



COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION

community matters

Joining Together for Greater Good

In 2021, Covia and Front Porch united as one organization under the Front Porch name. The Front Porch organization has grown by uniting non-profit providers of senior living and affordable housing. Each of the non-profit providers of retirement communities supported by this new affiliation combines outstanding people and resources from across California and beyond. Our shared commitment to those we serve brought us together. Maximizing our strengths as one organization will set us apart.

Greater IMPACT,
Greater GOOD.

As Covia and Front Porch have joined together for greater good, the foundations that serve and support the organization's communities and programs will also be joining together for greater impact. Three Front Porch foundations merged in April of this year to form the new Front Porch Communities Foundation (FPCF). The Covia Foundation and the Bethany Center Foundation in Northern California will merge with the Front Porch Communities Foundation in early 2022 to provide a single charitable foundation to serve and support the communities and programs across the entire Front Porch organization.

"As we move through this new year of hope and into 2022, I am delighted at the opportunity the new Front Porch Communities Foundation has to do good work," said John Woodward, CEO of Front Porch Communities and Services. "The generosity of our donors' giving — and their commitment to engagement — exemplify the values each of our communities live every day."

All past gifts made under the previous foundations will be honored and used for the community and purpose that donors designated. Donors will continue to be able to direct their gifts through FPCF to the community or program they wish to support.

Caring and generosity have historically been strong values of the nonprofits that over the years have come together in the Front Porch system.

Front Porch itself was initially formed by four separate nonprofit retirement community organizations, each connected to a charitable foundation. Three of those foundations — Pacific Homes Foundation, FACT Foundation, and Sunny View Foundation — merged in April to create the new Front Porch Communities Foundation to support and serve all the original Front Porch retirement communities.

Joining Together continues on page 2

Front Porch: The Value of Values

The Front Porch vision is to empower individuals to live connected and fulfilled lives through community and innovation. The strong values of quality service and support for older adults that Covia and Front Porch share have brought together a new affiliated organization that is one of the nation's top nonprofit providers of senior living, affordable housing, and community services for more than 10,000 people. ●

Vision
To empower individuals to live connected and fulfilled lives through community and innovation.

Values

- Connect**: We welcome everyone's contributions. Our greatest resource is our people. The relationships we share build community and strengthen us.
- Build Trust**: Our actions inspire trust and confidence. We treat each other with respect and fairness. We are open, inclusive, honest and keep our promises.
- Collaborate**: Our best performance happens when we learn and grow together. Through listening and communication, we seek input, share ideas, and work as one team to accomplish our goals.
- Lead Responsibly**: Leaders unlock potential, empower others, and share responsibility for strategy and results. Together, we take initiative to do what is right and achieve high standards.
- Inspire Creativity**: We do everything Humanly Possible® to create our future. As a team, we take risks and learn from success and failure. We are courageous, open-minded and encourage fresh ideas.
- Embrace Change**: Everything is changing, from needs to expectations to the world around us. To succeed, we must constantly adapt and improve, delivering service excellence and achieving outstanding customer satisfaction.

Mission
To inspire and build community, cultivating meaningful relationships and experiences that respond creatively to changing needs.

front porch

The Covia Foundation has served the six Covia communities and widespread community services programs since 2002 and became a partner to Bethany Center Foundation when the Bethany Center community joined Covia. When Friends House joined Covia in 2021, the Covia Foundation assumed administration of the Friends House charitable funds.

The joining together of all the foundations and charitable funds in the new Front Porch Communities Foundation provides an opportunity to extend the culture of philanthropy and help supporters achieve greater impact with their charitable gifts.

Katharine Miller, who has served for many years as executive director of the Covia Foundation, is the executive director of the

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— John Woodward, CEO of Front Porch Communities and Services

new Front Porch Communities Foundation. She and the Covia Foundation team will work closely with the Front Porch Foundation team to serve supporters and continue to build on the culture of generosity and caring that is an integral part of our communities and programs.

“Those who care about others are at the heart of each of our community’s strong spirit of giving,” said Katharine. “It’s an honor to be working with people who are striving to achieve greater good for those they care about.”

The Front Porch Communities Foundation will be guided by the FPCF Board of Directors, drawn from supporters and board members from across the Front Porch and Covia systems. The work of the Board and the Foundation will be supported by local community philanthropic committees, executive directors at the community level, and residents, friends and staff members who bring to life the Front Porch values. ●

Caring for Community

At the heart of the Front Porch mission is creating community. Residents build on that spirit of community with caring and compassion for one another, and pass it forward through gifts to the Front Porch Communities Foundation as those pioneer residents who came before passed it on to all of us.

Supporting Residents Who Outlive Their Resources

The resident assistance funds provided through the Front Porch Communities Foundation provide peace of mind to neighbors and friends in need. As one resident said, “Any of us could outlive our resources, so I want to be a part of being there for one another.” In Northern California, the assistance program for life plan residents is called the *Circle of Friends* fund and the average age of recipients is 92, with many living at a higher level of care.

“Throughout our communities, the spirit of caring for one another is apparent in the many gifts we receive for the assistance funds,” said Foundation Executive Director Katharine Miller. “It is a reflection of the close friendships people form in our communities and the care that residents have for one another.”

Charitable gifts to the Foundation for resident assistance can be designated to a particular community. ●

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— Katharine Miller, Foundation Executive Director

Home: A Legacy of Caring



Virginia Bradford’s estate gift left a legacy of caring for the St. Paul’s Towers community where she made her home.

Virginia Bradford and her sister Nancy lived in Oakland and were members of the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church congregation. Virginia had health challenges so when her sister died, Virginia made her home at the Health Center St. Paul’s Towers. During her years there, she was sociable and enjoyed getting to know her new neighbors and friends. She was also passionate about her time spent painting and drawing. Virginia had no close immediate family members and, when she died, left much of her estate to charities whose work she cared about. She included in her will a very generous gift to support the residents at St. Paul’s Towers.

The Foundation’s resident assistance funds, known as the *Circle of Friends* in the Northern California Front Porch communities, help support those residents in life care communities who outlive their resources. The average age of those helped by the fund is 92, with nearly 40% living at a higher level of care. They have lived in their communities an average of 18 years and have contributed to developing the spirit of the communities.

Virginia’s spirit of generosity, as well as some her artwork, live on at St. Paul’s Towers, the place she called home and where she found a circle of friends. ●

Circle of Friends: Caring for Each Other



Residents at San Francisco Towers join together to share the spirit of the *Circle of Friends* resident assistance fund.

More than 500 residents recently shared the spirit of community during a special dinner to raise awareness and support of the Foundation's resident assistance funds, called the *Circle of Friends* in the Northern California life care communities. The Foundation teamed up with dining partner Morrison, the executive chefs of Spring Lake Village (Santa Rosa), St. Paul's Towers (Oakland), and San Francisco Towers, and a committee of residents to design a special menu for the evening dinner hour — and invited all residents to share dinner with friends at their community and learn about the assistance fund, which provides support for life care residents who outlive their resources.

"Things happen — and we may have greater needs than any of us anticipated," said Hilda Pressman, a *Circle of Friends* committee member. "It's a great comfort to know the *Circle of Friends* is there." ●

Plan to Make a Difference

You can plan a gift today that will make a difference to your community in the future. Plan a legacy gift that works best for you:

Estate gifts: A simple designation in your will or estate plan plants a seed for the future.

- You can specify a gift to the Foundation for your community in your will or living trust.
- You can also designate the Foundation as the beneficiary of an account (such as a bank account, a brokerage account, or an Individual Retirement Account) to be used at your community.

Planned gifts with income benefits: You can make a charitable gift today that puts your gift funds to work for you providing tax benefits and lifetime income:

- A Charitable Gift Annuity provides tax savings and guaranteed lifetime income at a great rate.
- A Charitable Remainder Trust helps bypass capital gains taxes on appreciated assets such as real estate or stocks and provides you with lifetime income. You can even continue the income stream to your heirs.

For more information, please contact Katharine Miller, executive director of Front Porch Communities Foundation at kamiller@frontporch.net or 818.245.4096. ●

Improving Communities

Throughout the years, residents have made charitable gifts through Front Porch Communities Foundation and its predecessors to improve their communities — from amenities to programs and services. "We enjoy a beautiful community with caring people because residents who came before us helped to lay that groundwork," said one resident.

Memory Care: Heart of a Community

Memory care projects have been an important focus for many residents when planning charitable gifts to the Foundation. Los Gatos Meadows resident Maggie King left her estate to the Foundation in 1993 to begin building that community's memory care wing.

In more recent years, charitable gifts to the Foundation have supported the purchase of "It's Never Too Late" (iN2L) systems to support memory care in many Front Porch Communities, beginning at Sunny View in Cupertino. The systems provide programming on a large screen that brings people together, connects people with interests that fulfill them, and supports experiences and conversations among residents, caregivers and family members.

Charitable gifts to the Foundation in 2018 supported installation of an iN2L system at San Francisco Towers. San Francisco Towers recently celebrated the start of construction of its memory care wing, and residents have been busy considering ways they can continue to support and grow this program that is near and dear to so many hearts. ●



The iN2L systems help create experiences that foster camaraderie, meaning and a sense of joy and purpose.

Sallie's Garden: Growing a Gathering Space



Sallie Brun and her dog Sweetie enjoy the newly landscaped common areas that residents have named Sallie's Garden.

Sallie Brun has a deep, long-standing connection with Canterbury Woods and the area surrounding the Pacific Grove community. She grew up in the Salinas Valley on her family's farm and her parents, Henry and Muriel Brun, joined the Canterbury Woods community in 1986. Her childhood on the farm instilled in Sallie a deep connection to the earth. "I have my hands in the dirt and a dog by my side most of the time. It's my favorite thing to do."

When she moved to Canterbury Woods in 2011, working in the gardens and contributing to the Foundation's landscaping fund for the community were her ways to pay it forward. "I have this community in my heart," she said. "It's so meaningful to me to be able to provide support for Canterbury Woods through my time and gifts."

Sallie's contributions to the landscaping fund, including qualified charitable

distributions from her IRA, made possible a recent rejuvenation of the Canterbury Woods' garden. Originally installed when the community was built in 1965, the garden has been updated with multicolored plants, camellias, and a Japanese Black Pine tree to complement the nearby koi pond.

"We're making it a modern garden," Sallie noted. The project updates the heart of the garden and creates a space for residents to gather. "Our hope is that it will be a space for resident meetings, barbeques, and bingo games among other activities," she said. Residents have already hosted a happy hour in the updated space and have plans to host barbeques.

When it came time to christen the new garden, residents voted unanimously to rename the space "Sallie's Garden," in honor of all of Sallie's contributions to the garden and the wider Canterbury Woods community. ●

Creating Greater Good

The partnership of residents and the Front Porch Communities Foundation is rooted in generosity and gratitude, and is often focused toward those team members who uphold the quality of service that is a Front Porch hallmark.

Resident Generosity: Nurturing the Future

For Casa de Mañana residents Judy and Larry Sowder, their passion for giving includes supporting the residents and the employees who make up their La Jolla community. They support three separate Front Porch Community Foundation funds that make a difference in the lives of those they care about: The Resident Assistance fund, the HEART (Helping Employees At Risk Today) Fund, and the Employee Scholarship funds. To extend their caring into the future, they have also named the Front Porch Communities Foundation as a beneficiary in their estate plan.

"Casa is our home and we want to help the community, staff and residents in as many ways possible," Judy said. "The more we learned about the work of the Foundation, the more we wanted to support both employees and residents."

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— Judy Sowder,
Casa de Mañana resident

Larry and Judy, both retired educators, hold a special place in their hearts for those employees and employees' family members who want to continue their education with the help of a philanthropic scholarship. Casa de Mañana residents last year awarded 17 employee scholarships and,

through the separate "Casa de Futuro" scholarship fund, provided awards to five children of Casa de Mañana staff members, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

The Casa de Mañana Philanthropy Committee this year is also working with the Foundation team to provide school supplies for staff members' elementary school-age children.



Judy and Larry Sowder believe in the power of education and are ardent supporters of their community's staff scholarship funds.

Each summer, the Sowders look forward to "Philanthropy Week" at Casa, a week of activities and events programmed by the community's Philanthropy Committee and Foundation staff to educate residents and raise charitable gifts to support the funds they care about. "It's not only a fun time but a time when residents can really get an education on why the Foundation's work is so important and how they can get involved," Judy said. ●



Marco and Nancy Rosa (2nd and 3rd from left) celebrate the commitment of Sunny View staff with ice cream for all.

Honoring Staff with a Sweet Treat

Gratitude can manifest itself in many ways and recently at Sunny View in Cupertino, it took the form of a favorite summertime treat. In May, Marco and Nancy Rosa wanted to express their gratitude to staff at the community who have cared for residents, including Marco's mother Franca Rosa, in such a compassionate way throughout the pandemic.

"We decided to sponsor an ice cream truck to uplift the staff," Nancy said. "After so much worry and stress caused by the pandemic it was wonderful to see staff enjoy a pleasant, sunny afternoon together. It was a tangible way we could say thank you in person and a great way for us to meet new staff and reconnect with staff we already know."

Nancy's and Marco's idea was so popular she is working with Front Porch Communities Foundation to organize regular staff appreciation events sponsored by residents' family members. ●

Employees Facing Crisis: Responding with Heart

A few years ago, Casa de Mañana Housekeeping Supervisor Juan Martinez and his team noticed an abundance of aluminum cans and plastic bottles filling up trash cans around the community, mostly from staff who would purchase drinks from vending machines in employee break areas. At the same time, his department was asked by management to come up with an innovative idea to better meet residents' or employees' needs.

"We thought it would be so simple to collect the aluminum cans and bottles and start a recycling program within our department," Juan said. "I immediately thought of the HEART Fund."



Kathy Cormier leads residents in "recycling with a HEART" to support employees in need.

In 2014, Front Porch established the HEART (Helping Employees At Risk Today) Fund, a special emergency fund administered through the Front Porch Communities Foundation.

Casa Club President Kathy Cormier asked if the residents association could help get the word out about the employee assistance fund Juan's team was supporting. Kathy's idea was simple... place recycling bins throughout the community adorned with painted hearts on their sides.

"Residents stepped up for a good cause," Kathy said. "The Casa Club was happy to play a small part in the HEART Fund's success here at Casa."

Kathy and Juan estimate that in 2020, the recycling project earned about \$1,400.

Lisa Coats' home burned to the ground in the 2017 Northern California firestorms, and colleagues, residents and friends of the Foundation sprang into action. Lisa, an accounting assistant at Spring Lake Village in Santa Rosa, and a dozen other team members

who lost their homes in the fires were helped by the Foundation's Employee Emergency Fund.

"The outpouring of support was amazing," Lisa said. "We were fortunate to have good insurance for temporary housing but we soon learned that we were severely underinsured for the replacement of the home itself, as were a lot of the survivors. The generosity of staff and residents was amazing."

The Foundation's Employee Emergency Fund in Northern California is similar to the HEART Fund in Southern California, providing support to staff during times of need. Residents and staff throughout the Front Porch communities have stepped up to provide gifts to the Foundation employee emergency funds in response to the wildfires that have sprung up throughout the state in recent years.

As Lisa and her family rebuilt their house, support from the emergency fund helped them make it a home. "We were sure to furnish our home with things we were accustomed to," Lisa notes. "It really made a difference that we could put some of those things back into place once we were home."

The support Lisa and her family received touched her heart. "When I think about how amazingly generous folks were, I still get teary," she said. "Our lives would be so much more stressful if not for the help." ●



Lisa Coats and husband Bruce were able to regain the spirit of home with the help of gifts to the Foundation funds that help employees in crisis.

In this Issue:

Joining Together for Greater Good 1-2
 Front Porch: The Value of Values 1
 Supporting Residents Who Outlive Their Resources. 2
 Home: A Legacy of Caring 2
Circle of Friends: Caring for Each Other 3
 Plan to Make a Difference 3
 Memory Care: Heart of a Community 3
 Sallie's Garden: Growing a Gathering Space. 4
 Resident Generosity: Nurturing the Future. 4
 Honoring Staff with a Sweet Treat 5
 Employees Facing Crisis: Responding with Heart 5
 Wellness is a Gift from the Heart 6



Wellness is a Gift from the Heart



Joanne Freeman's family nurtured a culture of giving back, a value she has put into practice throughout her life.

Joanne Freeman is a savvy planner and donor. Ten years before she moved to Vista del Monte in Santa Barbara, Joanne was an active volunteer and staff member of the Vista Del Monte (VDM) Fitness and Aquatic Center, which serves residents and the broader Santa Barbara community. She taught physical fitness classes on land and in the pool. Now a VDM resident, she continues to teach fitness classes and serves as the chair of the Foundation's Vista del Monte Philanthropy Committee. Carving her path to aging and wellness, Joanne also demonstrates leadership in her giving plans. She uses a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), which allows her to make generous, tax smart gifts throughout the year. While she often makes gifts to the Foundation for her community's Staff Scholarship Fund and the Fitness and Aquatic Center, she recently made a major gift to support the Vista del Monte memory care program, Summer House. ●

"When I was a child, my family had a practice of giving back to others. I've kept this practice throughout my adult life and love giving to programs that serve people in my local community. Summer House serves residents at VDM who have various stages of dementia and Alzheimer's."

— Joanne Freeman, Vista del Monte resident

front porch
 COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION
 Greater IMPACT,
 Greater GOOD.

53 communities in California, Arizona, Louisiana & Florida

3,000 employees
 7,500 residents

10,000+ participants in programs & services nationwide

1 Foundation uniting all in generosity and caring

Make a difference today with a gift at frontporch.net/philanthropy or covia.org/donate