

# Giving Report

2015



JENA & MICHAEL KING FOUNDATION

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# Introduction

The Jena & Michael King Foundation is an outward expression of the heart, integrity and generosity of the King Family. From local Los Angeles-based initiatives to national and international organizations, as well as individual scientists and activists, the Jena & Michael King Foundation works to support the cycle of life.

2015 was a year during which incredible worldwide shifts occurred. From the historic drought in California to the international collaboration of the world's nations on climate change, we began to acknowledge the power humans have to shape the natural world, and the responsibility we share as a biologically connected society. Pope Francis memorialized this conversation in his Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality:

*“The sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow. The spectacle of their countless diversities and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures only exist in dependence of each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other.”*

Total giving in 2015 was just over half a million dollars, focusing on projects that nurture positive relationships among people and the spaces and environments within which we live and thrive. Organizations such as *A Sense of Home*, *HEART*, and *The Brent Shapiro Foundation* directly support at-risk or troubled teenagers and young adults in living healthy, vibrant and connected lives. The Foundation continued its work supporting children through the California based *The Painted Turtle*, and nationally and internationally with the *United Friends of the Children* and *The United Nations Children's Fund*.

2015 was designated by the U.N. as the “Year of Soil,” to which the Foundation responded both through extensive financial support and active personal involvement, including representation at the Paris Climate Talks. Organizations such as *Kiss the Ground* and *Fibershed* were supported for their focus on restoring the soil and the ways in which people can live actively and positively within the lands that produce our organic food, fiber and medicines. Commitment to pillar organizations in the environmental field also continued through grants to the longstanding *Earth Island Institute*, the *Natural Resources Defense Council*, and Paul Hawken's *Project Drawdown*.

The Foundation also contributed to the innovative research of University of Berkeley's *Dr. Gary Andersen*, and the University of British Columbia's *Dr. Suzanne Simard*.

It is with an appreciation for the interconnected web of life and the flow of energy through our natural systems; with a commitment to all of our planet's children (human and otherwise), and the health of the soil upon which all life depends, that we are proud to support the following organizations:



Nunavik Teal, PhD  
Executive Director, Jena & Michael King Foundation



Jena and Michael King

# Giving in 2015

## A Sense of Home

A Sense of Home (ASOH) changes the lives of youth who have aged-out of the foster care system by helping them create beautiful homes. Using new and gently-used donated furniture and housewares, volunteers work with youth to help them realize their own sense of home—often for the first time. Recipients continue to participate in the organization by ‘paying it forward’ and participating in furnishing the next set of homes, creating a sense of family in the process. The connections forged align these individuals with practical and emotional support, as well as personal and professional connections that they may not otherwise have. The goal of ASOH is to empower foster youth by providing living situations that inspire confidence and long-term success.

## Anti-Defamation League

The Anti-Defamation League’s mission statement explains that for over 100 years, they have worked “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” It now serves as one of the Nation’s foremost civil rights and human relations agencies, continuing to fight anti-Semitism and defend against all forms of bigotry.

## Best Buddies International

Best Buddies establishes one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through volunteer services. Best Buddies has nearly 1,900 middle school, high school, and college chapters worldwide, and engages participants in all 50 states, and in over 50 countries worldwide.

## The Brent Shapiro Foundation

The Brent Shapiro Foundation is dedicated to the prevention of drug abuse among youth. Its signature program is Brent’s Club, a sober club that is offered to young adults in middle school and high school, providing incentives for participants to abstain from the use of drugs and alcohol. Members of the club voluntarily participate in a saliva drug test once a week. Participants who test positive receive private, discreet counseling. Those who stay sober are rewarded with incentives that include educational technological devices (i.e. iPads, laptop computers, etc.), tutoring, special events, and eventually college scholarships.

## Children’s Action Network

Children’s Action Network leverages the power of the entertainment community to help raise the profile of issues relating to children in foster care.

## Crossroads School

Crossroads School is a culturally and socially diverse K-12 college preparatory school based in Santa Monica, California. Founded over 40 years ago by a group of educators and parents hoping to create an innovative approach to education, Crossroads pioneered the concept of an “education in balance,” built upon the commitments to academic excellence, the arts, the greater community, the development of a student population of social, economic, and racial diversity, and to the development of each student’s physical well-being and full human potential.

## Doctors without Borders

Since 1971, Doctors without Borders has delivered medical care to the most vulnerable populations worldwide, helping people affected by natural disasters, conflict, epidemics, or exclusion from health care.

## Earth Island Institute

Founded in 1982, Earth Island has supported grassroots campaigns devoted to environmental justice. Rather than create dozens of separate non-profit groups with the same basic administrative needs, Earth Island acts as an umbrella organization, providing individual projects with the freedom to develop new initiatives by offering a wide range of professional services, from fiscal administration and program management to office space and equipment.

## Fibershed

Fibershed works to model and support the emergence of an international system of regional textile communities that enliven connection and ownership of “soil-to-soil” textile processes. These diverse textile cultures are designed to build soil carbon stocks on the working landscapes on which they depend, while directly enhancing the strength of regional economies.

## Food on Foot

Food on Foot provides over 200 meals each week, as well as clothing and assistance to the poor and homeless of Los Angeles.

## Frank Sinatra Celebrity Golf

The Frank Sinatra Celebrity Golf event is an annual fundraising event dedicated to the memory and music of Frank Sinatra and raises funds for the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center for Abused Children.

## Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay works with community action programs to improve the quality of Southern California’s coastal waters and watersheds, and positions advocacy efforts to influence municipal, state, and Federal government and regulatory agencies for positive environmental policy.

## HEART (Help End Abusive Relationships Today) Violence Prevention

In 2015, the King Foundation funded the study, “Counseling with HEART: A Relationship Violence Prevention Program for College Students,” measuring the impact of college student participation in the HEART program. The HEART program is comprised of a series of group sessions designed to increase knowledge and awareness of relationship violence.

## Hudson Guild

Rooted in and primarily focused on the Chelsea neighborhood, Hudson Guild offers a broad range of direct programming and services to Chelsea residents, serving over 14,000 individuals annually, providing free and low-cost childcare, mental health services, afterschool programs, teen services and more.



# Giving in 2015 (continued)

## Kiss the Ground

Kiss the Ground is a non-profit organization based in Venice, California, whose mission is to inspire and advocate for the restoration of soil worldwide. In 2015, Kiss the Ground wrote and produced, *The Soil Story*, a short animated film about the carbon cycle and soil's potential as a climate change solution. *The Soil Story* was nominated for an Environmental Media Award and served as an important point of common ground and as a mission statement for the Californian Regeneration movement. In addition to making all of the film's materials open-source, Kiss the Ground created Spanish and French versions of the film in order to share the film's message with as many people as possible. Jena King serves on the Board of Kiss the Ground.

## Impact Drug & Alcohol Center

Impact Drug & Alcohol Center has treated individuals struggling with addiction since 1969. With an impressive staff of clinicians, therapists, and program managers, their staff reflects the social and cultural diversity of the clients that Impact serves.

## International Medical Corps

International Medical Corps (IMC) assists those in the world's poorest countries, often partnering with national and local leaders, to provide better health care and related services in vulnerable communities looking to build a better life for their people. IMC offers services immediately following the initial hours of a disaster, ranging from mental health and psychosocial support to technical advice for nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene.

## Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Dr. Gary Andersen is the head of the Ecology Department at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. His current research focuses on the biology of composting. The Stop-Waste Pharmaceutical experiment was designed to explore the potential use of thermophilic composting in the degradation of discarded pharmaceuticals. Leftover pharmaceuticals are currently destroyed via high temperature incineration, which releases greenhouse gas emissions, dioxins, and furans into the atmosphere. Pharmaceutical collection systems are relatively small in the U.S. and many people dispose of their pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the toilet or dumping them down the drain. As many of the products are not destroyed in conventional wastewater treatment, this practice results in the pollution of watersheds and inadvertent consumption of drugs by wildlife and humans.

## The Michael Bolton Charities

Founded in 1993, The Michael Bolton Charities uses education and effective programs to target two critical areas: the assistance of "at risk" children and women, and the creation of social awareness to broaden horizons and expand opportunities for youth across socioeconomic and multicultural lines. The Michael Bolton Charities works towards fostering dynamic social change to break the cycle of domestic violence, poverty, abuse, and homelessness through innovative initiatives, making funds available to organizations providing direct services to those in need.

## National Resources Defense Council

National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international environmental advocacy group comprised of over 1.4 million members and a staff of more than 400 lawyers, scientists, and policy experts. One of NRDC's foremost missions is to serve as a "shield" against which to hold politicians, corporations and other potentially "big polluters" accountable. Jena King serves on the Board of NRDC.

## The Painted Turtle

The Painted Turtle is a year-round, volunteer-run summer camp located near Lake Elizabeth in Lake Hughes, California, that brings together children with life-threatening and chronic illnesses. A member of Paul Newman's renowned SeriousFun Camps (formerly the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps), The Painted Turtle aims to empower and liberate these children beyond their illness.

## Plan International USA

In partnership with donors, children, and communities, Plan works in more than 50 developing countries to end the cycle of poverty. Plan focuses on child participation, education, economic security, emergencies, health, protection, sexual health, and water and sanitation. It provides training in disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and has participated in relief efforts in Haiti, Columbia and Japan.

## Project Drawdown

Project Drawdown is facilitating a broad coalition of researchers, scientists, graduate students, PhDs, post-docs, policy makers, business leaders and activists to assemble and present the best available information on climate solutions in order to describe their beneficial financial, social and environmental impact over the next thirty years. "Drawdown" refers to the depletion of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

Project Drawdown recognizes three paths to successful drawdown: efficiency and resource productivity; replacing existing energy sources with low carbon renewable energy; and bio-sequestering carbon dioxide through innovative farming, grazing and reforestation practices.

## P.S. ARTS

P.S. ARTS is dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing arts education to underserved public schools and communities. P.S. ARTS is the only organization in Southern and Central California that provides yearlong arts education in dance, music, theater and visual arts to every child in a school during the regular school day. P.S. ARTS also coordinates with school administrators and parent groups to provide community outreach services designed to increase the community's capacity to advocate for educational equity and to provide critical cultural experiences for the entire family.



# Giving in 2015 (continued)

## The Smile Train

The Smile Train is the largest charity providing free corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates, treating hundreds of thousands of poor children in developing countries.

## St. Monica Catholic Church

St. Monica Catholic Church, originally named Saint Monica Parish, was established in 1886 when Santa Monica was still an unincorporated part of Los Angeles County and of Ballona Township. Both the city and the church were named for Saint Monica who is remembered for her virtues. St. Monica Catholic Church is dedicated to serving the local and international community. Outreach efforts include helping the homeless, ministry to the incarcerated, sponsoring Habitat for Humanity projects, and supporting the El Hogar orphanage in Mexico.

## United Friends of the Children

United Friends of the Children (UFC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering current and former foster youth on their journey to self-sufficiency through service-enriched education and housing programs, advocacy, and relationships with a community of people who care. By building relationships with youth over an extended period, UFC's programs focus on commitment and consistency.

## The United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund is a United Nations program headquartered in New York City that provides long-term humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.

## University of British Columbia

Dr. Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia. Her current research focuses on the conservation of the cultural and ecological legacies of iconic trees and has helped pioneer the concept of "Mother Trees," those individuals that govern and nurture forest systems. She is currently exploring intervention that can support forest renewal and resilience in a changing climate.



Dr. Suzanne Simard



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