



Creating Change Beyond Charity

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND TODAY



Justice and equality can only be achieved by people working together in the belief that everyone has the right to live a healthy, satisfying life in a safe community. If you share this vision, join us—the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County (SJF).



The Social Justice Fund partners with local groups that mobilize their communities to create lasting positive change. Discussing community concerns, they establish priorities, encourage leadership and develop campaigns to address the challenges they face-- whether to improve the public transportation low- income families depend on, or to open doors to higher education and economic success, or to expose the sickening effects of a nearby chemical waste site.

SJF works as a community, too. A team of donors and supporters examine the grant applications we receive. After meeting with project leaders our grant makers decide which projects to fund. In addition to providing financial support to specific groups SJF offers all members of the larger Ventura County justice community workshops and trainings to advance their campaigns and opportunities to network and collaborate. To promote awareness of key economic, social, and environmental issues in our county, SJF organizes panels and other public presentations.

SJF accelerates and expands the work of social change by weaving together a powerful network that supports fairness and justice for everyone.

IN OUR EIGHT YEARS OF GRANT MAKING SJF HAS INVESTED OVER \$354,000 IN 18 ORGANIZATIONS IN VENTURA COUNTY.

RESULTS IN 2013



During the last two years, we have created a new generation of leaders by focusing our funding on projects initiated and directed by youth.

In 2013 SJF gave almost \$60,000 to six organizations.

Change happens synergistically, starting with individuals who have found their voices, extending through organizations that are building or strengthening whole communities. Because this benefits everyone in ways that cannot be measured, the results listed below are only brief highlights of what our investments have achieved.



Ventura County Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (VC-CLUE)

- Added at least 235 new members to the Dreamers Without Borders network of young undocumented immigrants and trained 6 new leaders
- Sent a team of Dreamer Ambassadors to 7 Southern CA universities to learn about and share their findings about academic offerings, admission procedures, financial aid and resources for first generation immigrants
- Trained 38 counselors from the nine-school Oxnard Union High School District, advancing the establishment of Safe Zones for undocumented students where they are guided toward higher education, find community and gain access to important resources
- Participated in rallies and marches for comprehensive immigration reform, volunteered for voter phone banking and assisted with immigrant community presentations



Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

- Organized bus riders in Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru to advocate that local government authorities improve bus service, pedestrian safety, and prevent car confiscations
- Established issue-based transportation committees in Santa Paula, South Oxnard and at two affordable housing properties in Oxnard
- Trained more than 40 new leaders for Ventura County Bus Riders Union (VRBU) meetings, which were co-facilitated by the Alliance for Sustainable and Equitable Regional Transportation (ASERT) and Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)
- Gained the support of the Santa Paula City Council and their public works department to improve safety at key crosswalks used by many parents and children on their way to school
- Won an entirely new bus route for Oxnard and Ventura (Gold Coast Route 21) including weekend service

One Step a la Vez

- *Won improvements in Santa Clara Valley public transit including bigger buses, fixed routes, and better access to government services in Oxnard—all to be implemented by VC Transportation Commission in 2015*
- *Completed door-to-door health survey of families living near the Chevron toxic waste site, and organized a public forum and press conference to share physician-evaluated results. Collaborated with the VC Health Department in writing a grant to fund a scientific assessment of health risks associated with future use of the toxic site*
- *Demanded Spanish interpretation at Fillmore Unified School District's school-related meetings so parents in this 80% Latin community can be involved in their youth's education*
- *Engaged in ongoing dialog with the Sheriff's Department about alternatives to citation and incarceration for youth, including Restorative Justice Approaches*



El Centrito Family Learning Centers

- *Educated 218 Latino parents in Oxnard about how to help their children's succeed in school and the steps to higher education*
- *37 parents completed a three-day training in the Padres Promotores de la Educacion program, which links parents to school services and delivers information about higher education*
- *Expanded the Padres Promotores community through extensive home visits with hundreds of families and larger community meetings*
- *Helped parents gain the right to have Promotores workshops in their school by obtaining Memorandum of Understanding from the District*
- *23 parents and 25 high school students attended Scholarship Night where Promotores provided information about the value of a college education and ways of financing it for Spanish-speaking families*

Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)

- Presented the Tequilo Youth Project's anti-bullying campaign, "No Me Llames Oaxaquita" to more than 500 young people throughout the County
- Expanded membership for the central Tequilo team and Tequilo clubs at Rio Mesa High School, Hueneme High School and established a new Tequilo group at Rio del Valle Middle School
- Won passage of a Resolution for Respect of Indigenous Peoples from the Hueneme School Board. Still campaigning for the same resolution for the Oxnard Union High School District
- Engaged young volunteers in teaching Mixteco-speaking adults to read and write
- Petitioned the Oxnard Union High School District and won a much-needed second school bus to be added to the route



Central Coast Alliance United for Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)

- Built a strong community of Ventura Avenue Residents to fight for a public park in an underserved area and participate other important local decisions
- Educated more than 100 residents in the basics of community organizing
- Trained 10 core leaders to recruit new members and raise funds
- Engaged 7 youth to alert residents to coming area changes and conduct a survey to determine their neighbors' concerns
- Created the City of Ventura's first community-driven Affordable Housing Alliance, engaged in continuing campaigns

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND FOR VENTURA COUNTY 2013-2014 GRANTS



TOTAL FUNDING = \$40,000
TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS = 5

The Abundant Table - Awarded \$7,000 (youth)

Project: "Rooted Futures: Growing Change"

To re-engage the decision makers of the Santa Paula Unified School District (SPUSD) to ensure previous agreements for healthy food in the schools

The Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) -

Awarded = \$7,000

Project: "Ventura Avenue United Leadership Team"

To create the City of Ventura's first community driven Affordable Housing Alliance

Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project

Awarded = \$9,000 (youth)

Project: "Fields to College"

To reduce barriers that block children of farmworkers from graduating high school or attending college

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation

Awarded = \$8,000 (youth)

Project: "One Tribe Anti-bullying"

To ensure Spanish-speaking, low income, immigrant youth and parents voices are included as anti-bullying policies and programs are developed by the schools, and as mandated by California legislation

One Step A La Vez - Awarded = \$9,000 (youth)

Project "The Next Step"

To assess health effects and clean-up of the Chevron Toxic Waste Site, and to advocate for improved transportation for residents of the Santa Clara Valley.

To reduce the number of incarcerated youth and to develop improved relationships within the community and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department



Creating Community in 2013



- *The Social Justice Fund for Ventura County took approximately 85 people on two bus tours to learn about the roots of the migrant farmworker program and social justice issues faced by today's immigrants seeking permanent status.*
- *Around 25 participants attended a training called "Using Council for Social Change". Social Justice Fund supporters have learned how to incorporate Council as a tool to facilitate communication within their organizations.*
- *SJF launched Comm-ON VC, an on-line community forum created for local social justice activists, supporters and organizations to facilitate interactions.*
- *SJF co-sponsored a series of workshops on "Language Justice" to help leaders understand best practices for creating respectful and inclusive multilingual/multicultural events.*
- *A "Social Justice in Education Conference" was co-sponsored by SJF at California State University, Channel Islands campus.*





Support our campaigns for fairness and justice with a donation of any amount. Consider these costs and give as generously as you can!

- *\$26 = One hour of pay with benefits for a Community Outreach Worker*
- *\$50 = Snacks for 25 people at a community meeting to discuss their concerns*
- *\$75 = 2 hours of care for between 5 and 10 children, so young parents can participate*
- *\$150 - \$300 = A rented van to transport neighbors to and from a meeting with elected officials*
- *\$500 = Professional interpreters for a City Council meeting*
- *\$1,400 = One year of cell phone use for a community organizer*
- *\$2,000 = One year's rental of a meeting space for bi-weekly meetings*
- *\$3,000 = Bringing 20-30 community members to a City Council meeting (includes one month of Organizer time, research on the issue at hand, about 150 phone calls, identifying speakers, transportation to and from the meeting)*
- *\$15,000 = Cost of a community forum, including 2 months of organizing, renting chairs and a sound system,*
- *\$20,000 = Cost of Creating a two-day neighborhood gathering for about 60 leaders from various local projects to learn about each others campaigns, develop a campaign analysis, plans, and follow-up; evaluate their effectiveness, assess next steps, and prepare to move forward. Includes 3 meals per day for all participants and materials.*

**JOIN US! BE A CHANGE
MAKER!**

**YOU CAN DO THIS IN MANY
WAYS.**

Let us know the skills and interests you'd like to share, and the time you have to work with us so we can match you with a project you'll enjoy.

Here are some samples of the interests and abilities we need:



- ***Knows how to adapt and update websites***
- ***Enjoys tracking social media***
- ***Willing to help research a local justice issue***
- ***Occasionally available for stuffing envelopes***
- ***Willing to help organize an event***

- ***Can write personal thank you notes to donors***
- ***Interested in hosting a gathering with an SJF presentation***
- ***Likes to write, edit and/or proofread***
- ***Is an engaging public speaker***
- ***Willing to coordinate a small team of volunteers***

Become better informed about local justice issues by joining our grant makers. Read and discuss the details of grant applications, meet the leaders and decide which organizations and projects SJF will fund. Every interested donor and volunteer can participate.

Learn about the challenges Ventura County residents face everyday. Sign up for email news and alerts about educational events, such as our informative bus tours.



4001 Mission Oaks Blvd
Camarillo, CA 93012
805.983.4849

info@socialjusticefundvc.org

VOLUNTEER WITH US