

# Coastal Community Foundation

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## WHAT'S NEW • SPRING 2016

### Memorial Funds

#### The Leigh O. Cortez Educational Leader Scholarship Fund

Leigh Elizabeth Otey loved her kindergarten teacher so much that she knew her calling was to teach. She got to work quickly, becoming an elementary school bus driver at 16 years old.

Her enthusiasm took her to Europe where she taught during a semester abroad. Early childhood education was her focus and Leigh Cortez earned her Master's Degree in the subject from Long Beach State.

She taught in the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southern California and Hawaii in schools as diverse as the Department of Defense and Punahou School. Her experience with children from many social and economic backgrounds motivated her to instill a sense of empathy and understanding for others in her students. This went beyond any formal curriculum and led parents to line up on registration day to ensure Leigh would teach their children.



*Mrs. Cortez with one of her kindergarten classes at Olivenhain Pioneer*

She was a mother of two and a Marine Corps wife who played a significant role with her husband, Chris, achieving the rank of Major General.

The Leigh O. Cortez Educational Leader Scholarship Fund honors her legacy and enables working teachers to earn their Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education or a related discipline.

Donations may be made by check payable to Coastal Community Foundation with the designated fund name in the memo line and mailed to CCF, 162 S. Rancho Santa Rd. Suite F50, Encinitas, CA 92024, or online at [www.coastalfoundation.org/donate](http://www.coastalfoundation.org/donate)

#### The Neal McNeil III Memorial Fund

Neal McNeil III was extremely passionate about investing and helping people prepare for a secure financial future. After he passed away in February, McNeil's family, friends, and colleagues wanted to honor him by making a difference in the lives of students, specifically those pursuing a degree in finance. Established by Stratos Wealth Partners and Ibis Capital, McNeil's former employers, the Neal McNeil III Memorial Fund provides resources for scholarships, workshops, and other educational programs. A matching grant has been offered for up to \$10,000 and McNeil's family, friends, and colleagues hope to substantially exceed that figure.



*Neal McNeil III at the 2015 Morningstar ETF conference in Chicago*

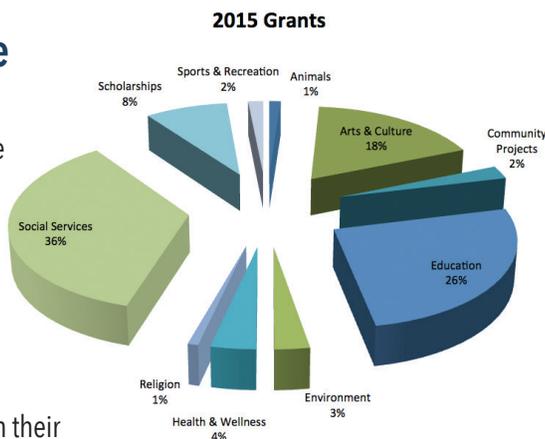
#### A Personal Approach To Giving: Donor Advised Funds

Establishing a donor advised fund allows you to make a gift to your community foundation, then remain actively involved in suggesting uses for your gift. Coastal Community Foundation sets up a special fund in your name or a name you choose. You receive the tax benefits in the year your gift is made. Then, you recommend grants from the fund to support the causes and organizations you care about the most. If you prefer, your grants can be anonymous. The foundation handles all of the administrative details.

For more information, contact the CCF executive director at (760) 942-9245.

## Grants Making A Difference

During 2015, grants were awarded to 102 nonprofit organizations. Scholarships were provided for 24 students from North Coastal schools. "Our donor advisors, who recommend grants for causes important to them, have expanded the Foundation's grantmaking" stated President Alice Jacobson. "These local residents are truly making an impact in people's lives through their grants to a wide variety of nonprofits locally, regionally and nationally."



## Hand To Hand: Promoting Positive Change In The Lives Of Women And Girls

In late January, guests at the seventh annual Hand to Hand grant ceremony learned how the programs which received a grant have personally impacted women and girls in the County:

**Just in Time for Foster Youth:** \$10,000 for Financial Horizons program that provides young girls who have aged out of the foster care system in North County with education and mentors to develop a sound financial foundation.

**Boys & Girls Club of Vista:** \$3,500 for SMART Girls program which equips young girls with problem solving skills, and health/ fitness education.

**Girls on the Run:** \$3,000 to expand the program for girls in grades 3-8 from low-income families with the tools to embrace their individual strengths and successfully navigate life's experiences.



Hand to Hand members Pauline Lessman, Betsy Jacobson and Karen Austin



Girls Rising executive director Nicole Hmielewski, Nicole Anderson and Wendy Gibbons of Girls Rising, and Hand to Hand member Robyn Sirota

**Girls Rising:** \$3,000 for educational events for at-risk girls to build life skills and self-esteem and a fun activity which exposes them to new experiences.

**Mana de San Diego:** \$5,000 for the Hermanitas Youth Leadership Mentorship which offers one-on-one mentoring to at-risk high school age Latinas to elevate their potential and create strong, capable young leaders in the community.

**Casa Cornelia Law Center:** \$10,000 for the domestic violence program which assists legally eligible women secure employment authorization, escape abuse, and live self-sufficient lives.

To see more pictures from the event, visit "news" on [www.coastalfoundation.org](http://www.coastalfoundation.org).

## Coastal Community Foundation

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### Our Mission

The mission of Coastal Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in the North Coastal area by directing philanthropic efforts toward community needs.

Thank you to our newsletter sponsors

**Matthew Semmer**  
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