

Community MATTERS



COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION



The power of partnership: redefining philanthropy in our communities

For many, the word “philanthropy” conjures a simple, one-way image: a donor writes a check, and an organization uses it to provide a service. While generous, this traditional view is incomplete. True, sustainable philanthropy means building *with* a community, moving beyond simply acting *for* it.

The key to unlocking this partnership is the principle of empowerment. As writer McCabe Callahan describes, “Empowerment is the act of giving people greater authority and autonomy. Essentially, it’s giving people a voice.” More than a buzzword, this principle fundamentally restructures the approach to philanthropy. It recognizes people as the active architects of their own future.

At Front Porch Communities Foundation, this is the cornerstone of our fundraising and programmatic efforts within Front Porch. Our residents and program participants are the true experts in their own experience. They hold the knowledge, the perspective and the vision for what their community needs to thrive.

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4 Plant seeds of kindness today and watch your legacy bloom for generations at Front Porch

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Therefore, our most important role is to pass them the microphone and amplify their voices directly.

This transforms our work in a vital way. As Callahan notes, it “shifts the responsibility of the development office from *creating* stories for your community to *curating* those stories.” When residents share their own journey — in their own words — it carries a unique authenticity. By empowering these voices, residents help us build bridges with others in ways our team never could alone.

This approach also requires a profound shift in perspective. It compels us to see and value the incredible assets that already exist: the resilience, the wisdom, the relationships and the lived experience of every individual. Our purpose is to invest in these inherent strengths and unlock the potential already present within the community.

The benefits of this model are resounding. Research cited by Callahan from the *American Journal of Psychological Research* confirms that empowerment bolsters an individual’s sense of self and control. It also strengthens the entire organization, creating a healthier, more resilient ecosystem. Decentralizing storytelling and fundraising builds a broad, interconnected network of support that strengthens the sustainability of our mission.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see this spirit of empowerment brought to life. It shines in the collective energy of Philanthropy Week, where residents and team members partner to create a joyful celebration of giving that strengthens their own communities from within. We see it in the personal commitment of donors like Pat Stein and Linda Scott, whose generosity empowers their neighbors and friends. This same spirit of partnership fuels community events like the Celtic Cup and drives our Legacy donors, who entrust us with their vision to shape the Foundation’s future for decades to come.

Ultimately, the most powerful philanthropy transcends simple transactions to become a relationship built on trust and mutual respect. Placing the voices of our residents and program participants at the very center of our work allows us to achieve our ultimate goals: fostering dignity, building leaders and strengthening community for everyone. ●

From world travelers to community builders: the story of Pat and Linda

For Pat Stein and Linda Scott, life has always been an adventure. After both being widowed, they found each other in a birdwatching class in 2009. That shared interest blossomed into a new life together, one filled with travels to far-flung locales like Cuba and Micronesia for world-class snorkeling.

But even the most seasoned travelers know the importance of a safe harbor. A few years ago, Pat and Linda made a practical and forward-thinking decision. “We realized as we aged we wouldn’t be able to sustain our lifestyle,” Linda shared, noting that in-home help would be too expensive for them. They sought a community that could provide vibrant living today and security for tomorrow. After a two-year wait for the perfect unit, they found their home at Spring Lake Village in Santa Rosa. “We were looking for a place with care for the rest of our lives,” Pat says, “and this is it.”

Today, their adventures are closer to home but no less exciting. Their daily calendar is a testament to the vibrant life the community offers. “There’s so much to do!” Linda says with a laugh. “I love the pool, the exercise classes and the Wellness department.”

Pat and Linda are fully woven into the fabric of this community, both enjoying its benefits and actively contributing to its warmth. They have even taken leading roles in shaping the resident experience as co-chairs of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor committee, which welcomes new residents and helps them get involved.

This deep appreciation for their community is what inspired Pat and Linda to become dedicated donors. Their reason is simple, yet profound.

“We think it’s a good cause,” Pat explains. “Another facility evicted a person because they couldn’t afford to live there anymore. That’s not right.”

Life is unpredictable, and financial circumstances can change, especially on a fixed income. For Pat



Pictured here on their trip to Scotland, Linda Scott and Pat Stein traveled extensively before moving to Spring Lake Village. Now they put their energy into improving their community through their time and generosity.

and Linda, ensuring their neighbors have security is paramount. “At this stage, we appreciate the safety net,” Linda added.

That safety net has a name: the **Circle of Friends Resident Assistance Fund**. It exists for one reason: to ensure that no resident is asked to leave because of financial hardship beyond their control. It’s a promise of security, dignity and peace of mind. Pat and Linda found more than just a home at Spring Lake Village; they found a cause worthy of their support. They ensure that the community that welcomed them with open arms can do the same for every resident, today and always. ●

Plant a gift for the future: legacy giving at Front Porch

Generous donor support through Front Porch Communities Foundation has made an immense and measurable difference to residents, program participants, Front Porch team members and the wider community. Because of gifts from people like you, more people are able to enjoy the benefits of a thriving and supportive organization.

There's an opportunity for you to extend your impact by creating a lasting legacy. If you include the Front Porch Communities Foundation in your estate plans, you can ensure that your love and compassion for your community or favorite program continues to resonate for generations to come.

You might have already included a bequest to your alma mater, a favorite charity or an arts organization in your estate plans. It's a way to ensure that causes you care about continue to thrive. At Front Porch, there is a similar opportunity to join the Front Porch Communities Foundation Legacy Society.

As a member, you'll receive special recognition (with your permission) in Foundation materials and at Foundation events.

What is the Legacy Society?

- It's an expression of your desire to take care of the future of your community, long after your own residency ends.
- It's the tangible impact of past residents caring for current residents, and current residents caring for future residents.
- It's about looking out for the neighbors and friends you know now, as well as those who have yet to move in.

Just as you remember when you first came to Front Porch, you can imagine those future residents, settling into your community, making new friends and perhaps even planning their own legacies someday. By including Front Porch Communities Foundation in your estate plans, you become part of that inspiring cycle of generosity.

Making it simple

You can accomplish your charitable plans through:

- A simple provision in your will or estate.
- A beneficiary designation for your life insurance policy, retirement plans, or a bank or investment account.

Of course, you will want to discuss your estate plans with your financial or legal advisor to determine the best approach for your unique situation.

Making a lasting impact

Your legacy gift can be designated to:

- **Your community:** Assisting residents who outlive their resources through the Circle of Friends or enhancing the quality of life at your community for generations to come.
- **Support for Front Porch team members:** Emergency support or scholarships for the dedicated team members who make our organization so special
- **Foundation impact:** Be at the forefront of advancing a new vision of aging by building stronger community connections and elevating the standard of compassionate care for all.

Next steps

Reach out to the Foundation team at fpcf@frontporch.net with any questions or to let us know of your gift intentions. ●



More than a fundraiser: Philanthropy Week builds a community of givers

Summer brings more than just sunshine to our communities; it brings a vibrant, week-long celebration of generosity, connection and pure fun. This year, the annual tradition of Philanthropy Week unfolded with incredible energy at Claremont Manor, Casa de Mañana and Walnut Village — and we were thrilled to welcome Canterbury Woods for its inaugural event.

While these weeks are instrumental in raising funds for vital programs like the Circle of Friends, team member scholarships and community improvements, their true impact runs much deeper. At its heart, Philanthropy Week is a powerful exercise in empowerment.

For several days, the typical routines of community life are joyfully interrupted. In their place is a whirlwind of activity designed to bring people together in new and meaningful ways. This is where the magic happens. When you spend multiple days together, sharing meals, laughter and friendly competition, something shifts. The conversations go deeper. Residents, Foundation staff, and community team members from every department get to know one another not just by name or title, but as friends and partners. As Debbie Infield, Walnut Village executive director, shared, “Philanthropy Week is not only a wonderful way get our residents engaged in fun and informative activities and events, but also a meaningful way to contribute to a cause that will ensure that our ‘family’ of residents remains together. Our residents have developed strong

and supportive relationships with one another, and ensuring that continuity through Circle of Friends is worthwhile and important.”

The week is a testament to the idea that philanthropy can be, and should be, joyful. The schedule was a vibrant mix of camaraderie and lighthearted chaos. One moment, staff and residents were locked in a battle of wits during trivia; the next, they were cheering each other on in a rubber chicken throwing contest or a sticky watermelon eating competition.

“As new residents of Casa de Mañana experiencing our first Philanthropy Week, we were impressed with the presentations by the scholarship student recipients and how the community cares for each other,” said Joe and Carol Danks from Casa de Mañana. “Fun activities such as wine tasting and rubber chicken toss provided opportunities to get to know the other residents.” Newcomers were welcomed with a dedicated lunch, fine wines were tasted, and hidden talents were revealed during a hilarious round of improv karaoke. Amidst the fun, educational presentations on planned giving empowered residents with the knowledge to shape the future of their community in a lasting way.

Each week of connection and celebration culminated in a beautiful gala dinner. This final evening served as a powerful capstone, celebrating not only the

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Beyond our walls: strengthening community

At Front Porch Communities Foundation, our vision is rooted in the belief that our responsibility extends beyond our properties and into the communities we all share. We are driven to build stronger connections, elevate the standard of compassionate care and advance a new, more positive vision of aging for all.

Our work is focused on three key areas for external impact.

1 Forging community through new connections

Social isolation is one of the most significant challenges of the modern world, and it can't be solved by buildings alone. That's why we create community that transcends physical walls. Through



After living in the same home for over five years, this family of three, along with their beloved pit bull, found themselves in need of new housing. Through the Home Match network, a generous homeowner in El Sobrante had two rooms available and, when asked if she would consider sharing her home with a family, she didn't hesitate to say yes. But the story gets even better — she also welcomed their dog into her home without a second thought.

After their first meeting, the homeowner joyfully shared, "I looove them! The dog too! I'm going to adopt them into my family."

innovative programs like **Home Match**, we pair older adults with other people seeking affordable housing options, turning spare rooms into hubs of friendship and mutual support. For those who are homebound or in more rural environments, programs like our **Well Connected** virtual community offers a powerful antidote to loneliness, connecting thousands to classes and conversations that generate relationships, finding purpose and joy where they may otherwise may not be easily found.

Beyond that, we invest in joy as a cornerstone of well-being through our **creative engagement programs**. When groups gather for workshops, they do far more than just make art. They engage their minds, build new skills, and form deep friendships, taking the chance to unleash the creativity that is scientifically linked to better cognitive health.

Making these life-changing connections takes more than just good intentions. It requires a strong infrastructure, dedicated expertise, and the creative vision to turn a simple opportunity into a lasting relationship.

2 Elevating the standard of care for all

The quality of care for millions of older adults depends on a stable, respected and well-trained workforce. A rapidly growing older population is creating a critical shortage of caregivers — a challenge that affects everyone. As a nonprofit leader, we are committed to being part of the solution, not just for ourselves but for the entire aging services sector. We need a "rising tide to lift all our boats" and feel a responsibility to build those waves. We are committed to becoming a **teaching organization**, investing in professional development and career pathways for our team members and sharing our knowledge openly with peers.

This philosophy of **collaboration over competition** drives us to partner with other providers and all manner of learning institutions, including colleges

and universities, to influence a higher standard of person-centered care across the sector, helping to ensure a better, more compassionate future for our elders, no matter where they call home.

3 Changing the conversation about aging

Outdated stereotypes about aging limit human potential and lead to poor social policy. To build a better future, we must first change the story. Front Porch is a leading voice in a global movement to **reframe aging** as a time of growth, purpose and continued engagement.

Through research, innovation and advocacy, we amplify our voice to challenge the status quo and share our discoveries widely. By pioneering new approaches, we work to shift public perception and demonstrate what is possible with a pro-aging mindset.

These three pillars — forging connection for all, elevating care for older people, and changing the conversation about aging — are the foundation of our commitment to the greater community. We are dedicated to building a future where every person has the opportunity to live a life of connection, purpose and joy. ●



"It's all too rare that the notion of aging is seen or spoken to with equal degrees of honesty and promise. More often aging is seen as only decline and suffering, or, glossed over, made light of, ignored or diminished. Especially today, when real life is confronted with a determination for what may be, we know that far more is humanly possible in every person's life than the world would have us believe. A huge part of why Front Porch has supported the acclaimed coming of old age film, Familiar Touch, is to understand our need and responsibility to shine light on the power that we all have within us as we go along and how that power is amplified when we are connected to a larger community." — Sean Kelly, CEO of Front Porch.

Photo by Timothy M. Schmidt.

2026 FRONT PORCH GOLF TOURNAMENT



Drive. Connect. Thrive.



**Front Porch
Communities
Foundation
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Monday, June 8, 2026

**La Cañada Flintridge
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SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Contact Julie Hoerl, director of philanthropy at 925.956.7393 or jhoerl@frontporch.net.



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funds raised but, more importantly, the strengthened bonds of community. It was a moment to recognize that every contribution — whether participating in an event, making a gift, or simply sharing a laugh with a neighbor — was an act of philanthropy.

Philanthropy Week is a living example of empowerment in action. It demonstrates that when we create opportunities for residents and staff to come together, share their talents and invest their energy, they don't just build a stronger fundraising campaign; they build a stronger, more connected and more vibrant community for everyone. ●



**Make a difference today with a gift
at frontporch.net/philanthropy**

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