

2025 Annual Report

The McConnell Foundation

In 2025, the Foundation funded grants in the priority areas of interest to its Board of Directors, which include Children, Youth & Education; Community Vitality; Ecosystem Resilience; International giving in the countries of Nepal and Laos; Major Projects; NatureBridge in Yosemite; Scholarships; and The McConnell Fund at The Community Foundation of the North State.

In 2025, the Board also made changes under the Children, Youth, and Education Program. Foster Youth was added as a focus area, and oversight of the Yosemite Program was moved under Children, Youth, and Education. In addition, a grant was awarded to the Shasta College Foundation for North State Together's coordination and administration of the Yosemite Program. North State Together's management of this long-standing program aligns seamlessly with its cradle-to-career mission.

The Ecosystem Resilience Program continued to focus on wildfire resilience in Northern California. Reoccurring and destructive wildfires continued to impact the North State, including the 2025 Park Fire in Butte and Tehama counties, burning 429,603 acres and destroying 709 structures. The reoccurring impacts highlight the likelihood of future fires and the need to be proactive.

- **Enabling Beneficial Fire:** The McConnell Foundation partnered with CAL FIRE to implement prescribed fire on 570 acres on Gore Ranch and 190 acres at Ross Ranch. Returning beneficial fire to a landscape in a region with a very active historical fire regime will reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire to impact the property and neighboring communities. Beneficial fire will return native grasses, improve grazing for stock and wildlife, and increase water yield. The projects were implemented with various partners, including Shasta-Trinity CAL FIRE, Redding Fire Department, Shasta County Fire Department, and Shasta Land Trust.
- **Wildfire Mitigation:** The Foundation collaborated with community partners to bring funding to at-risk communities, protecting habitable structures and forest ecosystems from catastrophic wildfires. A new grant in Siskiyou County expands on three existing grants for Shasta and Trinity counties.

In addition to new grants approved in 2025, the Foundation paid out funds committed to ongoing, long-term programs such as the McConnell Scholars and Yosemite Programs, and projects such as College and Career Options and North State Together under the Children, Youth & Education program area, and International programs such as community conflict transformation in Nepal, improving access to justice for citizens of Laos, women's leadership development in Nepal, and improving the water quality of Laos' rivers.

The Foundation continued its Community Vitality grantmaking and investment. Building on the successful progress of physical transformation in downtown Redding, the Foundation transitioned from construction and infrastructure to community activation. By investing in the people and programs that breathe life into our public spaces, the Foundation is ensuring that the heart of Redding remains a thriving destination for all. Grantmaking prioritized strategic partnerships with Viva Downtown and Shasta Living Streets, empowering these organizations to transform streetscapes into social hubs and encourage consistent pedestrian engagement. This commitment to a creative, lived-in urban core was further realized through support of the Redding Fashion Alliance, which continues to foster local entrepreneurship and artistic innovation. Furthermore, the Foundation deepened its investment in the region's cultural landmarks, celebrating the performing arts at the historic Cascade Theatre and supporting the Sundial Film Festival. By moving from construction to curation, the Community Vitality initiative is cultivating a resilient and inclusive downtown where culture, commerce, and community connection intersect.

Sustainability remained a high priority, with the Foundation integrating Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) into its work. SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs were established in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030. To learn more, visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

Public use of the Foundation's trails and open space provided uninterrupted recreational walking, hiking, and biking opportunities.

Complimentary use of the Foundation's meeting rooms was offered to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and public schools, allowing groups to escape their daily work environment and enjoy the Foundation's tranquil setting. Eighty-five meetings were held at the Foundation's headquarters and guest house, hosting 3,128 people. A sample of the groups that met at the Foundation include the Upper Sacramento Lidar Vegetation Assessment Steering Committee; Shasta County Citizens Advocating Respect; National Park Service-Lava Beds National Monument; Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.; the University of California; American Association of University Women; CAL FIRE; Delta Kappa Gamma Area II; Soroptimist International of Downtown Redding; Shasta College; Northern California Educational Leadership Consortium (NorCal ELC); Girl Scouts of Northern California; Health Alliance of Northern California; Shasta Community Health Center; League of Women Voters of the Redding Area; The Northern California Center for Family Awareness - Kids' Turn Shasta-Cascade; Shasta County Office of Education; Arch Collaborative; Axiom Repertory Theatre; Principal's Collaborative Support Network; Lassen Park Foundation; Mercy Foundation North; Community Foundation of the North State; California Department of Aging; Redding Regional Chapter of the California Marriage and Family Therapists; Caltrans District 2; United Way of Northern California; College of the Siskiyous; Shasta County Dept. of Agriculture; Shasta County Public Health - Healthy and Safe Communities Team; and Enterprise Anderson Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EAGSA).

Program-Related Investments (PRIs) and Land Conservation

Program-Related Investments (PRIs) allow foundations to leverage their philanthropic dollars. Unlike grants, however, foundations may receive a return on their investment through either repayment of funds expended or return on equity. Investment assets are used for charitable purposes, such as affordable housing with supportive services for people who are vulnerable or homeless, community development, bike share, and protecting open space. The McConnell Foundation is doing work in each of these areas through its Bell Plaza Bike Depot, Block 7 affordable housing mixed-use development at California Place, Center of Hope affordable housing mixed-use development, Paseo California street improvements, and land conservation and regenerative agriculture at Ross and Gore Ranches. In 2025, the following PRIs were funded:

Bell Plaza Bike Depot & Café – Adaptive Reuse Development

\$532,231 construction and tenant improvement costs incurred in 2025

Community Heritage Youth Building Academy – site acquisition for future high school

\$1,240,000 advanced for purchase of 10 acres adjacent to Center of Hope mixed use site in 2025

Net Zero Mixed-Use Affordable Housing at California Place

\$172,500 advance for Operating Reserve in 2025

Wildfire Mitigation grant reimbursable costs – Direct Charitable Activities

\$1,566,921 costs incurred in 2025

GRANTMAKING

The Foundation's Board of Directors approved new grants in 2025, some of which were also paid in 2025. In addition to approving and making payments on new grants, funds were distributed to partner organizations on previously approved grants.

Grant amounts approved in 2025 with payments also distributed in 2025

Childrens Legacy Center

In memory of Mary Stimpel
\$1,000

Childrens Legacy Center

Aster Project - Rural-Focused Solutions to Child Welfare
\$331,500

City of Redding

ICMA Video
\$5,000

Foothill High School

Wrestling Team Uniforms
\$5,000

Henry L. Stimson Center

Early Warning System for Debris Floods in Nepal-Phase II-2025
\$90,000

Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County

General Support
\$500

Hope Chest

Family Counseling Center Support
\$5,000

JPR Foundation

Cascade Theatre Capacity Building
\$250,000

Klamath River Renewal Corporation

Shasta Heritage Trail
\$200,000

NEO Philanthropy, Inc.

General Operating Support for the Legacies of War Project
\$5,000

Nepal Youth Foundation

Community Learning Centers in Saptari
\$75,000

Northern Valley Catholic Social Service Inc.

Foster Youth Bridges to Independence Program Planning Grant
\$10,000

Redding Fashion Alliance Incorporated

Promotion and Marketing
\$10,000

Riverfront Playhouse

In-kind donation of floor lamp, nightstand lamp, and music stand
\$2,695

Shasta College Foundation

North State Together Administration of McConnell Foundation's Yosemite Program
\$1,450,000

Shasta Historical Society

In-kind donation of saddles and saddle stands
\$1,275

Siskiyou Family YMCA

Milk & Cookies Program
\$2,100

The Asia Foundation

Victim-Centric Transitional Justice Dialog in Nepal
\$10,000

Turtle Bay Exploration Park

In-Kind donation of electric utility vehicles, Wenger Vision stage system, and Nikon microscope
\$32,500

Viva Downtown Redding

Whistlestop Park & Downtown Activation
\$35,000

Grants approved in 2025, with payments scheduled for distribution post 2025

Community Foundation of the North State

The McConnell Fund 2026
\$742,500

Fairchild Medical Center Foundation

Fairchild Medical Center Expansion Project
\$1,000,000

Mountain Valleys Health Centers

Weed Health Center
\$125,000

McConnell Scholars Program

2026 McConnell Scholars
\$1,300,000

Shasta County Office of Education

Learning Community for Native Success Bridge Grant
\$94,500

Turtle Bay Exploration Park

Operating Support for Calendar Year 2026
\$1,500,000

Turtle Bay Exploration Park

Sustainability Gardens - Site Maintenance 2026
\$70,000

Viva Downtown Redding

IOOF Hall - Rent & Utility Subsidy 2026-2028
\$636,441

Payments made in 2025 on previously-approved grants

College OPTIONS, Inc.

College and Career Options
\$325,000

Community Foundation of the North State

Operating Support 2022-2026
\$166,741

Community Foundation of the North State

Operating Support for Occupancy Expenses
\$79,716

Community Foundation of the North State

The McConnell Fund 2025
\$742,500

City of Redding

4th of July Fireworks
\$105,000

Fall River Resource Conservation District

Upper Sacramento River Watershed Forest Resilience Assessment and Collaborative
\$28,910

IUCN, International Union for Conservation Of Nature & Natural Resources
Lao Ecology Small Grant Program - Phase II
\$138,500

McConnell Scholars Program
2014-2025 McConnell Scholars
\$848,957

NatureBridge
2025 Yosemite Program
\$112,419

Nepal Youth Foundation
Educating Dalit Lawyers Project
\$20,000

Mahila Shakti Bikash Kendra Nepal (MSBKN)
Rural Women's Leadership Development Project: Phase VIII
\$170,000

Natural Resource Conflict Transformation Center - Nepal (NRCTC)
Phase VIII: Peace for Prosperity
\$175,000

Redding Fashion Alliance Inc.
Activation and Community Engagement
\$75,000

Shasta County Arts Council
Sundial Film Festival
\$25,000

Shasta College Foundation
North State Together 2020-2027
\$645,000

Shasta County Office of Education
Pathways to Success: Integrating Community Schools and
Cradle to Career Initiatives in the North State
\$44,145

Shasta County Office of Education
Homeless Families Short-Term Motel Program
\$37,500

Shasta Family YMCA

Healthy Shasta Partnership 2023-2025
\$12,000

Shasta Land Trust

Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Capacity and Project Development Grant Match
\$20,000

Shasta Living Streets

Occupancy Rent and Utility Subsidy
\$79,856

Shasta Living Streets

Build Capacity and Scale Sustainable Programs for a Bikeable-Walkable Downtown
\$231,000

Shasta Living Streets

Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Pass Through
\$454,995

The Asia Foundation

Improving Access to Justice for All Lao Citizens: Phase IV
\$199,140

The Asia Foundation

Community-Based River Basin Management-Phase II
\$200,000

Turtle Bay Exploration Park

Operating Support for Calendar Year 2025
\$1,500,000

Turtle Bay Exploration Park

Sustainability Gardens Site Maintenance 2025
\$70,000

United Way of Northern California

Micro Shelter Community Hygiene Facilities
\$78,140

Viva Downtown Redding

Viva Downtown Butte Street Revitalization-Operating Grant 2022-2025
\$75,000

Viva Downtown Redding

Viva Downtown Butte Street Revitalization-Rent Subsidy 2023-2025
\$181,807

Viva Downtown Redding

Viva Downtown Place-Making
\$124,000

OTHER GIVING**Board and Staff Matching Gift Donations**

Annually, the Foundation's Board of Directors and staff members voluntarily embrace opportunities to share their time and resources on projects and events that contribute to the quality of life in Redding and beyond.

In addition, through the Foundation's generous Matching Gifts Program, board members and staff make donations to eligible organizations of their choice. Individual donations are matched by the Foundation.

\$213,720

Community Support

As part of the Foundation's communications and community relations, it supports events and opportunities that connect nonprofit organizations to our mission and priority areas of giving annually. These are often one-time community opportunities or annual events that reach a broad audience.

\$77,209

Qualifying Memberships

\$19,030

4-H/FFA Jr. Livestock Auctions

The McConnell Foundation supports local 4-H and FFA clubs by purchasing animals at livestock auctions and donating the meat to One SAFE Place, Anderson-Cottonwood Christian Assistance, Empire Recovery, Great Northern Corporation, Shasta Senior Nutrition Center, Shasta-Trinity-Tehama HIV Food Bank, and Trinity County Food Bank.

\$70,173