Health Knows No Borders

From rural outposts to dense urban centers, grantees stand on the front lines of improving health on the California-México border
On the Cover:
Health Knows No Borders
San Ysidro Health Center is a safety net provider that stands on the front lines of improving health on the border.

The California Wellness Foundation is a private independent foundation, created in 1992, whose mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The Foundation’s goals are:

- to address the particular health needs of traditionally underserved populations, including low-income individuals, people of color, youth and residents of rural areas;
- to support and strengthen nonprofit organizations that seek to improve the health of underserved populations;
- to recognize and encourage leaders who are working to increase health and wellness within their communities; and
- to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about important wellness and health care issues.
OUR RESPONSE TO HEALTH REFORM

The passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in March 2010 presented both opportunities and significant challenges for the health care safety net. While it will extend health care coverage to more individuals, it will also place increased demands on a system that is already at capacity. The Foundation has prioritized three areas of funding to address ACA implementation. Here’s an overview of the grants TCWF has made in these areas since the act was signed into law:

1. Sustaining the Health Care Safety Net — 112 grants totaling $19.9 million were made to grantees that are part of the health care safety net.

2. Increasing the Health Care Workforce and Its Diversity — 43 grants totaling $6.4 million.


We Welcome Dr. Diana M. Bontá

By David S. Barlow, Chair, TCWF Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board and staff of The California Wellness Foundation, I extend a warm welcome to our new president and CEO, Dr. Diana M. Bontá.

Some of you already know Diana and are familiar with her incredible accomplishments. She has led impressive programs that have emphasized wellness, disease prevention and health education — making her a perfect fit for The California Wellness Foundation.

For more than seven years at Kaiser Permanente, she directed an 80-member team that provided significant community benefits funding to nonprofit organizations— notably to community clinics — as well as public affairs outreach and multi-media communications. Prior to that, she served for four years under Gov. Gray Davis as director of the California Department of Health Services, and for 11 years was director of Health and Human Services for the City of Long Beach. You can read more about Diana, her career path and what led her to TCWF by turning to page 16.

The Board and staff look forward to building a relationship with Diana as she leads the Foundation into its third decade of operation. Her appointment marks a new era for us, in which the Board will embark on planning for the Foundation’s future grantmaking after the current Responsive Grantmaking Program sunsets in December 2014.

Diana is committed to leading an effort to seek feedback from you — our grantees, prospective applicants, community leaders, policymakers and other experts — to hear your ideas on what you’d like to see us fund in the future. In June, we will launch a special feature on CalWellness.org where we will seek your feedback and engage in an ongoing effort to capture your thoughts and ideas.

TCWF is and remains dedicated to working with its grantees to fulfill its mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The cover story that begins on the following page is an example of our nearly 15-year commitment to funding organizations working to improve the health of the California-México border.
Ed Martinez, CEO of San Ysidro Health Center, stands at a replica of the agency’s first clinic, which opened in 1969 with an all-volunteer staff. Today, it operates 23 sites, including nine primary care clinics and five dental facilities.
“Health knows no borders,” said Diana M. Bontá, R.N., Dr.P.H., president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). “It’s why our Foundation has been committed to funding the pressing health needs of the California-México border region for nearly 15 years.”

California’s southern border area and neighboring Mexican cities have produced a rich cultural landscape and help to generate billions of dollars in binational commerce. At the same time, parts of the region are marked by poverty, rapid population growth and inequitable access to health services. As a result, the region suffers from high rates of chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease, and communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

These factors, coupled with massive cross-border traffic, have strained the region’s fragile public health infrastructure and present an immense responsibility to the network of community health centers that provide care for the working poor, uninsured and indigent population living just north of the border in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Addressing the health challenges along the border represents an important priority, Bontá said. She was a member of the U.S.-México Border Health Commission for five years. As director of health services for the state of California in the early 2000s, she led efforts to develop California’s first major initiative to collaborate with México in enhancing health and quality of life for residents on both sides of the border.

Three health centers that are TCWF grantees stand on the front lines of improving health on the border. Collectively, San Ysidro Health Center (SYHC), Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo and Imperial Beach Community Clinic recorded nearly a half million patient visits last year.

“By providing clinical health services to underserved populations, all three centers are critical components of the health care safety net,” said Frank Lalle, TCWF program director who heads special projects grantmaking.

In addition to providing health and wellness services, the health centers remain vigilant for unusual outbreaks of infectious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC), working with state and county health departments, established the Border Infectious Disease Surveillance (BIDS) program, which monitors for influenza and certain other diseases.

SYHC and Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo form part of the BIDS system. Imperial Beach Community Clinic acts as a sentinel station for the San Diego County Health Department.

BIDS came into prominence in spring 2009 when reports surfaced of what was being called “swine flu.” Hundreds had become ill in Mexico City, and authorities feared that, because of frequency of travel, the illness would spread worldwide.

During the last days of March 2009, a 10-year-old boy was seen at a San Diego hospital, and a girl, 9, was treated in Imperial County at Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo’s Brawley health center. Both children had fever and cough. After their samples from nasal swabs were tested, the CDC revealed that a new influenza strain, “pandemic H1N1 2009,” had been identified. It was the first such identification in the world, said Stephen Waterman, M.D., M.P.H., a CDC senior medical officer in San Diego.

As the H1N1 case demonstrated, community health centers are vital components of the disease surveillance program, Waterman said. Equipped with knowledge of the new strain, health officials everywhere alerted the public about precautions to take. The two children recovered, but H1N1 spread widely in some regions, although not as severely as initially feared. Imperial County’s Health Department recorded 253 cases and two deaths from lab-confirmed cases of H1N1.

“We had an incredible number of ill patients,” said Yvonne Bell, CEO of Clinicas de Salud. “We worked long days, continuous days, and we followed recommendations from the Health Department and CDC. For a couple of months, we [staff members] were all wearing masks. And we gave masks to patients who were coughing.”

Katherine Keir, research and health promotion director at San Ysidro Health Center agrees and notes that many incoming patients were misinformed, having heard from the news in Mexico that H1N1 was widespread and extremely fatal.

“They were very, very scared. We set up kiosks with health educators to make sure patients knew what steps to take,” Keir said.

3 Health Centers Served
125,000 Patients

The day-to-day work of the health centers is less dramatic than during the H1N1 episode but no less vital to patients. They operate independently but collectively, SYHC, Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo and Imperial Beach Community served nearly 125,000 medical, dental and mental health patients last year.

SYHC had more than 305,000 visits last year in southern San Diego County. Imperial Beach Community Clinic provides primary health care in the state’s extreme southwestern corner. Clinicas de Salud operates throughout Imperial County, one of the nation’s poorest regions.

San Ysidro Health Center (top) and Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo (right) were founded from grassroots efforts and retain community-focused missions and a culturally sensitive approach.
Without the safety net afforded by community clinics, the health of the general public would be endangered, said Ruth Covell, M.D., associate dean of the University of California, San Diego’s School of Medicine and a SYHC board member.

All three centers, founded around 40 years ago from grassroots efforts, retain community-focused missions and a culturally sensitive approach. The patient caseload for each health center is predominantly Latino. As federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), each clinic is governed by a board made up of health experts, as well as community members served by the clinic.

SYHC is the largest of the three health centers. In 1969, seven Latinas, affectionately known as “the founding mothers,” looked for a way to establish a clinic in their underserved San Ysidro community. With the assistance of Covell and UC San Diego’s School of Medicine, the first clinic opened with volunteer doctors in a two-bedroom house. Later, it became independent.

Today, SYHC has 117 doctors, dentists and mental health specialists. It operates on a $70-million annual budget with nine primary care clinics, five dental facilities and various other mental health, AIDS and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) centers. In 2011, SYHC providers saw nearly 80,000 patients and recorded more than 306,000 visits.

In 2009, SYHC opened the three-story Maternal and Child Care Center. Staff had helped to design its floor plan to encourage coordinated care. On the second floor are pediatrics, child development and the Family Resource Center. The third floor has obstetrics, pediatric dentistry, WIC and a kitchen where, to address obesity and diabetics, classes on cooking for healthier lifestyles are presented.

“If patients leave our centers and feel that we were responsive to their needs, that we treated them with respect, that they got the best care — that is what we want,” said Ed Martinez, president and CEO of SYHC.

TCWF has awarded two grants to SYHC; the latest was a $325,000, three-year grant approved in September 2008 for core operating support.

80% of Patients Fall Below the Poverty Line

To the west of SYHC’s service area are the Imperial Beach Health Center and the Nestor Health Center, two facilities operated by Imperial Beach Community Clinic. In 2011, the two centers recorded 23,000 visits from nearly 8,000 medical and mental health patients. Eighty percent of those patients live below the poverty line. These health centers — like other community clinics — offer a safety net for those who have tumbled from the battered economy’s financial tightrope.

“It’s a scary feeling to know you don’t have health insurance,” said Cathy Corona, speaking of her situation last year when her husband, an independent truck driver, was out of work. She had an infection that would not heal and could not afford a private physician. Fortunately, the Nestor center was in her south San Diego neighborhood.

“When I went in, there were no hard questions and, luckily, I was able to work out an affordable copayment,” said Corona, a mother of three who is also raising a niece and two nephews. A clinic physician, Courtney Summers, M.D., ran tests and discovered that in addition to the infection, Corona had Type 2 diabetes and mild hypertension. With Summers’ guidance, Corona began medications and went on a strict diet and exercise program, and says she now stays away from sweets and sodas.

“I know what the sugars can do and I don’t want to go there. Hopefully I have

EFFECTS OF CROSS BORDER MOBILITY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has addressed the health implications of the cross-border mobility that exists along the U.S.-México border. A 2003 article in its Emerging Infectious Diseases journal stated:

“From an epidemiologic perspective, the border population must be considered as one, rather than different populations on two sides of a border; pathogens do not recognize the geopolitical boundaries established by human beings...Large population movement, limited public health infrastructure and poor environmental conditions contribute to increased risk for infectious diseases in the border region.”
the diabetes under control now,” Corona said. If the doctor had not diagnosed her diabetes at an early stage, she said, “It could have been a lot worse.” Her father has diabetes and is on dialysis.

In December 2011, Imperial Beach Community Clinic received a three-year, $150,000 grant to continue its medical services for low-income residents.

“We’re grateful for the core support because it allows us to do our mission as we see appropriate,” said Nancy O’Sullivan, program development director. “It allows us to do what we do best, which is primary health care.”

Clinicas de Salud is the biggest primary care provider in Imperial County, a region with large farms and some of the nation’s highest unemployment. In 2011, Clinicas’ eight facilities across the county served more than 38,000 medical, dental and mental health patients, including nearly 3,400 listed as farmworkers, and it recorded more than 150,000 visits. In September 2009, it received a three-year, $200,000 TCWF grant for core operating support. (Clinicas also operates three facilities in Riverside County, where it saw more than 18,000 patients and had nearly 55,000 patient visits.)

Imperial County has California’s highest hospitalization rate for childhood asthma, a condition exacerbated by air pollution. The New River, which starts south of the border, runs through Calexico and then north to the Salton Sea, is one of North America’s most polluted waterways.

Bell, Clinicas’ CEO, laments that state budget decreases have severely cut the agency’s health education programs. Yet, she said her staff mirrors the resilience of the county’s population.

“We are a strong safety net provider that really cares about the well-being of our community and our patients — no matter what is thrown at us, no matter the cuts that are happening,” Bell said. “We’ve learned how to take a nickel and stretch it to a dime. That’s just the environment of a FQHC in a rural area.”

TCWF’s Involvement Dates to 1998

In addition to the grants to the community health centers, TCWF also funds three other organizations that work in the complex arena of promoting cross-border health: PCI (formerly known as Project Concern International), Health Initiative of the Americas and the International Community Foundation. TCWF’s Lalle points out that these grants help build the capacity of direct service organizations and the community-at-large through technical assistance and network-building.

“Strengthening nonprofit organizations that work to improve the health of underserved populations is fundamentally about improving community health,” Lalle said.

TCWF’s involvement in border health dates to 1998 when it awarded a $1 million grant to PCI for support of a Border Health Initiative. Its work promoted collaboration across the often-unaligned silos of government and
nongovernmental agencies. Joint U.S.-México groups were established to attack health issues such as AIDS. (For more information about the Border Health Initiative, see the cover story of the winter 2000 Portfolio newsletter in the archived publications section of CalWellness.org.)

“Safety net programs and services are not necessarily woven together in a coherent way to make a nice weave-like fishing net,” said Janine Schooley, senior vice president for programs of San Diego-based PCI. “There are areas where the weave is tighter and others where the weave is broken. The ideal is to tighten that weave where it is looser and unbunch those areas where the weave is too tight and too many groups are bumping into each other.”

In September 2009, PCI received a three-year, $250,000 grant from TCWF to continue to provide capacity- and network-building services to improve health care access. PCI conducts programs to teach grassroots organizations how to assess their strengths and weaknesses and how to engage in strategic decisionmaking.

The International Community Foundation used a grant from TCWF to prepare a 2008 study on tuberculosis (TB) in the San Diego-Tijuana region. The study found Tijuana’s TB rate was much higher than México’s as a whole and San Diego’s rate exceeded the U.S. average. (Imperial County currently has California’s highest TB rate.)

“Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that is highly correlated to poverty,” said Richard Kiy, president and CEO of International Community Foundation, based in San Diego. “It is a disease you find more prevalent in marginalized communities.”

The study found that Tijuana’s doctors were sending samples from suspected TB patients to México City for testing, a time-consuming process during which patients could unknowingly infect others. Six months later, Baja California opened a TB testing lab in Tijuana, but the report’s precise effect on the decision is not known.

“There’s a real need for proactive, binational solutions,” Kiy said. “Investing in TB control in México can lead to a reduced incidence of the disease in the U.S., where the cost of managing TB is so much greater.”

Kiy pointed to a 2005 article in The New England Journal of Medicine. The article compares the cost of managing TB cases in the U.S. versus proactive, directly observed therapy in México. The article concluded that an investment by the U.S. of $34.9 million in México would be both cost- and life-saving.

Investment “would result in 2,591 fewer cases of tuberculosis in the U.S. with 349 fewer deaths from the disease and a net discounted savings of $108 million over a 20-year period,” the article stated.

In September 2010, the International Community Foundation received a $150,000, three-year, core operating support grant from TCWF to continue its work in the tuberculosis field.

For TCWF’s grantee Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA), its Binational Health Week offers a vivid demonstration of collaboration along the border. Last fall, with the support of more than 40 agencies and 150 volunteers, the event provided health education and services to more than 2,500 people in Imperial County, said Xóchilt Castañeda, director of HIA. The organization is based at University of California, Berkeley, with staff in the city of San Diego and in Imperial County.

The event included a health fair and breakfast for farmworkers that began at 2 a.m., before workers headed to Imperial County’s fields. The men and women were checked for high blood pressure and glucose, got dental exams and received materials from members of the coordinating task force on getting follow-up care. Task force members also collaborated on events that took place in Mexicali, Baja California.

The concept for Binational Health Week originated with HIA in 2000, and similar events are now held in 40 states and three Canadian provinces with the cooperation of various Latin American consulates. HIA received a three-year $250,000 grant from TCWF in December 2009 to support the Collaborative Border Health Project in Imperial County. In addition to Binational Health Week, HIA provides training for community health workers known as promotores.

“The grants from TCWF provide us with the means to really move forward in reducing the suffering and health inequalities of those populations that are most in need,” Castañeda said.
A tragedy in the spring of 2011 drove Imperial Valley teenager Anthony Villa to pursue a career in health care.

“My cousin was born premature and had a heart problem,” Villa said. “He died two weeks later. This kind of a sad event should not happen. I decided then I wanted to be a pediatrician.”

Imperial County is one of the most medically underserved regions in California and has some of the worst health outcomes in the state.

FACES for the Future, a program designed to help address such daunting medical needs, is putting Villa and 31 other Imperial County high school students on a fast track to the health care workforce. The FACES program — co-founded in 2000 by Oakland pediatrician Tomás Magaña, M.D., M.A., a 2009 TCWF Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award honoree — addresses health inequity by providing high school students with academic enrichment, psychosocial support and clinical internships. The program was first established in Alameda County and subsequently in San Diego County.

The FACES program in Imperial County was launched in 2010 by Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP) with a three-year, $150,000 core operating support grant from TCWF in September 2010. The grant provides high-school students with two years of intensive instruction
and tutoring in English, math and science, and opportunities to participate in medical tours that expose the students to a variety of practices. In the wake of his cousin’s death, Villa was particularly focused during sessions on cardiopulmonary services.

“I didn’t realize that the heart and lungs have so many intricate parts,” he said.

This summer, each participant in the Imperial County program will complete English academy studies and will have a job-shadowing internship with a medical professional who works in an area of personal interest. After last year’s summer session and weekly FACES tutoring fall through spring, Villa’s classmate, Daniela Acosta, is upbeat about her own career and academic prospects.

“Since I’ve been involved with FACES, I’ve gone from Bs and As to all As,” said Acosta, who acknowledges she had difficulty with science until she received tutoring from FACES. The students also learn about metric system conversions, an essential skill in medicine.

Most of the Imperial Valley FACES students are bilingual. Those who return to the region as health professionals have the potential to help bridge a language gap in a county that is largely monolingual Spanish-speaking.

Research indicates that minority health care professionals are more likely to provide care for the poor and more frequently practice in areas with shortages of providers than their nonminority peers.

“I’m confident we will see the majority of these students come back to Imperial County to practice medicine,” said Gerry Uyeda, the FACES project coordinator. He points to an IVROP survey of the first class, which indicated that 65 percent intend to return to the region. In fact, all 27 students from that group went on to post-secondary education.

“This is the greatest accomplishment of the program,” Uyeda said.

Cristina M. Regalado, TCWF’s vice president of programs notes that when health care providers speak the language of their patients and understand their culture and beliefs, health outcomes are improved.

“The Foundation funds programs that increase racial and ethnic diversity in the health workforce so that it looks more like California,” Regalado said. “By promoting diversity, we can also provide more access to quality care.”

In December 2011, the Center for the Health Professions at University of California, Berkeley, released a report on the capacity of California’s health care workforce to meet the expected increase in demand resulting from expanded insurance coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). “California’s Health Care Workforce: Readiness for the ACA Era,” which was funded by a grant from TCWF, can be accessed at futurehealth.ucsf.edu.
It was a foggy February on the San Francisco Bay, but John Ammon was feeling anything but cold.

“I’ve never had so much sunshine follow me,” he said. Together with 28 other California seniors, Ammon was honored for his volunteer work in the areas of health, social justice and community building by the California Senior Leaders Program (CSLP), a project of the University of California, Berkeley’s School of Public Health.

As part of the award, Ammon, who has spent the last 45 years working as an advocate for the health needs of Native American communities, attended CSLP’s two-day conference in February 2012.

In addition to working as an advisor for national Native American health care policy, Ammon — a retired Auburn teacher — developed a program to host social gatherings to keep Native American elders active and connected.

CSLP honors and supports California seniors like Ammon, who have made significant contributions to healthy aging, community building, and other health-related policies affecting older Californians in their communities.

In September 2011, CSLP received a two-year, $260,000 grant from TCWF to recognize, train and support senior leaders from across California. The grant helps to fund a biannual, statewide conference, as well as regional meetings and reunions for current honorees and alumni. CSLP, which has trained and recognized more than 150 leaders over the past 10 years, gives seniors multiple opportunities to collaborate with each other.
Senior leaders will have an effect on the political system...they carry weight. With each other's support, we are a powerful group.

FULL OF RIVERS

FOCUS ON ELDER ECONOMIC SECURITY INDEX

In 2009, the California Senior Leaders Alliance adopted as its priority issue the Elder Economic Security Index, a planning tool developed by UCLA Center for Health Policy and Insight Center for Community and Economic Development to more accurately reflect the economic status of seniors throughout the state. During a three-year period, the Alliance and other members of a broad-based coalition worked to inform policymakers and others on the importance of the Elder Economic Security Index, as a more accurate measure than the federal poverty index, for assessing senior needs in areas such as housing. In 2011, the Elder Economic Security Index was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown.
Building a Community of Care

Center Provides Comprehensive Health Care Services for Low-Income Women and Girls

By Christina Boufis

Westside Family Health Center’s mobile medical unit recently visited a Santa Monica church to provide both members of the congregation and those in the surrounding community with family planning, diabetes screening, and HIV testing and counseling.
When Shirley Ho first walked through the doors of Westside Family Health Center (WFHC) in Santa Monica for an appointment at its youth clinic, she was a 20-year-old recent college graduate with no job or health insurance.

At the clinic, she met Julie Kirk, director of community outreach and education, who talked to her about sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy risks. The information was not new, but the friendly, conversational format was.

“I felt I could be honest and that this person could help me make some good decisions in my life,” Ho said.

That was almost 12 years ago. Today, she is a registered nurse practitioner at the center. In fact, she began working there the week after her initial visit, first as a peer educator in the teen health clinic, then as a social worker while earning her master’s degree, and now as a nurse caring for patients.

Debra Farmer, WFHC’s president and CEO, says that stories like Shirley Ho’s are representative of the kind of commitment to health care and community building that the center embodies.

“I think we make a significant difference in people’s lives,” said Farmer. “We’ve been in the same location for 38 years. We do a lot of chronic condition management — diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterol. People know that they can come here and feel comfortable.”

WFHC was founded in 1974 as a clinic for women with a mission to help them take an assertive role in their health and well-being. Today, it is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving nearly 10,000 patients a year, 86 percent of whom are women and girls. WFHC has expanded to provide comprehensive health care services, including family planning and reproductive health care, acute care, prenatal care, pediatric and adolescent care, chronic disease management and its youth health clinic known as VYBE (Visions for Youth Becoming Empowered).

In December 2011, WFHC received a three-year, $190,000 core operating support grant from TCWF to provide health services to low-income and underserved girls and women in Santa Monica and the west side of Los Angeles.

“Westside Family Health Center is considered an integral part of the community,” said Cristina M. Regalado, TCWF’s vice president of programs. “For nearly four decades, its high-quality care has been a lifeline for women in all stages of their lives.”

A key strategy for WFHC is its wide outreach to the community. The center’s mobile medical unit helps to meet the needs of individuals who don’t have transportation or the ability to access its medical offices. The center also recently started a series of “lunch and learn” programs: two-hour discussions open to the community on such health topics as menopause, adolescent brain development and teen sexuality.

Julie Kirk and her team of peer educators also conduct outreach at high schools and homeless youth centers.

“I felt I could be honest and that this person could help me make some good decisions in my life.”

“It’s all about reducing the barriers for adolescents to access the services,” she said.

Similar to all health centers across the country, the recent economic downturn has seen an increased number of newly unemployed and uninsured patients coming through its doors. Farmer notes that 90 percent of patients are uninsured.

“We’re serving just shy of 10,000 people a year,” Farmer said. “People know that they can rely on us to be there for them. We’re health care where it needs to be.”
Motivated by a passion to help those who were ill, Diana M. Bontá, R.N., Dr.P.H., became a nurse in the early 1970s. Now, after more than 35 years of promoting wellness and disease prevention in government and nonprofit services, she is positioned to make new contributions to the field of philanthropy as the recently appointed president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation.

A New York native with deep roots in California, she brings a wealth of experience in running multifaceted statewide, regional and municipal health agencies and programs.

Since joining in January 2012, she has been learning and asking probing questions as she engages in her “listening year” to propel the Foundation forward into its third decade of operation.

“To me, the exciting part is that a foundation can really look to the future,” she said. “It can take risks. It can leverage funding on issues that perhaps government could never do, that organizations have the inspiration to do, but for which they don’t have the financial backing to do.”
As she considers macro issues, Bontá’s passion to improve community health also comes from concrete, individual stories that tug at the heart. A year ago, a friend of her son’s went to an emergency room after a severe asthma attack. He was treated and discharged with a prescription for an inhaler. Despite having a job, the young man had neither health insurance nor money to purchase the $120 inhaler. Feeling better, he delayed getting the medication but tragically, he suffered a severe attack and died at the age of 29.

“What must it be like to be that mother and lose your son this way?” Bontá said. “Nobody should have to go through that. So, to me, that is my motivation — for more health education, access to health services and prevention.”

Bontá talks about this case at conferences and asks: “Where did we fail him, you know, as a society?”

“For one, we didn’t provide a school nurse to teach him how to manage his asthma from an early age. The hospital physician and staff didn’t realize that his finances would keep him from filling the prescription. He could have been referred to MediCal and to a community clinic,” Bontá said. “And like this young man, there are many others falling through the cracks.”

She says her experience as a pediatric nurse and public health professional forms the base and the “common thread” that she has drawn from in weaving her professional life.

“At the core of who I am is a nurse, wanting to create capacity for people to have their potential met and all their abilities expanded,” she said in a recent interview. “I firmly believe that the concept of wellness is inclusive of prevention, health education and healthy…behaviors.”

Bontá possesses a substantial base of knowledge in myriad disciplines that the philanthropic sector requires. A renowned health care executive with strong public policy credentials, Bontá also brings to the Foundation experience in corporate and public education campaigns.

She has been listening to suggestions about TCWF’s funding role — from grantees, other grantmakers and other stakeholders. And, she has been holding discussions with TCWF’s Board and staff, and exploring funding options to promote optimal health and wellness in the state.

“As a foundation, we are poised to listen, synthesize and apply our learnings to be a catalyst for improving health in California,” she said.

Bontá is often asked about what changes she may make at the Foundation or in its funding.

“My best answer is that it will evolve, but it won’t evolve without your input,” she said during welcome remarks at the recent TCWF conference on healthy aging. “We want to be able to reach out to you as grantees, as other grantmakers, as people concerned about community and be able to hear your voice about what’s important” for funding.

**A Lifelong Career in Health**

In addition to her background as a registered nurse, Bontá has a doctorate in public health from UCLA. She was the first nurse and the first Latina to head California’s Department of Health Services. Early in her career, she was at the forefront of establishing clinics throughout rural California and ensuring health access for farmworkers. As a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health Advisory Committee, she worked to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations.

Bontá, who lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Frank, and has three grown children, shared her evolving visions for TCWF and her varied experiences in an interview for this story. On her desk and surrounding cabinets were neatly placed photos of her family, congratulatory cards, copies of medical journals and reports. Nearby, a framed embroidered cloth sat on a coffee table cleverly stating: “All things are sweetened with risk.” As she spoke, her compassion, courage and conviction were palatable.

Bontá’s career success has taken shape primarily in California but it was across the country, in New York City, that her life’s journey began. Her Chile-born father was a machinist who loved to read; her Puerto Rico-born mother was a nurse’s aide who valued the importance of education.

Diana and older sister Carmen-Yolanda and their parents lived modestly in an apartment in New York, where the family would enjoy outings in Central Park, going to the movies and "practically living" in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The two sisters also were active in Girl Scouts.

Both parents wanted their daughters to excel in school and to further their careers.

"My sister and I were not expected to cook or to do chores around the house. We were expected to study, study all the time, which made me a good student but a terrible cook," Bontá said jokingly. "The funny thing is my mother really didn't want us to be in medicine. She thought the best thing for us was to be a teacher — to be a professional and not have the hard physical labor that she had experienced growing up and then again, as an adult, doing heavy lifting in a hospital."

Despite their mother's admonition, Yolanda went into dentistry and is now executive director of the Hispanic Dental Association. Diana became a nurse after earning an associate degree in nursing from tuition-free Bronx Community College. Her decision was a reflection of her personality and passion for helping others.

"I think I always really had good empathy with people," Bontá said. "I started in pediatric nursing. I liked that area tremendously and found it very rewarding."

**An Unsettling Experience Led to a Fateful Decision**

It was a disturbing experience in New York's old Bellevue hospital that shaped Bontá's career goals. Then a young nurse, she worked with children who were wards of the city. As she was about to end her shift one day, a young boy confided his fear of the evening shift. The boy, wrapped in heavy casts and sitting in a wheelchair, told Bontá that nurses' aides regularly injured him at night when they cruelly dropped him back into bed.

"He was heavy, and it took several people to pick him up, and they just threw him back into bed," Bontá said. She complained forcefully to the nursing supervisor. But the supervisor refused to take action, insisting that, regardless of their behavior, she needed the aides to continue working in her area.

"I was shocked at her answer," Bontá said. "She never reprimanded them." Frustrated by that incident, Bontá made a decision: She would work tirelessly to gain a hospital leadership position so that mistreatment of patients would not be tolerated.

"That became my conviction, that I needed to be the boss," not in the sense of "power for power's sake" but, instead, to be in position to make decisions and effect change, she said. After that experience, she accepted a Ford Foundation scholarship to attend the State University of New York at Buffalo. She worked the night shift at Buffalo Children's Hospital and went to school during the day.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing, she came to California and enrolled in UCLA's graduate school of public health. She also worked part-time, leading continuing education classes for nurses at what is now Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Around this time, her ambition to be a hospital boss started shifting; she began to believe that instead of the emphasis on treating people in hospitals, greater attention should be paid to disease prevention and wellness.

For her master's thesis in 1975, Bontá studied the work of promotores in rural Guatemala for her master’s thesis.
for her thesis and earned her doctorate of public health degree. She took a job in the state’s Department of Health Services, inspecting the conditions of some of the worst nursing home facilities in the state to help make changes. Later, serving as regional administrator for the California Rural Health Office, the “nursing thread” showed up in the establishment of community clinics that still exist today. As she fondly recalls reconnecting with the clinics’ health executives years later, she said: “I hired some of the original administrators, and they’re still there.”

For five years, Bontá was deputy executive director of the California Family Health Council. In 1988, she began an 11-year stint as director of Long Beach’s Department of Health and Human Services. She developed programs to encourage better parenting, to decrease teen pregnancies and to support families in crisis.

For instance, Bontá suggested to police that public health nurses become involved in domestic violence intervention. During home visits, public health nurses would build a rapport with families to help gain their trust and ask about domestic violence or other sensitive situations. In cases of abuse, the police department would be notified.

**Directing an Aggressive Campaign Against Smoking**

In 1999, Gov. Gray Davis appointed Bontá as director of the California Department of Health Services, where she managed a $32-billion budget. Among her achievements, her department increased access to health care for an additional one million uninsured children through expansions in MediCal and the Healthy Families program. She also directed the nation’s largest anti-smoking media campaign.

“We looked to take on the tobacco industry in a very strong way, to go ‘toe to toe’ with them,” she said. “We had timely, forceful messages on primetime TV.” As a result, tobacco use and California’s lung cancer death rates dropped.

In one of her most politically sensitive battles, her “nursing thread” again proved helpful. The Legislature had passed a law requiring the setting of minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in state hospitals. Bontá’s department had the considerable task of determining the best ratios for hospital units.

“There was no template for it,” Bontá said. “Nobody had ever done it.” To get a baseline of then-current staffing levels, she devised a plan to have nurses from licensing and certification conduct the data collection in a robust sample of hospitals.

“The medical journals are now showing that the ratios have had a tremendous impact. They increased quality, decreased patient accidents and deaths and created better morale for nurses,” she said. “And other states followed California’s lead.”

In 2004, Bontá joined Kaiser Permanente’s Southern California Region as vice president of public affairs. Among her responsibilities were government relations and multimedia communications. She also supported programs to decrease ethnic and racial disparities in health care and was responsible for Kaiser Permanente’s community benefits grantmaking in Southern California, which annually made an average of $36 million in grants to a significant number of nonprofit agencies. Community benefits also supported physician residencies, graduate medical education and medical research. Its funding in the Kaiser Permanente Southern California region totalled $634 million in 2010.

In January, Bontá became TCWF’s president and CEO, succeeding Gary L. Yates, who served the foundation for nearly 20 years. In announcing the selection, TCWF Board Chair David Barlow noted that Bontá’s credentials and experience made her “a terrific choice for us.”

After listening and learning this year, Bontá said the next step will be strategic planning.

“As you know, these things don’t occur overnight,” she said. “I’m thrilled to be able to work closely with a board that’s grounded, that has good experiences, that understands California and that knows health care issues.”

“And I am so pleased,” she said, “to be in position where this Foundation can make a difference in the lives of so many.”

Visit the “President and CEO” section of CalWellness.org to read Dr. Bontá’s “Viewpoint” column, access her full biography and find more related content, including video linked to the CalWellness Channel on YouTube.
What’s New?

Welcome Dr. Diana M. Bontá

In January, TCWF welcomed President and CEO Diana M. Bontá, R.N., Dr.P.H. She is profiled in this edition on page 16. Bontá was among leading health experts at a UCLA Center for Health Policy Research event in February where she participated in a discussion on sustaining and extending health care reform. In the spring, Bontá also participated in Hispanics In Philanthropy’s GameChangers Conference, and provided keynote and welcome addresses at the Women’s Funding Network Global Summit and the Orange County Women’s Health Policy Summit. In June, she was honored with the National Medical Fellowships Public Service Award.

2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award

In November, the Foundation honored eight nonprofit health-sector executives with the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award. Photographed from left to right (clockwise), the honorees are: Daniel Macallair, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice; Linda Civitello, Breathe California, Golden Gate Public Health Partnership; Viveca Lohr, Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula; Lou Fox, Family Support Services of the Bay Area; Christopher Peters, Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development; Lorraine Martinez, Villa Center; Dori Rose Inda, Watsonville Law Center; and Joe Navidad, People’s Community Organization for Reform and Empowerment.

How To Apply

The Foundation has a Responsive Grantmaking Program with eight health issues that are prioritized for funding. We also have funding for special projects in order to respond to emerging health issues or issues outside the eight we have prioritized for funding. We encourage requests for core operating support but requests for project funding are also welcome. Core operating support can be used to help underwrite the regular, ongoing health care, health promotion and disease prevention activities of nonprofit organizations with existing health programs. Such funds can be used for ongoing organizational costs such as salaries for key administrative staff or operating expenses, as well as for capacity-building activities such as strategic planning and board development. Each prioritized health issue is described below.

- Diversity in the Health Professions
Grants that address the issue of diversity in the health professions are commonly given to organizations that provide pipeline programs, scholarships, outreach and retention programs, internships and fellowships, and loan repayment programs for ethnic minorities that are underrepresented in the health professions. Careers in medicine, nursing, public health and other allied health professions are included. Organizations that support leadership development for people of color in the health professions are also eligible for funding. In addition, the Foundation funds organizations that provide information about the California health care workforce to policymakers and opinion leaders.

- Environmental Health
Grants that address the issue of environmental health are commonly given to organizations that provide environmental health education and awareness activities; community organizing to promote environmental health; screening and testing for exposure to environmental toxins; leadership development; and collaborations such as partnerships between public health departments and community-based health programs to improve environmental health. The Foundation also funds efforts to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about improving environmental health issues.

- Healthy Aging
Grants that address the issue of healthy aging are commonly given to organizations that provide clinical preventive services, falls prevention programs, food and nutrition programs and in-home support. Also funded are organizations that support relationships between youth and older adults through activities such as intergenerational volunteering and mentoring. In addition, the Foundation funds agencies that inform policymakers and opinion leaders about healthy aging, as well as organizations that provide leadership development programs for seniors.

- Mental Health
Grants that address the issue of mental health are commonly given to organizations that provide services for transition-age youth (ages 16-23) — with a focus on those in, or exiting from, foster care and on runaway/homeless youth. In addition, the Foundation funds organizations that provide leadership development programs for mental health professionals, as well as organizations...
that inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the health/mental health issues of youth exiting from foster care and runaway/homeless youth.

- **Teenage Pregnancy Prevention**

Grants that address the issue of teenage pregnancy prevention are commonly given to organizations that provide services for youth (ages 12–24) including mentoring programs, gang intervention programs, re-entry programs, community-based violence prevention programs and after-school programs. An emphasis is placed on funding organizations that work with at-risk youth, including gang-affiliated and previously incarcerated youth. Grants are also made to organizations that provide leadership development activities to those working in the field of violence prevention, as well as organizations that inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the public health aspects of violence against youth.

- **Women’s Health**

Grants that address the issue of women’s health are commonly given to organizations that provide reproductive health care, prenatal care, community-based comprehensive health care services, HIV/AIDS programs for women of color, case management, and supportive housing for homeless women. Priority is given to organizations that create welcoming environments for women in underserved communities. The Foundation also funds organizations that provide leadership development activities for women and those that inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the issue of women’s health.

- **Work and Health**

Grants that address the issue of work and health are commonly given to nonprofit organizations that provide health care services to farmworkers, in-home health workers, garment workers, day laborers and other low-income workers. Worker centers that provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services, such as health education and access to health care for low-wage workers, are also prioritized for funding. In addition, the Foundation funds organizations that provide leadership development programs for low-wage workers, as well as organizations that inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the issue of work and health.

- **Special Projects**

Each year, the Foundation sets aside a pool of dollars to respond to emerging issues or health issues outside the eight we have prioritized for funding. The Foundation places an emphasis on grants to support and strengthen safety net providers of health care, help low-income consumers understand and navigate the health care system, and to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about health care issues affecting the underserved. The Foundation has also provided significant funding to organizations providing culturally appropriate health programs for underserved ethnic populations.

- **Application Process**

To present The California Wellness Foundation with a grant request, an organization should first write a one- to two-page letter of interest. **Please note that submissions beyond two pages will not be accepted.** The letter should describe the organization’s mission, activities and operating budget; the region and population(s) served; the total funds requested from the Foundation; and how the funds will be used. If you are requesting project funding, please include the project’s goals, leadership and duration. Your letter will be processed most accurately if you clearly indicate the TCWF funding priority for which you want your request considered (for example, healthy aging). No application form is needed, and formal proposals are not accepted at this preliminary stage.

Foundation staff will review letters of interest on an ongoing basis and notify prospective applicants of the results normally within three months. Those encouraged to submit a proposal will receive further guidance at that time.

- **Eligibility Criteria**

With rare exception, the Foundation funds nonprofit organizations that are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that are not private foundations as defined in IRC Section 509(a) or are public charities as defined in IRC Section 170(b)(A)(vi). The Foundation also funds government agencies. **The Foundation does not fund Section 509(a)(3) Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations.**

Grants are not generally awarded for annual fund drives, building campaigns, major equipment or biomedical research. Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations are not considered. The Foundation does not provide international funding or fund organizations located outside the United States.
What’s New?

**2011 TCWF California Peace Prize**

TCWF honored three community leaders with its 19th annual California Peace Prize at a San Francisco reception in November. The honorees each received a cash award of $25,000 for their efforts to prevent violence and promote peace. The awardees include: Ray Balberan, who brings together San Francisco city leaders, law enforcement officials, caseworkers and the community as a way to create violence prevention programs; Priscilla Carrasquilla, who ran a San Jose tattoo removal program to give youths a second chance to a better future; and Manuel Jimenez of Woodlake, who uses his agricultural and farming background to prevent violence by putting young individuals to work in community gardens. For more information on TCWF’s leadership recognition program, visit CalWellness.org’s Leadership Portal.

**Awarded September and December 2011**

TCWF’s Board of Directors approved the following grants in support of the Foundation’s mission of improving the health of the people of California and to further its four goals: addressing the health needs of underserved communities; supporting and strengthening nonprofit organizations; recognizing and encouraging leaders; and informing policymakers and opinion leaders about important wellness and health care issues.

For current application guidelines, please see the preceding How To Apply pages.

**ACCESS California Services**  
Anaheim, CA  
$100,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to provide health education and advocacy services for underserved low-income adults in Orange County.

**Alameda Health Consortium**  
San Leandro, CA  
$300,000 over three years  
For core operating support to continue to support member clinics, develop stronger infrastructure and provide primary care services in Alameda County.

**American Lung Association in California**  
Oakland, CA  
$100,000 over two years  
For project support to sustain asthma prevention education efforts in Oakland.

**Arc Ecology**  
San Francisco, CA  
$170,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to provide technical assistance for California communities affected by environmental health hazards.

**Asian Americans for Community Involvement of Santa Clara County**  
San Jose, CA  
$175,000 over three years  
For core operating support to continue to provide primary medical services for low-income immigrants and refugees in Santa Clara County.

**Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc.**  
Los Angeles, CA  
$100,000 over two years  
For core operating support for the Diabetes Collaborative to sustain diabetes care management services for low-income, primarily Asian/Pacific Islander immigrant seniors in Los Angeles County.

**California’s Economic Payoff**

A UC Berkeley study commissioned by Campaign for College Opportunity shows that for every dollar invested in higher education, California reaps $4.50 back. “California’s Economic Payoff: Investing in College Access & Completion” shows that education is key to expanding the health workforce to meet growing service demands. The study can be found at collegecampaign.org.
Balberan, Ray
San Francisco, CA
$25,000 over one year
For the 2011 California Peace Prize, which acknowledges the past violence prevention activities of this individual working to address the root causes of violence in his community.

Bear Valley Unified School District/ Bear Valley Healthy Start
Big Bear Lake, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support for Bear Valley Healthy Start to continue to provide school-based health services for elementary- and middle-school students in rural Big Bear Valley.

Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action
Berkeley, CA
$150,000 over three years
For project support for the Lifelines to Healing Campaign, a faith-based, community organizing initiative to promote the public health approach to prevent violence against youth in California.

Boys & Girls Club of Redlands, Inc.
Redlands, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain the SMART Girls Program, a comprehensive program for pregnant and parenting teens living in the Waterman Gardens public housing development in San Bernardino as a strategy to prevent repeat teenage pregnancies.

Breathe California, Golden Gate Public Health Partnership
Daly City, CA
$35,000 over one year and three months
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

Cal State Bakersfield Foundation/ Community Preventive Health Collaborative
Bakersfield, CA
$75,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Community Preventive Health Collaborative to provide health screenings and health education to farmworkers in Kern County.

California Black Health Network
Sacramento, CA
$180,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers and opinion makers about the health care needs of the African American community in California.

California Black Women’s Health Project
Inglewood, CA
$180,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to build the advocacy capacity of black women and communities on the local and state level to reduce health disparities in California.

California Family Health Council, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain leadership training programs for family planning health workers to improve outreach activities for reproductive health care and access to contraceptive services for teens.

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers, opinion leaders and community members about reproductive health and justice issues facing Latinas in California.

California Lutheran University
Thousand Oaks, CA
$150,000 over two years
For project support to conduct research and policy information efforts on environmental health issues affecting residents of Oxnard.

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Oakland, CA
$120,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain the work of the Having our Say! project to continue to inform policymakers about the health care needs of low-income communities of color in California.

California Planned Parenthood Education Fund Incorporated
Sacramento, CA
$135,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain efforts to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about adolescent reproductive health care and teenage pregnancy prevention programs in California.

California School Health Centers Association
Oakland, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about school health centers that provide access to contraceptive services and outreach activities for reproductive health care.

California State Library Foundation/ California State Library, California Research Bureau
Sacramento, CA
$150,000 over two years
For project support for the California Research Bureau to inform policymakers and other stakeholders about issues impacting the health and well-being of homeless and runaway youth in California.

California State University, Channel Islands Foundation
Camarillo, CA
$140,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to strengthen efforts in training and preparing a culturally diverse nursing student population for the local health care workforce.

California State University, Fresno Foundation/Educational Opportunity Program
Fresno, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support for the Educational Opportunity Program to sustain supportive services for transition-age youth enrolled at California State University, Fresno.

Carrasquilla, Priscilla
San Jose, CA
$25,000 over one year
For the 2011 California Peace Prize, which acknowledges the past violence prevention activities of this individual working to address the root causes of violence in her community.
What’s New?

Capacity Building Grants Give a Leg Up, Report Says

In August 2011, Harder+Company released “Capacity Building for Minority-Led and Minority-Serving Organizations,” an evaluation of TCWF’s and the Weingart Foundation’s $2 million in grants to the Liberty Hill Foundation (LHF) to fund grassroots nonprofit organizations serving primarily minority populations in Los Angeles. The funding, awarded in 2009 and 2010, was used for capacity building that included investing in strategic planning and enhancing current data systems that, in effect, strengthened and equipped the nonprofit organizations to better serve their communities. The evaluation highlighted the funding’s positive impact on LHF, which, in turn, strengthened its capacity-building programs. To access the full Harder+Company report, visit the Publications section of CalWellness.org and click on Evaluation/Lessons Learned.

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Jurupa Valley, CA
$265,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain environmental health education and public policy activities in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Center for Health Care Rights
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain education, counseling and legal services on health insurance issues for underserved seniors in Los Angeles County.

Center for the Study of Social Policy
Washington, D.C.
$150,000 over two years
For core operating support to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about comprehensive programs for pregnant and parenting teens in Los Angeles County.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
San Francisco, CA
$35,000 over one year and three months
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

Center on Policy Initiatives
San Diego, CA
$120,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers, opinion leaders and the public about health care issues facing low-wage workers in San Diego.

Charterhouse Center of San Joaquin County
Stockton, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide health services to underserved populations in urban and rural San Joaquin County.

Chinatown Service Center
Los Angeles, CA
$120,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to underserved residents of Los Angeles and Alhambra.

Clinica Msr. Oscar A. Romero
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide oral health services to underserved residents in Los Angeles County.

Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics
Irvine, CA
$300,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide primary care services, and strengthen the capacity of member clinics to transform delivery systems in Orange County.

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services and case management for trafficking victims in Los Angeles.

Coastal Health Alliance
Point Reyes Station, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide primary medical services to underserved residents of rural Marin and Sonoma counties.

Common Ground-The Westside HIV Community Center
Santa Monica, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support for the Homeless Youth Peer Education program to sustain drop-in center and other supportive services in Santa Monica for homeless and runaway youth.

CommuniCare Health Centers
Davis, CA
$265,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain the provision of health services and health education to low-wage workers in Yolo County.

Community Clinic Association of San Bernardino County
San Bernardino, CA
$250,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to build and strengthen the community clinic safety net, and provide primary care services to the underserved in San Bernardino County.
Community Foundation
Santa Cruz County
Aptos, CA
$200,000 over three years
For project support for a regranting program to promote the health of low-income underserved residents of Santa Cruz County.

Community Health Partnership of Santa Clara County, Incorporated
Santa Clara, CA
$275,000 over three years
For core operating support to strengthen administrative functions, and to continue to support member clinics in providing primary care services in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Community Partners/Child Welfare Initiative
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over three years
For project support for the Child Welfare Initiative to inform policymakers and other stakeholders about policies and practices to improve housing, supportive services and employment opportunities for transition-age youth in Los Angeles County.

Community Partners
Los Angeles, CA
$280,000 over one year
For project support to develop, implement and evaluate a TCWF Environmental Health Conference in 2012.

Community Partners
Los Angeles, CA
$270,000 over one year
For project support to develop, implement and evaluate TCWF’s 2012 Conference on the Health and Well-being of Transition-Age Youth.

CompassPoint Nonprofit Services
San Francisco, CA
$255,000 over one year
For project support to develop, implement and evaluate a TCWF statewide conference on violence prevention and California Peace Prize dinner in 2012.

Comprehensive Community Health Centers, Inc.
Glendale, CA
$120,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to underserved residents of Los Angeles County.

Conejo Free Clinic
Thousand Oaks, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to low-income residents of Ventura County.

Council on Foundations, Inc.
Arlington, VA
$150,000 over two years
For project support for the Career Pathways Pipeline Expansion Program, a professional development program focused on diversity and inclusion for foundation staff in the United States.

CSU Fullerton Auxiliary Services Corporation/California State University, Fullerton, Center for Successful Aging
Fullerton, CA
$150,000 over three years
For project support for the Center for Successful Aging to develop, implement and evaluate Stay Well at Home, a comprehensive home-based fall prevention program for underserved seniors in Orange and San Diego counties.

Downtown Women’s Center
Los Angeles, CA
$140,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide case management and health education to homeless women in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles.

Doyle, Lawrence H.
Santa Monica, CA
$25,000 over one year
For the 2012 TCWF Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award, which recognizes and acknowledges individuals who have made substantial contributions to increasing the diversity of California’s health professions.

El Centro Regional Medical Center
El Centro, CA
$170,000 over two years
For project support for the Healthy Homes Equals Healthy People program to provide asthma prevention education and services to families in Imperial County.

Family Care Network, Inc.
San Luis Obispo, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Transitional Age Youth Services to sustain transitional housing and supportive services in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties for emancipating and former foster youth.

Family Health Care Centers of Greater Los Angeles, Inc.
Bell Gardens, CA
$250,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide primary medical services to low-income residents of southeast Los Angeles County.
What’s New?

New Book Features Grantee’s Work

Susana De Anda, co-executive director of Community Water Center (CWC), a TCWF grantee, is featured in a new novel, “Hearts on Fire,” by Jil Iscols, in which De Anda underscores her work at CWC — bringing clean, affordable drinking water to underserved communities — and how she strives to make the world a better place. The book spotlights the stories of 14 leaders as a call to action and to encourage the public-at-large to lend a helping hand. Proceeds will be donated to CWC and to the other organizations led by the individuals featured in this novel. To learn more about “Hearts on Fire,” visit heartsonfirebook.com.

Navigating Today’s Internet and Social Media World

In 2011, TCWF grantee Alliance for Justice released the report, “Influencing Public Policy in the Digital Age: The Law of Online Lobbying and Election-related Activities,” which features valuable tips and answers to the common questions nonprofit managers face when using digital media. As today’s technology continues to evolve, nonprofit organizations are faced with an increasing number of Internet and social media regulations and laws. The report is available at afj.org.

Family Service Agency of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program, a comprehensive program for pregnant and parenting teens in the county of San Francisco as a strategy to prevent repeat teenage pregnancies.

Family Support Services of the Bay Area
Oakland, CA
$35,000 over one year and three months
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

Fenton Communications, Inc.
San Francisco, CA
$500,000 over one year
For project support to implement a public education campaign to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the health care workforce and its diversity and to inform underrepresented minority youth about health careers.

First Graduate
San Francisco, CA
$90,000 over two years
For project support to provide academic support, case management and internships in health related professions to underrepresented minority students in San Francisco.

Food in Need of Distribution, Inc.
Indio, CA
$130,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain information and enrollment assistance services for low-wage workers and their families in eastern Riverside County.

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission
Fresno, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Food Services Program to sustain nutrition services for low-income seniors in Fresno, Tulare and Madera counties.

Friends Outside
Stockton, CA
$225,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide health services to formerly incarcerated individuals in San Joaquin County.

HARC
Palm Desert, CA
$120,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide research analysis and technical services for health and human service organizations in eastern Riverside County.

Health Professions Education Foundation
Sacramento, CA
$150,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide scholarships and loan repayments to underrepresented and disadvantaged health professions students and professionals who practice in California’s medically underserved areas.
Health Sciences High School and Middle College  
San Diego, CA  
$90,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to provide college preparatory and career development programs for underserved high-school students in San Diego.

High Desert Domestic Violence Program  
Victorville, CA  
$250,000 over three years  
For project support to develop, open and operate an emergency shelter for homeless and runaway youth in San Bernardino County.

Hilliard Chappel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Stockton, CA  
$120,000 over three years  
For core operating support to continue to provide health education and case management services to high-risk pregnant and parenting women in Stockton.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
San Francisco, CA  
$210,000 over three years  
For core operating support to sustain public education efforts to improve access to health services for low-wage immigrant workers in California.

Imperial Beach Community Clinic  
Imperial Beach, CA  
$150,000 over three years  
For core operating support to continue to provide primary medical services to low-income residents in San Diego and Imperial Beach.

Independent Sector  
Washington, D.C.  
$200,000 over three years  
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the policies that affect health and human service nonprofit organizations and foundations in California.

Individuals Now, Inc., Social Advocates for Youth  
Santa Rosa, CA  
$150,000 over three years  
For core operating support to sustain emergency shelter and transitional housing services in Sonoma County for homeless, runaway and former foster youth.

Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc./Another Way  
San Bernardino, CA  
$150,000 over two years  
For core operating support for the Another Way program to continue to provide preventive and restorative dental care services for developmentally disabled adult clients in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Insure the Uninsured Project  
Santa Monica, CA  
$105,000 over one year  
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers, advocates and consumers on efforts to increase access to health care for those in California without health insurance.

Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging  
Bishop, CA  
$130,000 over two years  
For core operating support to sustain nutrition and other health promotion services for seniors in Inyo and Mono counties.

Jimenez, Manuel  
Woodlake, CA  
$25,000 over one year  
For the 2011 California Peace Prize, which acknowledges the past violence prevention activities of this individual working to address the root causes of violence in his community.

Kern County Department of Public Health/Nurse Family Partnership Program  
Bakersfield, CA  
$210,000 over three years  
For core operating support for the Nurse Family Partnership Program to continue to provide high-risk, first-time moms in Kern County with support to ensure healthy pregnancy outcomes and improve children’s health and development.

Kids Come First  
Ontario, CA  
$170,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to underserved children and youth in Ontario and surrounding communities.

LifeLong Medical Care  
Berkeley, CA  
$100,000 over two years  
For core operating support to sustain integrated primary care and psychosocial services in Alameda and neighboring counties for low-income seniors.

Manoleas, Peter  
Berkeley, CA  
$25,000 over one year  
For the 2012 TCWF Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award, which recognizes and acknowledges individuals who have made substantial contributions to increasing the diversity of California’s health professions.

Martha’s Village and Kitchen, Inc.  
Indio, CA  
$140,000 over two years  
For core operating support for Martha’s Medical Clinic to continue to provide health care services to homeless and uninsured persons in the Coachella Valley.

Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, Inc.  
Pacific Grove, CA  
$35,000 over one year and three months  
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

Mendocino Latinos Para La Comunidad, Inc.  
Ukiah, CA  
$150,000 over three years  
For core operating support to sustain the provision of preventive health education to low-wage workers in Mendocino County.

Minniefield, Angela L.  
Elk Grove, CA  
$25,000 over one year  
For the 2012 TCWF Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award, which recognizes and acknowledges individuals who have made substantial contributions to increasing the diversity of California’s health professions.
**National Health Law Program, Inc.**
Los Angeles, CA  
$120,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to provide technical assistance, training and support on state and federal health policies to advocates, providers and policymakers to improve the health of low-income Californians.

**Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, Inc.**
Ontario, CA  
$150,000 over three years  
For core operating support for the Safe Homes for Seniors program to sustain fall prevention services for low-income seniors in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

**North County Interfaith Council, Inc.**
Escondido, CA  
$140,000 over two years  
For core operating support for the Confiar en Ti program to continue to provide health education and services for migrant workers and day laborers in north San Diego County.

**Orange County Congregation Community Organization**
Anaheim, CA  
$120,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the health and wellness needs of low-income communities in Orange County.

**Peach Tree Healthcare**
Marysville, CA  
$120,000 over two years  
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to underserved residents of rural Sutter and Yuba counties.

**People’s Community Organization for Reform and Empowerment**
Los Angeles, CA  
$35,000 over one year and three months  
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

**Physicians for Social Responsibility, Inc.**
Los Angeles, CA  
$110,000 over two years  
For core operating support to sustain efforts to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the health impacts of environmental toxicants.

**Public Counsel**
Los Angeles, CA  
$175,000 over three years  
For core operating support to continue to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about public policies affecting incarcerated and re-entry youth in Los Angeles County.

**Public Health Institute/Center for Collaborative Planning**
Oakland, CA  
$220,000 over two years  
To provide project support for the Center for Collaborative Planning to develop, implement and evaluate two TCWF-sponsored health advocates’ retreats.

**Public Health Institute/Center for Collaborative Planning**
Oakland, CA  
$240,000 over one year  
For project support for the Center for Collaborative Planning to develop, implement and evaluate TCWF’s 2012 Conference on Increasing Diversity in the Health Professions and the Champions of Health Professions Awards dinner.

**Public Health Institute/Center for Collaborative Planning**
Oakland, CA  
$205,000 over one year and three months  
For project support for its Center for Collaborative Planning to develop, implement and evaluate TCWF’s Conference on Women’s Health in fall 2012.

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**What’s New?**

**TCWF Media/Civic Partnerships**

TCWF’s Communications Department sponsored three media and civic partnership events over the past few months. In October 2011, CCNMA’s 33rd Journalism Opportunities Conference in Los Angeles featured a plenary and workshops to help reporters hone health reporting skills.

In November, at San Francisco’s Commonwealth Club of California, current and former TCWF grantees discussed creative strategies to bring healthy, affordable fresh foods to low-income, underserved communities, including senior populations. The discussion, moderated by Jason Mark, editor-in-chief of Earth Island Journal, featured Ken Hecht, executive director of California Food Policy Advocates; Sue Siagler, executive director of the California Association of Food Banks; and Dana Harvey, executive director of Mandela Marketplace. In February 2012, Zócalo Public Square staged a panel discussion in Fresno where experts discussed the unique challenges faced by rural health care providers. Pictured from left to right in the below photo are Marcia Sablan, First 5 Fresno County Commissioner, Moderator Michelle Levander, director of the California EndowmentHealth Journalism Fellowships, Herrmann Spetzler, CEO of Open Door Community Health Centers and Rebecca Plevin, community health reporter.  

[Image of panel discussion]
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
Fort Jones, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Anav Tribal Health Center to continue to provide health care services to underserved tribal members and residents of rural Siskiyou County.

Radio Bilingüe, Inc.
Fresno, CA
$120,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain public education efforts on preventive and occupational health for farmworkers and other low-wage workers.

Reach Out West End, Inc.
Upland, CA
$220,000 over three years
For project support for the development, implementation and evaluation of the Community Leader Fellowship Program for executives and managers at organizations serving at-risk youth in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Reality Changers
San Diego, CA
$250,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain after-school and mentoring programs as a violence prevention strategy for at-risk youth in San Diego County.

Redwood Community Action Agency
Eureka, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support for the Youth Services Bureau to sustain crisis intervention and supportive housing services in Humboldt County for transition-age youth.

Regents of the University of California, Davis/University of California, Davis, Department of Public Health Sciences
Davis, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Department of Public Health Sciences to continue to provide scholarship support in order to recruit a diverse student body for its Masters in Public Health degree.

Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles/CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH
Los Angeles, CA
$125,000 over one year
For project support for the Center for Health Policy Research to refine data collection for, and strengthen the utility of, the California Elder Economic Security Standard Index.

SAC Health System
San Bernardino, CA
$250,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to underserved residents of San Bernardino County.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
San Bernardino, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Youth Empowerment Service Center to sustain case management and supportive services for emancipating and former foster youth in San Bernardino County’s High Desert region.

San Diego Second Chance Program
San Diego, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain the Juvenile Options for Lifelong Transitions program, a re-entry strategy to reduce recidivism among incarcerated youth in San Diego County as a violence prevention strategy.
**Kudos**

**Connie Rice** (below left), a 2001 TCWF California Peace Prize honoree, has published the book, “Power Concedes Nothing: One Woman’s Quest for Social Justice in America, from the Courtroom to the Kill Zones.” In it she chronicles her journey from the courts to the streets of Los Angeles and highlights her long-time efforts to reduce gang violence. For more information, visit powerconcedesnothing.com.

**Staff Updates**

TCWF recognizes **Margaret W. Minnich**, vice president of finance and administration, for 20 years of service at the Foundation; and recognizes **David B. Littlefield**, communications officer and **Sandra J. Martinez**, director of public policy, for 10 years of service.

TCWF welcomes program assistants **Savina Shaffer** and **Ismael Venegas**, and executive assistant to the president and CEO, **Claudiette Wright-Bey**.

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**San Diego State University Foundation/Academy for Professional Excellence**
San Diego, CA
$90,000 over two years

For project support for SDSU School of Social Work’s Academy for Professional Excellence to develop and implement a recruitment and retention program for Native American students in social work programs in Southern California.

**Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs, See, Inc./Coalition for a Safe Environment**
Calabasas, CA
$150,000 over three years

For core operating support for the Coalition For a Safe Environment to sustain environmental health education and public policy efforts related to air pollution from freight transport in Southern California.

**San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium**
San Francisco, CA
$275,000 over three years

For core operating support to continue to sustain consortium activities and provide primary care health services.

**San Francisco Public Health Foundation/Transitions Clinic**
San Francisco, CA
$170,000 over two years

For core operating support for Transitions Clinic to continue to provide health care services to persons recently released from prison with chronic diseases in San Francisco.

**Santa Cruz Women’s Health Center**
Santa Cruz, CA
$140,000 over two years

For core operating support to continue to provide primary and preventive health care services to low-income women in Santa Cruz County.

**Senior Community Centers of San Diego**
San Diego, CA
$250,000 over three years

For core operating support to provide nutrition, case management and other health promotion services for low-income seniors in San Diego County.

**Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development, Inc.**
Arcata, CA
$35,000 over one year and three months

For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

**South Bay Center for Counseling & Human Development**
El Segundo, CA
$200,000 over three years

For core operating support to sustain the Urban Futures Academy, an employment training program as a violence prevention strategy for high-risk youth in the Wilmington area of Los Angeles.

**Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs, See, Inc./East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice**
Calabasas, CA
$120,000 over two years

For core operating support for East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice to continue to engage in environmental health education, leadership training, and public policy efforts related to air pollution from freight transport in Southern California.

**South Central Family Health Center**
Los Angeles, CA
$120,000 over two years

For core operating support to continue to provide primary medical services for underserved residents of South Los Angeles.

**St. Anne’s Maternity Home**
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over three years

For core operating support for the Transitional Housing Program to sustain safe housing and supportive services in Los Angeles County for young women who are emancipating or have emancipated from the foster care system and for their children.

**Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region**
Sacramento, CA
$100,000 over two years

For core operating support to sustain comprehensive programs for pregnant and parenting teens in Sacramento County as a strategy to prevent repeat teenage pregnancies.
Swords to Plowshares Veterans Rights Organization
San Francisco, CA
$200,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide case management, legal, employment and advocacy services to homeless and at-risk veterans in San Francisco.

Taller San Jose
Santa Ana, CA
$165,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain employment training and support services as a violence prevention strategy for at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth in Orange County.

Tides Center/Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
San Francisco, CA
$125,000 over three years
For core operating support for the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California to continue to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the need for a health workforce that reflects the state’s racial and ethnic diversity.

Turning the Hearts Center
Chula Vista, CA
$110,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain teenage pregnancy prevention programs targeting high-risk youth in southern San Diego County.

Ubuntu Green
Sacramento, CA
$135,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain environmental health education efforts in the Sacramento region.

UFW Foundation
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain the provision of occupational safety and health education, and CalFresh outreach to farmworkers in California.

University of Southern California/Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry
Los Angeles, CA
$150,000 over two years
For core operating support for the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry’s USM+URM Dental Clinic to continue to provide dental health services to homeless adults and families in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles.

URDC Human Services Corporation
Pasadena, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support to continue to provide primary, preventive, and behavioral health care for women in Pasadena and low-income areas of the West San Gabriel Valley.

Valley Community Clinic
North Hollywood, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide prenatal care for low-income women in the San Fernando Valley.

Villa Center, Inc.
Santa Ana, CA
$35,000 over one year and three months
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

Virginia Organizing, Inc./Health and Environmental Funders Network
Charlottesville, VA
$70,000 over two years
For core operating support for the Health and Environmental Funders Networks to continue to support philanthropic efforts related to environmental health and justice in California.

Vista Community Clinic
Vista, CA
$150,000 over three years
For core operating support to sustain reproductive health services at Choices teen clinics serving at-risk and sexually active youth in northern San Diego County.

Watsonville Law Center
Watsonville, CA
$35,000 over one year and three months
For the 2011 TCWF Sabbatical Program Award, providing respite to health nonprofit leaders to mitigate stress and burnout and to sustain their effectiveness in providing services to the underserved in California.

Westside Family Health Center
Santa Monica, CA
$190,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide health services to low-income and underserved girls and women in Santa Monica and the west side of Los Angeles.

Winters Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Winters, CA
$250,000 over three years
For core operating support to continue to provide health care services to underserved residents of rural Yolo County.

YMCA of San Diego County/YMCA Youth & Family Services
San Diego, CA
$100,000 over two years
For core operating support for the Youth & Family Services Residential Services Program to sustain emergency shelter and transitional living program services in San Diego County for transition-age youth.

Youth Uprising
Oakland, CA
$200,000 over two years
For core operating support to sustain community-based violence prevention programs and public policy efforts to reduce violence against youth in East Oakland.
We have the students who can make a difference. Our job is to create the opportunities.

Lawrence "Hy" Doyle, Ed.D.
Los Angeles

Cultural humility is important. We can’t be experts on everyone, so we need to learn from our patients.

Peter Manoleas, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Berkeley

All Californians are entitled to receive health care that is responsive to their cultural and linguistic needs.

Angela L. Minniefield, M.P.A.
Los Angeles

The California Wellness Foundation is proud to recognize the 2012 Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award honorees: Lawrence "Hy" Doyle of Los Angeles, Peter Manoleas of Berkeley and Angela Minniefield of Los Angeles.

They have the drive, commitment and vision to take on the challenge of increasing the health workforce and its diversity. The honorees do not expect the spotlight; they are motivated to help because they care.

These individuals mentor and support students facing obstacles in attending college and training for health careers. Their work improves the health and well being of some of Californias most disadvantaged communities. The honorees each received a $25,000 grant that acknowledges their achievements.

At The California Wellness Foundation, we seek out leaders to honor them and shine a light on their work to improve the health of Californians.

Visit us online at our Leadership Recognition portal to hear their compelling stories including video interviews and photos. We also feature past Foundation honorees who are leading the way to prevent violence, strengthen the nonprofit sector and implement policies to improve Californians’ health.