



A global foundation benefiting
young people and communities
through educational scholarships.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ESPERANZA FOUNDATION

2018-2019

I. INTRODUCTION

The Esperanza Foundation is a 509(a)(2) public charity organization that was founded in 2013 by members of the Davis family. The name of the entity is Esperanza which means “hope” in Spanish. The foundation was formed to assist young people who are seeking to acquire the skills and values necessary to be productive and outstanding individuals devoted to serving their communities, as well as provide educational opportunities for young people striving to create their own path in the world.

The Foundation goals’ include developing and assisting in self-sustaining activities for individuals as well as communities. The mission of the organization is to promote human development, support aspiring students in their efforts to obtain higher education and educate the community on critical issues of the day affecting them and the world around them. Recognizing the significant financial challenges facing young people in higher education, Esperanza wants to give them a boost in the early stages of their quest for a higher education.

In addition, Esperanza seeks to be a voice for promoting greater understanding about the complex issues facing the world. In an era where so many sources of information are designed to promote a specific agenda or convince the audience to take a position based on the ideology or political leanings, Esperanza strives to host events, such as the Symposiums held at Esperanza’s annual High Sierra Spring Golf Tournament, that are characterized by the independent investigation of the truth.

Symposium speakers are selected for their deep knowledge of the subject matter and their understanding the audience wants to hear all sides about any given topic. Care is taken to present topics that current in the on-going discourse of the country and the world. We recognize that we do not live in isolation in this world; therefore, we try to bring in an international perspective in our Symposium.



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II. SCHOLARSHIPS

A. Portola High School

In 2011 we met with the High School principal at Portola High School to discuss the challenges facing students at Portola High School to get a higher education. The Principal graciously advised us that with the closing of the railroad hub in Portola, the economic impact on the community had been very significant. The closing of the major railroad center, combined with a decline in the lumber industry, have created high levels of unemployment and a stagnant economy. We have created a scholarship fund in the memory of Connee's late father, John Shrawder. John was a farmer, a conservationist in the 1960's and 70's working for the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation. In the 1970's he began teaching at Sacramento State classes on environmental studies. He deeply loved the High Sierra and taught his daughter and son, Jack, the same affection. It was his love of the Sierras that drew us to this area.

We wanted to create an appropriate way to recognize his contributions to preserving this unique and spectacular area of the world.

In the past six years, with the generous support of many people we have awarded more than \$70,000 in scholarships. The total amount donated or raised in silent auctions is \$105,000 A list of recipients of the scholarships by years is as follows:

2014:

Sara C., Mariah M., Dayna C.

2015:

Victoria B., Abigail F., Alejandro P., Rachel W.,

2016:

Heather H., Erin S.,
Continuation scholarships: Victoria B., Dayna C., Mariah M., Hebert N.,

2017:

Anna M., Erin S., Heather M., Chelsea R., Grace S., Mallory W.,

2018:

Isabella F., Hayley R., Eric J.



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B. Chile

For a number of years Bill worked as a mediator for the Ombudsman Office of the IFC/ World Bank in an area of Chile known as the Upper Bio Bio. The World Bank in conjunction with a Spanish firm and the Chilean government had built a series of dams on Chile's largest river impacting a indigenous community, Pehuenche. The Peheunche were not able to defend their interests in courts with their own resources so they resorted to violence and several people were killed.

Recognizing this situation we designed a scholarship program in conjunction with a local non-governmental organization (NGO) to send a number of Pehuenches to law school in Chile. Two Pehuenches have graduated and been admitted to the bar.

C. Source of funds

Esperanza Foundation hosts an annual silent auction in conjunction with the High Sierra Spring Golf Classic, where many of the items Bill and Connee have collected from their international travels are put up for auction.

In addition, many friends have donated art, jewelry, and other unique items for the auction, and many individuals have made cash donations to the scholarship fund. The golf courses at Whitehawk Ranch and Grizzly Ranch have also been very valuable contributors.

III. SYMPOSIUM

We recognize the challenge that people face in trying to gain a deeper understanding about many of the complex issues of the day. Paradoxically, there are many more sources of "information" today and yet we find ourselves perplexed by what to believe. We are not partisan and have no political affiliation.

Our interest is to create an opportunity where there can be inquiry into the many problems facing us each day. Much care is devoted to selecting knowledgeable speakers who can shed light and insight into the issues we care about. The audience is given ample time to inquire and ask questions of the speakers.

The following section is history of each year's Symposium. The topics and the speakers are listed below.



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2014

Ukraine, Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh, Distinguished Professor of Russian Studies at Yale

New Health Care Law, Dr Gordon Hunt, Chief Medical Officer of Sutter Health; Mary Antoine, lawyer specializing in health care and Tom Hayes, Director at Eastern Plumas Hospital in Portola

2015

ISIS, Professor Will McCann, from Brookings Institute

Art and the Community, Professor Paula Henderson, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Race Amity, The Other tradition, Dr William Smith, Director and Founder of the National Center on Race Amity at Wheelock College in Boston

2016

The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined, a book by Dr. Steven Pinker at Harvard served as the basis of the 2016 seminar

Ambassador James Michels (Retired). Known as the father of the rule of law effort on behalf of the State Department, spoke about Violence theme on Pinker's book.

Dr Robert Henderson and William Davis provided additional commentary on the book

2107

Cybersecurity Risks, Dr Rand Morimoto, Owner/President of Convergent Computing

Criminal Justice Policy, Dr Malcolm Feeley, Distinguished Professor at UC Berkeley

2108

Iran, History and Current trends, Professor Nader Saidi Chair of Iranian Studies at UCLA

Life and Death, Mr Hooper Dunbar, author, artist, retired religious leader

2019

Why should I care about divergence of wealth and poverty, Professor Augusto Lopez Claros, Foreign Service School at Georgetown, author, economist, formerly of World Bank

Is Democracy Dying, Professor Christy Warren, College of Law, William and Mary

One Heart Ruby Red, music by Grammy award winner, Red Grammar