Community Foundation of The Valleys

HERE'S YOUR FEBRUARY UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE VALLEYS

CALLING ALL CPAs, FINANCIAL ADVISORS AND ESTATE ATTORNEYS!
Charitable giving feels good! Those who choose to invest in nonprofits locally or elsewhere not only enjoy the tax benefits of these contributions, but they also know that they are making a positive difference in the lives of others. With this in mind, we encourage professional advisors to bring up the possibility of charitable giving with your clients. It may be that, in the complexities of managing one's financial resources, clients have not considered the causes that align with their values and that would benefit from monetary gifts.

So – we encourage you to be bold! **Ask if your clients would give thought to any charities that would benefit from tax-deductible gifts.** And, if your clients would like assistance in choosing charities that align with their interests, the CFV would be happy to provide a list of reputable nonprofits for their consideration. Contact CFV's Executive Director Marianne Haver Hill, **marianne@valleygiving.org**

POST LA FIRE GENEROSITY
The Generosity After the LA Fires report by the Milken Institute analyzes charitable giving following the Eaton and Palisades fires that impacted the Los Angeles region in January 2025. The fires resulted in significant loss of life, widespread displacement, and extensive property damage estimated at over $130 billion. In response, charitable donations increased rapidly, reaching an estimated $860 to $970 million by the end of 2025, providing important short-term relief for affected residents.

Despite the scale of this generosity, the report finds that charitable giving represents only a small share of the total cost required for recovery. Long term rebuilding cannot rely on philanthropy alone and will require sustained government funding, innovative financing strategies, and continued flexible assistance to support individuals and communities as recovery efforts continue.
Source: Milken Institute. Generosity After the LA Fires: Charitable Giving and the Road Ahead to Rebuilding.

WELCOME OUR NEW CFV BOARD MEMBER: THOMAS OHLGREN
Thomas Ohlgren is a Tax Partner at Baker Tilly, one of the largest accounting firms in the world, where he specializes in serving mid-market clients within the entertainment industry. His work supports actors, musicians, producers, labels, agents, attorneys, and other professionals across film, television, and music, along with select clients in healthcare and professional services.

Tom's connection to the nonprofit sector began during college through the Minnesota chapter, Multiple Sclerosis Society, where he helped establish budgeting systems and supported events and programs. These early experiences shaped his long-standing commitment to nonprofit leadership and community service.

Tom has served in leadership and board roles for organizations including United Way, youth sports associations, faith-based organizations, and the Valley Economic Alliance, where he previously served as Treasurer. After selling his accounting practices in the Midwest, he relocated to Los Angeles more than a decade ago and now lives in Studio City. He credits longtime CFV board member Bill Wolf as a mentor and is passionate about strengthening the San Fernando Valley through small business development, workforce training, and collaborative, community-driven solutions.

Outside of work, Tom prioritizes balance by staying active, reading literature, traveling, and spending time in Northern Minnesota. He believes that caring for oneself is essential to sustaining meaningful work and lasting community impact.

DONATE

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For more information and/or to create a donor fund, call us at (818) 377-6386 or email us at info@valleygiving.org. Follow us on