Year In Review
2019
Dear Friend,

It has been a successful year for us at the San Jose Police Foundation, and we owe it to you.

In the pages that follow, you will read about our efforts to strengthen ties between police officers and the community members they serve, through education, outreach and community building events.

We sent another incredible student to the college of her dreams this fall with our Chief’s Scholarship Program.

And we provided critical grants to the San Jose Police Department for supplies and equipment that will make them better equipped to serve our wonderful city.

None of this would have been possible without the loyal support of donors like you.

We have several important initiatives on the horizon, including the launch of a public membership program next year, and the Major Awards Ceremony in June 2020, an inspiring event to honor hardworking officers for their heroic acts.

Thank you for investing in the San Jose Police Foundation. You are making San Jose healthier and stronger, and an even better place to live and work.

With gratitude,

Rob Fisher
President

Kate Levin
Executive Director
Building a Strong Community

In 2018, the San Jose Police Department launched a unique initiative aimed at deepening ties between police officers and residents.

The program, titled, “Working Together for Stronger Communities,” brought officers together with nearly 1,000 San Jose residents for candid and informal conversations.

A series of meetings were held in 2018 and 2019, during which attendees were asked questions about their perceptions of police and feelings of safety in their neighborhood, among other things.

Participants responded to the questions anonymously using texting technology. The goal was to ensure that people felt comfortable answering questions honestly.

“The San Jose Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Eddie Garcia, has made a point of adopting progressive programs aimed at building ties between officers and residents,” said Kate Levin, executive director of the San Jose Police Foundation.

“The Foundation was happy to partner with the department on this project because studies continue to show that communities are made safer when residents know and have a relationship with the officers’ patrolling their neighborhoods,” Levin added.

San Jose residents met and talked candidly with police during a community meeting.
From San Jose to Dartmouth: This Year’s Chief’s Scholarship Award Winner

Evergreen Valley High School Graduate Worked Two Jobs, Defied Odds to Make Her Dream a Reality

This fall, the Foundation awarded a $5,000 scholarship to Vi Tran, a graduate of Evergreen Valley High School who is studying computer science at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, New Hampshire.

"Vi is a remarkable young woman who defied tremendous odds to earn acceptance to one of the most prestigious colleges in the nation," said San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia. "Not only does Vi work two jobs to help support herself and her mother, she gives back to her community and has earned straight As throughout her high school career."

Vi, 18, emigrated from Vietnam to the United States when she was 12 to be with her mother who had left Vietnam six years earlier in search of a better life for her and her daughter.

Six years old and without any family, Vi was forced to be independent and responsible for her own future. Even at a young age, she recognized the value of education and always strived to be the best student in her class.

At age 10, Vi began working with an online company to sell prints in order to help her ease the financial burdens facing her mother, who sounded increasingly exhausted during her nightly calls back to Vietnam.

"Throughout this experience, I never neglected my education," Vi wrote in her scholarship application. "I knew education was the only escape from poverty for both my mother and me."

Upon arriving in the United States in 2012, Vi dedicated herself to learning English, and having mastered the language within two years, decided to tutor others.

As a student at Evergreen Valley High School, Vi founded the "Chance to Restart Club" to help alleviate homelessness and aid underprivileged members of the community. She also participated in the Wall Street Club and the Robotics Club, held two part-time jobs, and trained and competed in her local badminton league.

"Despite the hardships and obstacles she faced throughout her childhood, Vi has risen to the top," said Rob Fisher, president of the San Jose Police Foundation Board of Directors. "Her resilience and grit coupled with her compassion for others and outstanding academic record make her more than worthy of this scholarship award."

The San Jose Police Foundation and San Jose Police Department in 2018 established the San Jose Police Chief's Scholarship Program to assist qualified San Jose students in their pursuit of higher education.

The program provides a $5,000 annual scholarship to one graduating senior from a San Jose high school to attend a four-year college or university. Pending performance—measured by academic achievement and good character—the student will receive $5,000 toward their college or university tuition and/or books for four years, for a total of $20,000.
Preventing Gun Violence

Gun Buyback Event

Gun buyback events are common throughout the United States, catering to gun owners who no longer want their guns and need an opportunity to safely dispose of them.

When a person voluntarily gives up a gun, they ensure that gun cannot be stolen and used in a crime or become accessible to someone with suicidal thoughts.

Last December, the San Jose Police Foundation supported and helped coordinate the department’s Gun Buyback event, which resulted in the collection of more than 120 handguns, 145 long guns and 20 assault weapons.

Nearly $100,000 was raised for the event from a number of major donors, including the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles and the Heising-Simons Foundation.

During the event, the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles handed out handmade quilts to anyone who turned over a gun.

Gun Seizure Awards Ceremony

The San Jose Police Foundation supports police efforts to confiscate guns from criminals, particularly those that were stolen or used in a crime.

On February 7, 2019, the Foundation sponsored the charter Gun Seizure Awards Ceremony, to recognize officers who had confiscated more than three guns over a one-year period.

More than two dozen officers were honored during the event, which was held at the department’s South San Jose substation, attended by nearly 100 people, and featured a speaking program that included District Attorney Jeff Rosen and Chief of Police Eddie Garcia.

Honorees pose for a group photo during the 2019 Gun Seizure Awards.
A Cause for K9s

We are always grateful to the two-legged officers who serve and protect, but did you know there is a brave group of four-legged officers who also deserve our thanks?

That is why the Foundation raises funds to support the police department’s K-9 unit. In recent years we have provided everything from collars, leashes and bowls to life-saving bulletproof vests for the dogs.

One local group, the Italian Men’s Club, has been an especially loyal supporter of the K-9 Unit.

Every Monday evening, the Italian Men’s Club hosts bingo at the Elks Lodge (444 West Alma Avenue, San Jose). All funds raised from bingo games are donated to local charities.

In the past year, we have received more than $10,000 in gifts from the Italian Men’s Club, and so have many other Silicon Valley causes.

In November, the group received the Outstanding Philanthropic Organization from the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Silicon Valley Chapter.

Interested in playing bingo for a good cause? Visit www.italianmensclub.org to learn more.

Grant Spotlight: Making Work Safer for Motorcycle Officers

On an annual basis, the Foundation awards public safety grants to the police department based on a program’s alignment with our mission and the availability of funding.

In 2019, the Foundation provided more than $40,000 in grants for the purchase of supplies and equipment.

One of those gifts enabled the purchase of custom-made boots and protective pants for existing officers in the department’s motorcycle unit.

“We are grateful to the Foundation for supplying us with much-needed uniform enhancements,’ said Sgt. Greg Connolly. “Already the new equipment is having a profound impact on our comfort level and our ability to do our jobs well.”

Until recently, officers were issued boots not designed for motorcycle use. They were also inflexible, making it difficult for officers to perform regular duties such as standing for long periods or engaging in a foot chase. The new boots are custom designed for each officer, and specially made for law enforcement.

In addition, the Foundation replaced the motor unit’s standard non-stretch wool pants with Kevlar pants, which are heat-resistant, made of strong synthetic fiber, and waterproof.

In the future, new motorcycle officers will be issued this equipment by the department.

The Foundation reviews grant requests from the department on an as-needed basis. Our current funding priorities are: equipment and technology; advanced training and education; community relations and outreach; youth engagement; and emergency preparedness and counterterrorism.

Officers from the motorcycle unit, wearing their new uniforms, gathered recently for a holiday event for children who have been diagnosed with terminal cancer.
Expanding Corporate Partnerships

Security Officers’ Roundtable

The Foundation enjoys strong ties to several area corporations and works to bring police and corporate leaders together to learn from one another.

On October 9, we invited corporate security officers from select companies for an exchange with Chief of Police Eddie Garcia and senior officials from the San Jose Police Department on the challenges of predicting and preventing workplace violence.

Attendees learned what they can do to spot red flags and address threats to employee safety. They also heard how the San Jose Police Department handles threats to corporate employees locally.

The event was attended by representatives from more than a dozen major Silicon Valley companies.

KPMG Teams Up with SJPD to Protect Seniors

Financial abuse of seniors is a growing problem in the United States. It is estimated that 1 in 3 seniors will be affected by financial abuse over any five-year period.

In an effort to curb this trend locally, representatives from KPMG and the San Jose Police Department, with support from the Foundation, teamed up in May to educate residents on the dangers of financial exploitation.

Seniors are at a higher risk of being defrauded than the general population for a number of reasons, including because they are usually dependent on others for help, may be impaired mentally or physically, or simply don’t understand advances in technology that have made personal financial management more complicated.

“It was incredibly gratifying to bring together our team of financial experts with officers who are charged with protecting residents from financial crimes,” said Guido van Drunen, who heads KPMG’s forensic accounting department and is a member of the Foundation’s board. “The best thing we can do to prevent vulnerable people in our community from being taken advantage of is to educate and empower them. That is truly gratifying work.”
In the Community

Un Poco Más
The San Jose Police Foundation is proud to invest in Un Poco Más, an initiative of the San Jose Police Department aimed at deepening ties between police officers and low-income community members. In September, officers took fourth- and fifth-grade students from Arbuckle Elementary School to the Santa Cruz Mountains for overnight camp. For many of the children, this was their first time leaving San Jose.

Shop with a Cop
The Foundation was happy to support the Shop with a Cop Foundation this December with a donation that provided 10 children the opportunity to go on a holiday shopping spree with a member of the San Jose Police Department.
Thank you to the following organizations that have advanced our mission in 2018–2019 to enhance quality of life, promote public safety and strengthen police-community relations.

Axon
Bellarmine College Prep
Blach Construction
Brandenburg Family Foundation
California Bank of Commerce
DealerCMO
DoubleTree by Hilton
Earthquakes
Heising-Simons Foundation
Italian Men’s Club
KPMG
PayPal
San Francisco 49ers
San Jose Sharks
Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office
Securetech Fence Systems
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Sonitrol
Target
Team San Jose

We are grateful to the following individuals for their support.

Gregg Adam
Adonna Amoroso
Craig Blank
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco
Sung Choi
Yong Hee Choi
Carrie Chung
Gregory Connolly
Supervisor Dave Cortese
Greg Crader
Councilmember Dev Davis
Joseph Dilger
Rob Fisher
Johnny Gogo
Carlos Fernando Escobar Gomez
Xichun Guo
Ron Herardian
Jay Higgins
Sondra Hornsey
Paras Jha
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez
Councilmember Chappie Jones
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Kyu Young Kim
Karolyn Kirchgesler
Amy Lambert
Phong Le
Deborah Ledesma
Linda Lester
Kate Levin
Myron Levin
Mayor Sam Liccardo
Kim Maialetti
Tracey Mastopolo
Cecilia McDaniel
Lesley Miramontes
Sean O’Kane
John O’Loughlin
Michael Ogilvie
Myeong Oh
Anthony Ortega
Mary K. Pierce-Cabigon
Duc Quach
Tamiko Rast
Alan Rennninger
Kelly Rhine
Kathy Rosendin
Manuel Sarmento
Sue Ann Schiff
Scott Seaman
Kevin Smith
Richard Sugimoto
Aditya Sundar
Frank Swarngin
Dorothy Taylor
Raymond Triplett
Hien Truong
Peggy Vallecilla
Guido van Drunen
Lawrence Visnick
Nicolas Waldmann
Wendi Wang
Karen Ward
Lynne Warner
Thomas Wheatley

Thank you to the following in-kind donors.

California Bank of Commerce
Hilton San Jose
Holiday Inn San Jose
Hotel Valencia
PwC
Team San Jose

DONORS

Thank you to the following organizations that have advanced our mission in 2018–2019 to enhance quality of life, promote public safety and strengthen police-community relations.

Axon
Bellarmine College Prep
Blach Construction
Brandenburg Family Foundation
California Bank of Commerce
DealerCMO
DoubleTree by Hilton
Earthquakes
Heising-Simons Foundation
Italian Men’s Club
KPMG
PayPal
San Francisco 49ers
San Jose Sharks
Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office
Securetech Fence Systems
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Sonitrol
Target
Team San Jose

We are grateful to the following individuals for their support.

Gregg Adam
Adonna Amoroso
Craig Blank
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco
Sung Choi
Yong Hee Choi
Carrie Chung
Gregory Connolly
Supervisor Dave Cortese
Greg Crader
Councilmember Dev Davis
Joseph Dilger
Rob Fisher
Johnny Gogo
Carlos Fernando Escobar Gomez
Xichun Guo
Ron Herardian
Jay Higgins
Sondra Hornsey
Paras Jha
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez
Councilmember Chappie Jones
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Kyu Young Kim
Karolyn Kirchgesler
Amy Lambert
Phong Le
Deborah Ledesma
Linda Lester
Kate Levin
Myron Levin
Mayor Sam Liccardo
Kim Maialetti
Tracey Mastopolo
Cecilia McDaniel
Lesley Miramontes
Sean O’Kane
John O’Loughlin
Michael Ogilvie
Myeong Oh
Anthony Ortega
Mary K. Pierce-Cabigon
Duc Quach
Tamiko Rast
Alan Rennninger
Kelly Rhine
Kathy Rosendin
Manuel Sarmento
Sue Ann Schiff
Scott Seaman
Kevin Smith
Richard Sugimoto
Aditya Sundar
Frank Swarngin
Dorothy Taylor
Raymond Triplett
Hien Truong
Peggy Vallecilla
Guido van Drunen
Lawrence Visnick
Nicolas Waldmann
Wendi Wang
Karen Ward
Lynne Warner
Thomas Wheatley

Thank you to the following in-kind donors.

California Bank of Commerce
Hilton San Jose
Holiday Inn San Jose
Hotel Valencia
PwC
Team San Jose

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Rob Fisher, President of Partner & U.S. Technology M&A Services Leader, PwC
Vice President, Karolyn Kirchgesler, CEO, Team San Jose
Secretary, David Lake, Valley Fair Store Manager, Apple
Treasurer, Bill del Biaggio, Managing Director, California Bank of Commerce
Dan Bozzuto, President and CEO, Bozzuto & Associates Insurance Services
Guido van Drunen, Principal of Forensic Investigation Practice, KPMG
Tracey Enfantino, General Manager, Environmental Systems, Inc.
Paul Matthews, Bay Area Assets Protection Director, Target Corporation
David Murray, Senior Director Global Safety & Security, PayPal
Sean O’Kane, Marketing Director of Cadence Design Systems
Anthony Ortega, President, Securetech Fence Systems
Duc Quach, Cofounder, Liquid Equity Partners
Scott Seaman, Law Enforcement Executive Coach, Ret. Chief of Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department

SUPPORT TEAM

Lieutenant Todd Trayer, SJ Police Department Liaison
Officer Anthony Kilmer, SJ Police Officer’s Association Liaison
Kate Levin, Executive Director

Stay tuned for updates on the San Jose Police Foundation’s new membership program, set to launch early next year! Charter members will receive a number of exciting exclusive benefits in thanks for their support.

To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.sanjosepolicefoundation.org/support. Checks may be made payable to San Jose Police Foundation and mailed to: 101 West Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113.