

# San Antonio Forever

SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO OUR COMMUNITY

1964-2024



# San Antonio Area Foundation Leadership

## 2024 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Nadege Souvenir**, Chief Executive Officer  
**Lisa Brunsvold**, Chief Development Officer  
**Ryan Lugalía-Hollon**, Chief Impact Officer  
**Arenda Burns**, Chief Operating Officer  
**April Hansard**, Chief Financial Officer

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Alex Perez**, Chairman  
**Gen. James T. (Tom) Hill**, Past Chairman  
**Suzanne Wade**, Vice Chair  
**Sarah Harte**, Secretary and Chair Elect  
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**Yonnie Blanchette**  
**Jorge Elizondo**  
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**David Komet**  
**Debbie Serot**  
**Gurpaul Singh**  
**Morris Stribling**  
**Harry W. Wolff, Jr.**

## SIXTY YEARS OF EXECUTIVE LEADERS

**Nadege Souvenir**, 2024-present  
**Marjie French**, 2019-2023  
**Dennis E. Noll**, 2011-2017  
**Clarence "Reggie" Williams**, 2000-2011  
**Marion Therese Lee**, 1997-1999  
**Candes P. Chumney**, 1992-1997  
**Katherine Netting Folbre**, 1982-1991  
**Howard J. Nolan**, 1977-1982  
**William Wiederhold**, 1964-1977

## SIXTY YEARS OF BOARD CHAIRS

**Gen. James T. (Tom) Hill**, 2021-2022  
**Theodore Guidry II**, 2019-2020  
**John Hayes**, 2017-2018  
**Marie Smith**, 2015-2016  
**David C. Hennessee, CPA, MBA**, 2013-2014  
**Conrad J. Netting, IV, CPA**, 2012  
**Sarah E. Harte**, 2010-2011  
**Robert Mehall**, 2009  
**Joe J. Lozano, CPA**, 2008  
**Nanette Clare, M.D.**, 2007  
**Pat L. Wilson, CPA**, 2006  
**Raymond R. Carvajal, R.Ph.**, 2005  
**Ommy Strauch, SPHR**, 2004  
**Laura G. McNutt, CPA**, 2003  
**Marvin Forland, M.D.**, 2002  
**Cathy Obriotti Green**, 2001  
**Arthur H. Bayern**, 1999-2000  
**Leonard E. Lawrence, M.D.**, 1998  
**Margaret Anderson**, 1997  
**Edward M. Polansky**, 1996  
**Mary Beth Williamson**, 1994-1995  
**Al J. Notzon, III**, 1992-1993  
**John Strieber, Jr.**, 1991  
**Gaines Voigt**, 1989-1990  
**Jerome F. Weynand, Ph.D.**, 1988  
**John E. Banks, Sr.**, 1986-1987  
**William Reddell**, 1984-1985  
**Charles G. Orsinger**, 1983  
**Edith McAllister**, 1981-1982  
**Richard E. Goldsmith**, 1977-1980  
**Hull Youngblood**, 1976  
**Patricia Shields Ayres**, 1974-1975  
**David Jacobson, M.D.**, 1964-1973

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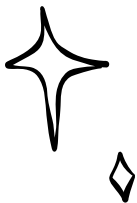
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# Your Impact

Here is what **26,167** donors have accomplished in the past sixty years.

# \$809,303,667

**GRANTS AWARDED\***

## Your Causes

# \$22,981,716

**ANIMAL SERVICES**

# \$57,814,452

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

# \$348,649,515

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

# \$6,594,003

**SUCCESSFUL AGING**

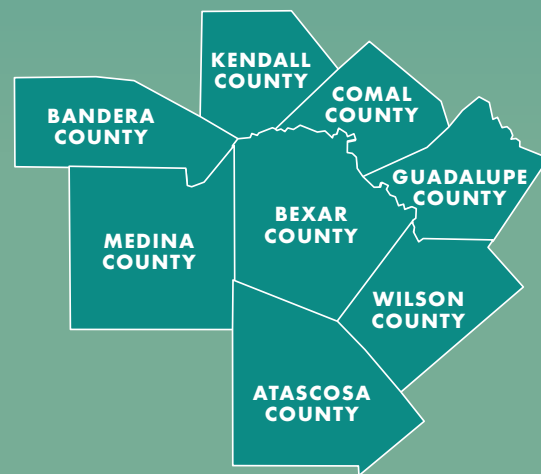
# \$209,369,626

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

# \$58,501,596

**OTHER CAUSES**

## Area We Serve



# \$607,577,714

**DISTRIBUTED REGIONALLY**

# \$105,392,759

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

# 20,921

**STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS**



# 60 REASONS TO CELEBRATE: WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

What a ride it has been – yet, in many ways, we're just getting started.

From humble beginnings as an internal family gift leading to the creation of the first community foundation in Texas, the San Antonio Area Foundation has come a long way in 60 years serving our region.

No one imagined the modest gift Mannie Goldsmith gave his nephew Richard would be the seed that eventually grew into San Antonio's hub for philanthropy and nonprofit support.

Since our founding in 1964, the Area Foundation has contributed more than \$800 million in grants and scholarships. Let that sink in for a moment. Can we even try to imagine what our community would have been like without the Area Foundation? Students missing out on a chance to pursue their college dreams. Nonprofits unable to grow their operations, programs and services. Donors lacking their most credible, trusted partner to help them fulfill their philanthropic goals.

Luckily for all of us, that is a scenario we have not had to contemplate. From what began as a legal note in a bank drawer, the Area Foundation has grown into one of the largest community foundations in the country – currently managing more than \$1.3 billion in assets through more than 600 philanthropic funds.

The incredible gift from John L. Santikos undoubtedly has had and will continue to have a tremendous impact on our

organization. It speaks to the unique generosity of the San Antonio community – there are so many donors to whom we are eternally grateful, like yourself. We would not be the organization we are today without your continued support and dedication.

A tip of the hat must also go to the organization's leadership, whose guidance and direction ensured its steady growth and reach in our community. The spirit of volunteerism permeates its inner walls. We did not have paid staff for nearly two decades and the dedication of our predecessors on the board of directors continues to this day, evidenced in our new strategic plan ushering a new mission and vision that only solidifies our future as our community's philanthropic leader.

Personally, it has truly been an honor to have had the opportunity to serve on the Area Foundation board, particularly in 2024 as we celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary. We hail the Goldsmith family as bona fide philanthropic visionaries while we make a push to the future under new CEO Nadege Souvenir as we look forward to solidifying and growing our leadership role in our region for the next 60 years and beyond.

Join me in embarking on a journey through time in this 60th Anniversary Impact Report as we reflect on the Area Foundation's accomplishments while keeping a close eye toward the future. Much work remains to be done to close opportunity gaps for those who need it most in our community.



**Alex Perez** is the Chairman of the San Antonio Area Foundation Board of Directors.

“**No one imagined the modest gift Mannie Goldsmith gave his nephew Richard would be the seed that eventually grew into San Antonio's hub for philanthropy and nonprofit support.**”

# EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS—INCLUDING YOUR IMPACT

## WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM

In our 60-year relationship, we've gotten to know each other quite well. In honor of this milestone, we celebrate some of your most endearing qualities:

- You're generous.
- You're strategic.
- You're a visionary.

That's why you have chosen the Area Foundation as your hub for generosity. Our specialty is facilitating the goals of strategically generous visionaries like yourself.

We call it *giving smarter*.

## YOUR GIFT. YOUR VISION. WE JUST SCALE IT.

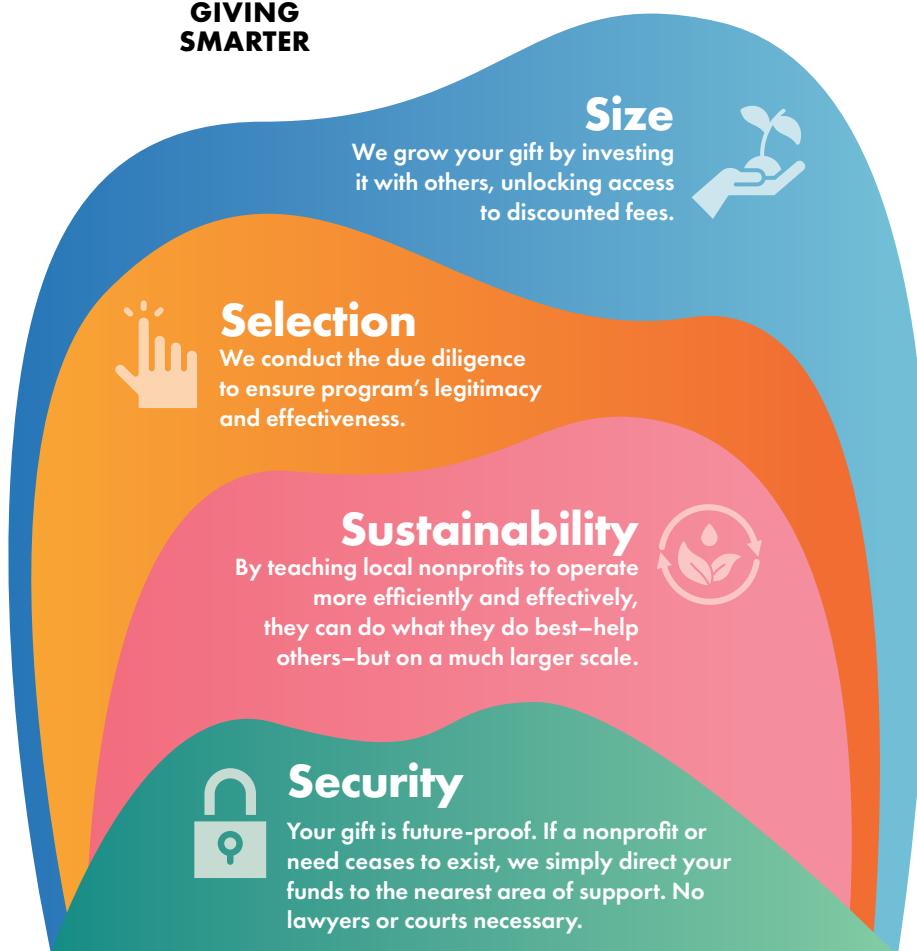
When you give to a cause through the Area Foundation, your contribution is invested with funds from like-minded advocates. We research and track community trends across our region, identify gaps, and vet grantees who are making the biggest impact. This expertise ensures that your multiplied gifts are directed to nonprofits and programs throughout our community that solve the problems you care about.

So your gift comes in like this: \$, but goes out like that: \$\$\$.

That's big. But since we're based in Texas, we think you deserve bigger.

That's why we also invest in strengthening the nonprofit ecosystem — so local change-makers can further multiply your gift's impact. (See page 16 for more)

## GIVING SMARTER



## EPICENTER OF PHILANTHROPY

The stories of impact featured in this report illustrate what you have achieved by allowing the Area Foundation to serve as a conduit for your generosity. We are immensely grateful to be your partner in growing the supply of goodwill in our beloved San Antonio.

You have big dreams for our community. We have the infrastructure. Here's a Texas-sized toast to 60 more years of collaboration.

NOW, YOUR FAVORITE INITIATIVE CAN HAVE IMPACT LIKE THIS → \$\$\$\$\$\$  
BY JUST USING THAT → \$\$\$ WHICH STARTED WITH THIS → \$

We want to acknowledge someone very special to San Antonio. Someone who has gone over and beyond to make a difference. Without this support, our community wouldn't be what it is today. It's you.

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**THANK YOU FOR...**

- ◆ Believing that better is not good enough.
- ◆ Inspiring others to take action.
- ◆ Helping our community pursue its potential.
- ◆ Empowering underserved communities.
- ◆ Knowing that a gift is an investment in the future.

You've accomplished a lot through the San Antonio Area Foundation. For this, and for the many unwritten chapters ahead, we are profoundly grateful. To express our gratitude, we have something for you.

This impact report holds 60 years of stories. Let's open it and recall the good we've done together. Come see what you have accomplished.



# YOU'VE BEEN BUSY, SAN ANTONIO

Since 1964, you have distributed **51,547** grants to **5,891** nonprofits totaling more than **\$809,303,667**. At 60 years, you show no signs of slowing down. In just the last decade, the annual amount granted has increased by **217%**. Now, that's impressive. These top **60** grant recipients represent only a fraction of the good you have done in this community. Thank you for shaping San Antonio into the vibrant city it is today.

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[Any Baby Can](#) • [Assistance League of San Antonio](#) • [Autism Community Network](#) • [Avance San Antonio](#) • [Big Brothers Big Sisters - San Antonio](#) • [Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio](#) • [Brighton Center](#) • [Catholic Charities](#) • [Child Advocates San Antonio \(CASA\)](#) • [Children's Association for Maximum Potential \(CAMP\)](#) • [Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas](#) • [Children's Shelter](#) • [ChildSafe](#) • [Chrysalis Ministries](#) • [City Education Partners](#) • [Clarity Child Guidance Center](#) • [Communities In Schools of San Antonio](#) • [Culinary Health Education for Families \(CHEF\)](#) • [DoSeum](#) • [El Centro Del Barrio](#) • [Family Service Association](#) • [Family Violence Prevention Services](#) • [Girls Inc.](#) • [Good Samaritan Center of San Antonio](#) • [Haven for Hope of Bexar County](#) • [Jewish Federation of San Antonio](#) • [KLRN](#) • [LiftFund](#) • [McNay Art Museum](#) • [Meals on Wheels San Antonio](#) • [Mission Road Ministries](#) • [Morgan's Wonderland & Morgan's Inclusion Initiative](#) • [Morningside Ministries](#) • [Planned Parenthood South Texas](#) • [Project MEND](#) • [Public Theater of San Antonio](#) • [Residential Energy Assistance Partnership \(REAP\)](#) • [Rise Recovery](#) • [SA Youth](#) • [Salvation Army - San Antonio](#) • [SAMMinistries](#) • [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#) • [San Antonio Food Bank](#) • [San Antonio Hope Center](#) • [San Antonio Humane Society](#) • [San Antonio Museum of Art](#) • [San Antonio Public Library Foundation](#) • [San Antonio Sports Foundation](#) • [San Antonio Zoo](#) • [Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Foundation](#) • [Say Sí](#) • [Southwest School of Art](#) • [SJRC Texas](#) • [Texas Public Radio](#) • [University Health Foundation](#) • [UT Health at San Antonio](#) • [Wildlife Rescue And Rehabilitation](#) • [Witte Museum](#) • [YMCA of Greater San Antonio](#) • [YWCA San Antonio](#)

# Sixty Years

Look at how far we've come.

1964

SAAFdn is founded by Richard Goldsmith.

SEE PAGE 8

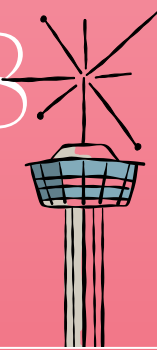


1965

First grant helps children with disabilities.

1968

Tower of the Americas erected for HemisFair '68.



1969

First scholarship awarded for UT student Alma Jimenez.

SEE PAGE 22

1981

Katherine Netting Folbre hired as first paid staff member.

1989

500th scholarship awarded.



1994

Creation of Smart Start Fund.

SEE PAGE 12



2000

Assets reach \$100M.

2007

Launch of Animal No-Kill Initiative.



2008

TRIAD fund supports veterans and families.

SEE PAGE 28

2013

Nonprofit Learning and Development Program launched.

SEE PAGE 15



2015

San Antonio Missions named to UNESCO World Heritage List.

2016

John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation awards first grant.

SEE PAGE 14

2020

COVID-19 pandemic begins. Largest grantmaking year. Assets surpass \$1B.

2022

Uvalde Strong Funds created.

SEE PAGE 24

2024

Area Foundation celebrates 60 years of generosity.



2084

## Our Future Is Not Yet Written

You have the ability to shape that narrative. The San Antonio Area Foundation is proud to partner with you in bringing that vision to life.



# PLANTING PROSPERITY: A \$10,000 SEED WITH A BILLION DOLLAR HARVEST



San Antonio Area Foundation founder Richard Goldsmith, pictured at his Olmos Park home nursery in 2021.

What if you were given \$10,000 to make a difference?

This was the question posed to Richard Goldsmith, a fresh Harvard Law graduate, by his uncle Mannie 60 years ago. But it was more than just a challenge—it was an invitation to honor his late father’s legacy of service.

After Nat Goldsmith’s passing in 1963, uncle Mannie approached his nephew with an annual \$10,000 gift over the next decade, intended as a tribute to Nat’s profound impact on the San Antonio community. For the younger Goldsmith, it was a chance to create something enduring in his father’s memory.

Rather than simply donating the funds piecemeal, Goldsmith had a grander vision. He sought to create an enduring vehicle for philanthropy, a wellspring from which generosity could flow in perpetuity.

And so, the seeds of the San Antonio Area Foundation were planted.

## A SEEDLING TAKES ROOT

Born to a family of civic leaders, Goldsmith witnessed firsthand the transformative power of giving back. His father had helped establish organizations assisting those in need, instilling in his son a deep commitment to service.



**CULTIVATING  
A LEGACY OF  
VOLUNTEERISM**

Richard Goldsmith believed in rolling up his sleeves to create a better San Antonio. He showed that real progress comes from real effort.

This commitment is deeply embedded in our organization’s DNA. We do more than direct donations to our nonprofit partners. We believe so strongly in their missions that we offer our own hands to help when needed.

Recently, our staff, board members, and supporters took the idea of “getting our hands dirty” to heart. We visited a four-acre community farm on San Antonio’s East Side that fosters education and urban food production. With gloves and shovels in tow, we dug in.

Rose Flores, director of Garcia Street Urban Farm, beautifully captured the power of the experience: “We’re not planting trees for ourselves. We are planting trees for future generations.”

You have helped foster a culture that celebrates growth and nurturing through a legacy of volunteerism. Thank you for your part in honoring our founder’s vision.



After returning to San Antonio to practice law, Goldsmith drew inspiration from his father's example and his uncle's charge. He recalled, "I thought of creating an organization that could combine my uncle's gift with that of others who wanted their gifts to go to charity so they could be preserved."

What began as an ambitious idea soon blossomed into reality. Though humble at first—an all-volunteer effort with modest donations—the Area Foundation quickly took root in the fertile soil of San Antonio's philanthropic spirit.

## A FLOURISHING LEGACY

As the decades passed, the organization's impact grew in lockstep with the city itself. A \$2.9 million donation from Semp Russ in 1978 allowed for the hiring of staff, while subsequent contributions swelled the Area Foundation's assets to \$50 million by 1996 and \$100 million just four years later.

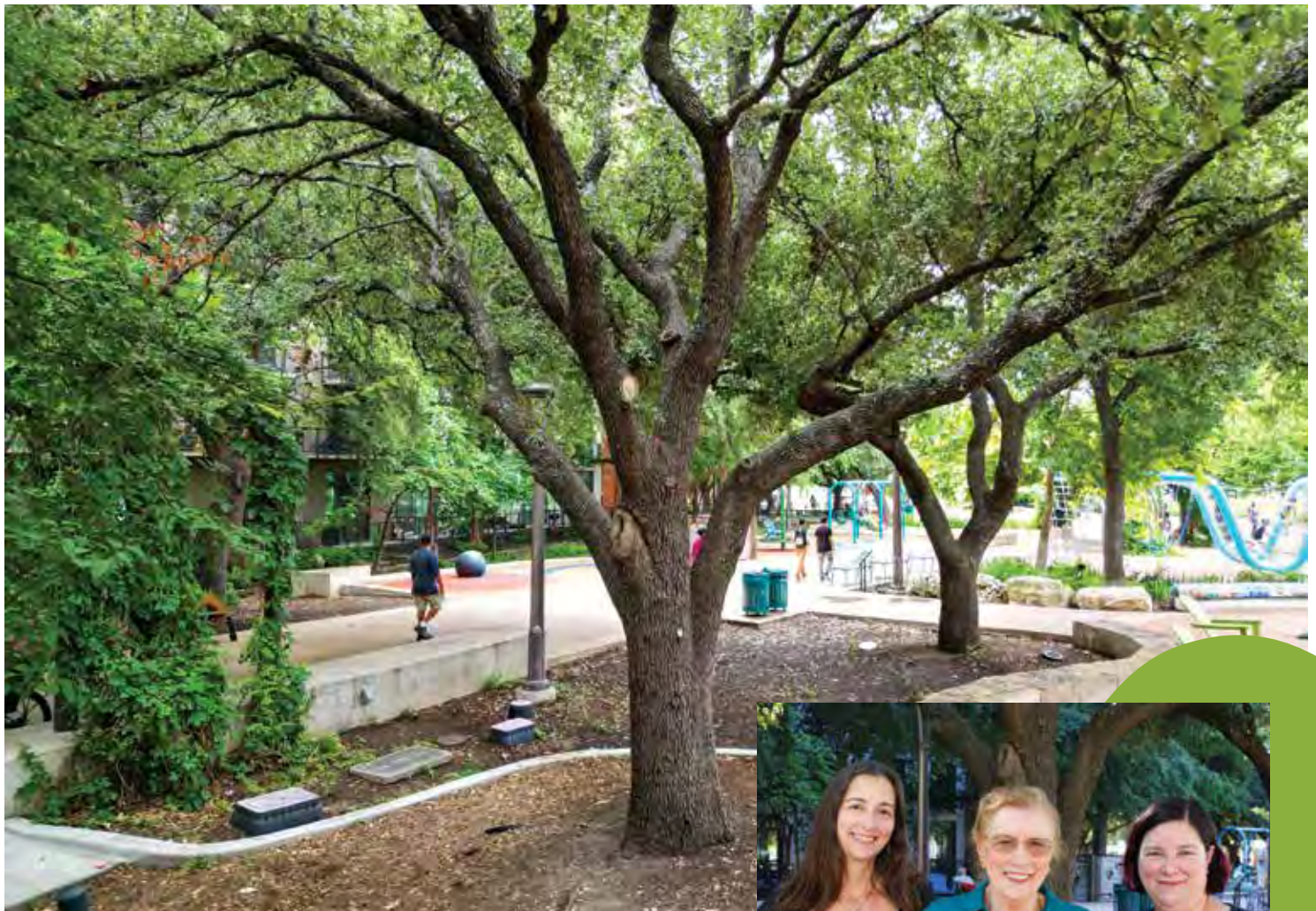
Yet the unprecedented \$605 million bequest from John L. Santikos in 2014 truly cemented the Area Foundation's status as a philanthropic force. Years earlier, as Santikos' estate planner, Goldsmith had simply suggested donating to the Area Foundation—a seemingly small act that yielded an extraordinary legacy.

## A MIGHTY OAK

Today, with assets surpassing \$1 billion, the San Antonio Area Foundation stands as a towering achievement, a mighty oak that has taken root and spread its branches wide. Its impact extends far beyond mere numbers, providing vital support to countless local organizations and initiatives.

For Goldsmith, now in his 90s, the organization's success is a source of immense pride—a testament to the transformative power of generosity. "My hope is that it continues to be a vibrant organization," he said, his eyes alight with the same vision that sparked its creation so long ago.

Just as a single seed can blossom into a mighty tree, so too can one act of generosity bear fruit for generations to come.



**ABOVE** This mighty oak in Hemisfair Park is named in honor of Founder Richard Goldsmith and his family in celebration of the Area Foundation's 60th anniversary.

**RIGHT** The Goldsmith family paid homage to their namesake tree. Pictured are Antonia Goldsmith (center) and her daughters Joan (left) and Ruth (right).

# 3 BIG THANK-YOU'S

We could tell you how much of a difference you've made in San Antonio through your support. Our top three grant recipients were eager to tell you themselves.



## Morgan's Inclusion Initiative

AMOUNT GRANTED

# \$17.1 million

Morgan's Inclusion Initiative improves the quality of life for individuals of all ages and all abilities, especially those with special needs. They remove barriers to produce fully inclusive, Ultra-Accessible™ experiences in programs ranging from health care to entertainment.

"There are one billion people on this earth who have some sort of special need or disability. We want to spark cultural change to ensure that everyone has access to the same opportunities. Your support gives us the resources to assist these friends and give them a seat at the table. Thank you for allowing us to help more people."

—Gordon Hartman, Founder



## UT Health San Antonio

AMOUNT GRANTED

# \$15.5 million

UT Health supports the health needs of the San Antonio region through academia, research, patient care, and service to the community.

"Your giving has been the basis for the success of some of our most essential programs.

Thousands of patients benefit from the gift that launched the John L. Santikos CT and Nuclear Medicine Suite, which uses specialized equipment to accurately diagnose Alzheimer's and neurodegenerative diseases.

This and so much more is made possible because of the remarkable support that comes through the San Antonio Area Foundation."

—The late Dr. William L. Henrich, Former President



## San Antonio Food Bank

AMOUNT GRANTED

# \$15.1 million

The San Antonio Food Bank serves up hope and healthy food to more than 100,000 food-insecure individuals each week across 29 counties.

"All of us at the San Antonio Food Bank would like to congratulate the San Antonio Area Foundation and its supporters for their 60 years of service. Together, we have nourished those impacted by food insecurity in San Antonio and surrounding communities. Feeding children, families, and seniors, the New Braunfels Food Bank Branch would not exist without your support from the John Santikos Foundation. Many pets would have been surrendered to animal shelters without your support of Daisy Cares, our pet food program. Lastly, we couldn't have delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic without your responsive gifts and encouragement. Thank you Area Foundation!"

— Eric Cooper, President and CEO

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That totals **\$47.7 million** across three organizations. Now that's a whole lot of change.



# How One Father's Experience Sparked a Movement

Gordon Hartman's journey into activism began with a deeply personal motivation—his daughter Morgan, who has special needs. "Morgan's one of the lucky ones. She has all the doctors, therapists, great care, and two loving parents—everything she really needs," Hartman said. "But she's the exception. Many families with special needs children lack vital resources." This realization inspired the creation of Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first Ultra-Accessible™ theme park. In this Q&A, Hartman illustrates the profound impact that personal experience can have in fostering positive change within a community.



**Q: Walk us through your decision to become an advocate.**

**A:** When I retired 19 years ago, I decided to spend the second half of my life giving back to assist our friends with special needs. As Morgan's father, I realized there was a better way to do things. I wanted to participate not

just monetarily but also with my time to make their lives better. We won't solve every issue, but we can at least begin improving life for those with special needs.

**Q: How far have we come as a society over 60 years?**

**A:** When the first Special Olympics was held in 1960, there was a question of whether or not that was a correct thing to go to or be a part of. Then in the mid-1990s, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed. It was a great piece of legislation. Look where we are today. But it only moved us so far. There is still a big gap between ADA and what is actually needed. Our goal is to push the bar higher.

**Q: Let's jump 60 years into the future. A San Antonio family has a child like Morgan. What does life look like for them?**

**A:** Their needs will be addressed in a more aggressive fashion. Employment opportunities will be recognized as something that everybody ought to participate in. Companies will want to participate in a bigger way because they will see the benefit. I can't exactly predict it, but I can tell you we're going in the right direction.

**Q: What does success look like?**

**A:** Our goal is to educate the public and create a ripple effect that changes how people view and support individuals with special needs. We're seeing the effects of it, not just locally but nationally and internationally. We hope to take this moment and turn it into a movement.



**Q: How do you see the San Antonio Area Foundation playing a role in that vision?**

**A:** There are many people working toward what we're trying to do. We're not the only ones. Contributions to the Area Foundation add additional power and opportunity. I have a foundation as well as a donor advised fund at the San Antonio Area Foundation. I find the combination to be a creative and advantageous way to use our funding. Anybody who's considering that ought to give it a close look because there's nothing but fulfillment and good at the top of it.

**Q: What do you say to the community member who has the heart of an activist but just doesn't know where to start?**

**A:** You can always find a reason not to do something. You and I have the same amount of 24 hours in a day. How we prioritize those hours decides what we can and can't do. You just have to make that decision and follow through.

*Each of us has a cause that pulls on our heartstrings. The San Antonio Area Foundation is grateful to partner with each of you in channeling that passion into meaningful impact. Together, we are creating a better future for our community.*

## Did You Know?

The Area Foundation's first grant in 1965 was made to children with disabilities.

1 in 4 adults in the U.S. have some form of disability.

Morgan is one of 1.3 billion people worldwide who have a disability.

# SMART START: KEEPING MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE

“Should I provide for my children or protect my children?” This is the question that no parent should have to ask.

However, in 1993, it was a common dilemma for San Antonio mothers, especially among low-income households.

At the time, there was a substantial disparity between what federal programs offered and what underresourced child care facilities needed.

In many cases, centers lacked the nurturing environment that children need to grow and learn. In more severe cases, conditions were dangerous.

The quality of early childhood development in Bexar County was spiraling downward, leaving families in a difficult position.

## IDENTIFYING PARTNERS

Nancy Hard, a consultant for struggling child

care providers, teamed up with Peggy Walker, then Managing Director at Bank of America, to tackle this problem.

They recognized that the consequences of this systemic issue extended beyond mothers and child care facilities.

Businesses experienced daily disruptions when parents, particularly mothers, were forced to temporarily or permanently leave their jobs to care for children.

Conversely, employers could increase workforce retention and productivity by investing in programs that improve the quality of early child care and education.

Having recently worked together on the Work-Family Commission, Walker knew then-First Lady of San Antonio, Tracy Wolff, could help bring this vision to life. Wolff eagerly accepted the invitation to join the movement.

The final piece of the puzzle was finding a reputable place to accept gifts and grow the funds for the initiative, dubbed SMART START. “We didn’t want to create yet another orga-

## IN 1993

If San Antonio women were asked, “What keeps you up at night?”

### SALES REP/NEW MOM

I have two options: Either I give up my income to care for the baby, or I leave him in an unsafe environment to provide for our family.

### DAY CARE OWNER

I lost another caregiver to a better paying job. I could lose my license if I get caught taking care of 2x the kids tomorrow!

### MANAGER

She used to be our MVP. Now she’s not reaching her goals. She has been distracted since returning to work.



nization with tax returns and administrative costs,” says Walker.

The three businesswomen turned to the San Antonio Area Foundation to create the organization’s very first Field of Interest fund. This setup leveraged the Area Foundation’s infrastructure and offered the flexibility of distributing grants to multiple nonprofits.

Wolff was instrumental in raising awareness and support by visiting groups like The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. “The business community was just as frustrated as the people who worked for them,” she recalled.

With Wolff’s fundraising prowess, the three mothers raised \$3 million for the cause.

## IMPACT THAT SCALES

By 2003, SMART START had reached more than 20,000 children and families, 7,000 child care providers, and 2,000 child care programs. That was just the beginning.

Over its 31-year history, SMART START has:

- Increased the number of nationally accredited child care centers
- Provided scholarship, mentorship, education, consultation, and equipment to centers
- Helped employers create child care policies
- Developed extended-hour care, summer/holiday camps, and emergency back-up care
- Reached thousands of families each year through bilingual multimedia consumer education campaigns
- Launched a full-time bilingual hotline providing parents with information on caring for young children



SMART START Founders (from left to right) Peggy Walker, Tracy Wolff and Nancy Hard

Perhaps the most remarkable contribution of SMART START is the seed it planted for meaningful initiatives that exist today.

Locally, Pre-K 4 SA aims to change the educational and workforce trajectory, while the UP Partnership supports the academic success of children in Bexar County.

Other cities noted SMART START’s success and established their own corporate child care collaboratives. Wolff agreed, “It was a model for Texas and our nation.”

## THE LEGACY

Families, child care providers, and businesses rely on one another for mutual success. By targeting the intersection of their needs, SMART START has created a stronger, more resilient San Antonio.

“We knew there would come a time when we would not be around,” Walker said of their decision to partner with the San Antonio Area Foundation. “And we wanted to continue having the funds focus on improving the early childhood education policy. And so, what better place to have that than the Area Foundation? Because the Area Foundation goes on in perpetuity, SMART START will go on in perpetuity.”

And so decades later, thanks to SMART START, fewer mothers must choose between providing for their children and protecting their children.

## STIMULATING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

In 2000, each worker SMART START kept in the workforce poured an additional

**\$12,680**

back into the local economy.

That would be

**\$23,000**

per job in 2024.

## Did You Know?

An innovator and an incubator — the Area Foundation has played a key part in growing numerous local nonprofits. If the infrastructure does not yet exist for your cause, we will help you build it.



## A STORY OF THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX OFFICE

The man who built an entertainment empire had a passion that extended beyond the theater and into the community whom he had proudly entertained for decades.

John Santikos, a titan of cinema, saw a golden opportunity in the silver screen. In an unprecedented move, Santikos bequeathed his flourishing businesses to the San Antonio Area Foundation—not for asset liquidation, but rather to own, operate and generate proceeds.

This monumental \$605 million gift continues to reshape San Antonio. But perhaps his most profound legacy is the trail he blazed for unconventional generosity.

Every ticket, every show, every moment of joy experienced in Santikos theaters transforms into a beacon of hope for those in need.

Santikos took his final bow in 2014, but the encore of his legacy will continue reverberating for generations to come.

**"THE SANTIKOS NAME IS NOW NEARLY AS SYNONYMOUS WITH NONPROFIT SUPPORT AROUND SAN ANTONIO AS IT IS WITH MOVIE THEATERS."  
—SAN ANTONIO MAGAZINE, MARCH 2018**

**1  
MAN.**

**9  
CAUSES.**

**605  
MILLION DOLLAR  
DIFFERENCE.**

Two staff members meeting over budget.  
The phone rings in the background.

MARK:  
We've never had to turn families away before.

DONNA:  
There's never been so many applying for support.  
Our budget can't keep up with the demand.

MARK:  
There are going to be a lot of families left without  
resources to care for their aging parents.  
[Shaking head]  
Should I start making those phone calls?

DONNA:  
[Picks up the ringing phone and holds up a finger  
requesting MARK to wait for an answer]  
Yes. I see. Ok. Thank you.  
[Hangs up phone]  
Looks like you'll only be delivering good news today.  
That was the San Antonio Area Foundation.  
They just received a \$605 million bequest. They want to  
give a portion to this program.

# JOHN L. SANTIKOS THE SHOW GOES ON

**G** RATED G FOR GENEROSITY   
ALL ASSET TYPES ACCEPTED

STARRING **JOHN L. SANTIKOS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** HOSTED AT THE **SAN ANTONIO  
AREA FOUNDATION** FOR THE BENEFIT OF **PEOPLE IN NEED, HEALTH, YOUTH &  
EDUCATION, ARTS & CULTURE** SUPPORTING CAST **YOU, WITH  
EVERY TICKET PURCHASED**

# NOW SHOWING

# STRATEGIC EDGE: TRAINING PROGRAM ELEVATES NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

A critical component to the San Antonio Area Foundation's dedication to serving our vibrant nonprofit ecosystem is through a high-quality yet affordable professional development training program.

It's quite a unique service, making the Area Foundation stand out among its peers across the country since not many community foundations offer this opportunity to nonprofit partners. So how did it come about?

The Learning and Development Department grew out of a need to provide more tools to organizations that were awarded grant funding. The ultimate goal was to ensure nonprofits are given every opportunity to succeed in fulfilling their respective missions – particularly in being able to provide effective leadership.

“Around 2009, [the Nonprofit Resource Center of Texas], which provided training and capacity building, was given space at the Area Foundation,” former Learning and Development Facilitator Sandie Palomo-Gonzalez explained. “In 2010, we moved to the Pearl and that group formally became part of the Area Foundation, opening up space where we could offer training.”

Under the direction of the department's staff, a new curriculum was developed for nonprofits to take workshops and in-depth certification programs. An in-house library was opened offering nonprofits resources to conduct research on additional grant opportunities.

“[Creating the department] was all around the idea of helping nonprofits in two ways,” explained Palomo-Gonzalez. “One was the grant-making side and the other was, recognizing that we had limited funds, creating other opportunities to help nonprofits be stronger and more sustainable.”

To that end, the Area Foundation created a growing curriculum of cost-effective training



Guy Clumpner, President of HOLT Development Services, leads a Values-Based Leadership workshop that the Area Foundation offers to the community in partnership with HOLT.

programs of the highest quality for nonprofit leaders, staff members, board members and volunteers. These include certificate programs in fundraising and grant writing, executive leadership and board training. Beyond the resource library, nonprofits are also offered a membership program and free meeting space.

“In the beginning, there wasn't a lot of structure around trying to do training,” Susan Steves Thompson, a former Area Foundation executive from 2012 to 2017, noted. “When I was brought on, we needed to flesh out a plan where this was more of a strategic priority. We looked at the elements we felt were needed to run a successful nonprofit, like governance, like fundraising, like culture, managing volunteers, etc.”

Using the Area Foundation's extensive network, plans were put into place to truly organize training and create certifications to encourage attendees to do more than attend one or two classes. Thompson's team struck agreements with several area universities, as well as HOLT Development Services to create resources truly invaluable to nonprofits.

“By the time I left, we were offering over 100 classes annually to over 3,200 individuals a year,” Thompson proudly noted. “The goal was always to create a vibrant, sustainable nonprofit sector in our region. I think the department truly exceeded our original expectations.”

## BY THE NUMBERS

**27,418**  
participants  
in learning &  
development  
classes,

**1,043**  
training events  
since 2013

# SUSTAINABLE CHANGE STARTS UPSTREAM

As stewards of your generosity, we feel an immense responsibility to care for your hard-earned money. We invest and grow your gift. We find the nonprofits that are the best at tackling the problems you care about. We direct your financial support to them. But stopping there would be a missed opportunity.

## A SMARTER WAY TO DO GOOD

Drawing upon the timeless adage of “teach a man to fish,” the San Antonio Area Foundation strengthens the nonprofit ecosystem by equipping our region’s organizations with the tools they need to flourish.

By enabling local nonprofits to operate more efficiently and effectively, they can do what they do best—helping others—but on a much larger scale.

Your gift goes further because we ensure local nonprofits have access to:

- **Learning & Development**

Professional development opportunities in grant writing, fundraising, leadership, data management, and board training (see page 15).

- **Capacity Building**

Endowment services, demographic research, organizational assessments, and meeting space (see page 19).

- **Trust-Based Philanthropy**

Unrestricted support that allows organizations to focus on fulfilling their mission and addressing the needs of the communities they serve (see page 18).



## HELPING THOSE WHO HELP OTHERS

As a nonprofit hub, we train thousands of community leaders on board governance, fundraising, and accounting. We have subsidized a six-week financial analysis course through the University of Texas at San Antonio. We host cohorts for C-suite capacity building. Organizations have quick access to emergency funds. And because of you, the opportunities continue.

Inefficiencies are too costly. Together, we are creating sustainable change that starts upstream, ensuring that those who help others are empowered with the knowledge, resources, and support they need to thrive.

As the nonprofit ecosystem scales, so does the impact of your generosity. These stories demonstrate only a small portion of how you contribute to a smarter, more effective approach to improving our community.



Over the past 60 years, you have consistently challenged us to elevate how we do business. After all, you want to benefit your community and your wallet. Thanks to you, we have unlocked tax-savvy options that yield dividends of social good. Let's explore some of the unique scenarios you've brought to our table.

# How do I do good for my community and...

## **Avoid the income tax of my IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)?**

Up to \$100,000 of your RMD is income tax-free when gifted to a Scholarship Fund, Designated Fund or an Impact Fund for different community goals.

## **Manage a sudden year-end windfall?**

Put it in a donor advised fund (DAF). Get your tax deduction now and prefund years of giving through a single high-income event. Avoid a big tax year now, and determine the philanthropic cause later.

## **Leverage highly appreciated stock?**

Gift stock. You'll avoid capital gains tax and get a full income tax deduction for the stock's fair market value.

## **Preserve more wealth for my heirs?**

Name the Area Foundation as the beneficiary of retirement accounts to avoid double taxation. Pass more tax-favorable assets directly to heirs.

## **Divest ownership of a business or property?**

Give appreciated assets to avoid capital gains tax and claim a fair market value income tax deduction.

## **Avoid the hassle of a private foundation?**

Open a fund with us instead. You enjoy greater flexibility, lower costs, and maximum tax benefits, while leveraging the community foundation's ability to handle bookkeeping and administration.

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## **This is visionary generosity.**

It feels good to give back. It feels even better when it benefits your bottom line. Thank you for your part in driving us to offer innovative giving solutions.

# FROM CRISIS TO CULTURE SHIFT: EMPOWERING NONPROFITS WITH UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT

The economic crisis of 2008 impacted everyone. What money nonprofits had was largely tied up in restricted programmatic funds. Yet there was an urgent need to tackle unexpected problems without constraint.

It begged the question, “How helpful are we to the cause if those closest to the problem aren’t empowered to address unforeseen challenges?”

So, the San Antonio Area Foundation led a seismic mindset shift among community foundations nationwide, blazing the trail for what is known today as trust-based philanthropy.

In its first year of implementation, the San Antonio Area Foundation awarded \$1.7 million in discretionary funding.

Organizations were finally given the flexibility to allocate resources where they were most needed: day-to-day operations, existing programs, or potential budget shortfalls.

The foundation of this mutually beneficial partnership is active listening. Trust-based philanthropy acknowledges that nonprofit leaders have a deep understanding of their community’s needs, making them the most qualified to respond effectively. We all want

a more sustainable and resilient nonprofit ecosystem, capable of adapting to and thriving amid changes. Your generosity is making that possible.

## FLEXIBILITY IN ACTION

It’s amazing what can be accomplished when there are no strings attached, and these organizations are proof. In 2021, the Area Foundation took trust-based philanthropy one step further when it began awarding multiyear grants to improve nonprofits’ ability to budget for the future.

### Gardopia Gardens

In its first grant year, Gardopia Gardens will have served nearly 40 schools across seven districts, investing in resilient and sustainable garden infrastructures and developing innovative educational materials.

“We are deeply grateful for the foundation’s trust in our organization and their recognition of the vital role that garden education plays in fostering positive change. This support empowers us to dream bigger and explore new avenues for expanding our initiatives.”

—Stephen Lucke, CEO

### Gemini Ink

This San Antonio literary stalwart has served the community for over three decades. Gemini Ink received operational grant funding to help achieve its goal of assisting 12,000 aspiring writers by 2024.

“This operational grant plays such a reassuring role in our ability to strategically grow our reach and impact as San Antonio’s writing arts center. More than ever, telling our stories, processing trauma, and making our voices heard is a pivotal tool and life resource the writing arts can provide San Antonians as we face growing challenges daily.”

—Alexandra van de Kamp,  
Executive Director



## BY THE NUMBERS

You want to deepen your impact by closing socio-economic opportunity gaps throughout the region. But did you know that those gaps also exist at the nonprofit level? Small nonprofits serving the lowest-income areas are often overlooked by grantmakers. The San Antonio Area Foundation’s trust-based philanthropy model is changing that. This is how unrestricted support is getting us a step closer to an equitable San Antonio. From the 2023-2025 grantee pool:

# 26%

ARE FIRST-TIME RECIPIENTS

# 84%

WORK IN ONE OF THE CITY’S  
17 ZIP CODES WITH THE  
HIGHEST POVERTY RATES

# 1/3

HAVE ANNUAL BUDGETS  
LOWER THAN \$250,000



Gardopia Gardens grows healthy communities through garden-based learning.



# Helping Nonprofit Partners Strengthen From Within

The San Antonio Area Foundation is widely known for providing grant funding to nonprofit partners in our community. Yet our support is much more expansive – starting with a significant effort to help nonprofits operate strategically and effectively. One aspect of that support is called “capacity building.” We asked Jennifer Cook, the Area Foundation’s Director of Strategy and Impact who spearheads this program, to share insight into how it works and the purpose it serves.



**Q: What is capacity building?**

**A:** Simply defined, capacity building is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of a nonprofit through a process to build and strengthen the organization’s systems, culture, skills and resources. At the Area Foundation, we provide grants to help

nonprofits strengthen their infrastructure, and we take this one step farther through wraparound support by offering opportunities for professional development, providing coaching, and offering technical assistance on grant processes.

**Q: Why is it important for the Area Foundation to support capacity building efforts in our community?**

**A:** The Area Foundation provides capacity building support to achieve impact. Strong individuals build strong nonprofits. Strong nonprofits build a strong nonprofit sector. A strong nonprofit sector is more equipped to advance progress on community impact.

**Q: Can you briefly describe our capacity building initiatives?**

**A:** For individuals, we provide professional development opportunities for them to enhance the skills and knowledge needed to effectively do their jobs. For organizations, we engage nonprofits in an organizational assessment to better understand their work and give capacity building grants. We also underwrite the cost of access to resources such as Catchafire and Candid’s Foundation Directory Online. At the sector level, we provide opportunities for nonprofits to come together to collectively address shared community issues such as aging, racial equity, access to healthcare, and advancing educational outcomes.

**Q: Could you share an example of how a local nonprofit organization has benefited from this type of support?**

**A:** One capacity building wraparound support we provide to nonprofit organizations is access to volunteer experts through Catchafire, an online volunteer platform that connects skilled volunteers to nonprofits seeking a particular expertise or skill. Taking advantage of this program, one of our partners saved nearly \$40,000 to address organizational strategy and marketing needs.

**Q: Do we see an increased need for capacity building efforts in the future? Is it a model for other funders to consider?**

**A:** By investing in capacity building support, we help organizations become better equipped to compete for and receive grant funding, and sustain their future. We know there are great disparities in our community and many nonprofits lack the proper resources and infrastructure needed to truly conduct their missions to address these disparities. When we become more intentional about how we provide capacity building support to our nonprofit partners, we can see improvements in their effectiveness to serve the community.

**Did You Know?**

In 2023, the San Antonio Area Foundation provided capacity building support to 46 local nonprofit organizations. Of those, 76% have annual budgets below \$1,000,000.

# CLOSING OPPORTUNITY GAPS

Because your ZIP code shouldn't determine your lifespan, education, or food security

Over the course of its 60 years, the San Antonio Area Foundation and its work have continued to grow and adapt. To best connect with and serve its community, the organization is now more determined than ever to act on its vision to close opportunity gaps for those who need it most.

"It's a continuous cycle of learning, evolving practices, and helping ensure that regardless of anyone's background, they are able to get the resources needed to thrive," Chief Operating Officer Arenda Burns explained.

After examining its role in the community, focusing on equity has become a natural extension of the Area Foundation's mantra. It was a goal that

team members recognized was worthwhile in seeking ways to incorporate this effort into their daily work.

"I think of creating environments that value and respect differences, ensuring fair opportunities for everyone, and fostering a sense of belonging for all individuals," Learning and Development Director Jessica Lombard said.

For others, the opportunity for the Area Foundation to do its part to improve equity in our community is a welcomed challenge – one that had been on the radar for quite some time.

"I heard a lecture ... about 10 years ago [about] the history of the economic disparity that we have in San Antonio," said Gavin Nichols, Senior Program Officer with the Community Engagement and Impact (CEI) team. "At that point, I told my VP that all of our grants ... needed to address the economic segregation problem in San Antonio."

The first step was for the Area Foundation to take a good long look at its internal practices and assess needs. After undergoing that internal reflection process, the organization stood ready to implement its work through an equity lens.

"We recognize that disparities exist in our community, and we are actively working with our partners to address solutions to barriers that prevent people from reaching their full potential," Executive Director of Scholarship and Relief Programs Jennifer Ballesteros said. "As part of this, we recognize that we have to look within at our own practices, trust our non-profit partners as experts and acknowledge that we don't have all the answers."

With the vision and buy-in from across the organization, the goal became putting it into practice.

"While we have only scratched the surface of aligning our practices to the [Foundation's] mission and vision, the Scholarship team has been intentional in removing barriers and outdated practices from our scholarship applications and programs," Ballesteros said.



Nonprofits like Meals on Wheels and Girls on the Run, pictured here, fulfill the Area Foundation's vision of closing opportunity gaps for those who need it most.



**TOO MANY NEIGHBORS IN SAN ANTONIO ARE CAUGHT IN THE GAPS BETWEEN OPPORTUNITY AND OBSTACLE.**

**250,000**

SAN ANTONIANS ARE LIVING AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

**27%**

OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 LIVE IN POVERTY

**1 IN 3**

WOMEN IN SAN ANTONIO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCLUDING PHYSICAL, SEXUAL AND FINANCIAL ABUSE



Local leaders at a Successful Aging and Living in San Antonio (SALSA) workshop.

“Moving forward, we’re committed to reaching new audiences in the hope of providing equitable access to information about our scholarships.”

From revamping project goals to reworking program parameters, nothing was off the table when it came to increasing equity opportunities.

For Learning & Development, the effort has involved diversifying its instructor pool as well as expanding its curriculum to include new classes on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

On the giving side of things, the Development and Donor Services (DDS) team is also doing its part, showing donors and supporters the impact, their generosity has in tackling economic inequalities.

“We encourage our fund advisors to learn about nonprofits and causes operating in the areas of the greatest community need,” Executive Director of Development and Donor Services Laura Giacomoni said. “[For example], we have created impactful avenues for anyone to be able to pool resources

**CHALLENGE:**

Homelessness among LGBTQ+ youth is on the rise.

**AND SO THE AREA FOUNDATION GAVE AN UNRESTRICTED GRANT TO:**

Thrive Youth Center at Haven for Hope

**WHICH PROVIDED:**

Beds, kitchen items, books, GED tests, bus tickets and more to LGBTQ+ youth



Ashbriyanna shared that she never knew genuine care and help until she received assistance from Thrive Youth Center, an Area Foundation grantee.

and have launched a program that allows anyone to create a will for free.”

The Area Foundation’s journey toward equity still has plenty of room for growth. But it’s one the organization has embarked on with strength and determination – ultimately, it’s a win for our entire community.

“We are committed to closing opportunity gaps where they may exist, while understanding the importance of driving a culture of inclusiveness and belonging,” Burns said.



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Scholarship Suzie



Has scholarship

Lives on campus



Meets new friends from the dorm

SCHACHING  
Scholarship applied to account

Ready to learn

GETS INTO DREAM SCHOOL

TUITION IS DUE

CLASSES BEGIN



Working Walter

Does not have scholarship

Opts for cheaper housing off campus

1 hour commute each day



25 YEAR LOAN  
30% INTEREST  
x Working Walter

Takes out student loan to pay tuition and fees

Gets job as a restaurant server to cover books, rent, food, and gas



# THE SCHOLARSHIP: GAME CHANGER

Untapped potential awaits inside local high schools. Despite merit, many students have little chance of achieving their educational dreams without getting a job, taking out loans, and taking on credit card debt.

That's why your scholarship support continues to be a game-changer. Your generosity allows students to focus on academic success and enjoy life-enriching experiences.

See for yourself how your support reshapes futures.

GREEN LIGHT

"Thank you for your commitment to my education."  
GARRETT S., BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

GREEN LIGHT

"This scholarship means a lot. It lifted me up."  
FEDERICO LOPEZ, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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Moonlights as an online tutor to make extra cash

Still paying off student loans

DEBT



Remains in lower paying job

Struggles to find relevant job

Barely graduates with a 3.0



15 YEARS LATER

JOB SEARCH

Continuing to be promoted



Just bought first home



Receives multiple job offers from top firms. Returns to the company where she interned.

MAGNA GUM LAUDE

Gets to know professor and TA



Enjoys 4-week break at home with family

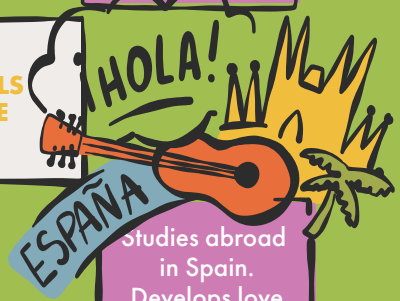
Joins student council and 2 affinity groups



Buckles down, feels prepared

WINTER BREAK

FINALS TIME



30-minute walk from free parking



SKIP a TURN

Begs boss for 4 days off to visit parents at home

Squeezes in study time between commute and work

Takes on twice as many shifts at work to save up for next semester

Studies abroad in Spain. Develops love of Spanish language

Adds a Spanish minor course of study

SCHEDULE

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
9-2		9-3	9-1	9-2		9-1
3-9	3-7	4-9	2-7	3-9		3-8

REPORT CARD

GREEN LIGHT

"Pay it forward."  
LISSA MARTINEZ, 1972  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AND  
CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP DONOR

GREEN LIGHT

"Attending Georgetown University has become a reality."  
ILANNA VILLAGRAN

GREEN LIGHT

"Although my parents work really hard, what they make still isn't enough to cover the cost of A&M."  
ELIANA DE LOS SANTOS, TEXAS A&M

All B's and C's



4.0 once again and Dean's List

Submitted resume, foregoes references

Elected secretary of the student body

Takes mediocre internship just for course credit



Esteemed professor gives highest recommendation to competitive employer

JUST YOUR AVERAGE  
3.0 G.P.A.

Little to no career-related experience

Diagnosed with anxiety disorder

Counselor recommends switching to less rigorous major

CHANGE MAJOR  
GO BACK  
2 SPACES

INTERNSHIP

CAREER READINESS

MENTAL HEALTH CHECK-IN



Confident applicant



Attends career fairs and professional association events

Good overall, has support system

On track to graduate on time

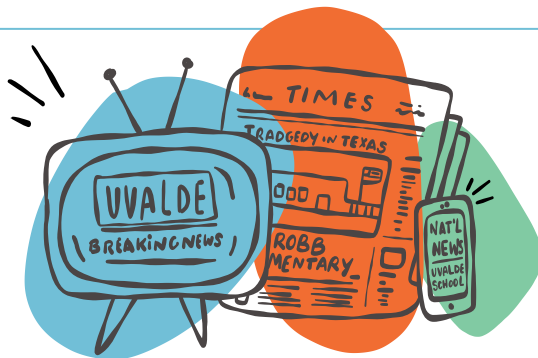
Gets coveted internship with Students + Startups

JUMP AHEAD  
2 SPACES

# The Current Generation of Superheroes

This piece references a school shooting in May 2022. While the focus is on acts of youth kindness and resilience, the memory of the violent events may be triggering for some readers.

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On the morning of May 24, 2022, classrooms across the country were abuzz with year-end excitement. Teachers fondly reflected on the growth of their students, and children enthusiastically exchanged summer plans. But no sooner had the day begun than the horrific events unfolded at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. The world stood still for a moment.

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No one was left untouched.  
Not even the youngest among us.

As the shocking news spread among youth, a profound realization echoed in their minds: they possessed the power to make a difference. Not tomorrow, not someday, but now.

**Sia Sankaran and  
Anaik Sachdev**

13-year-old Sia Sankaran of Dallas knew exactly how she wanted to extend her support to the children of the Uvalde community.

She partnered with the 10-year-old founder of Loving Library, Anaik Sachdev, to provide grief kits for 800 Uvalde pre-K through eighth grade students containing coloring books, markers, books on grief, bookmarks, and journals.

Loving Library, founded by Anaik in 2020, improves the mental health and well-being of communities in need one book at a time. Sia founded the Dallas chapter in response to the event in Uvalde.



In the face of such tragedy, heroes emerged — fueled by compassion and unbound by age, geography, or income.

#### **Mariano Schwartz**

Though nearly 2,000 miles away in a New York City suburb, the story hit high school sophomore Mariano Schwartz just as hard. The 15-year-old pianist enjoyed regular gigs at a local restaurant between bussing tables.

He eyed his full tip jar that read, “Because College Ain’t Cheap,” then decided the funds could be better used by the survivors in Uvalde. With every note, Mariano composed a symphony of solidarity.

In addition to the more than \$3,000 Mariano raised for Uvalde, the young pianist continues to direct 100% of tips from his performances to various charitable causes, which now exceed \$24,000 in donations.







**Oak Meadow First Graders**  
Instead of looking away from the tragedy, first-grade parents and teachers at Oak Meadow Elementary in San Antonio leaned in.

They had already collected funds for their annual celebration. But the students—with the support of their parents and teachers—decided that perhaps they didn't need the cupcakes and balloons after all. Instead, they chose to lend a helping hand to neighbors during challenging times.

So the dollars and coins originally earmarked for a class party found their way to the Area Foundation's Uvalde Fund.

We don't know what the world will look like in 60 years. But if the next generation has hearts like these heroes, our future shines bright with hope.

Within 24 hrs of the tragedy, you channeled your grief into action. Your donations through the San Antonio Area Foundation actively fund school programs, mental health services, and support for victims' families in the Uvalde community. Because of you, Uvalde nonprofits will be able to offer essential services in the years ahead.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas is ready to help you start the journey to healing. Visit [cbcst.org](http://cbcst.org) today.

In loving memory of the 19 children and two teachers who lost their lives at Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022.

# MILITARY

## THE TRIAD FUND: A LEGACY OF MILITARY SUPPORT

San Antonio has always prided itself on its connection to the U.S. military.

As the “gateway to the Air Force,” thanks to Lackland Air Force Base, and as the home to the military’s premier medical institution at Brooke Army Medical Center, not to mention the history and legacies tied to Fort Sam Houston and Randolph Air Force Base, the Alamo City proudly dons the moniker of “Military City USA.”

In spite the city’s continuous support, service members and their families often find themselves in need of assistance beyond what the military can offer. This was often the case at the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2007, the San



Antonio Area Foundation was able to help through the Texas Resources for Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment (TRIAD) Fund.

Before funding was exhausted in 2011, the TRIAD Fund awarded nearly 100 grants to dozens of agencies across the state. The Area Foundation identified Texas as an “epicenter” site where military members and their families were in dire need of aid.

“[The fund’s organizers] had the idea that they could make grants to community foundations, which we could then turn around and really identify nonprofits that were on the ground in the community doing good work,”

Sandie Palomo-Gonzalez said. She managed the TRIAD Fund Program Office at the Area Foundation.

The Area Foundation joined the Dallas Foundation and the Permian Basin Area Foundation with the responsibility of jointly disbursing \$30 million over a four-year period. With funds in hand, the Area Foundation identified nonprofits in the region fulfilling important needs for service members, veterans and their families.

“A lot of the needs [service members] we surveyed told us about had to do with the family,” recalled Ommy Strauch, a former Area Foundation board chair who also served as the vice-chair for the TRIAD Fund’s advisory committee.

“I think a lot of us thought that these soldiers would be deployed, and that the military would take care of everything. We learned that just wasn’t true. A lot of times they weren’t equipped to handle a lot of things that came up,” Strauch said.

For Palomo-Gonzalez, the project offered a rare opportunity for collaboration among funders.

“A couple of things made [the TRIAD Fund] really unique,” she said. “One is that it was three community foundations working collaboratively to serve an entire state. The other thing we did when I came on board was to survey military families. Because we recognized that this was a great responsibility, but we needed to know more about this specific field.”

Nonprofits that received grants ran the gamut in terms of the needs they fulfilled. Some specialized in mental health services while others focused on support for female veterans and yet others dealt with childhood stress.

“It was just an incredible learning experience for all of us,” Strauch said. “When we have something that kind of crops up in our community, we need to ask ourselves, how could this affect the different populations that we have. Is everybody being taken care of? Is everybody getting what they need? Is there anything I can do? That’s what it reminded us, and that’s the legacy of this fund.”

“

**I think a lot of us thought that these soldiers would be deployed, and that the military would take care of everything. We learned that just wasn’t true. A lot of times they weren’t equipped to handle a lot of things that came up.”**

— Ommy Strauch, former Area Foundation board chair

# CITY USA

## FROM D-DAY HERO TO DEVOTED DONOR: THE STORY OF CHARLIE URANGA



The San Antonio Area Foundation and the military community enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship. The support provided to local veterans is generously reciprocated, creating a virtuous cycle of giving.

An inspiring example of this is the story of Charles “Charlie” Uranga. His narrative demonstrates the transformative and far-reaching benefits that can result from uniting in support of one another.

Uranga was a pioneering Mexican American who built generational wealth in the 20th century. An invaluable donor and supporter of UT Health San Antonio, helping people improve their health through his giving. A war hero who earned high military honors.

Born on April 30, 1921, in Alpine, Texas, he was one of nine children – all of whom were taught by their mother Guillerma and father Clemente to approach life with determination and persistence. Uranga was ready to begin his

adult life early on: he dropped out of high school to marry his girlfriend, enlisted in the military and together, they moved to El Paso.

But that version of Uranga’s life was short-lived – in 1942, at just 20, he was drafted into the Army and began training in Louisiana, eventually to land on the Normandy beaches at D-Day.

Recipient of France’s most prestigious award for military or civil service as well as the Bronze Star, Uranga returned home in 1945 with plenty to show from his tour through Europe, including the unbroken determination to be a self-made man.

Upon returning to Alpine in 1945, Uranga opened Charlie’s Food Market, a local supermarket. Eventually, his first business venture would serve as a stepping stone for how he would begin to acquire life-changing wealth: after selling the market, he purchased Eagle Oil Co. in the border town of Eagle Pass.

By the late 1970s, he sold Eagle Oil Co. to the Oklahoma-based company MidAmerican Pipeline, and made his way down to San Antonio, where he became a powerful businessman.

Decades later, Uranga’s legacy is perhaps best defined by his determination in life and his steadfast altruism.

“We are grateful for the generosity of the late Mr. Charles Uranga and his incredible support for the Department of Ophthalmology at UT Health San Antonio,” said Dr. Daniel Johnson, who chairs the department. “A World War II veteran, community leader, successful businessman, and visionary in every sense of the word, Mr. Uranga strongly supported the conservation, retention, and restoration of human eyesight.”

Even after his passing in 2013, Uranga’s legacy lives on. Since its inception in 1978, his endowed fund has granted more than \$726,987 to the cause and will continue growing in perpetuity.

“His donations have enabled us to continue providing to our patients in San Antonio and throughout South Texas, high-quality eye care by helping us to expand our clinical services and maintain state-of-the-art equipment,” Johnson noted. “We are humbled by Mr. Uranga’s kind gift and share his dedication to the health and well-being of our community.”

Uranga was not a descendant of prestige and wealth, but through his love and generosity, he enriched the lives of others for generations to come.

“Charles’ commitment to family, friends, our community, and to serving our great nation leaves a wonderful legacy,” said former Texas State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, who chaired the Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations at the time of Uranga’s passing. “He will never be forgotten.”

We cherish the legacies of thousands of supporters who have entrusted us with their philanthropic vision, even beyond their time with us.



Your legacy matters. The Area Foundation is here to assist you in shaping it into alignment with your values.

As a token of our appreciation, we offer you complimentary estate planning services. Working together with you or your trusted advisor, we'll create a personalized fund agreement.

The best part? The Area Foundation does not charge oversight and management fees on legacy funds established to support the organization itself or our San Antonio Forever Fund.

For more information on our estate planning services and how you can leave a lasting impact, reach out to us at [givenow@saafd.org](mailto:givenow@saafd.org) or 210-225-2243 to learn more.

**Each Día de los Muertos, we reverently remember the enduring impact of those who have gone before. To all our valued supporters, past and present, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication to our shared vision.**



**Did You Know?**

Only 33% of adults in the U.S. have documented their end-of-life plans.

# GRATEFUL & COMMITTED: EMBARKING ON OUR NEXT CHAPTER

I am both humbled and inspired by the rich history that has shaped this extraordinary organization.

Over the past 60 years, the Area Foundation has grown from a modest family gift into a beacon of generosity and community support, serving as San Antonio's philanthropic headquarters.

It is an honor to join an institution with such a profound legacy of closing opportunity gaps and fostering meaningful change across our region.

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**These stories remind us that our work is far from finished. As we look to the future, the Area Foundation's mission remains clear: to continue creating opportunities and closing gaps for those who need it most.”**

The stories of transformation and impact that fill these pages illustrate the true power of philanthropy — not just in financial terms, but in the countless lives touched by compassion and generosity.

These stories remind us that our work is far from finished. As we look to the future, the Area Foundation's mission remains clear: to continue creating opportunities and closing gaps for those who need it most, while partnering with donors, nonprofits, and community leaders to build a brighter tomorrow.

I am deeply grateful for the visionary leadership that has guided us to this moment. I take this responsibility to heart and look forward to building on this incredible foundation as we embark on the next chapter of our journey.

With sincere gratitude and a shared commitment to the future, I thank you for your continued support and belief in the mission of the San Antonio Area Foundation. Together, we will continue to make San Antonio a place where everyone can thrive.



**Nadege Souvenir** serves as CEO of the San Antonio Area Foundation.

# Share Your Story

## Reflections on the San Antonio Area Foundation's 60th Anniversary

### **Mary Ann Owens, Founder of Mary Kay Owens Memorial Fund**

“The San Antonio Area Foundation has been party of our life since my daughter’s death in 1989. My husband and I set up this (scholarship) fund. You don’t have to be a millionaire to set up a fund. I don’t think I’ll be here in 60 years but I know the Area Foundation will be. It touches every bit of community and I think it will continue to grow.”



### **Father Carlos Velasquez, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral**

“It was through my becoming rector of San Fernando Cathedral that I became familiar with the very generous work of the San Antonio Area Foundation is doing in the community. It takes a village and all of us have to do our part in making dreams come true and it’s through the Area Foundation that many of those dreams become a reality.”

### **Richard Goldsmith, Founder of the San Antonio Area Foundation**

“My hope is that the San Antonio Area Foundation continues to be a vibrant organization. It should continue to grow and remain a major contributor. As far as I see it, there should always be a role for the San Antonio Area Foundation in our community.”

### **Gavin Nichols, 15-year San Antonio Area Foundation employee**

“We started real small. Over time, we have touched millions of people and have grown tremendously. To me it means everything that we have made a commitment to closing opportunity gaps for people who need it the most in our area. Never underestimate what a small, positive first step can do and the impact it can make over time.”

### **Graham Weston, Founder of Rackspace & Co-Founder of Geekdom**

“Happy 60th birthday to the San Antonio Area Foundation. You’ve had such an amazing impact on our city. The Area Foundation is behind the scenes on so many things. They’re a catalyst for all sorts of efforts accelerating philanthropy. They make giving safer and more productive.”

### **Adriana Rocha Garcia, City of San Antonio Councilwoman**

“I think the San Antonio Area Foundation means a great deal to our city. It’s 60 years of doing great work on behalf of the residents of San Antonio. Many people aren’t aware of the generosity of their donors. That’s where the Area Foundation comes in – they’re able to plug in and be there for those who need the most help.”



Thousands of lives have improved because of you. Tell us what motivated you to partner with the Area Foundation to shape your community. Scan the QR code to share your story.





San Antonio  
Area Foundation

