features. With a generous McConnell grant and over \$300,000 in gifts from the community, this dream became reality.

Many innovative spaces and programs have been incorporated into the new library, including study rooms, community meeting rooms, teen space, and, of course, the children’s storytelling area.

“What an honor it has been to share my love of reading with the children in our community the past 30 years. I have watched children attend my story time and then years later come back with their own little ones. As a little girl, my mother introduced me to the library, and so began our weekly outings to get books, just the two of us. What an amazing gift it has been to watch children begin their own love of stories within the pages of a book. I will always treasure our story hours, and getting to be Miss Sally,” said Sally Ainsworth, Children’s Librarian/Library Manager.

“CHILDREN ARE MADE READERS ON THE LAPS OF THEIR PARENTS.”

EMILIE BUCHWALD



Tehama County shares its appreciation for the hard work and dedication of JK Architecture and Slater & Son, General Contractor. Their personal commitment to this new library was key to making it a successful project.

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

Redding Library - Redding, California

Whether grantor or grantee, there will always be surprises and deviations from initial expectations.

In the late 1990s, Leah McConnell personally offered to contribute millions of dollars to help fund a new Redding library if a local tax initiative called "Measure L" passed. The measure didn't pass. The citizens of Redding weren't ready for a new library, or a new tax. A few years later, a grassroots group of citizens formed New Library Now! (NLN) and determined the time was right to compete for a state library grant. To do so, NLN needed lead gifts, which would be the last dollars needed if Shasta County and the city of Redding were successful in receiving the state grant. The Foundation Board found it easy to say "yes" to NLN's request, and committed \$1 million toward the effort. In the 15 years or so between Measure L and New Library Now's success, Foundation board and staff learned that timing is critical for major projects. It also reconfirmed that strong grassroots support and broad-based financial support are a recipe for success.



Redding Public Library | Redding, CA | Concept Plan | 09.28.17

Outdoor Explore Children's Garden



"COME FORTH INTO THE LIGHT OF THINGS,
LET NATURE BE YOUR TEACHER."
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

WEED COMMUNITY CENTER



Weed Community Center - Weed, California

One of the remaining community amenities to make the city of Weed whole again after the devastating 2014 Boles Fire was the rebuilding of the Weed Community Center. Designed by Schlumpberger Consulting Engineers, and constructed by Timberworks Construction, the building is east of Charlie Byrd Park.

The McConnell Foundation joined the Ford Family Foundation, and many others in funding this project. The new Weed Community Center includes a grand room (seating capacity 160) designed for private parties and social functions; club and organization meetings and fundraisers; community events; conferences and workshops. A multi-use recreation room (seating capacity 50) houses health and wellness classes and recreation programming.

Numerous smaller meeting rooms accommodate group presentations, training sessions, classroom instruction and youth-related activities. State-of-the-art technology elements are part of the building infrastructure. A fully equipped commercial kitchen serves the public activity spaces. There are on-site physical therapy services, treatment rooms, and a therapy pool designed for water therapy, water aerobics, senior activities, and a card lock gym. In addition, an exterior courtyard with a majestic view of Mount Shasta provides additional usable outdoor space.

“THANK YOU MCCONNELL
FOR HELPING US IMPROVE
AND ENHANCE OUR UNIQUE
POPULAR CITY PARK BY BRINGING
QUALITY SOUND TO THIS
WONDERFUL EVENING OF MUSIC.”

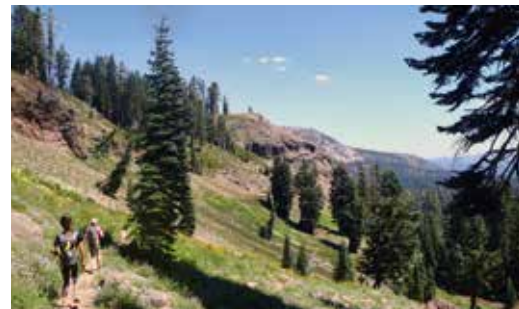
MIKE RODRIGUEZ, DUNSMUIR RECREATION & PARKS DISTRICT

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra - Dunsmuir, California

The annual Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO) concert at Dunsmuir City Park is one of the highlights of the summer season. On the third Saturday of June with the flowers in full bloom, the annual concert attracts 250 guests to enjoy a special dinner and an evening of music. Through a generous grant from The McConnell Foundation, the Dunsmuir Recreation & Parks District purchased a top-of-the-line outdoor sound system to enhance the event. The concerts have enjoyed great success for the past 20-plus years, and their proceeds have helped improve the park's botanical gardens, attracting even more visitors.



GRANTS



Adventure Camp - Lassen National Park, California

Over 25,000 hikers each year are benefiting from improvements made along the Lassen Peak Trail in Lassen Volcanic National Park. A grant was awarded to the Lassen Park Foundation for the design, fabrication, and installation of interpretive panels and completion of a mobile phone tour. The educational information presented with these infrastructure improvements educates hikers about the surrounding environment and preservation concerns. This grant award from The McConnell Fund was an integral component of a larger, multi-million dollar project to rehabilitate the entire trail and provide rich learning opportunities for many outdoor enthusiasts.

The McConnell Foundation awarded a \$75,000 grant to Lassen Park Foundation in 2015 for construction of the Volcano Adventure Camp, which is a youth camping facility located inside Lassen Volcanic National Park. The camp provides opportunities for youth organizations, including school and educational groups, as well as scouting organizations, to introduce first-time campers to their national park. The facility was completed in 2016 — just in time to celebrate the National Park Service's centennial. The Foundation has long thought that Lassen Volcanic National Park is one of the park system's best-kept secrets.



Wagon Creek Bridge - Mt. Shasta, California

The McConnell Foundation partnered with Siskiyou County by awarding a \$600,000 grant for the Wagon Creek Bridge. "The Lake Siskiyou Trail is a wonderful attraction for Siskiyou County residents and its visitors. This trail — which is enjoyed by walkers, hikers, runners and mountain bikers — meanders through deep dark forests, wide open meadows, and everything in between as it circumnavigates the lake. The crown jewel of the Lake Siskiyou Trail is the Wagon Creek Bridge, where you can gaze downwards onto the lake and watch boaters or waterfowl playing in its waters, or view upwards to the snowy peak of Mount Shasta as it is framed by the tall conifers along the lake shore." John Schuyler, Mount Shasta Trail Association





Butte Valley Community Center - Dorris, California

The McConnell Foundation awarded a \$285,000 grant for the construction of the Butte Valley Community Center. Dedicated in 2011, this is a center of activity for the tiny town of Dorris in Siskiyou County. "Words can't express the value that this building, and the park project as a whole, have provided for this small, rural community." Rennie Cleland, BVCC board member



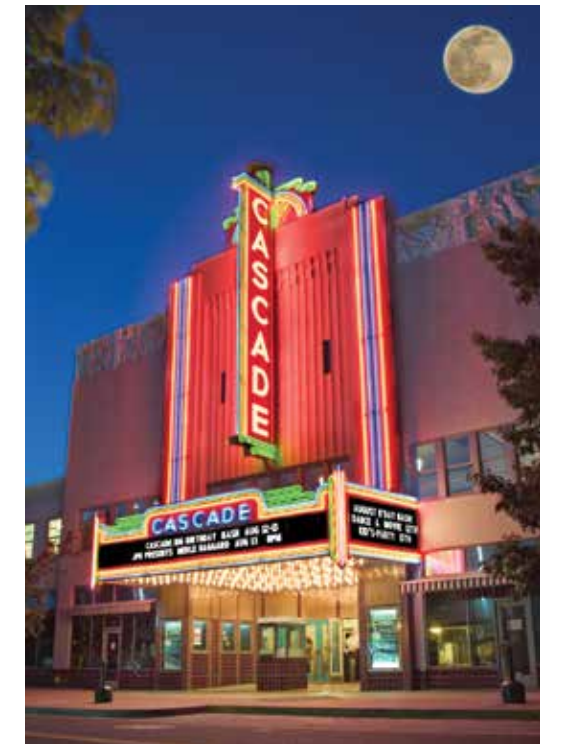
The Dancer, by Bryan Tedrick - Redding, California

The McConnell Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to Viva Downtown for Art Around Town. The statue is located at Old City Hall in downtown Redding.

Cascade Theatre - Redding, California

The Cascade Theatre was constructed in 1935 as a movie palace and vaudeville stage. It was a magnificent example of Art Deco architecture, complete with gold-gilded and silver-gilded walls, period chandeliers, ornate plasterwork, a grand neon facade and marquee, and beautiful murals. Like many downtown theaters of its era, the Cascade struggled to survive during the 1990s with the rise of shopping mall-based multiplex cinemas. In 1997 the Cascade ceased operating and its doors were boarded up.

A gift of \$750,000 in funding by The McConnell Foundation helped with the restoration of the Cascade Theatre, which was completed on August 14, 2004 when it reopened as a regional nonprofit performing arts center. The restoration was carried out in a way that honored the heritage of the building while providing the functionality of a modern professional performing arts facility, complete with state-of-the-art sound, lighting and theater technology. The theatre hosts a wide range of arts and cultural events, including concerts, dance, stage and film presentations. Restoration was made possible by many partners and funders.





Golden Umbrella Expansion - Redding, California

The McConnell Foundation provided a \$150,000 expansion grant to Golden Umbrella, now known as Dignity Health Connected Living. The nonprofit provides services to enrich, enhance, maintain, sustain and help the lives of seniors, adults with disabilities and other adults in need. These services include adult day programs, case management, social services, health-related services and in-home support services. The goal is to promote independence and enhance the quality of life.



Shasta Community Health Center - Redding, California

Shasta Community Health Center is a nonprofit primary health care system based in Redding, serving Shasta and surrounding counties since 1988. In 1999 the former Citizens Utilities building was purchased and renovated. The McConnell Foundation contributed more than \$2 million to this effort. The mission of the Center is to provide comprehensive, high quality, efficient health care services delivered in a holistic, caring, and compassionate manner. The SCHC also supports the training of health professionals who have a strong interest in caring for the disadvantaged.



Lassen National Park

The historic Loomis Museum welcomes visitors at the northwest entrance to Lassen National Park. Originally built in 1929, a significant grant from The McConnell Foundation helped restore the facility that houses exhibits, an auditorium and an educational bookstore.



Tower Bridge - Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

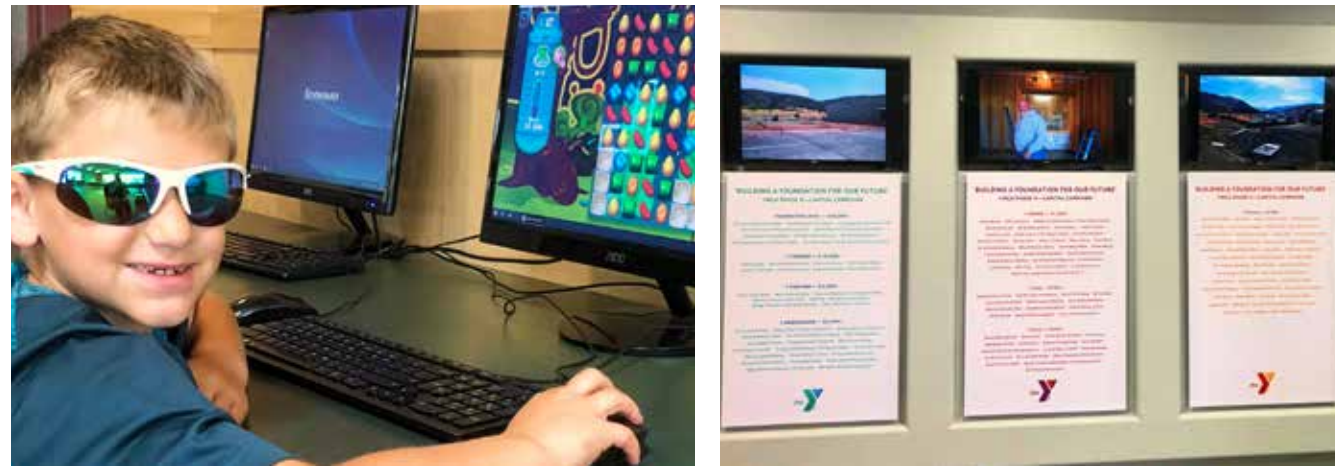
This footbridge crosses Clear Creek in the Tower House Historic District of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. A \$120,000 grant awarded in 1990 by The McConnell Foundation helped fund the construction.



Ribbon Bridge - Redding, California

The Ribbon Bridge spans the Sacramento River, connecting the south and north legs of the Sacramento River Trail in Redding. Leah McConnell visited this bridge while it was being built and marveled at its construction.

SISKIYOU YMCA



Yreka YMCA Capital Project - Sometimes you just have to build it!

Upon completion of the Youth Activity Center in the Spring of 2011, the YMCA Board of Directors and staff immediately began reviewing the long-term strategic plan for facility and grounds development. A comprehensive membership survey went out to members in the fall of 2011, and another in the spring of 2014. The results offered clear direction for the Y, as members said they wanted to see significant upgrades in restroom/locker room facilities, expanded weight room and aerobics facilities, a conference room where community groups could meet, a larger child-watch room, and an onsite solar array to help curb expenses.

Members also hoped for a new pool. The staff and board thoroughly reviewed the possibility of a pool and the costs associated with sustaining one, but found that even if construction funds could be raised, without a \$2 million-plus endowment, the Y could not sustain one.

In the Fall of 2016, the Y began the Phase 4 Capital Campaign with the hope of raising \$150,000 to match grant requests from funding partners. The scope of the project was new restroom/locker rooms, a new conference room, and expanded lobby area. The community responded by donating over \$225,000 (the largest community capital campaign in the county since the Fairchild Medical Center campaign in 1997), but the feedback received was to go after all of the needed improvements and include the aerobics room, expanded child-watch room with bathroom facilities, and expanded weight room. The staff and board knew that they had one shot and could not ask the community again for this level of gifting for several years. They decided to raise additional funds and assume debt to complete the work the community wanted identified in the 30-year facility development plan. The project broke ground in June of 2017 and the YMCA gained occupancy in its 'new' facility on May 25, 2018. The final piece of the project, the onsite solar, was completed in the fall of 2018.

So how did it happen? Foundations gifted the Y with \$650,000 toward Phase 4. More than 100 volunteers gifted a total of 4000-plus hours to keep commercial construction costs at \$178 per square foot. In California, the commercial construction rate is at or just above \$400 per square foot. The Y used 84 business partners/subcontractors to complete the project — 72 of them from within Siskiyou County. An estimated \$208,000 in donated time and labor went into this project. A humbling response from a community that obviously sees value in the work the Y is doing and its long-term importance within the community.

There are challenges that lie ahead, but none more important than keeping the promise of never turning someone away for inability to pay. Moving forward, there is a responsibility of matching the quality of the new facility with accessibility to the community at large.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, HEALTHY LIVING, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SHASTA YMCA

Redding YMCA - How a single grant and one determined woman changed lives for children.

When The McConnell Foundation Board awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Shasta Family YMCA in 1993 to start its afterschool care program, they had no idea they were also launching the 25-year YMCA career of a woman who would become one of the North State's leading voices for children.

Linda Delles started part-time in 1993 as the Boulder Creek YMCA Afterschool Care Director. That first program was an overwhelming success and it didn't take long for word to spread. Soon other school districts wanted to add afterschool programs, and Linda went fulltime. She expanded the childcare program to 15 sites all over the county — from Redding to Palo Cedro to Cottonwood and Anderson.

That was just the beginning. In 2004 Linda became director of the early literacy program "Raising a Reader," which was sponsored by The McConnell Foundation and First 5 Shasta. Linda says that was one of the highlights of her career: "What can be more rewarding than encouraging kids to love books?"

Linda has been the vision behind the Y's childcare program. She recently added a third week to the traditional Camp McCumber resident camp, creating an experience specifically for youth in foster care. Three years ago, Linda developed a drop-in afterschool club for tweens and teens, and today Y Club has 70 kids enrolled. This summer she launched a pilot program called Power Scholars Academy for at-risk youth. Power Scholars serves children who would normally fall well behind their peers during a long, inactive summer — and accelerates their learning and builds their esteem so they head back to school with momentum and a new belief in themselves.

At Linda's retirement party in August, 2018, she said she started at the Y because of the original McConnell grant but stayed because she believed so strongly in the Y's mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. The mission is personal for Linda. Her own kids grew up before many of the programs she has created were around, and she saw how they struggled. Through her work, she was able to make a better community environment for a generation of families and children.

Linda's 25-year commitment to the community influenced thousands of lives. Her legacy will continue through the framework she built starting in 1993 with that grant from The McConnell Foundation.



Healthy Shasta - Shasta County, California

Healthy Shasta is a partnership of 24 organizations committed to fostering healthy eating and physically active lifestyles throughout Shasta County, with the goal of preventing childhood obesity and other chronic diseases. The partnership is committed to long-lasting changes that make healthy choices easier, convenient, inviting and affordable where we live, work, play and learn. Healthy Shasta focuses on four areas: increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, decreasing consumption of sugary beverages, increasing fitness and play, and increasing walking and bicycling for both recreation and transportation.

As an original founding partner, The McConnell Foundation has played a key role in the Healthy Shasta movement since the partnership launched in 2006. Through the investment of both funds and staff time, The McConnell Foundation has worked with Healthy Shasta partners to create healthier communities with better quality of life. In addition, many of our other investments, such as building trails, further the vision of creating a community where the “healthy choice is the easy choice.”



**HEALTHY
SHASTA**
Better choices. Healthy changes.

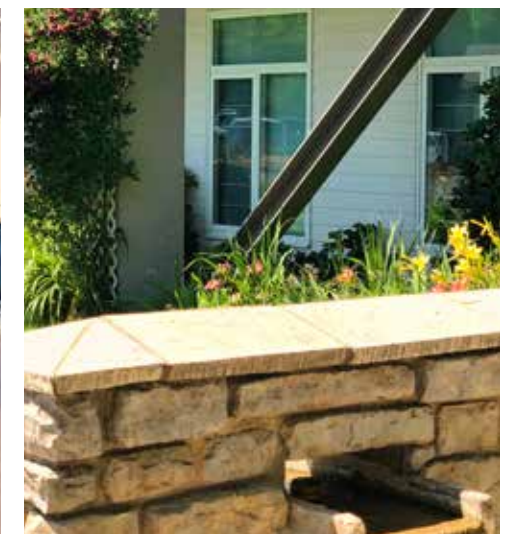


“THE SAME THINGS THAT IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE ALSO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ... GREAT PLACES TO WALK, PLAY AND GET OUTDOORS, ALONG WITH CONVENIENT AND AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO FRESH, HEALTHY AND DELICIOUS FOOD.”



Fairchild Medical Center - Yreka, California

Siskiyou General Hospital representatives traveled from Yreka to Redding in the early 1990s to meet with McConnell Foundation representatives. They requested that the Foundation consider committing funds to a capital campaign to build a new hospital in Yreka. The McConnell Board challenged the group to go back to their active medical community and raise \$500,000. They not only met this challenge, they exceeded it! In a community of 7,000 people, this sent a significant message that their community would support a new hospital. The Foundation honored their success with a \$1 million grant, which Leah McConnell personally matched, totaling a \$2 million contribution to Fairchild Medical Center, named in memory of Leah McConnell’s family.



McCONNELL FUND



Tehama State Theatre for the Arts - Red Bluff, California

The State Theatre has long been a prominent landmark in the Red Bluff community. After completing a large fundraising effort to purchase and renovate the State Theatre, the nonprofit organization State Theatre for the Arts was awarded a grant from The McConnell Fund. With this grant, the organization was able to complete the renovation project by replacing the neon-lit "STATE" blade and marquee. This blade, which has served as a beacon for many generations, has been restored and contributes to the vibrancy of downtown Red Bluff.



Trinity Players - Weaverville, California

In the small town of Weaverville, the arts community is thriving because of a solid volunteer group and its commitment to ensure the local arts community flourishes. A grand piano was purchased and installed with a grant from The McConnell Fund in 2015. Now, people travel from all around the region to see world-class concerts and performances in the intimate setting provided by the Trinity Players.

McCONNELL FUND



Oak Run Elementary - Oak Run, California

The elementary school of Oak Run in eastern Shasta County had an aging kitchen that was modernized with a grant from The McConnell Fund. With an improved layout and new appliances, students and staff utilize hands-on learning and grow produce on school grounds to create nutritious meals — now in a functional and modern new space.



Civic Club - Fort Bidwell, California

In the tiny town of Fort Bidwell in Modoc County, small town America still exists. With a 2017 grant from The McConnell Fund, the Civic Club remodeled its well-used kitchen with new appliances, countertops, commercial cabinets and an improved layout where all can gather. The Civic Club will remain the hub of the community and the go-to gathering place for many years to come.



McCONNELL FUND



Smart Business Resource Center - Shasta and Trinity Counties, California

With a grant from The McConnell Fund to the Smart Business Resource Center, job seekers in Shasta and Trinity counties become more competitive in the job hunt process. Job seekers access updated technology supplied by a grant from The McConnell Fund that supports them in obtaining certifications or finding a career.

Alternatives to Violence - Red Bluff, California

Alternatives to Violence — a domestic violence shelter in Red Bluff — recently underwent an expansion to build a new transitional housing facility. As clients and their families transition out of the shelter and to independent living, they are welcomed to beautiful new housing units that were furnished with new beds thanks to a grant from The McConnell Fund.



California Heritage Youth Build Academy (CHYBA) - Redding, California

Treated more as a family than a school, students attending the Redding charter school of California Heritage Youth Build Academy find themselves in a caring environment where they are supported and encouraged to complete their high school or GED coursework. Students taking part in the construction program are transported with a grant-funded van and trailer to off-site construction projects where they learn real-world skills in a hands-on setting and give back as they construct affordable housing units for others.

Trinity Food Outreach - Trinity County, California

In the mountainous, rural region of Trinity County, access to food is sometimes scarce. Distance between towns or a grocery store can be hundreds of miles on roads that become treacherous in the winter. Fortunately, Trinity Food Outreach can now distribute food to those in need with a vehicle funded through The McConnell Fund. Until receiving the grant for this delivery truck, volunteers traveled in their own vehicles making deliveries. Now volunteers drive safely to those in need on a consistent basis.



McCONNELL FUND



Jefferson Mountain Bike Association - Yreka, California

Siskiyou County continues to grow in developing trail systems for sports enthusiasts of all types. In Yreka, the Jefferson Mountain Bike Association has not only invested time and effort into developing mountain bike trails in and around Greenhorn Park, members also used a grant from The McConnell Fund to develop a pump track. This unique track is designed to hone the skills of mountain bikers to better navigate the challenging myriad of turns and bumps along mountain bike trails.



Lewiston Sparkies - Lewiston, California

Community tradition continues to sparkle thanks to a grant from The McConnell Fund. Each year following Thanksgiving residents and visitors in Lewiston gather together to kick off the holiday season with the annual bridge lighting celebration, carols, hot chocolate and cheer. The town's bridge is decorated with sparkling lights that signal the start of the season and provide joy all through the holidays.

McCONNELL FUND



Central Valley FFA - Shasta Lake City, California

A grant to Central Valley FFA allowed the organization to purchase a new livestock trailer so students without such equipment could still raise animals and participate in the Shasta District Fair. An old-fashioned tradition continues for a new generation.

4-H and FFA Clubs - All Counties, California

Since 1997 The McConnell Foundation has supported local 4-H and FFA clubs by purchasing animals at junior livestock auctions. Not only does this annual tradition benefit the youth who raise and sell the animals, but the Foundation donates the meat to many local organizations including One SAFE Place, Shasta Senior Nutrition Center, Great Northern Services, Anderson-Cottonwood Christian Assistance and Trinity County Food Bank.

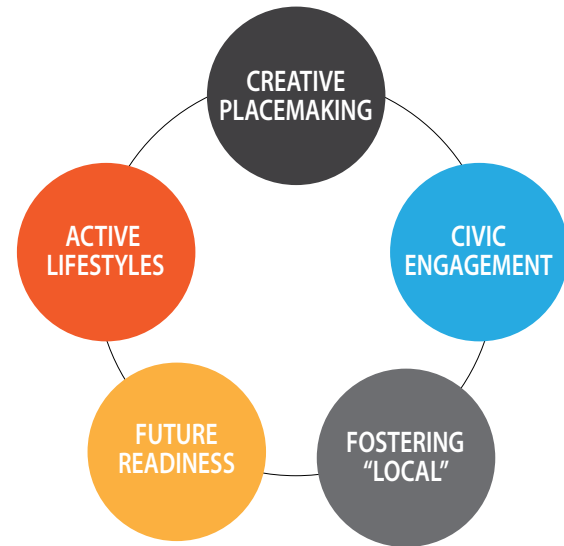


Veteran's Cemetery - Northern California

A hidden gem in our North State community, the Northern California Veteran's Cemetery is a special resting place for those who bravely served our country. A grant from The McConnell Fund capped off a multi-year fundraising effort, bringing to fruition a beautiful memorial, hand-crafted by local artist Carl Turner. As a veteran himself, the memorial brings to life the gravity of what our service men and women experienced during the Vietnam War and provides a touching tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

COMMUNITY VITALITY

In a real sense, The McConnell Foundation has invested in the vitality of the North State throughout its history since it began funding in 1988. This track record is well-documented in our previous publications “15 Years of Giving” and “25 Years of Impact.” In 2016, The McConnell Foundation Board engaged in a strategic planning process and determined Community Vitality as a specific focus area, with downtown Redding revitalization as the primary focus. Positive change takes time, and The McConnell Foundation knows this. Therefore, 2017 began a 10-year commitment to Community Vitality. The McConnell Foundation hired Rachel Hatch as a Program Officer for Community Vitality. Her work is involved in both grantmaking and investments in downtown Redding until at least 2027. These five focus areas form the initial approach.



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING: UTILIZING THE UNDENIABLE POWER OF ARTS AND CULTURE TO INCREASE VIBRANCY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES OF THE DAY AS CITIZENS SO THAT WE CAN MAKE MORE INFORMED DECISIONS

FOSTERING “LOCAL”: MAKING AND CONSUMING LOCAL GOODS FOR A STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMY

FUTURE READINESS: ANTICIPATING WHAT’S COMING IN ORDER TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS TODAY

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES: BUILDING FROM OUR STRENGTHS BY GETTING OUT ON THE MILES OF WORLD-CLASS TRAILS IN AND AROUND REDDING

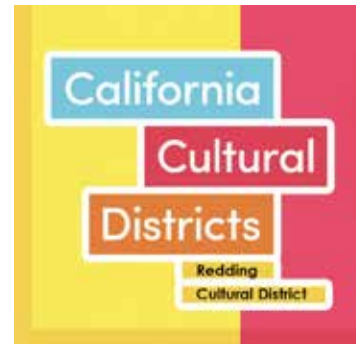


COMMUNITY VITALITY

Recognizing Our Cultural Assets

The Redding Cultural District is one of 14 communities statewide to be designated by the California Arts Council as a cultural district.

“State-level designation of Cultural Districts, with California’s diverse geography and regional variety, allowed for an entirely new and comprehensive look at our deeply valued cultural assets,” said Donn K. Harris, California Arts Council Chair. “Each community’s personal and generational commitment to these assets speaks of a state deeply invested in the places and people that celebrate local traditions and creativity. Our goal with the pilot launch of this new program was to support a group of districts that met high standards of coherence, vision, and purpose — ones that could set an example for districts that will follow as the program develops and grows.”



The McConnell Foundation supports the Shasta County Arts Council (lead agency) and the core collaborative partners who applied for this effort, commissioning an inventory of the district’s cultural assets, as well as a two-year grant to kick-start the effort.

Native Roots Network - LearnX

Native Roots Network facilitated a cross-cultural learning exchange aimed to inform and inspire community member-led work in cultural revitalization and community development. A cohort of Indigenous culture bearers, leaders, artists and organizers traveled to Oahu and the Big Island of Hawaii and met with, learned from and shared with Hawaiian organizations, schools and individuals who are on the cutting edge of culture-based community development. The group raised funds to support the project — named LearnX — including support from The McConnell Foundation.



Redding Fashion Alliance Co-Executive Directors
Jan Kearns & Robin Fator

Redding Fashion Alliance

To enliven underutilized space in downtown, The McConnell Foundation gave an activation grant to Redding Fashion Alliance which supports local creatives in the fashion industry. Their makerspace and retail store located on Market Street reminds passersbys that they are in the heart of the Redding Cultural District. Events ranging from pop-up retail to sewing classes for kids to a runway show during Fashion Week add to the mix of activities for community members to enjoy. All together, these efforts embody the maker movement and its potential as an economic force.



Hannah Littier designer and model of the Slate Dress
from the Metamorphia Collection. Photo Credit: Casey Strohmayer

COMMUNITY VITALITY



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING
ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

RAD Studio // Russell Architecture & Design

California Street Labs - Redding, California

Take an abandoned warehouse in downtown Redding, outfit it with options for pop-up retail, creative play, nightlife, and most importantly — add community members with vision. The result? A community space that gives people an opportunity to experience a sampling of what is possible in a vibrant downtown.

Redding is not alone in this type of approach; architectural historians are taking note of the so-called “warehouse renaissance” that is popping up in cities that are on-the-move all across the United States. Cities are responding, with new approaches such as the pop-up provisions that are in Redding’s recent Downtown Specific Plan update.

When it comes to the site on California Street, activation means programming the space with people and objects to enliven it. The McConnell Foundation has funded Shasta Living Streets to take the lead on activation, bringing their eight years of experience with helping underutilized spaces to come to life. The invitation to community members-at-large is to use the space as a “sandbox” of sorts; participating in topic areas like DIY (Do-It-Yourself), New Economy, Future City, Science & the Natural World in the City and more.

Though some of the most impactful things are “built to last,” this project is temporary by design. As The McConnell Foundation undertakes a new 10-year commitment to downtown Redding, we are here to stay. By starting with this opportunity to rapidly learn what people are interested in doing, seeing, and building downtown, it lays the groundwork for much of what is to come.



Photo Credit: Faires Wheel Films



Conceptual renderings of Tehama Street and California Street by RAD Studio // Russell Architecture & Design

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES
FUTURE READINESS

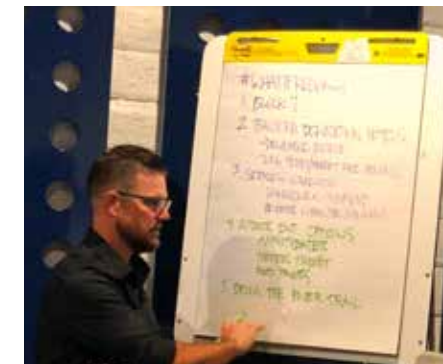
It's Official - Block 7 Affordable Housing Project Funded

What if Redding had more people living downtown? The \$24 million awarded in state grants should help to answer that question. The McConnell Foundation collaborated with K2 Land & Investments LLC, the city of Redding, and the Community Revitalization and Development Corporation to compete at the state level for two grants: the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant, and the Infill Infrastructure grant. This joint effort represented the North State well, as only two awards were made north of the San Francisco Bay Area, and this proposed housing project was the highest scoring in its category across the whole state.

This award makes it possible to build a mixed-use development in downtown, offering housing and transportation amenities such as bike share, and completing the river trail connection from Turtle Bay Exploration Park to downtown, as well as to build multi-story parking. Together, these amenities make it more inviting to live in downtown.



Community contingent attends AHSC grant announcement.



Recent workshop to move from conceptual design to architectural and construction design.

COMMUNITY VITALITY



ACTIVE LIFESTYLES FUTURE READINESS

Grant Moves Neighborhoods Toward a Diversified Landscape of Street Trees

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.” — Chinese proverb

A vibrant downtown is a walkable downtown. That’s why The McConnell Foundation gave a matching grant to the city of Redding to support its effort to win an Urban and Community Forestry grant from the state for street trees.

Tree-lined streets make the walking experience more picturesque on a daily basis and more pleasant in summer heat. A greener downtown enables residents, business owners and their customers, as well as visitors to enjoy social spaces outdoors.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES FUTURE READINESS

Exploring a Vision for the Bell Rooms Building

As The McConnell Foundation embarks on a 10-year commitment to downtown Redding, one of the earliest potentials that caught our interest was the community-driven support for the Bell Rooms building on the corner of California and Shasta Streets downtown. Groups like This Place Matters Redding, Viva Downtown, Shasta County Arts Council and Shasta Historical Society knew that a thriving downtown needs architectural diversity, full of history and character. When they spearheaded an effort to stay the demolition of the Bell Rooms building, it was important to explore the possibilities for this space. The winning cities of the next decade are full of adaptive reuse projects — using existing buildings in new and creative ways.

In 2018 The McConnell Foundation began working with community partners and architects to explore how a development at that site — located along the forthcoming Diestelhorst-to-Downtown bicycle loop — could provide a downtown destination that welcomes bike riders of all stripes; recreational cyclists out for a Saturday ride, commuters heading to and from work, and cycling tourists who come to Redding to take advantage of the world-class trail system along the Sacramento River.



Exploration included visiting other cities to learn lessons from outside. Currently in design stage, is a vision for a bike-friendly café, plaza and bike depot. This concept is designed to emphasize the connection between indoor and outdoor spaces; to provide safe and accessible bike parking, a bikeshare program, and to complement the great vibe emerging in this part of downtown — at the same time repurposing the former Bell Rooms.



Photo Credit: Jeremy M. Tuggle

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING FUTURE READINESS

McConnell acquired the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) building in downtown Redding to preserve the past and serve the future.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & EDUCATION

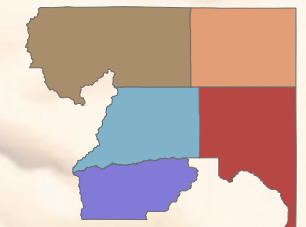
“WHAT DOES IT
TAKE TO EDUCATE A CHILD?
VERY SIMPLY, IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.”

ZACHARY K. PIERCE

Children, Youth & Education

The McConnell Foundation's focus on youth and education began with Leah McConnell and her personal contributions in those areas. Initially, the Foundation primarily funded the efforts of area high schools and community colleges. From early grants for sports fields, computers, software, musical instruments and science labs, to support of the Foundation's environmental program in Yosemite beginning in 1989, the Foundation has placed importance on youth and the value that education brings to their lives.

The Foundation has also understood the value of being flexible in its approach to funding in this area. Starting in 1999, the Foundation began to look at long-term programmatic approaches to improving the lives and education of our young people and formally added education as a focus area for funding. In 2005, the Foundation realized it needed a different approach to scholarships and revamped its program. In 2017, the Foundation again realigned its focus on education by looking at investments in student success — from cradle to career — and committed to the educational future of youth in the five North State counties served by The McConnell Foundation.



NATURE BRIDGE PROGRAM



NatureBridge - Yosemite, California

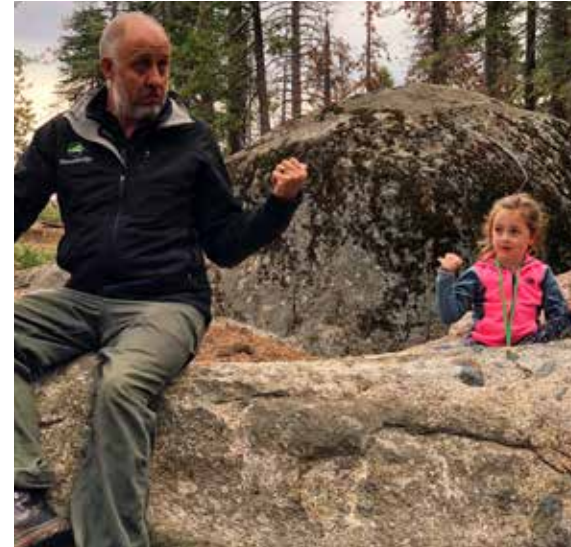
The McConnell Foundation has supported the NatureBridge in Yosemite Program since 1989. This five-day outdoor, environmental education program has enriched the lives of over 3,450 students from public and charter high schools in the North State.



Students have consistently shared their enthusiasm for the Program:
“Before Yosemite, I focused on finding a career with a big paycheck and nothing else. After seeing so many opportunities in parks, however, I have realized that a job doing something you love can give you much more meaningful satisfaction than a big house or fancy car.”

“I normally leave a camp thinking that it was cool and fun, but with this camp I left and I knew that it seriously impacted my life. I met so many new friends that I am still in contact with. What you guys are doing is an incredible thing and I really hope you continue it for many, many, many years.”

“That week I learned more, made new friends, and appreciated nature so much more. I am inspired to make changes in my home, school, and community to help nature out. You have planted seeds in the next generation to change the world and make a difference.”



McConnell Board members participate in grand opening.

National Environmental Science Center - Yosemite, California

In addition to supporting the education program, in 2008 and 2011, the Foundation granted a total of \$5,250,000 towards the construction of the new National Environmental Science Center (NESC) at Henness Ridge.

The campus will allow students to explore new areas of Yosemite National Park. Located midway between the floor of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant Sequoias at the southern end of the park, Henness Ridge offers teaching opportunities in the areas of sustainability, fire science, cultural history and citizen science (established citizen science projects such as stream study, phenology, snow surveys and wildlife monitoring).



INVESTING IN SUCCESS

What Difference Does a Scholarship Make?

The McConnell Foundation stopped awarding scholarships in 2005. Until then, we announced the recipients at high school awards ceremonies, bestowed our congratulations, provided the students with \$2,200 and told them they could renew the scholarship the following year. Only 29 percent ever returned for the second year of funding. What happened to the rest of them? Did they forget? What difference was the scholarship making? We didn't know.

The Foundation's results-oriented Board of Directors, unhappy with the low rate of return and lack of information about the students' success, asked staff to analyze the situation. After much research that included focus groups, conferences and visits with colleagues, Senior Program Officer for Children, Youth and Education, Kelly Salter, recommended that the Foundation take an active role in student success. She designed a new scholarship program that would increase financial support, and proposed that the Foundation hire someone to manage the program: a program officer who would work with recipients from scholarship selection through graduation. Dave Tanner was hired in 2006, and he recruited a selection committee of community volunteers to choose the first recipients in 2007 under the new scholarship model. The difference was immediately measurable. Instead of a 29 percent rate of return, 72.5 percent of the 2007 recipients graduated.

Despite the substantial increase, the Foundation wasn't satisfied. Using research from leaders in the field, the program improved its selection process by learning to identify personal qualities that predict success in high-risk students. Recognizing that many of the students come from difficult circumstances, Tanner also took graduate-level courses in psychological counseling. "We've incorporated the research on students' personal development during their undergraduate experience, and devised targeted interventions to help our recipients successfully navigate the many challenges and phases of growth they face each year at college," Tanner said. "We've also adapted our financial awards to give our recipients more responsibility in managing their money, while at the same time providing them the information they need to thoroughly understand their college finances. Our commitment to caring for and supporting our students has never wavered, but we have become better informed, skilled, and strategic at delivering that care.

Over the years the program has evolved and the persistence rate for our Scholars has climbed to an average of 96.3 percent graduation rate while serving a high-risk demographic. For comparison, the six-year graduation rate at California State Universities is 57 percent among the general student population.



A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOLARSHIP MODEL

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



When Tanner headed to college in 1987, he took along an electric typewriter and a bottle of correction fluid. Professors used chalkboards and overhead projectors, and students registered for classes by filling out postcards and depositing them in special mailboxes scattered across campus. "Most of us couldn't have predicted that in less than a generation, students would register for classes, keep up with assignments, and even do homework with their smart phones," he said. "Sweeping economic, technological, and policy changes are likely to radically affect higher education in ways we might not even imagine in the not-so-distant future. The Foundation intends to keep pace with those changes to keep supporting our recipients."

No matter what the future of higher education brings, The McConnell Foundation knows that some things never change. "Youth will always need caring support as they make the journey to adulthood and productive citizenship," Tanner said. "We will be there to provide that support as skillfully as we can, while keeping up-to-date on the latest methods of delivering it."

So what difference does a scholarship make? As of today, McConnell Scholars have taken their place in society as teachers, engineers, accountants, social workers, welders, business owners, employers, political policy-makers, scientists, nurses, parents, and caring, involved community members. Through their higher education and civic and social contributions, the McConnell Scholars are fulfilling The McConnell Foundation's mission of helping build better communities through philanthropy.



COLLEGE OPTIONS



College OPTIONS - A Resource for North State Families for over 15 Years

College OPTIONS continues to help North State students decide what to do when they graduate from high school. With many options — from career technical training to community colleges and four-year universities — College OPTIONS provides students of all ages and their families with the information and tools necessary to make the right choice for them.

Previously administered under the fiscal umbrella of UC Davis, College OPTIONS officially became an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2017. The organization continues the same mission of serving all residents of Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity and Modoc counties with free career and college-readiness services including community events, financial aid counseling, scholarships, college campus visits, and advisors in middle and high schools.



To do this, College OPTIONS partners with the University of California and the California State University systems, local community colleges, local private colleges and universities, local nonprofit organizations, county offices of education, and the California Education Round Table Intersegmental Coordinating Committee. The McConnell Foundation's funding wraps around College OPTIONS and its partners. Federal grants ensure services are available for all students in the five counties.

During the past ten years, College OPTIONS has also partnered with community organizations in local cradle to career collective impact initiatives in the North State, including North State Together, to help ensure that all students in the North State are prepared for all options after high school. College OPTIONS also spearheaded the creation of The North State Promise, a program that guarantees admission priority and financial aid to North State students at partner universities, and transfer assistance to students enrolled in local community colleges — a tremendous benefit to our North State students.

“COLLEGE OPTIONS AND THE AMAZING EMPLOYEES THAT WORK THERE, GAVE US THE TOOLS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TO PURSUE EVERY SCHOLARSHIP POSSIBLE AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE CAL GRANT SYSTEM.”

LARRY AND LINDA RUMERY (PARENTS)



REDDING SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

RSA - A Cool School with a Purpose - Redding, California

Redding School of the Art opened its state-of-the-art campus in 2011. The McConnell Foundation funded the \$30 million building project as a program-related investment for the community, and the LEED Platinum certified building, owned by the Foundation, continues to evolve and inspire. RSA, a public charter school, leases the facility. The campus, is not only a national model of energy efficiency and sustainability, winning state and national awards; it is a large sustainability laboratory and arts exploratorium for the students and community.

The design of the school campus is based on two essential ideas: that creative, colorful, healthy, and fun surroundings can inspire students to learn; and that the built environment creates opportunities to show students, teachers, and the community that sustainability is part of each day. Every aspect of the facility is purpose-built for a visual and performing arts school, with a focus on green architecture and sustainable use.

The original two-story, 77,000 square foot building encompasses large, brightly painted classrooms, art rooms, music and dance rooms, a library and information center, a cooking classroom, science lab and a technology lab. The innovative playground offers areas for gross and fine motor skills, imaginative play, organized team sports, and active free-play. The outdoor learning spaces that surround the school encourage blending indoor and outdoor education. Even the music classes can be found playing in the outside courtyards with their music drifting down the exterior hallways for all to enjoy.



A signature element of the school campus is the 600-seat open-air amphitheater located in the central core of the main building. Designed as a “hole to the sky,” with three enclosed dance and drama classrooms that can open to create outdoor performance venues, this has served as the school’s main performance space since the school opened in 2011. A retractable shade structure was added in 2017 in order to maximize use of this outdoor space during bright, sunny days. In addition to school shows and assemblies and guest artist performances, the amphitheater is a popular venue in the community especially during warm nights when twinkling stars add to the beauty of music or dance.

In 2012, the original school campus became the first in the world to be certified Platinum under the stringent LEED for Schools 2009 standards. It was designed with an overall commitment to environmental sensitivity — a sustainable energy design including a 121-kw photovoltaic system, solar water heaters, a wind turbine and a 175,000-gallon underground water storage tank for rainwater collected from the roof and used for the school’s summer irrigation. The school’s design and features continue to win state and national awards.

Recognizing the school’s growing after-school program and increasing activity needs, in 2018, the Foundation added a versatile activity center that opens to a secure garden courtyard. Designed for multiple purposes and open spaces, students may be found inside eating their lunches on cold, wet days, gathered for presentations, tumbling over gymnastic mats or outside under the covered patio visiting with their friends after school, playing games, or digging in the garden. With close proximity to the technology lab and library, many students can get extra help after school with assignments. An average of 250 students use the activity center on any given day.



The school’s unique garden teaching space, connected to the new activity center, provides many cross-curricular learning opportunities such as predicting and monitoring seed germination in science journals, measuring and graphing plant growth, and producing beautiful flowers and vegetable still life drawings. RSA has presented at state conferences about the school’s environmental education program where students experience the campus’ energy efficient features and transfer the information of the four R’s — recycle, reuse, reduce and rot to their home lives. Students at RSA have opportunities to make daily choices to reduce their environmental footprint to help our planet’s future.

Designed to rigorous environmental standards, the new activity center is the first building in the north state to achieve LEED v4 certification. The 5,000 square foot building is also expected to be the first commercial facility in Shasta County to achieve true net-zero energy status, producing as much energy as it uses.



RSA alumni and the community are proud of their school facility, attending performances, painting murals in the playground to add to the friendly and inclusive play area for all students, and supporting the school’s arts and environmental programs. Having a school that is truly an environmentally responsible, vibrant, living learning environment filled with whimsical, child-centered features, engages students wherever they may be on campus and serves as a catalyst for formal and informal lessons on sustainability.



The new activity center is a welcome addition to the campus.

NORTH STATE TOGETHER

Collective Impact - Creating the Future We Want to See

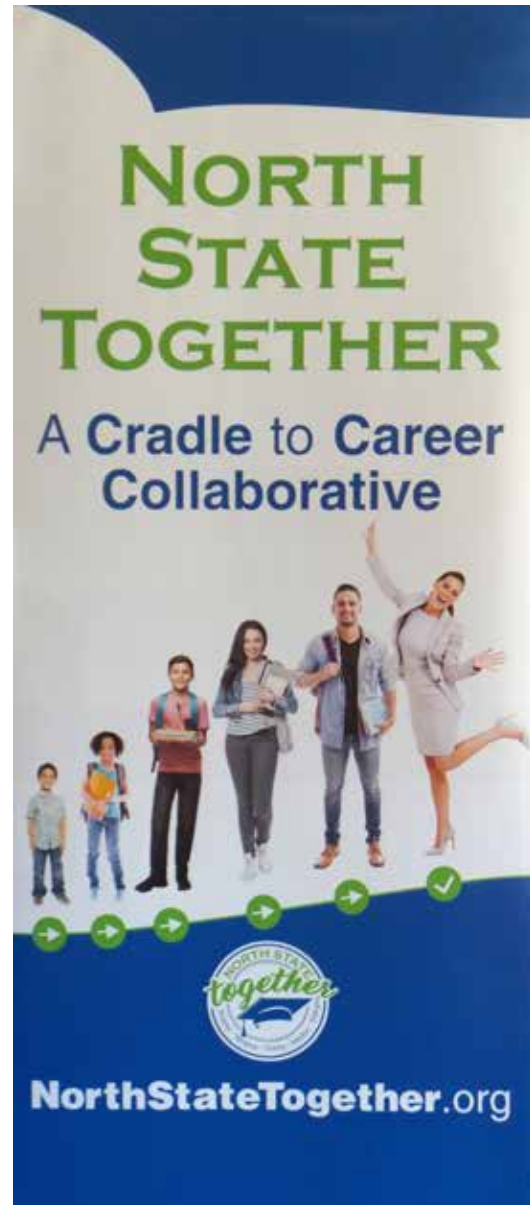
Imagine mothers gathering at a coffee shop in Tehama County to develop expanded educational options for their children, while Shasta County Public Health officials work with community and education partners on community wellness and its link to education. High school math teachers from Anderson work with Shasta College professors to ensure that their curriculums align so students can transition smoothly from high school to college. Trinity County classrooms are bustling with local employers and business people who visit regularly to talk about career opportunities. In Modoc County, a high school sophomore, who represents the voice of students, is working with county leaders on expanding opportunities for youth, while a group of Siskiyou County educators, joining forces with social service agencies and workforce investment boards, are ensuring that working adults have access to a common high school diploma that will advance their career goals.

Taken alone, these discussions and activities can have a tremendous impact on educational access and attainment for the residents in those five northern California counties. However, unite them together and they create more than isolated interventions, but an entire movement that affects all people across the educational spectrum, from cradle to career. That is collective impact; and that is North State Together (NST).

NST is a regional collective partnership funded in part by The McConnell Foundation. NST helps create and/or support county-based educational attainment initiatives in Modoc, Trinity, Tehama, Shasta and Siskiyou counties. Each initiative unites leaders from education, business, nonprofit, civic, faith and philanthropic communities to create action plans for improving educational access and opportunities and increasing options from birth to career, thus ultimately improving overall economic and community health.

The Foundation and NST know that no single individual or organization can tackle complex challenges in isolation. Instead, working collectively intentionally brings together multiple community members with different perspectives in a way that provides greater impact and action. NST serves as the “backbone support” for the county initiatives by operating as a “hub” and providing each county with financial resources, administrative and technical support, and assistance with data, community outreach and professional development opportunities. By serving as the backbone, NST frees up local leaders to create local solutions that directly connect to community needs, expanding educational access and opportunities from cradle to career.

At the inception of NST, this region hosted two successful local collective impact initiatives, Expect More Tehama and Reach Higher Shasta, that have made significant progress in increasing alignment and education options within their counties. Now there are three new collective impact initiatives joining the movement: Modoc County’s Advancing Modoc Youth; Trinity County’s Trinity Together: a Cradle to Career Partnership; and Siskiyou County’s Siskiyou Education Business Alliance. Working together, the five initiatives will create that future for the North State; one where residents are supported from birth all the way through their education into a successful career with options open to them.



“BUILDING WORKING RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS A COMMUNITY IS AN INTRINSICALLY GOOD THING. YOU DO ENOUGH INTRINSICALLY GOOD THINGS AND LIVES WILL BE IMPROVED IN WAYS YOU CAN NEVER PLAN OR PREDICT. THIS IS WHERE OUR NATIONAL RENEWAL WILL COME FROM.”
 DAVID BROOKS, NEW YORK TIMES



SHASTA COLLEGE PROGRAM

Guyana Expedition

Shasta College's Global Education Program has partnered with Operation Wallacea to offer field study expeditions around the globe. This program is open to all students age 16 and up and provides college credit. The Global Expeditions Program has sent students to Honduras, Indonesia, and South Africa. The McConnell Foundation has been funding Global Expedition scholarships for students in the Global Expedition Program since 2015.

This year, the Foundation sent Ana Bachman on the 2018 Expedition to Guyana. Bachman coordinates the Foundation's NatureBridge in Yosemite Program, and the Foundation sent her on this trip to evaluate and to determine if it would be a good "continuation" program for students who participate in the Yosemite Program and want to pursue environmental or other physical or life sciences as a career.

"The expedition in Guyana was as hands-on as science gets," Bachman said. "Led by a diverse group of earth and life scientists from around the world, our group from Shasta College participated in a variety of field surveys and collected data in one of the most intact rainforests on the planet. Any student interested in physical or life sciences would benefit from this type of a global expedition experience."



GIVING GLOBALLY

Giving Globally

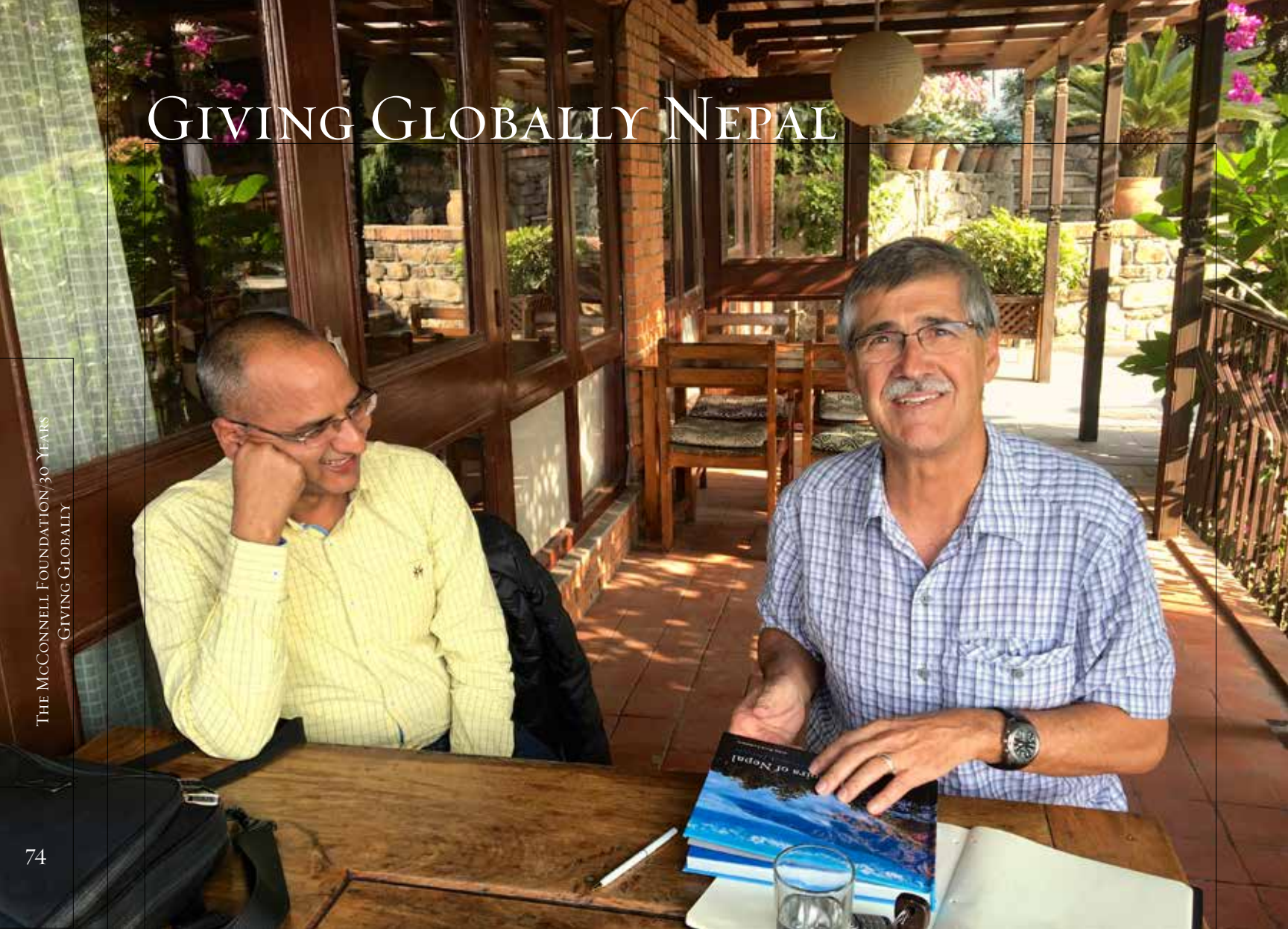
Directors and staff of The McConnell Foundation attended the annual conference of the Council on Foundations in 1998. At that conference, Jim Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, gave a keynote speech urging all foundations to consider earmarking some portion of their grantmaking dollars to cross-border giving. Wolfensohn made a persuasive argument that a small number of grant dollars could affect an entire community in a developing country. McConnell directors were deeply moved by his speech and, after much discussion, established some base criteria for selecting a country — criteria that parallel the Foundation's local giving: rural, small enough to enable careful oversight, with social welfare indicators that demonstrate need and opportunity.

In 1999, Nepal was selected as a country where a small amount of money could make a significant difference. In 2006, The McConnell Foundation expanded its international grantmaking to a second country. Among the countries that met its base criteria and logistical considerations, Laos was the obvious choice due in part to the large community of people from Laos in McConnell's domestic service area. Jessica Rhone was hired in 2012 as Director of International Programs. She heads the Foundation's efforts in Nepal and Laos visiting each country several times a year.

The McConnell Foundation project partnerships are undertaken with the goal of creating long-term, sustainable social change, and are therefore typically projected for a 10-year timeframe. The Foundation invests in strengthening local capacity to voice and address priorities and assists partners toward meeting their goals. The Foundation is able to be risk tolerant and attempts to fund issues that are harder for local nonprofits to address through most streams of foreign aid.

“CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME,
BUT SHOULD NOT END THERE.”

SCOTTISH PROVERB



The McConnell Foundation peacebuilding program in Nepal promotes respect for diversity, human rights and nonviolent response to conflict in support of a just peace. In 2003, McConnell partnered with The Asia Foundation, which was working to develop a community mediation process to deliver timely justice for disputes between citizens. That work has achieved impressive results and community mediation is now institutionalized in Nepal, with the decree that stipulates the community mediation center should be established in every ward of the country. It is a legally ratified system for peaceful and timely civil dispute resolution.

Memoirs of Nepal

In Kathmandu, Nepal, John Paul Lederach signs his book, “Memoirs of Nepal: Reflections Across a Decade,” for Ameet Dhakal, one of his former graduate students and a long-term partner in the Foundation’s peacebuilding work. This engaging and personal book chronicles Lederach’s work with The McConnell Foundation’s peacebuilding program in Nepal from 2002 - 2013. John Paul witnessed systemic and transformative change during this decade, which prompted him to write the book. It is full of gems for anyone aspiring to make positive change and offers a deep view of some of the change-makers and challenges in Nepal. Nobel laureate and neuroscientist Gerald Edelman suggests that for human beings every act of memory is an act of creative perception. John Paul states, “Take this memoir as notably human.” This book can be found online for sale as a PDF download or in hardcopy.

While community mediation addresses disputes between individuals, The McConnell Foundation steering committee in Nepal identified group conflicts over access to land, water, and forest products as the leading cause of violent and protracted conflicts. When life and livelihoods are at stake for large groups of people on both sides of the conflicts, it is difficult for a police order or court resolution to hold. With McConnell Foundation funding, Peacebuilder John Paul Lederach worked with the Natural Resource Conflict Transformation Project for a decade, carefully co-creating a unique process to guide communities through their struggles. The Natural Resource Conflict Transformation Center (NRCTC) began as a project, but grew into its own organization in 2013. Funding from The McConnell Foundation continues to support the Center’s work. The Conflict Transformation Center has helped to peacefully transform over 150 detrimental and longstanding community conflicts across rural areas of Nepal.



“THE CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION WORK OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE UNLIKE TRADITIONAL WAYS OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION, THIS PROCESS ADDRESSES THE HIDDEN AGENDAS OF A CONFLICT AND FOCUSES ON IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS SO THAT SUSTAINABLE PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED.”

MEENA SHRESTHA, A CENTER REPRESENTATIVE

GIVING GLOBALLY NEPAL

Gender inequality is a pressing issue in Nepal, but women in rural areas are made particularly vulnerable due to isolation and lack of social support to help protect their rights. The Rural Women's Leadership Development Center (Mahila Shakti Bikash Kendra Nepal - MSBKN) began in 2006 with a focus on raising awareness on gender-based violence and women's rights. The Center has established many village women's groups in 12 districts across the country. They offer a critical social support network, in-depth leadership trainings, and assist the women's groups in establishing funds for micro-lending in order to increase their economic empowerment and well-being. This has led to political empowerment; women who once could not speak in a group are now voicing their needs in community and national forums and earning leadership positions.

"I was a victim of domestic violence, once upon a time, and I myself have experienced heightened leadership and courage by working in this field of building the capacity of other women," said Tara Khatri, MSBKN Regional Coordinator. "I see women transforming their lives, healing from misery, and gradually coming out in public spheres."



GIVING GLOBALLY LAOS

As in Nepal, providing the citizenry of Laos with access to justice has been a priority for The McConnell Foundation. It partnered with The Asia Foundation in 2006 with the Access to Justice project, which strives to improve the justice system for all citizens via support to legal aid offices, village mediation services and law dissemination in rural communities. In March 2018, the government of Laos issued a new policy that requires a legal aid office to be opened in every district. The policy also includes mandatory pro bono work from attorneys for the underserved. The most significant achievement for McConnell is seeing the shifting perception in Laos about the rule of law and the growing dedication to providing access to justice for all citizens.



Water quality is important for Laos where approximately 90 percent of the country is located in the Mekong River basin, and 75 percent of its employee population is involved in agriculture. The water quality and biodiversity are under pressure by the country's rapid extraction-based economic growth. The McConnell Foundation has supported the efforts of The Asia Foundation to work with volunteers from 11 communities on water quality awareness and community-led surveying of water bugs and environmental changes.



The growing presence of hydropower production in Laos' waterways is changing the flood patterns for communities downstream, increasing both the magnitude and frequency of inundation. The water quality monitoring project has expanded for communities along the Xe Bang Fai River to include solutions for reducing agrochemical run-off, household waste reduction and management, and improving fisheries and wetlands. These solutions include improvements to livelihoods, aquatic biodiversity for conservation and consumption, and a vertical network to increase the influence of local voices in water resource management decisions.



GIVING GLOBALLY LAOS



Study Abroad in Laos (SAIL) Program

As North State area locals learned about McConnell's work in Laos, many asked how they could contribute, particularly those who have cultural roots in Laos and are looking for a meaningful way to give back. In 2016, McConnell began offering scholarships to study abroad in Laos for local students, offered by the Center for Laos Studies, a San Francisco-based nonprofit. The Foundation hopes this will raise awareness about the many Laotian communities within Northern California, their languages and cultures, and the intertwined geo-political histories of Laos and the United States.



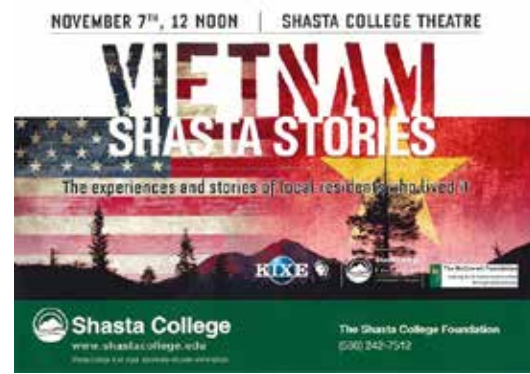
Unsung Heroes Event

Part of that awareness led to the Unsung Heroes event held in March 2017, which was a chance to highlight the powerful stories of six lu-Mien and Lao people who moved to Redding after the end of the Vietnam War. The goal was to provide a respectful environment for their stories to be told and for family members of the speakers to learn about their history and wartime experiences. Their efforts with U.S. forces in Laos during the Vietnam War also were honored at the 2017 Memorial Day ceremonies, where it was a significant milestone to see veterans from the secret war in Laos stand proudly with local veterans from the Vietnam War.

INTERNATIONAL CLOSE TO HOME

Shasta Stories

The Foundation also partnered with the Shasta College Foundation and Public Television KIXE to hold the Shasta Stories of Vietnam event, in which six veterans of the Vietnam War moved an audience at Shasta College with candid stories of their wartime experience. The McConnell Foundation believes in the unique power of life storytelling to promote learning and build community relationships.



Center for Lao Studies Exhibit

The McConnell Foundation is proud to support the Center for Lao Studies in developing a traveling museum exhibit to tell an important story of the interconnectedness of Lao and American histories following the Vietnam War. The exhibit will visit Redding, Fresno, Sacramento, Oakland and San Diego. California is home to a significant population of refugees from Laos who moved to this region when Communist forces in Vietnam and Laos won the war. Having fought as allies with American forces in Laos, these Lao, Hmong, Mien, Akha, Lahu, Khmu and many other Laotians and their families escaped to refugee camps in Thailand. Many came to settle in California in the early 1980s. Due to the secret nature of the U.S. engagement in Laos, the harrowing stories of this recent wave of immigrants remain largely untold. To raise awareness about the histories and cultures of our local community of Laotian people, the Foundation supports the planning, building and accompanying programming for “Between Two Worlds: Untold Stories of Refugees from Laos.”



Lower Mekong Collaboration

The McConnell Foundation prioritizes collaboration and relationships to help direct and leverage our work abroad. That is why we joined efforts with Chino Cienega Foundation, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, The McKnight Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to harmonize our funding efforts in Southeast Asia.

The work of nonprofit organizations in Laos and neighboring countries is strengthened when we are working collectively. We are supporters of the Lower Mekong Network which provides a platform for organizations working on environmental issues to build common understanding; to learn, share, and discuss strategies; and to pursue common purposes so that each organization's position will be strengthened, aiding them in achieving their goals in the Lower Mekong region.



Recreation Trails

Trails enhance a community by providing physical activities such as walking, hiking and cycling to foster good health; attracting visitors to generate tourism; allowing individuals to commute to school or work thus cutting costs and protecting the environment; and providing an opportunity for agencies to collaborate and volunteers to become involved. The McConnell Foundation has a long-term commitment to work with many partners to help build trails in the communities it serves. Some examples of this work are the Ribbon Bridge on the Sacramento River Trail, the Sacramento Rail Trail, Tower Bridge in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, the Sundial Bridge on the Sacramento River Trail, Wagon Creek Bridge on the Lake Siskiyou Trail, Lema Ranch and Churn Creek Greenway Trails, Swasey Recreation Area trails, Keswick Lake Area trails, Westside trails and the Mule Ridge trail system. The McConnell Foundation has worked with many agencies and volunteers to help build approximately 80 miles of trail and numerous trail bridges.

Trails provide recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with places to cycle, hike, jog and ride horses. In addition to health benefits, trails also provide economic and transportation benefits, and can have an effect on community pride and identity. The McConnell Foundation has partnered with a variety of entities to build a host of trails in the communities it serves. The list of trails is extensive and the choice of names interesting. Some are tied to their location, others to history, and some to quirky local lore.

RECREATION



Mount Shasta Trail Association - Siskiyou County

The McConnell Foundation awarded \$420,000 to the Mount Shasta Trail Association to help develop a multi-use trail system between the city of Mount Shasta and Mount Shasta Ski Park on Forest Service lands. “We want to accomplish there, what we have been able to do around Redding,” said Brian Sindt, a senior program officer for The McConnell Foundation who has focused on trail work. The project, known as Gateway Phase Two, is expected to take four years and will develop a 38.5 mile network of professionally designed and sustainable non-motorized, multi-use trails. It expands the existing Gateway Trail Network and provides links to key attractions and scenic access points that include not only the ski park, but McBride Springs Campground and Snowman’s Hill Recreation Area. This effort also builds on a larger regional collaboration titled the 100 Miles of Trail Campaign, which aims to transform south Siskiyou County into a world-class cycling destination for all skill levels.

Caldwell Junior Bike Park - Redding, California

Redding Trail Alliance took the lead, along with other community partners, to build a bike park for youth at Caldwell Park. The McConnell Foundation participated in the project with a grant and staff labor. The park features a pump track paved with TechniSoil, a substance that creates a surface that is strong and blends well with the rest of the natural paths, a skills trail with various obstacles including a bike teeter totter, log rides, elevated ramps and a jump line with progressively larger tabletops that encourages riders to gain confidence in the air. The partners in the Junior Bike Park hope this park is a catalyst for a full scale bike park along the Sacramento River Trail.



Kids Kingdom at Enterprise Park - Redding, California

The McConnell Foundation played a part in updating Kids Kingdom by partially funding the replacement of the aging wood play structure with professionally built playground equipment. New attractions in the playground include wheelchair accessibility, a zip line, tot swings and a fantasy train.

Mayor’s Challenge - Redding, California

The inaugural Mayor’s Mountain Bike Challenge was held in 2017 when then Redding Mayor Brent Weaver wanted to “get people out on the trails and be active.” The event, which is spread out over three months, allows seasoned and new cyclists to participate at their own pace and in their own timeframe. They can choose from beginner to intermediate to advanced trails and fill out “passports” to show their involvement and to win prizes. It’s “friendly self-competition highlighting our diverse trail system.” The Mayor’s Mountain Bike Challenge introduces locals to trails that are in their own backyard, and lures visitors from afar with the abundance of trails to ride.

Event Announcement:
6 pm on March 20
at City Hall

Kick Off Social:
5 pm on March 21
at Maxwell's

Raffle Drawing:
7 pm on June 1
at Maxwell's

mayorsmtbchallenge.org
March 20-June 1

#mtbredding
#yourpubliclands
#visitredding

Redding's second annual Mountain Bike Challenge uniting seasoned and new cyclists in a friendly self-competition highlighting our amazing trail system.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Logos at the bottom include: REDDING, HEALTHY PUBLIC LANDS, REDDING recreation, THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION, HEALTHY SHASTA, REU, and U.S.

RECREATION



Ross Ranch - Redding, California

Those who visit The McConnell Foundation's 864-acre Ross Ranch may admire the pastoral scene, but the ranch provides more than a tranquil place to take a walk among the cows. The ranch is home to some of the state's oldest oak trees, is composed of class 1 agricultural soils and features placid ponds — all of which contributed to the Foundation's decision to preserve the agricultural value of the ranch and maintain it as open space. It will also be used as a project test site to improve the environment. The McConnell Foundation received a state grant — one of just a few given to non-governmental entities — to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. "The Foundation is interested in doing anything we can to help with atmospheric carbon," said Brian Sindt, senior program officer for the Foundation. "A lot of carbon can be stored in soils."

That's where the cows come in. Research points to the value of proper land management practices. It's believed that soil erosion and degradation, which has been caused by plowing, over grazing and intensive cultivation is partially responsible for carbon in the atmosphere through the loss of soil organic matter. Scientists hypothesize that some of that carbon could be put back into the soil in the form of organic matter, to reduce atmospheric CO₂, improve soil health and increase agricultural productivity. This idea, commonly called carbon farming, is increasing in popularity as it becomes clear that reducing emissions will not sufficiently reduce atmospheric CO₂.

The Foundation plans to rotate the cattle on Ross Ranch in a manner that mimics the habits of native grazing animals, such as elk. This has several benefits in addition to the atmospheric concerns. It has the capacity to improve the watershed, protect the soil, benefit wildlife, increase agricultural yields and render the land more fire resistant. The property is an opportunity for the Foundation and their agricultural partners to display that adapting agricultural practices can improve property characteristics while maintaining the rural character of the region in close proximity to Redding's population core.

Neighboring Ross Ranch is Shasta College, which has enabled a unique partnership. Student interns already work and learn on the property, and will be involved in the new venture at Ross Ranch. "This is all a net positive," said Alex Carter, director of land management for McConnell. "In addition to all of the environmental benefits, it gives students experience."

RECREATION

Staff Profile

Brian Sindt's tenure at The McConnell Foundation was intended to be short. In 1995 he planned to help staff move into their new headquarters at Lema Ranch and then move on to something else. The process of finding employees and getting systems up and running took two years. While Brian found the process rewarding, he didn't see himself managing employees long term, and wanted to serve the community more directly. He saw himself as temporary staff, helping Lema Ranch get off to a good start.

But then he took on another project — developing an accurate record of all of the Foundation's holdings. "I started cataloging all of the Foundation's assets — every parcel, stream water valve and tree. It turned out to be a good data base of all of the assets, which was needed to better manage the properties." The project is still ongoing as properties are bought and sold and improvements are made. Learning G.I.S. to accomplish this goal led to many other projects that Brian has been involved with at the Foundation.

Brian's commitment to fitness dovetailed nicely with the Foundation's next area of interest: Healthy Communities. "My life changed when our Board became interested in fighting obesity and finding ways to help the community be a healthier place to live, work and play," he said of his new work to help form and direct Healthy Shasta, a community collaboration with the challenge of making the healthy choice the easy choice. Each member organization was challenged with doing something that would help work toward a healthier community. Building trails topped Brian's list as he loved to hike and mountain bike; knew the area well; and could use G.I.S. to help plan the trails. He also didn't mind working out in the woods.

The challenge of building trails became so near and dear to his heart that it has kept him at the Foundation for 21 years. Brian has helped numerous entities plan and build the trails that now crisscross the Redding area and beyond. "If you find a trail, he was probably involved," said Bill Kuntz, BLM Recreation Supervisor, who has worked closely with Brian for 15 years.

According to an article that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle about mountain biking in Redding: "Brian Sindt has had a direct hand in just about every inch of the nearly 100 miles of mountain biking trails surrounding Redding. He has spent the past 13 years mapping, navigating federal land management agencies, and physically building trails in the open space around the town, which is quickly becoming a hub of the growing sport." One of his latest ventures has been helping put on the Mayor's Mountain Bike Challenge, which encourages people to get out and ride their bikes.

While Brian has been winding down his direct involvement in trail building, organizations like the Redding Trail Alliance have stepped in to continue this work, which because of the 2018 Carr Fire, is now even more important. The Carr Fire means another temporary assignment for Brian at The McConnell Foundation, as trail system repairs require all hands on deck.

Brian's work will never be temporary; it will be imprinted on the fabric of the community for lifetimes.



Following are some of the trails that McConnell worked on with its partners:

- Chamise Peak
- Churn Creek Trails
- Cosmos Way
- Enticer
- FB Trail
- Ferry Trail
- Flanagan
- Freitas Overlook
- French Fry
- Hornbeck Trail
- Lema Ranch Trails
- Meiners Loop
- Mule Ridge Trail
- Middle Creek
- Oak Knoll
- Papoose Trail
- Placer Connector
- Princess Ditch Trail
- Sacramento River Trail
- Rail Trail Overlook
- Salt Creek
- Snail Trail
- Special Sauce
- Stoney Gulch
- Summit Trail
- Sulpher Creek
- The Escalator
- Trail 58
- Sacramento Ditch
- Waterfall Trail
- Wintu Trail

THE SUNDIAL BRIDGE

The Sundial Bridge - Redding, California

The story of the Sundial Bridge began when a citizens committee was charged with selecting an engineer to design a bridge that would span the Sacramento River, linking the Turtle Bay campus to the Arboretum site. John Mancasola, who was then The McConnell Foundation Executive Vice President, served on the committee that interviewed four bridge designers, but the members couldn't reach consensus. Impressed with designs he saw in a book of Santiago Calatrava's work, John phoned the famed architect's office in Zurich, Switzerland. To his surprise, Calatrava himself answered the phone. That call resulted in the architect's visit to Redding where Calatrava discovered an affinity for the terrain, which reminded him of his native city — Valencia, Spain.

Calatrava is identified worldwide with bridge design. The Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay was his first freestanding bridge in North America, and it is the first steel, inclined-pylon, cable-stayed bridge in the United States. The Foundation provided the majority of the funding for construction, with assistance from the city of Redding, the state and federal governments, and Turtle Bay Exploration Park. Upon completion, the bridge was given to the city. Although it links the two parts of the private, nonprofit Turtle Bay Exploration Park, the bridge itself is part of the city's Sacramento River Trail system and is open to the public free of charge.

The Foundation funded a 30-minute documentary, "Angle of Inspiration," which premiered at the newly restored Cascade Theatre in downtown Redding on July 3, 2004, the day before the grand opening of the bridge itself. "Angle of Inspiration" documented the process of envisioning and building the bridge without shying away from the controversy it generated in the community. The film has been shown on public television stations nationwide and has been warmly received at film festivals.



Domike Plaza Turtle Bay

"Is there really anything to do in Redding? You bet. For one thing, you can visit California's greatest 21st century structure, the Sundial Bridge. Sure, the Golden Gate Bridge is more beautiful, but the Sundial, which opened in 2004, combines a stunning look with technological magic. Part of the 710-foot-long span's appeal lies in the "goose in flight" design by the world's leading architect of bridges, the Spaniard Santiago Calatrava. The glass-decked bridge has a 217-foot-tall pylon that, via cables, holds up the structure while casting a shadow that make it a sundial." Joe Mathews, San Francisco Chronicle



Turtle Bay Exploration Park - Redding, California

Turtle Bay Exploration Park is a diverse 300-acre cultural complex and environmental education center that has grown to become an integral part of the community and a popular tourist destination. It is the visionary result of efforts that began in the 1980s to merge Redding's small local museums into one entity. In the mid-1990s, the vision emerged on 60 acres of riparian property provided by the city of Redding on the Sacramento River. The Foundation initially pledged \$10 million, but that has grown to an investment of nearly \$80 million. Turtle Bay opened Paul Bunyan's Forest Camp in 1997, the Visitor Center in 2000, and the Museum (the heart of the campus) in 2002. Straddling the Sacramento River as it meanders through Redding, the Park is crowned by the Sundial Bridge, the capstone of the world-class experience that the Park strives for in all of its programming. In addition to the various exhibits featured at the museum, locals and tourists alike come to visit the gardens, walk along the trails, cross the famous bridge, and attend the myriad community events held at the Park.



TURTLE BAY EXPLORATION PARK



THE MCCONNELL ARBORETUM & GARDENS



The McConnell Arboretum & Gardens - Redding, California

The McConnell Arboretum & Gardens opened May 30, 2005. Twenty acres of Mediterranean gardens are a showcase within the 200-acre arboretum, which links to the Sacramento River Trail. The gardens represent climates found throughout the world, and include children's and medicinal gardens, as well as beautiful and unique water features. Redding Arboretum supporters, one of four groups that merged to create Turtle Bay Exploration Park, initially drove the development of a series of gardens on the arboretum site. Turtle Bay inherited and embraced the plan to develop the site as seen today.

Nonprofit Administration Building & Sustainability Gardens

Opened in January 2006, this eco-friendly building near The McConnell Arboretum & Gardens houses employees of Turtle Bay Exploration Park and the Shasta Regional Community Foundation. The walls of the 15,000 square foot building are rammed earth with 18-inch-thick earthen walls designed to maintain a constant internal temperature despite Redding's blistering summers and cold winters. The building's steel girders and roof are comprised of as much as 60 percent recycled material. The gardens surrounding the office building include native oaks, poplars, and grasses that require little water. The grass-spike cone of soil visible from North Market Street is a water feature that directs runoff into channels that flow into a wetlands marsh, and functions as a demonstration system for water conservation and biofilters. The Foundation developed this property to support its commitments to Turtle Bay and the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, and to provide another outdoor experience for the public.



SHERATON REDDING HOTEL



THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION 30 YEARS
SHERATON HOTEL

AT THE SUNDIAL BRIDGE



The Sheraton Redding opened in the heart of Turtle Bay's 300 acres in early 2018. Redding's first four-star hotel has 130 rooms, and is earning a reputation for being the only hotel experience in the Sheraton family that is tucked inside nature amid local wildlife. Its location also provides easy access to the Sundial Bridge and the Sacramento River Trail system.

There are many people to acknowledge for the success of the Sheraton Hotel — including the community that supported Measure B, authorizing the sale of 14.17 acres to The McConnell Foundation for construction of the hotel and restaurant. In addition, local hoteliers endorsed and welcomed Redding's first four-star hotel, which was a strong boost to Turtle Bay, and a catalyst to improving the local economy.

THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION 30 YEARS
SHERATON HOTEL

Sheraton Redding Hotel at The Sundial Bridge

During its 30 years of philanthropy, The McConnell Foundation has made some emotional decisions involving high dollar amounts. A significant example was when the Foundation deliberated about whether to make a mission-related investment in a hotel on Turtle Bay Exploration Park's campus. The decision to invest came prior to the exact site, hotel brand, or reservation point system being selected.

At stake was Turtle Bay's lack of a viable revenue source to help sustain its long-term operations. Museums and cultural amenities typically do not survive and thrive without significant private support.

Fortunately for McConnell and for Turtle Bay, the KBK Foundation, which funded the Paul Bunyan Forest Camp, shared the hope and the risk that a hotel could be a viable funding source for the entity. KBK and McConnell joined as partners making equal investments in the project.



FIREWORKS: AN ANNUAL TRADITION



Fourth of July Fireworks

Annual fireworks displays have become an event anticipated by North State communities. That enthusiasm isn't limited to Redding. The Foundation also funds Anderson Explores, a much-anticipated Independence Day event, while farther north, Mt. Shasta independently hosts a 4th of July Run/Walk.



OUR TEAM



McConnell Foundation Team

The staff of The McConnell Foundation is as varied as the terrain around Lema Ranch. Each employee lends expertise in his or her own area, whether it's accounting, land management, administration, grantmaking, communication or investment planning. All roles are important, and the staff works together to enable the Foundation to advance its mission of helping build better communities through philanthropy.



Our First Employee

Diana Stewart could never have imagined that her response to an advertisement for a part-time bookkeeper in the local newspaper would lead to a distinguished 30-year career. Nor could she have known that one day she would leave a cramped downtown office on Court Street for a tranquil setting at a foundation's headquarters.

It was November 1988 when Diana responded to the brief ad and subsequently met with an accountant, Gene Michelson, and an attorney, Lee Salter. They were vague about their "client," but she would soon meet Leah McConnell, who was then 83. "She was a wonderful lady," Diana recalled. She was offered the part-time job on Nov. 14, 1988, and began working fulltime within just a couple of months.

While Leah and Diana initially worked together in the Court Street office, in later years, Diana more frequently went to Leah's home, where Leah would sit in a chair facing the street as Diana presented her with financial information. It was Diana's job to maintain the books of four entities: two trusts from Carl McConnell, Leah's husband of nearly 50 years who had died in 1985; a trust that Leah held; and The McConnell Foundation's assets. Initially, the latter was rather modest, but just a few months after she accepted the job, the Foundation's assets multiplied substantially with the buy-out of Farmers Insurance stock, and distribution to shareholders.

Diana knew that it was time to automate the accounting functions that were being performed by hand — payroll, journals, general ledgers and checks — and explained the changes to Leah. "It was a much easier process than I expected for someone her age," Diana said. She also observed how Leah read every word in every contract or document presented to her, and studied all of the checks. "She prided herself on finding errors," Diana recalled. She worked with Leah until her death in 1995.

Over the years, more staff were hired and Diana's job duties evolved. During her three decades of work for the Foundation, she advanced from part-time bookkeeper to the Director of Administration, where she oversaw accounting, administrative, facilities and landscape staff.

Upon reflection, Diana shared, "It was a privilege to work with, learn from, and get to know Leah. She was a special lady. Recently, we had an all staff training and bonding day. I found myself looking around and reflecting on when each staff member joined the Foundation. I felt 'maternal' about the staff at McConnell. I realized that day that these people are my second family, including the 10 wonderful board members I've had the opportunity and privilege to work with."

Diana has announced her retirement, scheduled for early 2019. It will mark the end of an era for the Foundation.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

BETWEEN 1988 AND 2018 THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION AWARDED \$199,529,642 TO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SUPPORT ARTS & CULTURE, COMMUNITY VITALITY, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH CARE, INTERNATIONAL, RECREATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND SUSTAINABILITY/LIVABLE COMMUNITIES. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES HISTORICAL GRANTS, MATCHING GIFTS, AND IN-KIND DONATIONS.

PROPERTY USE FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES \$57,929,571

US Census Bureau Population as of 2017

Modoc 8,859 - Siskiyou County 43,853

Shasta County 179,921

Trinity County 12,709 - Tehama County 63,926

Nepal 29 million - Laos 6.8 million

The Foundation's asset base is about \$500 million. The Foundation's goal is to make 9% on its investments: 5% for annual charitable giving, 3% for inflation, and 1% for administrative costs.

HOW WE SHARE OUR SPACE



THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION IS PLEASED TO OFFER ITS MEETING FACILITIES TO GROUPS WHO SHARE THE COMMON GOAL OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE REGION.



More than simply a place to hold meetings, the facilities provide nonprofits, school groups, and government agencies the opportunity to retreat to a serene setting that removes them from their everyday workplace and concerns. The large conference room in the Headquarters Building and the meeting space at the Guest House were envisioned as places where groups would be given the opportunity — on a complimentary basis — to gather in a tranquil setting in order to realize some of their best work.



HOW WE SHARE OUR SPACE



At Lema Ranch and along the Churn Creek Trails, walkers, joggers, and groups using meeting space at the Foundation enjoy diverse species of birds and other wildlife. The serene environment protects the wildlife along the trails and in the five different ponds. The ponds, built by the Lema family in the early 1950s, were enhanced in 1997 to encourage aquatic plant communities that provide wildlife habitat and improve the water quality. Biofilters — heavy plantings of aquatic plants intended to slow down and cleanse the water as it runs into the pond — were incorporated into the redesign of the ponds. An ongoing effort to establish perennial grasses and to reduce the quantity of invasive, non-native plants is underway.



The trails are maintained by Foundation staff, based at the Maintenance Facility, where equipment is stored, seedlings and trees are started, and work plans are established for all the Foundation's properties.

The 200-acre Lema Ranch and the adjacent Churn Creek property include more than eight miles of walking trails that are open to the public from daylight until dark every day of the year.



The McConnell Foundation values sustainability and has a staff committee representing each department that meets regularly. This group is charged with making choices as an organization that meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations.

SUSTAINABILBITY COMMITTEE MISSION:
TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES IN OUR PURCHASING AND USE OF PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT.



~ OUR MISSION ~
**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 special contribution to our team, working to strengthen and enrich our communities.

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.



Lema Ranch Photos - Photo Credit: Roberto Estrada, Foundation Employee

Thank you for taking the time to read this book. We are proud of the positive impact our work has had over the past 30 years, but we aren't finished. The Foundation is well positioned to continue funding into the future. Our team is flexible, creative, open minded and eager to learn new ways to invest in communities. We are in the business of planning for future generations. At the core of our giving is the shared desire by our board and staff to improve the quality of life for the people in the places we serve. We welcome any questions or comments you may have about our past, present or future endeavors.

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