
2021 to 2022

OUR YEAR OF CELEBRATION

25th anniversary

COLLECTION



Community Initiatives



Celebrating 25 Years

Thank you for
celebrating with us

Greetings!

Welcome to the Community Initiatives 25th anniversary review. Inside you'll find our success & growth milestones, the anniversary article that ran in our special edition annual report, a twenty-five-year timeline, and quotes from valued people in our network who contributed to our anniversary video tribute..

Thank you for helping us to celebrate our 25th anniversary *IN SERVICE TO GREAT IDEAS!* We look forward to our continued growth as we strive for excellence in the next twenty-five years and beyond.

Sincerely,

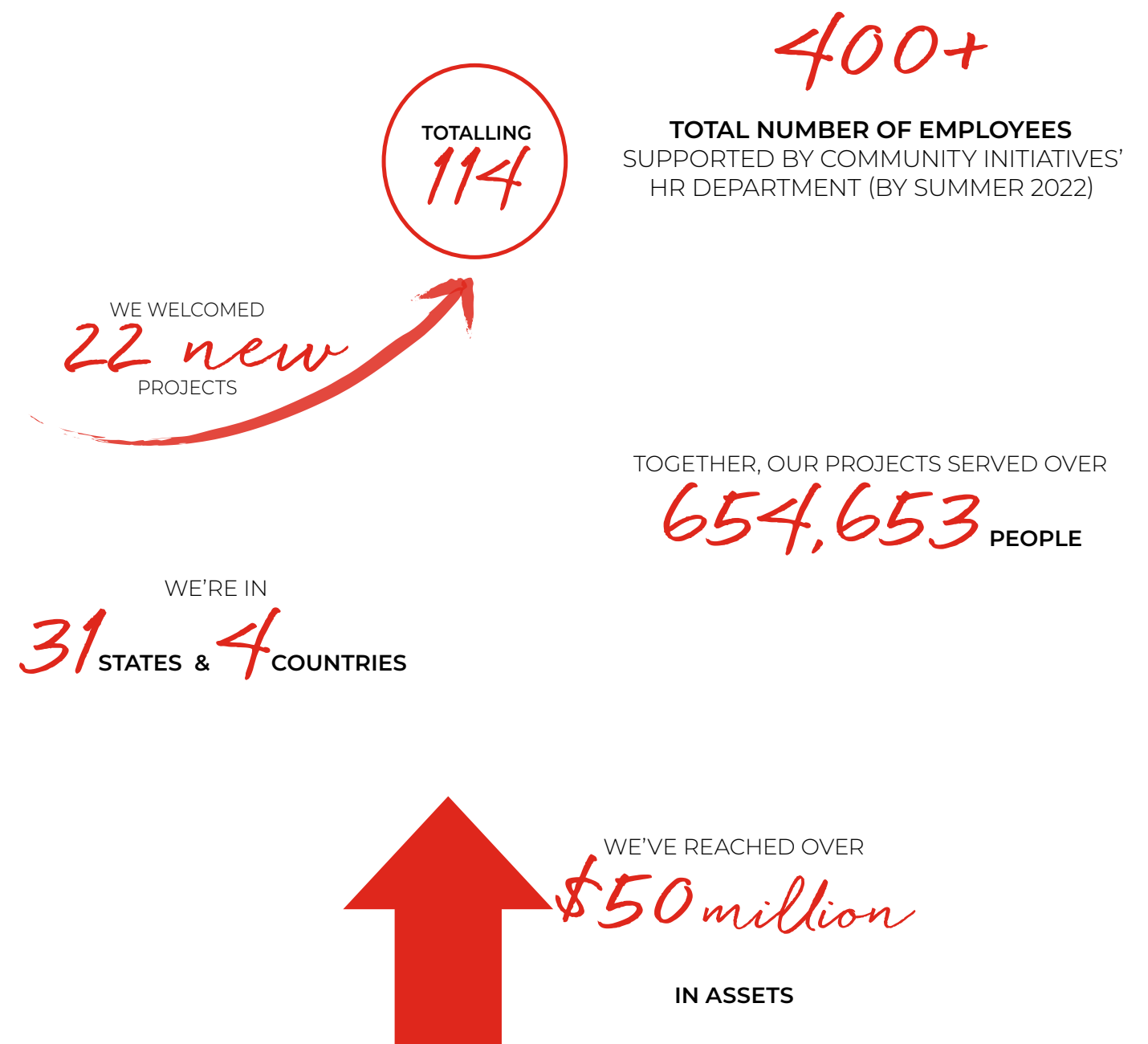
Ruth Williams

Ruth Williams, President and CEO



SUCCESS &
growth milestones

In our twenty-fifth year, Community Initiatives reached...



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, A GROUP OF SAVVY NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS CAME TOGETHER UNDER THE BANNER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION WITH A GREAT IDEA: TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL SPONSORSHIP AGENCY DEFINED BY EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRITY. AS PART OF OUR TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, WE INTERVIEWED SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED BUILD THE THRIVING ORGANIZATION WE CELEBRATE TODAY AS COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.



"In 1987, The Council on Foundations actually wrote an essay on fiscal agents – 'A Trap for the Unwary,'" recalls Greg Colvin, one of the pioneering visionaries who helped found what is now known as Community Initiatives. First housed within the San Francisco Foundation, and then known as the San Francisco Community Initiatives Fund, Community Initiatives was founded in 1996 as a beacon of best practices in the burgeoning fiscal sponsorship field – and our long history of stability and reliable breadth of services were always defining values.

Jan Masaoka, also a Community Initiatives founding board member, highlighted the organization's intentionally thoughtful approach that included a close review of projects and insistence that a Fiscally Sponsored Project (FSP) have more than one person responsible for its accountability and programming. Additionally, there was an insistence that an FSP's purpose was truly for the public good. "People wanted to create non-profits for very private purposes – so culling through those helped define Community Initiatives." A long-time leader in the Bay Area nonprofit community, Masaoka's involvement, along with the contributions of Bill Powers, David Barlow, Ted Singer, John Kreidler, Greg Colvin, and many others, helped bolster the organization's credibility from the start.

Whether those were challenges or opportunities, simple or complex, Community Initiatives was dedicated to meeting the need. For example, in 2005 Community Initiatives provided the critical operational link that supported public access expansion and created a more inclusive civic space in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

With the help of early expert guidance, by 2008, Community Initiatives had nearly \$21M in total assets. Then, a strong and stable organization, it separated from the San Francisco Foundation and moved to 354 Pine Street. This new independence ultimately allowed the organization to fully realize its mission and expand

its impact to the community at large; Community Initiatives had grown to serve eighty-five projects in California and beyond. Then board member Frances Phillips underscores the idea that Community Initiatives was already a local bedrock presence at the forefront of community change. "That excited me the most about Community Initiatives – we had a birds eye view of the new things that were popping up."

Though FSP management remains at the core of operations, Community Initiatives has also acted as a critical collaborator for groundbreaking public-private partnerships including the Laguna Honda Hospital Foundation, and the recent multi-million-dollar COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund anchored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and in collaboration with the Alameda County Public Health Department.

Providing support to projects that otherwise might never have gotten off the ground (for example, widely loved Palomacy Pigeon and Dove Adoptions), is a consistent theme in any conversation regarding Community Initiatives' enduring impact. But staff and board members return time and again to the lasting experience of shared learning and mutual regard. "I take away a lot of respect for other board members.... people who really cared about what they were doing, and were thoughtful about it," John Kreidler emphasized.

Prudy Kohler, Former Director of Fiscally Sponsored Projects and Philanthropic Services at Community Initiatives, recalls her connection with then-CEO Melanie Beene as one of her favorite aspects of working at Community Initiatives, along with a sense of good-humored camaraderie in the San Francisco Office. "The old office on Pine Street was on the seventh floor and often the elevator was non-functional; we, as staff, decided that we wanted to use this opportunity for physical fitness. Every day at three p.m. we would walk down the stairs, walk up, walk down, walk up... It was time

to kind of kick back, we could have conversations, a casual get-together. We did it just about every day." Staff cohesion served the organization well through the 2008 financial crisis and the resulting years-long economic down-turn. To endure, Community Initiatives relied on its core strengths: strong leadership, provision of ethical and efficient services, and investment in deep community connections.

As the larger economy and FSPs built strategies to adapt, Community Initiatives once again began to grow and evolve. In 2011, Community Initiatives expanded their national reach by adding JunctionHouse Commons in Seattle, WA, and North American Primate Sanctuary in Ohio. In 2012, we added administrative staff to meet expanding project needs, kicking off a still-active period of stability and growth.

By 2018, Community Initiatives had over \$31M in assets and moved across the Bay to newly renovated offices in Oakland. Relocating was a good business decision, states former board member Sarah Bacon. "Rents in San Francisco were skyrocketing. We did what a lot of projects were doing. It was difficult, but as an organization we could be more effective and help more people by saving on rent while continuing to see the same quality of work." She goes on to praise the current CEO and President, Ruth Williams, as a vital piece of the leadership puzzle. "Ruth is a shining example... a testament to the longevity of Community Initiatives."

Today, Community Initiatives stands ready as ever *in service to great ideas*, to address the escalating economic and existential crises facing our communities. "The place of fiscal sponsorship in emerging political movements for social change has become a fact of life. But the key is professional management; this is what the twenty-five-year history at Community Initiatives has demonstrated," concludes Greg Colvin.

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

25 years
IN SERVICE TO GREAT IDEAS

1996

- Community Initiatives inception (housed at the San Francisco Foundation)

- Number of projects: 72 coming out of the San Francisco Foundation



2002

- Launch of the 9/11 Fund (a big push for crowdfunding and fundraising)

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
IN SERVICE TO GREAT IDEAS

2008

- First logo and creation of brand (logo, colors, tagline, and look & feel)
- Added 25 projects
- Financial crash

2009

- 116 projects
- First national project - The Counsel for Global Equality, which advocates for LBGTQ+ rights internationally from their headquarters in Washington, DC

2012

- 96 projects

2013

- 107 projects

2014

- Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund partners with Community Initiatives to support their efforts to improve the communications and strategic messaging work of their grant partners
- 109 projects

2017

- 87 projects

2018

- 93 projects
- Moved to Oakland
- logo 2



2019

- 86 projects



2021

- 25th Anniversary, new logo
- 115 projects

2020

- Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund (a partnership with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Alameda County Public Health Department)
- 105 projects

2000

- .com crash
- First location - 354 Pine Street, San Francisco (This was Community Initiatives first standalone office)



2006

- Community Initiatives' current bylaws written (Revised the founding constitution - these are the rules that Community Initiatives established and follows for self-governance)

2011

- Community Initiatives expanded their national reach by adding JunctionHouse Commons in Seattle, WA, and North American Primate Sanctuary in Ohio
- First international project (Dalai Lama Fellows)
- 107 projects

2010

- Laguna Honda Hospital Foundation helped open a new skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, which served as a national model
- 95 projects



1996

David Barlow,
First Executive Director

2007 to 2014

Melanie Beene,
President & CEO

2014 to 2017

Theresa Fay-Bustillos,
President & CEO

2017 to present

Ruth Williams,
President & CEO

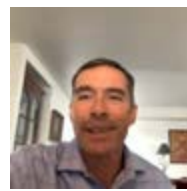
Praise from our people:

"We're grateful that Community Initiatives is there to provide the services and support a smaller organization might struggle to otherwise find."



Erika Fleury
Executive Director
North American
Primate
Sanctuary
Alliance

"Community Initiatives is now a \$50 million business and we couldn't have done it without the support of our employees, our projects, and our vendors. It's a total team effort."



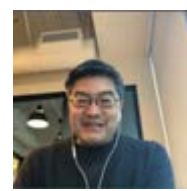
Carl Taibl
CFO
Community
Initiatives

"Having seen Community Initiatives grow from an offshoot of the San Francisco Foundation to Northern California to the whole country to supporting projects around the world has been extremely gratifying."



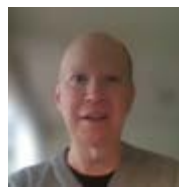
Greg Colvin
Founding Board Member
Community Initiatives

"I have learned so much about fiscal sponsorship from the whole team at Community Initiatives."



Gene Takagi
Former Board Member/
Current Legal Council
Community Initiatives

"Community Initiatives' focus is to help great nonprofits focus on their missions, to prosper, and to become even better."



Robert Weiner
Current Board Member
Community Initiatives

"I am very happy to see Community Initiatives soldiering on to help great causes across communities."



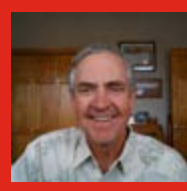
Jan Masaoka
Founding Board Member
Community Initiatives

"That's what is so great about Community Initiatives: Opportunities for projects that really need local engagement, but don't have the infrastructure to do it on their own."



Marsha Martin
Executive Director
East Bay
Getting to Zero

"Thanks for all you do, not only for us, but also for all the other small nonprofits out there."



Kevin Hendricks
Executive Director
The Fund for People in Parks

"Our work is made possible through the incredible fiscal sponsorship of Community Initiatives."



Ifeoma Aduba
Executive Director
Entrepreneur Funders Network

"Because of Community Initiatives, Since 2012, we've been able to provide eighty-eight grants to small farms across the country for sustainability projects with truly big impacts."



Pia Hinckle
Executive Director
The Fruit Guys Community Fund

"We could not have the success we have had without the support of Community Initiatives."



Faith Galati
Executive Director
Breakthrough Sacramento

"Bringing our idea to reality was made possible through the support and fiscal sponsorship of Community Initiatives."



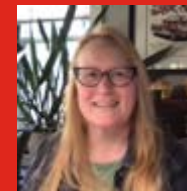
Aiko Schaefer
Executive Director
Just Solutions Collective

"Community Initiatives has allowed our organization to do many things and really focus on our programs."



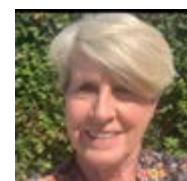
Richard So
Executive Director/
Founder
Hep B-free East Bay

"It's such a pleasure to work with so many passionate and innovative people helping to support Community Initiatives' projects."



Stephanie Bird
Digital Marketing Specialist
Community Initiatives

"The Northern Sierra Partnership would like to thank Community Initiatives for the time and care you take to get things right for your clients."



Claudia Dodson
Director of Operations
Northern Sierra Partnership

"I'm really so happy and proud to support all the wonderful projects Community Initiatives works with."



Rula Adranly
HR Business Partner
Community Initiatives

