

## Community Project Fund (CPF) Project Summaries

### **Bookmobile Collaboration** Kate Pavao, Lisa Freeman, Alliee DeArmond, Liz Lindsley

Currently the 400 students at Watsonville Charter School of the Arts lack a school library. Meanwhile, Aptos-based children's literacy foundation Live Like Coco (which Kate Pavao founded and leads) needs an outreach vehicle to help distribute more than 10,000 children's books each year at local places such as the Watsonville Farmer's Market. Earlier this year, the two organizations teamed up, making plans for a mobile library that they could share.

But as these plans have begun moving from dream to reality, leaders realized they needed another partner: There is a need for more financial support to convert a commercial stepvan into an inviting, whimsical mobile library, and also volunteer support to operate the Bookmobile at the school and in the community.

Already the St. John's community is helping fill in that missing piece: Student volunteers from the Aptos Youth Community Group are excited to be part of designing and painting the Bookmobile and its surrounding reading garden at the school. Once the Bookmobile is ready to launch, there will be regular opportunities for the congregation to volunteer in the vehicle during library time at the school or at Live Like Coco's outreach events.

Additionally, the vehicle could be available on a regular basis at St. John's. This would offer a nice opportunity to make connections with our neighbors living around the church as well as families using the park. Church volunteers could offer story hours, ice cream days and other fun events, using the Bookmobile to gather interest and attention. With so many members of the congregation having experience in education or in running the Helpful Shop, the Church would be a dream partner for this important community project.

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### **Artificial Lawn**

Leonard Foreman, Eileen Fernald

The existing grass lawn looks awful and is hazardous for some to use because of holes and an uneven surface. Soquel Creek Water district does not allow us to water the lawn because we are an institution. As you can see, it is nearly dead!

An artificial lawn does not need to be cut or watered. It is much safer for people who use walkers or wheelchairs. It can be used for many outdoor activities including wedding receptions like the one in the photo here. Sunday school children could use an artificial lawn after a rain without being concerned about mud or a slippery surface. We could even hold services on the lawn because of the ready made stage.

Installation of the lawn may be bundled into a single turn-key contract or subcontracted with St. John's people excavating, leveling and spreading rock and fines. Installation of the final service would be contracted to an expert installer. The turn-key cost of the

## Community Project Fund (CPF) Project Summaries

lawn is estimated at \$70,000.00. Doing the prep work and subcontracting the final installation could save 40% of the total cost.

Win and I installed artificial turf in 2020 and are very happy with the results. Win did all of the prep work and our costs were about 60% of the projected cost.

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### Entrance Gate

Laura Caldwell and Matt McCabe

St. Johns is a welcoming place to parishioners for worship, meetings and celebrations. Persons experiencing homelessness find overnight refuge here. Our neighbors use the spacious grounds for walking and bike riding on its acres of level, accessible space. However, increasingly this easy accessibility has allowed carloads of youth to drive onto the campus after hours and engage in disruptive and illegal activities as seen on our security cameras. This has resulted in increasingly frequent calls to the Santa Cruz Sheriff office for deputies to come out and disperse the groups. A simple and inexpensive gate to the parking area will stop vehicles from entering our campus after hours. Posts will be installed on the sides of the driveway to anchor the gates, requiring a half day to pour the concrete, then a few hours the next day to install the gates. Pedestrians will still have paths to access the church. The result will be a secured campus which will welcome community use and restore peace and quiet to the neighborhood.

Approximate cost: \$5,000 - 6,000 for labor and materials.

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### Work Space

Alliee DeArmond and Debra Spencer

The vision is to have an open Work Space in the Cafe, a couple times a week for a few hours. Concurrently we would have classes and/or workshops on a wide variety of topics in the youth room or another appropriate area of campus, which would also be open to the community. People could read, write, draw or talk with friends in the workspace, bring guests to classes, make snacks . . . Creating a Context for Caring. The seed of this is already present at St. John's, think of Gina's English and citizen work, of classes and workshops on journaling, prayer and collage that have had community participation; think of conversations at coffee hour.

The start-up costs are negligible, but successful growth will double the hospitality expenses, increase our internet payments, increase payments for The Ministry of Chairs (set up and takedown), increase use of office paper and copiers. Future growth could also include purchase of additional furniture, payments for PR, and consistent staff leadership. Having a fund for these growing expenses would keep the churches annual budget from becoming unnecessarily overburdened.

## Community Project Fund (CPF) Project Summaries

Leaders are Alliee DeArmond and Debra Spencer, who already have been receiving bits of help and advice from various parishioners.

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### Sewing Circle

Anne Baker and Susan von Schmacht

The elements of our parish mission we address are to: "Welcome all" as the Sewing Circle reaches out to the wider Santa Cruz Community. Additionally to: "Journey with Christ" as the communal work, the rehabilitation of used garments and the clothing of others, are all acts of love for one another and for the earth. Inviting community members to share their skills, as we share our skills with them, creates lasting bonds. This project would bring together the talents of parishioners and the needs of the community to repair and create clothing. reduce waste by recycling and repurpose clothing and other cloth items. We will teach skills that instill confidence and independence. We will demonstrate basic sewing skills, hand mending, sewing machine mending, quilting, napkin/ shopping bag making, altering, embellishment, home decorating, etc.

Our primary action of the project is to provide shared use of sewing machines and equipment with workroom table space for cutting, pressing and sewing. We would staff for access and training one afternoon a week to start. The equipment cost projected is \$3,171.00 with replacement of consumables we project to be \$200 to \$300 annually.

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### Canterbury Homes

Jon Showalter and Eliza Linley

The housing crisis in Santa Cruz is more than real; over 1,000 people have HUD vouchers that would pay the bulk of their rent, yet landlords will not rent to them when they can rent to workers who commute over the hill. They must stay in bad relationships, double up with friends and relatives or live on the street.

Eliza+ and I are proposing that the CPF allocate \$20,000 as seed money to build a residence for 6-8 ultra-low income or homeless people on the corner of our property bordered by McGregor and the condominiums (to the right of the trailer). This unused space would become a home for women with children fleeing domestic violence; a place to recover from years of alienation caused by chronic homelessness, or to live out one's years on only Social Security payments that don't equal what it costs to stay in the town where their children live.

A seed that falls on fertile ground thrives. Our land and our \$20,000 will lead to loans and investors who see a safe investment backed up by the federal government's commitment to pay the rent. Overtime this project will, wonderfully, result in a profit for

## Community Project Fund (CPF) Project Summaries

St. John's as the costs of the project are fixed and allowable rents go up year after year; a surplus to be used as we wish.

We can, in a small way, relieve the housing shortage, change people's lives, be an example for other faith communities and create revenue. Using the CPF for Canterbury Home will do good now and do good in the future.

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### **St. John's Musicians Foundation**

Andrew Carter, Tina Grubbe, Debra Spencer

We propose to create a non-profit collective music foundation to provide opportunities for performance, education, and composition to local musicians and to their audiences, giving our parish a chance to get to know people who do not usually attend our worship or outreach projects. We hope music will attract people to our congregation and communicate Jesus' love. Music feeds the soul, encourages spiritual development, and contributes to the overall mental health of musicians and audience. Also, in forming a collective, we hope to encourage the sort of asset-based community development that fits well with our parish mission and values.

As audience members, as hospitality participants, and as musicians, the congregation would have different ways to engage with the neighborhood, the larger community, and each other.

The scope of this foundation would be wide-reaching. The hope would be to benefit participating musicians. By providing local musicians of all levels with performance space, rehearsal space, commissions, pay for performances, publicity, or even instruments, the foundation could serve in a pastoral role to the community of Santa Cruz County.

Our goals are: to present concerts with music of a variety of ages, traditions, eras, styles, and instrumentation, to a varied audience of ages, backgrounds, neighborhoods, and communities, performed by adult and child musicians; to involve as many parishioners as possible, as musicians, audience, organizers, and helpers; to involve as many local people as possible as musicians, composers, publicists, etc.; to promote opportunities for conversation, networking, evangelizing, and getting to know those in our neighborhood communities, with an eye to implementing asset-based development in the general area of music.

We imagine that the initial cost of a first concert series would be \$5,000 to \$7,000. We hope to generate income (ticket sales, donations, etc.) that we could then use to expand further as indicated above.