



2019 Annual Report

A letter from the Executive Director and Board President

Dear Friends,

Looking back on the first six months of 2020 we can all agree that it has been a year like no other for the Youth Ag and Leadership Foundation. 2019, was filled with promise as we continued to advance our mission of empowering and supporting youth agricultural education and leadership development in Sonoma County. We introduced three new scholarships, increasing our total awarded to seniors pursuing degrees in agriculture to a record level. The Youth Center in Rohnert Park was filled almost nightly, as more 4-H groups met and taught the value of agriculture and leadership development to young 4-Hers from all over the county. Our project grant program continued to see thousands of dollars of requests, prompting us to look at expanding funding in the future!

At the beginning of 2020 we announced that the Foundation was going to expand our services and offer a speaker series that would highlight career opportunities and industry connections in agriculture. In February, we hosted our first scholarship information night with five other local organizations. Followed the next day by our first of four planned speaker events. Students enjoyed an open panel with several industry leaders in Sonoma County followed by a more intimate break out session in careers of their interest. The event wrapped up with the closing session led by Sonoma County Farm Bureau Executive Director, Tawny Tesconi.

2020 hasn't been the year we all imagined. For the first time in 15 years we will not be able to host our annual BBQ fundraiser. While this is disappointing and a hit to our organization, we

2019 Club Project Grants

12 Grants Awarded to **11**
Club Projects totalling

\$4,993.99



Two Rock 4-H Sewing Project



know there is value in our mission and we will continue to provide support to Sonoma County youth. We are working on putting together a week long virtual auction that will kick off on Saturday, August 22, 2020 with a live virtual preview party. Our fundraising effort will conclude with a live virtual event on August 29, 2020. The details for this event are still in the works, so to stay up to date, please make sure you are following us on Facebook and Instagram.

These are unprecedented times and more than ever we need to support agriculture education programs for the next generation of farmers, ranchers and agriculture service providers. We look forward to working with you to bring back agriculture programs, scholarships and a place to meet back to our community. If you would like to support us today, please visit our website at www.YouthAgLeadershipofSoCo.org to make your tax deductible donation. Thank you for all you do to support the Foundation!

Sincerely,
Adrienne Uboldi - Board President
Felicia Rush Lukins - Executive Director

Independence 4-H Archery



Two Rock 4-H Leathercraft

Youth Center

235 Club and Project

Meetings were held at the Center in
2019



"Cash for College" Scholarship Information Night



The Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation held their very first "Cash For College Scholarship Information Night" in February. This was a well attended evening by local high school students and parents learning about local scholarship opportunities by local Sonoma County organizations. We had representation by local Sonoma County organizations such as 10,000 Degrees, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Sonoma Marin Fair, Sonoma County 4-H CCC Council and Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation. The evening began with an introduction and welcoming of all participants followed by testimonials from Wilson Kiff and Gianna Pendleton, who are scholarship recipients of these local organizations. They

shared with students and parents their backgrounds and how each of the scholarships have helped them in their college experience. The evening was then opened up allowing students and parents to circulate around to each table to learn and obtain scholarship information. The evening ended with the students walking away with valuable information from each of the local organizations to help them in their college applications.

2020 Scholarship Recipients



Laura Anderson

Scholarship: \$1000
Dr. Fred Groverman

University: Cal Poly

Major: Animal
Science



Audrey Arntz

Scholarship: \$2500
Saralee Community
Service

University: Cal Poly

Major: Ag.
Communications



**Connor
Browning**

Scholarship: \$1000
American AgCredit

University:
Undecided

Major: Ag. Business

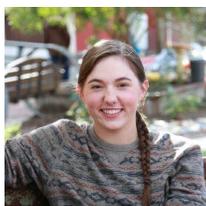


Skyler Christie

Scholarship: \$1000
American AgCredit

University: Cal Poly

Major: Ag.
Communications



Emily Eck

Scholarship: \$1000
Dr. Fred Groverman

University:
University of
Wyoming

Major: Animal
Science &
Microbiology

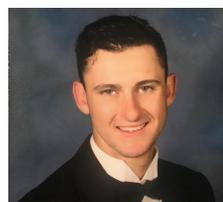


Ben Forney

Scholarship: \$2500
Dempel/Johnson

University: UC
Davis

Major: Managerial
Economics



**Travis
Franceschi**



**Gabriella
Gathman**



**Caroline
Hampton**

Scholarship: \$1000
Joe DiGrazia

University:
University of
Wyoming

Major: Engineering



Melanie Hanlon

Scholarship: \$1000
American AgCredit

University: Oregon
State

Major: Food Science
& Technology



Austin Manners

Scholarship: \$1000
Joe DiGrazia

University: Connors
State College

Major: Animal
Nutrition &
Reproduction



Amy Rodgers

Scholarship: \$1000

Scholarship: \$1000
YAL Foundation

University: Santa
Rosa Junior College

Major: Nursing



Meghan Hill

Scholarship: \$1500
YAL Foundation

University:
University of
Southern California

Major: Public Policy



Grace Nonella

Scholarship: \$1000
Jim Groom Memorial

University: Cal Poly

Major: Ag. Business



Cole Schafer

Scholarship: \$2500

Scholarship: \$1000
YAL Foundation

University: Santa
Rosa Junior College

Major: Psychology



Sarah Kiser

Scholarship: \$1000
Men's Garden Club

University:
Montana State

Major: Ag. Business



Sam Norgrove

Scholarship: \$1000
Men's Garden Club

University: Oregon
State

Major: Ag. Business



Ariel Scholten

Scholarship: \$1000

YAL Foundation

Beverly C. Wilson

Jim Groom Memorial

University: Grand Canyon University

University: Iowa State

University: Oklahoma State

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Ag. Engineering

Major: Ag. Communications & Ag. Business



Ethan Wesselkamper

Nicole Spaletta

Rachel Spaletta

Scholarship: \$1500
YAL Foundation

Scholarship: \$1000
YAL Foundation

Scholarship: \$1000
YAL Foundation

University: Emory University

University: Cal Poly

University: Cal Poly

Major: English

Major: Journalism

Major: Modesto Junior College



Shantel Shaw

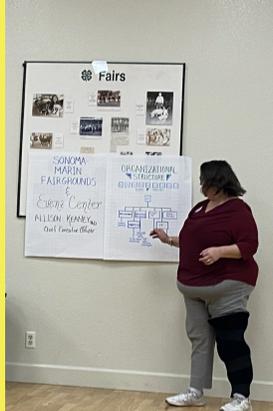
Scholarship:
\$20,000 Saralee McClelland Kunde

University: Santa Rosa Junior College

Major: Viticulture & Ag. Business

Saralee McClelland Kunde & Richard Kunde Scholarships

These two scholarships were created in 2019 from the generous trust left behind by Richard and Saralee Kunde. Each year first time college freshmen can apply for either of these \$20,000 scholarships. Winners of these scholarships will then receive \$2,500 twice a year to support their college dreams. Saralee and Richard were passionate about Sonoma County agriculture and always supported our youth. We are grateful to have these two scholarships to



Career Success Workshop

Our first ever speaker event took place in February of this year. Our focus was on careers in Sonoma County and we invited 10 individuals to come share their life experiences that took them to their current career path. The day began with several of the speakers sitting down for a panel discussion guided by Foundation director Fred Frey. Topics in the discussion included questions about schooling, personal background, greatest achievements and much more. Students were able to ask their own questions as well. At the conclusion of the panel, students split into three separate workshops led by one of the presenters. The students rotated three times, getting to hear from three different presenters about the keys to success in their career path. At the conclusion of the day, Farm Bureau Executive Director, Tawny Tesconi, led a closing session with the group reflecting on the day as well as looking at the future job market of Sonoma County Agriculture. The event was the first of what was planned to be a four part series. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Foundation had planned to host three more speaker days, with our next one focusing on careers in the trades. We hope to continue our plans for these events in the near future! We would like to thank our sponsors for supporting this event: Exchange Bank, Vino Farms, Rochioli Vineyards, The Heck Foundation, Terry Lindley, Organic Valley and Redwood Hill Creamery.

Virtual Auction & Wine Sale Fundraiser

Preview Party - August 22nd, 2020

Ending Auction - August 29th, 2020

Stay tuned for more information!



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Connect with us

