



Rose Foundation

For Communities and the Environment

Supporting grassroots initiatives to inspire community action for environmental protection and public health

Spring 2008

Board of Directors

Jill Ratner
President

Kevin Hendrick
Vice-President

Michelle Chan
Treasurer

Kathryn Knight
Secretary

Ina Bendich

Ellen Hauskens

Dave Michelfelder

Staff

Tim Little
Executive Director

Jill Ratner
Program Director

Karla James
Managing Director

Elizabeth de Rham
Program Associate

Robyn Herr
Development Associate

Anya Diamond
Intern

Rose Foundation

6008 College Ave., Suite 10
Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 658-0702
(510) 658-0732 fax
www.rosefdn.org
rose@rosefdn.org

Welcome Robyn!



In December, we welcomed our newest staff member, Development Associate Robyn Herr. Robyn provides administrative and development support for the Rose Foundation's grantmaking and fundraising activities. Before joining the Foundation, she was the program administrator for the Partnership for the Public's Health's "Healthy Eating, Active Communities" program. Robyn is active in various arts and faith-based organizations in the Bay Area, and holds a Masters of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion.

Re-Blazing the Trail from Coast to Crest

Former Del Norte County Supervisor Clarke Moore has lived off the grid for many years, using solar and hydroelectric to power his small forest home. A few years ago, while hiking, he discovered "blaze marks" on some trees—notches signifying the direction a traveler should turn to follow a trail. Moore quickly realized he had discovered a portion of the old Kelsey Trail that had been lost for many decades. The Kelsey Trail followed ancient Indian trails and was built as a mule-train supply route during the 1850's gold rush to Fort Jones near Yreka.



From left: Rose Foundation board member Dave Michelfelder, former county supervisor Clarke Moore, Rose Foundation Vice President Kevin Hendrick, and USFS Trail Construction Manager Don Pass review trail construction progress. Photos by Winona Hendrick

different biologic zones, mixed hardwood and pine trees, and the most beautiful river you've ever seen." Hendrick notes that large segments of the trail will be open for horses and bikes, and one short segment will be wheelchair accessible.

Rose has sponsored multiple ecotourism projects in the Smith River National Recreation Area, through the activities of REDI. Funding for the reconstruction of the "Coast to Crest" trail comes from a grant obtained by Rose from the State of California Resources Agency.

Moore shared his discovery with Crescent City's Redwood Economic Development Institute (REDI), a longtime Rose Foundation partner and grantee. Now, thanks to an extraordinary partnership between Rose, the U.S. Forest Service, the State of California, and the Conservation Corps, the missing segments of the trail will be restored. When complete, the Coast to Crest Trail will run 50 miles from Crescent City's harbor through redwood forests, along the Smith River, to Harrington Mountain where it will connect with the Pacific Crest Trail that stretches from Canada to Mexico.

"The trail is amazing," declares Rose Foundation Vice President and trail restoration project manager Kevin Hendrick. "It passes through ten miles of old growth redwoods on an old toll road, then



How Toxic Are Your Mutual Funds?

If you are anything like 100 million other Americans, you hold shares of one or more mutual funds. While these trusted investment vehicles offer an easy way to hold a diversified stake in the stock market, a major new report jointly released by the Rose Foundation and the Investor Environmental Health Network reveals that over 75% of mainstream mutual fund companies including Fidelity, American Funds, T Rowe Price, ING and Morgan Stanley routinely oppose shareholder resolutions addressing issues such as pesticides, asthma, and toxic chemicals in children's toys and cosmetics. As report co-author and Rose Foundation Executive Director Tim Little commented, "As more and more evidence mounts of the danger posed to public health and shareholder value by toxic chemicals in everyday products, America's largest fund families are continuing to turn a blind eye. But denial is no investment strategy. When it comes to mutual funds investing in companies with toxic products, denial is inevitably going to be a prescription for financial disaster."

The *MUTUAL NEGLECT* report urges mutual funds to survey their shareholders about toxics concerns and to adopt proxy voting guidelines that support shareholders' efforts for greater disclosure of toxic risks. The report also urges mutual fund shareholders to contact their funds and request their voting record on the 43 environmental health resolutions filed over the last three years by shareholders concerned about toxics. To download a free copy of *MUTUAL NEGLECT: How the Largest Institutions in the Stock Market Ignore Health Problems and Financial Threats Stemming from Toxic Product Liabilities* please visit www.rosefdn.org.

Save the Date!

Rose Foundation
Spring Garden Party

Sunday May 18th, 4-6 pm,
at Jill & Tim's house in Rockridge

Support the Rose Foundation while you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and music on garden terraces overlooking San Francisco Bay. Look for your invitation in the mail soon.

New Voices Are Rising

On a crisp February morning, Terranisha Nathaniel, a freshman at EXCEL High School in West Oakland, hurried to school 45 minutes early to put the finishing touches on her planned remarks about environmental health tests recently conducted by her classmates. Her anticipated audience? Several TV stations, plus radio and print reporters. The media was there to cover a breaking news story – high levels of lead and other heavy metals were found in dust on surfaces inside their classroom and outside neighboring houses.

As the cameras rolled, the students asked local pollution control agencies for equipment and training to track down the sources of contamination. "We want to run our own monitors on the roof so that we can get more information and change things so that we can breathe fresh air," said student Askari Smith. "We know that lead is bad for our health." Oakland City Councilmember Nancy Nadel joined the students to support their request.

The students' community monitoring project is a continuation of work begun in the spring of 2007 as a core part of the Rose Foundation's New Voices Are Rising project.

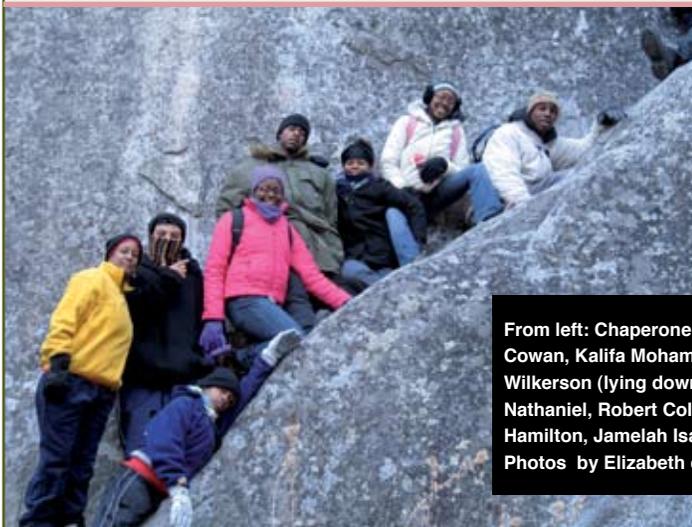
Last year, New Voices students collected metal debris outside a scrap metal reprocessing plant near school and collected samples of particle fallout in pie plates outside classroom windows. Assisted by New Voices affiliate Global Community Monitor, they found that the metal debris and the fallout were high in lead and heavy metals. Although the plant cleaned up the debris in response to student action, ongoing concerns about air quality triggered further student investigations this year.



New Voices students hold a press conference at EXCEL High School to announce pollution testing findings. Students from Left: Rocky Edwards, Terranisha Nathaniel (speaking), Kalifa Mohammed, Jamelah Isaac, Kiyana Jones, Askari Smith, De'Anna Young, Juan Hernandez, Robert Brigham.

In addition to taking more swipe samples to test for lead and other heavy metals, the New Voices students dug deeply into the issue. They researched the health effects of ingesting lead; mapped the neighborhood; developed and distributed community surveys to get neighbors' opinions about local pollution; and drafted an advocacy action plan, including contacting elected officials to ask for their support.

After answering reporters' questions about pollution in the neighborhood around the school, Ms. Nathaniel summarized her classmates feelings, "It's unfair for people in communities like West Oakland to have to live with all these sources of harmful pollution, when people in other neighborhoods are not faced with the same environmental problems." Her work with New Voices Are Rising is designed to move us all closer to a day when West Oakland, and other low-income neighborhoods, will be able to provide local young people with the same healthy environment that many other Californians take for granted.



From left: Chaperone LaQuisha Cowan, Kalifa Mohammed, Marquesha Wilkerson (lying down), Terranisha Nathaniel, Robert Coleman, Brittney Hamilton, Jamelah Isaac, Derek Walker. Photos by Elizabeth de Rham

New Voices in Yosemite

In early December, New Voices staff helped coordinate a trip to Yosemite National Park with 29 students from the EXCEL Law Academy. For six days, students participated in hikes, leadership development activities, hands-on scientific experiments, environmental debates, and games.

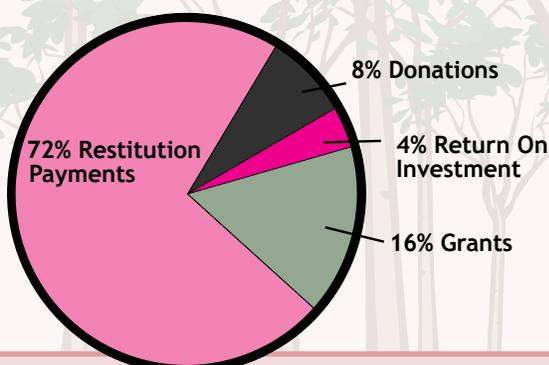
Tax Season Tip

The looming April 15th tax filing deadline is a good time to remember that donating stock or property to a public charity like the Rose Foundation can maximize the impact of your gift while generating tax deductions and avoiding capital gains tax. Donors may also significantly reduce estate taxes by including the Rose Foundation as a beneficiary in their will, living trust, IRA, retirement plan or insurance policy. For example, it's easy to add the Rose Foundation as a 5% beneficiary to your IRA, helping to reduce estate taxes while supporting communities and the environment. For more information, please call (510) 658-0702.

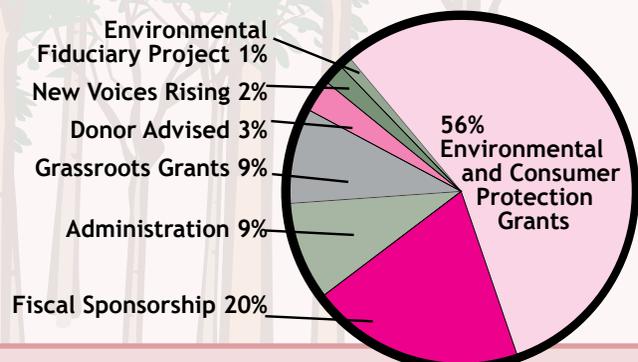
Financial Summary

January 1 - December 31, 2007
(Audit conducted by Levy & Powers CPA is available on our website)

Income - \$4,599,369



Expenses - \$3,346,078



Rose Foundation

6008 College Ave., Suite 10 • Oakland, CA 94618

(510) 658-0702 • (510) 658-0732 fax • www.rosefdn.org • rose@rosefdn.org