

THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 2004

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has been making grants since 1966 to help solve social and environmental problems at home and around the world.

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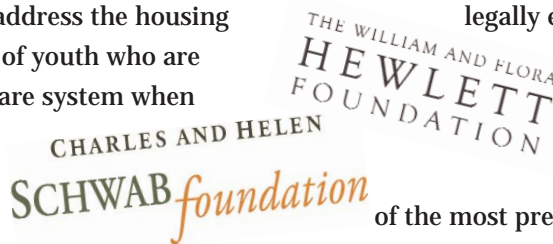
Hewlett and Schwab Foundations Team Up to Help Foster Care Youth

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation have launched a two-year, \$1.35 million initiative to address the housing and support service needs of youth who are forced to leave the foster care system when they turn eighteen. The project is designed to assist more than 650 youth who 'age out' of foster care in Alameda, San Francisco, and Santa Clara counties each year.

"We think this collaboration has tremendous potential to improve outcomes for foster youth in the Bay Area," said Hewlett Foundation president

Paul Brest. "We invite any interested funders to join our partnership."

When foster children turn 18, they are no longer legally eligible for assistance through the foster care program. The partnership between the Hewlett and Schwab Foundations will address some of the most pressing issues facing newly emancipated foster youth, including housing, education, career development, and financial management. The project will bring together foster youth service providers, nonprofit housing providers, governmental agencies and others, to increase the availability of housing and supportive services for youth in



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State of California Agrees to Settle Williams Lawsuit

The state of California has agreed to settle *Williams v. California*, a class-action lawsuit brought by the ACLU that sought to improve conditions in the state's poorest schools. The suit alleged that millions of low-income students attending California public schools (many of whom are students of color) are being deprived of the bare essentials necessary for education.

A Harris poll commissioned by the Hewlett Foundation earlier this year highlighted the inequities faced by the state's low-income school districts. Based on the results, researchers estimate that about 2 million California students attend public schools that cannot provide text-

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Wetlands Restorations Begins in San Francisco Bay

A small, enthusiastic crowd stood in the mud and cheered when, for the first time in 60 years, 75,000 gallons of pure bay water flowed into former industrial salt ponds, marking the beginning of the restoration of southern San Francisco Bay this summer. Transforming the stagnant salt ponds back to their natural state is estimated to be a 30-year project that will revitalize wildlife habitats and facilitate flood control. Partially funded by a Hewlett Foundation special projects grant, the restoration is the largest in the West and the third largest in the country, according to a recent *New York Times* article.

The restoration project began this July with

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Problem Solving Meeting Brings Together Foundation CEOs, Schwarzenegger Cabinet

It's no secret that times have been tough for Californians over the past several years. The ongoing budget crisis has had an effect on virtually every aspect of day-to-day life, including education, transportation, health, and the environment, among many other challenges. Polls show that since the gubernatorial recall election, voters are more hopeful about the ability of state government to solve problems, yet at the same time, retain an underlying skepticism. Solving California's problems will take creativity, vision, and more than a little teamwork. With that in mind, the leaders of a number of Bay Area foundations met with a group of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's cabinet members at the Hewlett Foundation in August to discuss potential areas for partnership.

Members of the new cabinet, many of whom have been leaders in philanthropy or the nonprofit and civic sectors, met with the CEOs of the Haas Jr., Hewlett, Irvine, Moore, Packard, and Skoll Foundations, and with a number of other individual Bay Area philanthropists, to discuss areas of future collaboration. Attending the meeting were Health and Human Services Secretary Kimberly Belshé; Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Victoria Bradshaw; Resources Secretary Michael Chrisman; Veterans Affairs Secretary Thomas Johnson; Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura; and Business, Transportation and Housing Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak.

The meeting was organized by Secretary McPeak, who, as former President and CEO of the Bay Area Council, is no stranger to collaborative problem solving, and Nick Bollman, President of the California Center for Regional Leadership, formerly a program officer at the Hewlett and Irvine foundations.

While it was just a first step, it was clear that foundation CEOs came away with a better sense of how the Governor's senior advisors and foundations might work together in many areas of mutual concern.

"There's no question in my mind that this is the beginning of an excellent working relationship between California foundations and some of the state's key decisionmakers," said Hewlett Foundation President Paul Brest.



Foundation CEOs confer with members of California Governor Schwarzenegger's cabinet at an August meeting hosted by the Hewlett Foundation

"There is no shortage of problems that need to be solved," said Secretary McPeak. "And I, for one, came away from the meeting very optimistic that we can work together to make things better for Californians." ■

Foster Care Youth

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transition. This initiative comes at a time when efforts to end homelessness are receiving special attention at the local and national levels.

The need for such services is clear – over one-third of foster youth aging out of the system have not graduated from high school; only 50 percent are employed; more than one-third suffer from behavioral and emotional problems; 25 percent experience homelessness; and a quarter have spent some time in jail. Foster children often lag behind their peers educationally and developmentally and often suffer from poor physical and mental health. One in five of the nation's foster children lives in California.

The Hewlett/Schwab initiative will provide vital support to this often overlooked and disconnected population. The two foundations will work together to select grantee partners and to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the initiative. ■

Williams Settlement

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books to take home, and one million students attend schools unable to attract and retain an adequate number of qualified teachers.

Under the settlement, the state will provide almost \$1 billion for school repairs and instructional materials in low-performing schools, with \$139 million allocated for textbooks this year. New monitoring and reporting is required on school facilities, instructional materials, and teacher vacancies and misassignments. The settlement also eliminates multitrack schools that relieve overcrowding by shortening the school year.



“This is an important first step for public education in California,” said Marshall Smith, Director of the Hewlett Foundation Education Program. “But it’s only the first step. Now that the state has acknowledged responsibility for improving conditions in the most disadvantaged schools, California can move ahead with making sure all children receive a quality education in a safe environment.”

In August, the state legislature passed four bills to enact the settlement into law. These bills await the governor’s signature, and they are subject to judicial approval. For more information on the settlement, see www.aclu-sc.org/News/. For more information on the Harris poll, go to www.hewlett.org/programs/education. ■

Sidenotes

Paul Brest Named to NPT’s Power and Influence Top 50

Hewlett Foundation president Paul Brest has made The Nonprofit Times 2004 Power and Influence Top 50 for the second consecutive year. According to the list, Brest “is leading the debate that the real issue is not general operating revenue grants versus project support, but how to accommodate the legitimate interests of both funder and donor.” This year’s Top 50 are “the leadership at rank and file charities...fighting to adapt to an economy that doesn’t know if it’s boom or bust and an unprecedented need for services.” The Top 50 are selected by the NPT staff and a few hand-picked members of the nonprofit community.

Music@Menlo Concludes Second Successful Season

Music@Menlo recently completed its second sell-out season with a standing ovation for the performance of Tchaikovsky’s *Souvenir de Florence*. Launched in 2003 by husband-and-wife team David Finckel and Wu Han, whom the *Wall Street Journal* recently called “Chamber Music’s Power Couple,” Music@Menlo is a chamber music festival with a unique focus on educating both artist and listener. The festival offers an unparalleled experience for performers, music students, and audiences alike.

The festival offers workshops that allow serious young music students and pre-professional musicians to hone their craft, interact with classical music’s most accomplished artists, and immerse themselves in two weeks of intensive musical discovery. This year, 38 participants, ranging in age from eight to eighteen, attended the workshops, receiving instruction from faculty artists.



A free performance by the workshop students, hosted by the Hewlett Foundation, was part of Music@Menlo 2004.

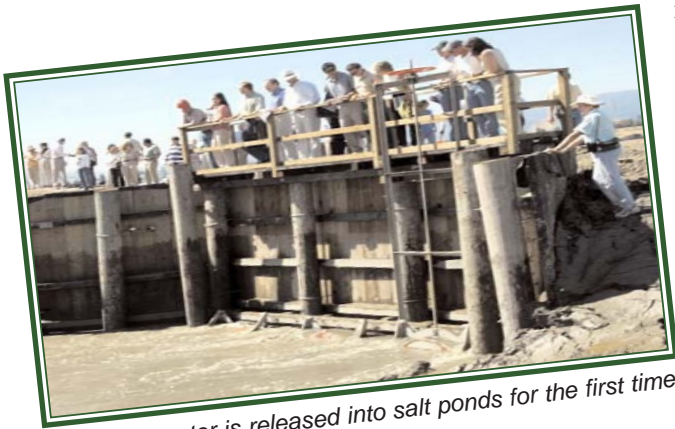
Wetlands Restoration

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five salt ponds covering 1,350 acres. More than 15,000 acres of salt ponds will eventually be restored.

The salt ponds were acquired from Cargill Salt in March 2003 after an unprecedented public/private partnership was created to purchase the property. The Hewlett Foundation partnered with the Packard, Moore, and Goldman Foundations to contribute \$35 million towards the complex purchase, which also included state and

federal agencies as well as local environmental organizations. The foundation partners have also contributed another \$15 million for restoration and planning. Since the California Gold Rush of the 1850s, San Francisco Bay has shrunk by one-third through landfill and industrial development. It is expected to take five years to restore natural tidal flows and 20 years for full restoration of affected areas. Once native grasses begin to grow and tidal marshes are reestablished, experts expect to see healthier runs of Chinook salmon and other fish, a return of wildlife populations, and the revival of endangered species native to the area. ■



Pure bay water is released into salt ponds for the first time in 60 years. Photo: Rob Holt

At the Foundation

The Hewlett Foundation is pleased to announce that **Carolyn Provost** has been promoted to Director of Grants Administration. Carolyn has been with the Foundation since 2001. **Trinh Tran** has been promoted to Systems Administrator. She has been with the Foundation for five years. **Elina Kessel** has joined the investment team as a performance analyst. She has been an investment accountant with the Foundation since 2002. **Kristi Kimball** has been promoted to Education Program Officer.

Shweta Siraj-Mehta has joined the Global Affairs Initiative as a Program Officer. She holds an MBA from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, an M.S. in environmental management from Imperial University, and a B.S. in medicinal chemistry from Warwick University.

Linda Frey has been appointed a Fellow in the Global Affairs Initiative. Linda holds a master's degree in public and international affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and a degree in political science from Duke University.

Brent Harris has been appointed a Fellow in the Philanthropy Initiative. Brent is a graduate of Stanford University with an M.A. in psychology and a B.A. in history.

Mary Santiago has joined the Foundation's Human Resources department as Benefits and Payroll Administrator. Mary is an accountant and CPA. She holds a B.S. in accounting from St. Theresa's College.

Yelena Piskun has joined the Foundation as a senior investment accountant. Yelena holds an MBA degree from the Stetson School of Business and Economics (Mercer University) in Atlanta, Georgia and is a CPA.

Education Program Officer **Jorge Ruiz-de-Velasco** is leaving the Foundation in September to take a position as Senior Program Officer at the James Irvine Foundation. **Diana Lieberman**, Director of Investment Research, is leaving the Foundation after eight years to pursue new challenges. She will continue with the Foundation until October.

Facilities Supervisor **Andres Anaya** is the proud father of son Erik Mateo, born on June 10, 2004.