



2019 - 2020

Convene - Collaborate - Create

In 2019 we engaged our grantees and peered foundations in collaborative projects as part of our Convene, Collaborate and Create campaign to find bold solutions to chronic problems. The success of this collaborative effort is growing faster than we can track. Below please find vignettes that reflect the initiatives that are underway.

(updated periodically: last update 3/20/2020)

Leadership

About-Face

This initiative focused on bringing the About-Face program to San Mateo County in partnership with our grantee, The Sheriff's Activity League (SAL). About-Face is an organization focused on educating girls and young women about harmful body image media messaging. In Spring 2020, About-Face will be exploring expanding its programs into the Redwood Library City Library to participate in the library's "Makers-Space" initiative.

Baylands 2020 Vision Capital Improvement Campaign

This effort focuses on expanding The First Tee of Silicon Valley's reach into the San Francisco Bay Area's mid-peninsula by embarking on a capital improvement campaign at Baylands Golf Links. This campaign looks to increase participation at the Baylands to over 2,000 participants over the next three years. The 2020 Vision Capital Campaign at Baylands Golf Course will serve as a touchstone model of the TFTSV program in action. This will be accomplished by supporting state-of-the-art improvements to the course, adding classrooms, and expanding the practice area. This initiative has been put on hold due to Covid-19.

Initiative to Connect Positive Coaching Alliance with The First Tee

This collaborative effort is uniquely promising, as it stands to integrate program initiatives at both the national and regional levels of both organizations. Saga is facilitating improved coaching and volunteerism at the chapter level for The First Tee (TFT) and Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). As the TFT nationally looks to reboot its coaching models, we will be looking for opportunities for PCA to collaborate in the areas of standards, curriculum, and sustainability. PCA and TFT are natural partners that could benefit from each other's strengths while broadening their reach into complimenting areas.

Coincidentally, SAGA has helped finance a study being done by BridgeSpan research group to re-evaluate the curriculum and program implementation of TFT nationally. BridgeSpan is a research organization founded by Tom Tierney, a good friend and mentee of our founder, Bill Laughlin.

Kalamazoo College

A package of initiatives for community outreach, leadership, and support for the underserved. Funded and developed the Laughlin Leadership Award.

Management Leadership for Tomorrow

Connect MLT to other SAGA grantee organizations that see value in collaborating. This effort is currently underway with Kalamazoo College as well as The Hispanic Foundation. MLT is assisting these organizations in identifying and engaging qualified minority students that could benefit from developing a broader skillset. MLT has a proven track record for putting students on a path leading to our nation's finest institutions and most successful boardrooms. In Spring 2020, Kalamazoo College was scheduled to fly four of its best and brightest students to attend the MLT event at Facebook and Google. This would position them as ambassadors of the program to then return and spread the word on the Kalamazoo Campus. This initiative has been put on hold due to Covid-19.

Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center (REC)

Expansion of Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center education programs into San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. REC transforms lives by bringing the power of entrepreneurship to lower-income individuals and communities. From a collaborative perspective, we have challenged REC to work with our other grantees. We are exploring the possibility of having REC's Financial Literacy classes melded into the curriculum of Advent Group, The Veteran's Resource Center, JobTrain, and Generations United. If this comes to fruition, this would be one of our most significant collaboration efforts to date and raise the prospect of changing the lives of many of our underserved struggling to break out of generational poverty.

Underserved

Boys and Girls Club of Cathedral City

We have financed the development and implementation of a new strategic plan to dramatically increase the club's capacity to help the underserved community. Preliminarily, the goal is to maximize the use of its under-utilized property while adding quality staffing at crucial positions. By engaging the local community of contractors, skilled laborers, and vendors, we are pushing for a collaborative effort that offers up ways to make much-needed improvements through donated time and material.

Childhelp

Funded fiber optic internet access to the organization's live-in facilities in Beaumont, California so that clients (abused children) have the resources to succeed in school and reintegrate into society.

Generations-United

In the spirit of collaboration, SAGA has teamed up with a private grant making foundation to provide a \$100,000 matching grant program to benefit Generations United, a local after school program for underserved youth in Redwood City. The Generations-United program includes unique curriculum focusing on inclusive reading and linguistic competency for students and their families.

JobTrain

Provide funding for a pilot Technology Training program that would offer career opportunities to the region's underserved in partnership with iconic silicon valley companies such as Google, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The 2019 pilot program produced the first graduating class. This class beat expectations by graduating 100% of the enrolled students and subsequently placing 70% of them in technology sector jobs at Google, Facebook, and other Silicon Valley technology-based companies.

Magical Bridge

Provide support to The Magical Bridge concept parks. Magical Bridge is completely revising the mission, vision, and values of the community part in unique and inclusive ways that are being recognized throughout the nation. Their Redwood City, Red Morton Park, will be a touchstone public park unlike any other in terms of size and scope of benefits to the community.

“Make Kids Water Safe”

This initiative was born out of the senseless drowning of a young Redwood City Resident. It is designed to facilitate collaboration between The Police Activities League and Parks and Recreation so that every child who comes through the program is water safe. This initiative has been put on hold due to Covid-19.

Redwood City Library Foundation

SAGA has worked with the Redwood City Library Foundation on several initiatives. One of the first was the Library Takeover Program which focused on engaging and empowering the underserved community's leadership through programs that offered speakers and events centered around key relevant issues.

Another was the support of the Common Knowledge Program, which established stronger relationships bonds within the underserved target groups in the area.

SAGA brought About-Face programming into the Redwood City Library program curriculum. This programing served to help young women deal with the pressures that the media and society put on them to look, think and act that are unrealistic. Specifically body image issues and managing expectations.

SAGA provided the seed money for the construction of the newly designed Makers-Space portion of the library. This revolutionary flex-use area will help provide a location for non-profits to bring their services to those in the community that need it most. Some of these non-profits are SAGA Foundation grantees who lack the capacity to do out-reach unless there is a designated location to hold classes.

Second Harvest

SAGA has funded the "One Community" experimental pilot food program in South San Jose, California. The goal is to identify scalable solutions to end generational hunger once and for all. If this lives up to its potential, this program could then be shared with cities across the country.

Sheriff (SAL) Police (PAL) Activities Leagues

SAGA provided funding for a joint project between these two organizations by way of the First Tee Program of Silicon Valley. The project brought the junior golf program to Redwood City and exposed area youth to The First Tee's nine core program values. By extension, SAL and PAL's active participation demonstrates an interest in improving relations between law enforcement and the community it serves.

SparkPoint at Cañada College

Funded a Campus Veteran Outreach Initiative with the goal of increasing access to resources and financial literacy for veterans cycling out of their service to our country by providing them with the support necessary to reintegrate into society.

Hiller Aviation and Police Activities League

As part of SAGA's pivoting efforts during the pandemic, we will provide an experience for the underserved of the community served by the Police Activities League that will complement their online experience. Working with Hiller Aviation Museum, SAGA will be funding programs that open up the museum experience to PAL families for socially distanced learning.

Weingarten Children's Center

Building on our support of the collaborative effort between Stanford University and WCC, the Baby-Talk (online teaching for the hearing impaired) will have a partner program in the future called Talk2Me. This program is revolutionary in its ability to distribute learning to thousands more in the underserved community in need of the next level of education. Its versatile online properties and ease of use make it the perfect platform for the shifting realities of Covid-19 learning models. Equally important is the programs' ability to reach into rural or impoverished communities which are challenged by the inherent lack of resources.

Safety and Security

Collaborative Effort: Bringing together two of the most prestigious Think Tanks in Washington (Stimson Center, Wilson Kennan Center)

SAGA is providing the resources necessary to convene a working group of American and Russian Scientists to promote and enhance scientific cooperation and exchange between both country's scientific communities.

Stimson Initiative

The launch of the Loomis Innovation Council represents an initiative approach to moving beyond policy development and into operational deployment to address society's most significant challenges: security, global warming, media technology, sustainable energy.

Global Peace

Foothill-De Anza Foundation

Provide seed funding for an initiative at the Foothill College Veterans Resource Center. This experimental program is a result of a collaborative effort between SAGA, The Foothill-De Anza Foundation and, the Rotary Club of Los Altos. Our goal was to identify the needs of our student veterans attempting to reintegrate into society after serving our country. Veterans attending Foothill College filled out surveys that identified housing as their biggest challenge. Working with the Veteran Resource Center the funding provided by SAGA will go toward housing vouchers benefitting qualifying veterans.

Grantee Challenge Events

Host gatherings of our grantees at cohort grantee events. The goal is to challenge our grantees to participate in our Convene, Collaborate, and Create Campaign in unique settings to break down creative barriers and foster common goals.

Improve Fundraising Effectiveness Through Technology and Collaboration

Support our grantees in upgrading their fundraising capabilities by utilizing advanced forms of technology data mining and targeting. Currently, we are partnering with BoodleAI to explore this opportunity with four of our grantees. By employing fundraising models based on artificial intelligence technology, nonprofits can cut down on expenses and drive up revenue.

Part of the Cloud

Supported a unique program to identify and fund the most promising, cutting-edge Alzheimer's research studies that are not being supported through traditional institutional research and development models.

Seeds of Peace

Support for this program fulfills the SAGA vision of bringing together young, culturally diverse leaders to develop personal relationships before attempting to tackle big-picture cultural problems. It was our founder's belief that these relationships would plant the seeds of friendship and understanding amongst culturally diverse societies. It could be characterized as "Being Friends First" and supports Gandhi's notion that one cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

An expansion initiative is underway to bring the Seeds of Peace program west to the San Francisco Bay Area. Candidates who have shown leadership qualities will be selected and vetted from within the ranks of Facing History and Ourselves, a SAGA grantee.

Magnify

In keeping SAGA's promise to Convene, Collaborate and Create with peer organizations, the way we encourage our grantees to do SAGA will be joining Magnify, a funder initiative building a movement among established foundations dedicated to improving the quality of life in the SF Bay Area. This will be accomplished through a series of events (now online) that allow funders to combine forces and share information on their grantees and their goals. This will simplify the vetting process while maximizing the depth and reach of funders wishing to help grantees do more.

<https://wiwow.org/>

<https://www.magnifycommunity.com/who-we-are>

San Mateo County Historical Association

It was always Bill Laughlin's (SAGA Foundation's Founder) dream to share with the world what made SGA Corporation so uniquely different. This initiative stands to realize that dream by telling Bill Laughlin and SAGA's story in the Entrepreneurs Gallery at the San Mateo County Museum, which is about to undergo a major renovation. The museum is one of only 5% of all museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. A status it has maintained since 1973. In the Entrepreneurs Gallery, there will be a short film on SAGA, a three-dimensional display, and an interactive timeline display that identifies SAGA's key role in changing how corporations looked at treating employees and customers. It's appropriate that we take this opportunity to extend Bill's legacy and The SAGA WAY for future generations.