

# The Julia Burke Foundation

NEWSLETTER 2021



## Pope Francis Center

By Fr. Tim McCabe, SJ, Executive Director

In 1990, as a brutal snowstorm swirled through the streets of downtown Detroit, a pastor opened the doors of St. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church to offer refuge to people taking shelter against the building. He put on a pot of coffee, set out a few folding chairs, and offered a warm haven to those with no safe place to go.

More than thirty years later, that single act of kindness has grown into a Detroit institution: The Pope Francis Center. Each morning, a dedicated group of staff, volunteers, and partners provide two nutritious meals, warm showers, hygiene facilities, laundry service, housing assistance, and free medical, dental, and legal help to over 150 people each day, many of whom are chronically homeless.

When COVID-19 began to ravage our city, we faced a severe problem: With limited capacity and resources, how do we serve our regular guests—and the increasing number of Detroiters displaced by the pandemic—in a safe and prudent way? As if hearing our prayer, we received a call from The Julia Burke Foundation. When The Foundation generously funded the purchase of a portable laundry trailer and a portable shower trailer,

we were able to install the trailers, meet increased demand, and maintain COVID-19 safety precautions. During the coldest winter months of 2020-21, our operations were relocated to an unused area of the city's convention center; and in the spring, we relocated operations back to the church parking lot. Maintaining our ability to provide our guests with their most basic needs could not have been possible without the support of The Foundation.

With the goal of ending chronic homelessness

Fr. Tim McCabe with Pope Francis Center guest



in Detroit, we shared our vision for the Bridge Housing Campus: A proven, coordinated solution to chronic homelessness, which allows us to walk with our guests through the difficult transition into permanent supportive housing. Our evidence-based approach is based on the best models for alleviating homelessness, extensively researched in ten cities throughout the U.S. In addition to forty studio apartments, support services covering intensive medical, respite, and psychological care, substance abuse support, and social and job-readiness services will be

provided, all under one roof. An essential grant from The Julia Burke Foundation has assured the overall success of our Bridge Housing Campus campaign, and has given us fresh momentum to attract new donors as we close the final financial gap on this monumental project.

While the mission of eradicating homelessness in Detroit is a daunting task, we know that it is possible. The generosity of partners like The Julia Burke Foundation ensures our ability to continue our daily services while looking forward to transformational change through the Bridge Housing Campus. Whether facing a wintery blizzard or a global pandemic, our commitment to serve our most vulnerable neighbors remains steadfast. For more information, visit [www.popefranciscenter.org](http://www.popefranciscenter.org).

## USAHello

By Sarah Ivory, US President

USAHello is an online platform helping refugees and immigrants reach their goals with easy-to-understand information and educational resources in multiple languages. Education and civic engagement are among the highest priorities of many immigrants to the U.S., opening doors to brighter futures for generations to come. However, many newcomers face a variety of barriers to accessing in-person classes, from demanding work schedules, to caregiving responsibilities, to language, transportation and cost barriers. One of USAHello's most impactful programs is our free online classroom, where over 40,000 students each year study for the GED (high school equivalency credential) and prepare for citizenship. Ours is the only e-learning classroom working toward these goals and built specifically for non-native English speakers, with both English and translated class options, and no fees or ads.

Our classroom was developed in 2017 on a rudimentary learning management platform, but in the years since, demand has ballooned—from a few thousand a year to tens of thousands—and the system it was built on has not been able to adapt. Seed funding from The Julie Burke Foundation has been instrumental in allowing our organization to rebuild our classroom in order to accommodate more students, as well as to develop customized learning modules for vulnerable populations, improve mobile accessibility, add features for limited literacy communities, and to eventually build a platform for community-based instructors to access our tools for their own

Volunteers in USAHello welcome T-shirts



students. With support from The Foundation in 2021, USAHello developed a prototype of the new classroom. We are now in the process of engaging external expertise in tech development and instructional design, taking the next steps forward in a full rebuild, with an anticipated launch in early 2022. For more information, visit [www.usahello.org](http://www.usahello.org)

# THE JULIA BURKE FOUNDATION

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

Marilyn Burke  
President

Jerry Burke  
Vice President,  
Treasurer & Secretary

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Burke

Robert Burke

Timothy Campion

Jonathan Cowperthwait

Michelle Johns

Melissa Knievel Lowder

Roberta Murphy

Richard Watson

Eric Zampol

## STAFF

Joy Johnson  
Executive Director

Amy Stoneham  
Chief Financial Officer

Karen Stockton  
Publications Editor

Nicole Tutela  
Creative Director

## CONTACT

75-5722 Kuakini Highway,  
Suite 106,  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

808-960-1705

Info@JuliaBurkeFoundation.org  
JuliaBurkeFoundation.org



# Contents



A Place Called Home .....	7
Arm of Care.....	4
Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL).....	9
Awards for Debate.....	8
Bluegrass Debate Coalition (BDC).....	2
Defy Ventures.....	5
Equal Justice Initiative.....	5
Generations In Jazz Foundation.....	11
Homeboy Industries .....	3
Julia Orchid .....	6
Julia People.....	3
Juma.....	6
JW Patterson Foundation .....	10



LA Metropolitan Debate League (LAMDL).....	9
Monument Crisis Center.....	10
National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA).....	8
Pope Francis Center .....	1
Project Kinship .....	3
South County Outreach.....	11
Students Rising Above (SRA).....	7
The GEANCO Foundation.....	4

# Letter from the President

Dear friends,

Out of an abundance of health caution we have cancelled The Julia Burke Memorial Reunion and Walk for this year. We sincerely hope to resume our gatherings next year. Please watch our website at [JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](http://JuliaBurkeFoundation.org) for updates.

For this letter, I cannot improve on the words of George Bernard Shaw, who wrote one of Julia's favorite quotes. Perhaps he speaks for the leaders of our impressive grantees, as well as for all of us at The Foundation, and people of good will everywhere.

*"This is the true joy in life,  
being used for a purpose recognized by yourself  
as a mighty one.  
Being a force of nature  
instead of a feverish,  
selfish little clod of ailments and grievances,  
complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.  
I am of the opinion  
that my life belongs  
to the whole community  
and as long as I live,  
it is my privilege to do for it what I can.  
I want to be  
thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work,  
the more I live.  
I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me.  
It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of  
for the moment  
and I want to make it burn  
as brightly as possible  
before handing it on  
to future generations."*

George Bernard Shaw

Very best wishes to you all,



*Marilyn Burke*

Marilyn Burke  
President

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County.....	11
Trinity Center .....	10
Troops Direct.....	4
USAHello .....	1
Washington Urban Debate League (WUDL)....	9
Yolo County Casa .....	7

The newsletter is also available to read or download on our website,  
[www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](http://www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org)

# Project Kinship

By Steven Kim, MSW,  
Executive Director

As a critical lifeline during the pandemic, Project Kinship kept our doors open for those impacted by trauma, gangs, and incarceration, and the compounded burden of COVID-19. In response to the continued stressors and additional barriers created by the pandemic, we came together as one community and walked through the struggles together. We brought together probation agencies, school districts, social services, and juvenile justice judges to address the lack of safe spaces for youth being released back into the community.

Generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation allowed Project Kinship to increase its available services at a time when many entities were unable to address the influx of need or were forced to close due to the uncertainty. The purchase of a van provided transportation for our youth to obtain driver's licenses, enroll in school, apply for social services, attend court hearings, seek employment opportunities, participate in support and life skills groups, and for us to deliver food in the community and provide many other supportive resources. The



Steven Kim and Project Kinship staff pose with the new van

K.R.E.W. (Kinship, Re-entry, Education, Work) program provided a safe space for transitional age youth being released back into the community. We have also grown our school-based services to over 25 sites in three districts and continue to work towards dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline. As our organization grew in size, The Julia Burke Foundation supported infrastructure challenges that allowed Project Kinship to

continue its mission and expand services. With great humility and also excitement, we are proud to share news of our evidence-based impact; an independent study conducted by the Urban Institute think tank revealed a clear reduction in recidivism due to our programs. We look forward to sharing more at [projectkinship.org](http://projectkinship.org) once the full report is published in the coming weeks. For more information, visit [www.projectkinship.org](http://www.projectkinship.org).



## Homeboy Industries

By Alison Lass, Manager, Global Homeboy Network & Media Relations

As Homeboy Industries worked to be of service to our clients, trainees, and wider community in 2021, The Julia Burke Foundation stood with us. Without support from The Foundation, we could not have continued services as we did, in reimaged ways, providing critically needed hope, healing, and support to the people we walk alongside during the most challenging times of the pandemic.

At the start of the pandemic, The Julia Burke Foundation helped us get laptops and tablets to students and clients to stay connected and learning online. The Foundation helped us secure PPE when it

was desperately hard to come by. And later in 2020, and also this year, they provided support to the attorneys in Homeboy Industries' legal services department as they helped with issues related to family law, domestic violence, child safety, and people seeking to change the trajectory of their lives.

Simply put, The Julia Burke Foundation kept people safe and on the path towards a more hopeful and better version of themselves. We are grateful for this partnership in Julia's name, that emboldens, enriches, and strengthens our community of kinship. For more information, visit [www.homeboyindustries.org](http://homeboyindustries.org).

## Julia People

We are humbled that Julia's friends have chose to honor her memory in so many wonderful ways. From sporting Julia tees and onesies to naming their children after Julia, we love to see so much participation!



1 Ellie Mae Jackson, daughter of Shannon and Brett Jackson

2 CJ and Lina Wanzer-Serrano, daughter of Nicole and Darrell

3 Claire Olivia Campion Johns, daughter of Michelle and Scott Johns



## Arm Of Care

By Angie Kavert, Director of Outreach & Administration

At ARM of Care, in Walnut Creek, California, our mission is to use the creative arts (Art, Recreation, Movement) to restore and empower those who have been commercially and sexually exploited and those at risk for exploitation. It's been a challenging year, and the sad truth is that human trafficking did not stop during this pandemic—there are now increased numbers of people at risk for human trafficking. According to the State Department, "Traffickers took advantage of the social and economic crisis created by the global outbreak. The pandemic also caused a diversion of resources away from anti-trafficking efforts."

Thanks to support from The Julia Burke Foundation, we continued to work with most of the agencies and individuals we served before the pandemic, albeit in new and creative ways. We also increased our reach to out-of-state agencies serving this population.

Trauma creates areas of tension, discomfort and disconnection in the body, so we often begin by moving our bodies, which also warms us up for using our creativity and allows for healing and playfulness. In a recent program, we used a breathing exercise to release negative tension and draw in positive energy. The participants then used

markers and watercolors to draw the petals of a flower while breathing in and out with mindfulness. We discussed how breath can be a grounding and centering tool and how our breath gives us life. The girls were then invited to create watercolor paintings expressing things in life they want to receive and welcome, and things they want to release. After our programs, the girls report that they feel more relaxed, they gain clarity and focus, they are more aware of themselves



Watercolor art by an ARM of Care participant

and their surroundings and they feel they can engage better with others.

ARM of Care equips the communities we serve with the tools they need to work through trauma, teaching them to find joy and self-worth again, through the beauty of individual creativity and expression. ARM of Care is honored and grateful to have support, compassion, and love from The Julia Burke Foundation.

For more information, visit  
<https://armofcare.org>.

## The GEANCO Foundation

By Afam Onyema, Chief Executive Officer

In 2013, The Economist declared Nigeria, "the worst place in the world for a baby to be born."

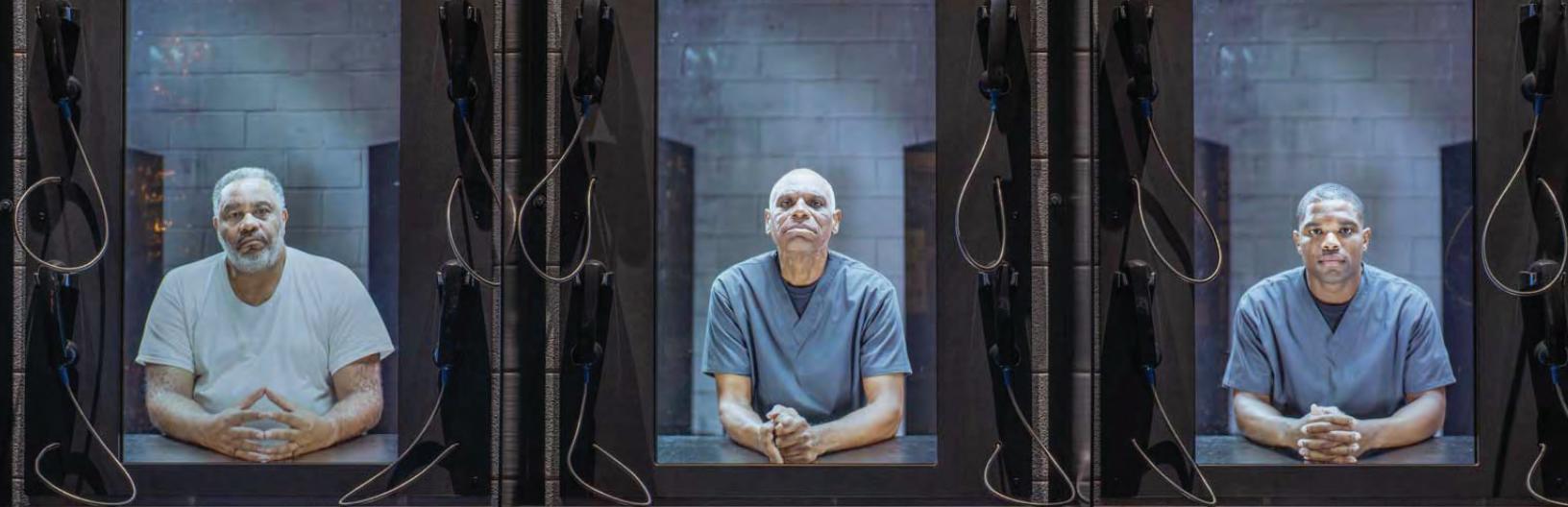
At the GEANCO Foundation, we are committed to reducing the tragically high number of childbirth-related deaths among women and children, and The Julia Burke Foundation has been an indispensable partner in this life-saving effort.

In 2021, The Foundation funded the construction of five modern maternal clinics that we built in urban slums and rural villages in southeast Nigeria. These clinics provide essential, high quality care in prenatal, child delivery, and neonatal services, as well as vaccinations and anemia treatment to poor and vulnerable women and children. Each clinic features an examination room, a delivery room, and a ward with two bed spaces, all ingeniously placed in a retrofitted shipping container. The clinics also have routers, phones and headsets to enable a skilled health partner to conduct telemedicine visits. Each clinic is fully solar-powered, allowing for 24-hour service and freeing the facilities from dependence on Nigeria's decrepit power grid.

Once all five clinics are completed in late 2021, thousands of women and babies each year will receive the care they deserve, and hundreds of precious lives will be saved.

For more information, visit <https://www.geanco.org>.





A photo from the Mass Incarceration Exhibit at the new EJI museum

## Equal Justice Initiative

By Jacqueline Jones-Peace,  
Sr. Attorney & Director of Development

Over the past year, the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) has continued its work fighting to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. EJI has continued to provide direct representation to condemned men and women on Alabama's death row. We have also continued to provide specialized re-entry assistance to formerly incarcerated people, and challenge the unconstitutional conditions of confinement in jails and prisons throughout Alabama, which has the most overcrowded and violent prisons in the nation.

In July, EJI released a new report, *Race and the Jury: Illegal Discrimination in Jury Selection*. The new report expands upon EJI's groundbreaking 2010 report on racial discrimination in jury selection. The 2010 report is still widely cited and used when assessing contemporary concerns about the

lack of diversity in decision-making roles in the legal system. *Race and the Jury* examines the continuing indifference to correcting widespread underrepresentation of people of color on juries, and explains the ways in which illegal racial discrimination in jury selection inflicts harm on excluded jurors, marginalizes communities of color, produces wrongful convictions and excessive sentences, and compromises the integrity of the legal system as a whole. *Race and the Jury* also highlights that while several states, including California, Washington, Connecticut, and New Jersey, have recognized the problem of illegal race discrimination in jury selection and implemented reforms or initiated studies, most states have done nothing. With generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation, EJI continues to support communities to help advance reform conversations that are taking place in various states. For more information, visit [www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org).

## Defy Ventures

By Andrew Glazier, President & CEO

Like many organizations, Defy Ventures entered 2020 with plans and ambitions that were quickly reframed amidst the global pandemic. Defy was able to adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances of the past 18 months and continued to provide innovative and impactful programs to their program participants, the Defy Entrepreneurs in Training (EITs).

Technology proved to be a significant barrier for EITs reentering the community after prison, particularly in a world in which nearly everything went virtual. Thanks to The Julia Burke Foundation, Defy was able to move our post-release programs to a virtual platform and supply every EIT coming home with a Chromebook and related training, which allowed Defy to provide workshops, community building opportunities, and job-related resources to more than 220 EITs.

One Defy EIT, Sithy B., was released from prison on June 4,

2020, after being incarcerated for 15 years. The Chromebook he received from Defy provided him with an introduction to current technology and allowed him to sign up for school right away. Defy's post-release services familiarized Sithy with Zoom, which helped him access and complete his parole-mandated classes. Sithy credits Defy's post-release services—such as mock interviews, resume workshops, and support from Defy volunteers and staff—as being crucial in helping him prepare to interview well and land his first job. Today, Sithy works as a case manager and facilitates cognitive behavioral therapy classes over Zoom.

While the COVID pandemic did result in severe restrictions on our ability to continue programs, partnership with The Julia Burke Foundation allowed us to continue serving 363 EITs in prison through correspondence—thousands of assignments, textbooks, supplemental books, and encouraging letters from

staff and volunteers.

One EIT, A. Flores, wrote in a letter:

"I really appreciate all of the love, care, prayers, positive thoughts, and encouragement to help me cope with the coronavirus pandemic. Finally, volunteers: thank you for generously

donating to help Defy Ventures give second chances, and Defy staff, thank you for sending me Book 3 to motivate me, once again. Thank you for all of your positive messages that you sent us."

For more information, visit [www.defyventures.org](http://www.defyventures.org).



# Juma

By Abdiel Cerrud, San Francisco Bay Area Director of Development

A pioneering social enterprise, Juma Ventures (Juma) strives to break the cycle of poverty by paving the way to work, education, and financial capability for youth across America.

Core to its program model, Juma owns and operates concession businesses at major sports stadiums including San Francisco's Oracle Park with the sole purpose of providing employment and job training to low-income youth ages 16-24 who are disconnected from school and work and face significant barriers to long-term prosperity, such as involvement in the foster care system or recent homelessness. All are motivated young people who want and need to work but lack the education, skills, and confidence necessary to pursue meaningful career pathways.

In the fall of 2020, The Julia Burke Foundation generously awarded Juma a grant to support its YouthConnect program in San Francisco. Through this flagship Program, Juma ensures

young people can earn their first paycheck, learn to manage their money, and gain essential skills like responsibility, teamwork, and workplace communication. Ultimately, Juma connects youth to permanent employment and helps them reengage in education pathways. Juma's goal is to ensure that by age 25, youth are on a career trajectory toward a living wage and economic well-being.

As a direct result of The Foundation's support in 2020, Juma served 135 youth who participated in over 123 workshops focused on topics such as job readiness, professional development, financial capability, education, and career exploration. Each young person completed a Juma Toolkit consisting of a finalized resume, a profile suitable for employment websites, and a recorded elevator pitch; 90% of youth credited this preparation with helping them get a job. Emily, a 2020

program participant, shared: "The mock interviews really prepared me for the job search. I was able to be professional and authentic at the same time." For more information, visit [www.juma.org](http://www.juma.org)



# Yolo County CASA

By Tracy Fauver

A person trained as a Yolo County CASA volunteer is a Court Appointed Special Advocate, sworn-in by a judge to be the eyes and ears of the court and to report on the well-being of foster youth under the court's jurisdiction. For many of these foster youths, their CASA volunteer is the one consistent and caring adult in their lives. Foster youth, often removed suddenly from their homes for safety concerns, may need to change foster homes and schools two or even three times in a year. It is the trained CASA who advocates for them while also helping them navigate the emotional struggles that accompany such change and uncertainty.

With a generous grant from The Julia Burke Foundation, Yolo County CASA has significantly improved the level of service these youths receive. The number of foster youths directly served by Yolo County CASA increases every year, and this grant made possible the purchase of technology resources for staff and volunteers to communicate more quickly and effectively with their youths, caregivers, system partners, and the court. These include high-quality laptops, which have allowed our staff to attend court hearings and Child-Family-Team meetings remotely, a high-speed printer/scanner, and a DocuSign account, which has helped us transition to paperless record keeping. These technology resources also contributed to our ability to conduct online volunteer training sessions.

The Foundation's grant has also enabled us to redesign our office space to accommodate more staff supervisors and conduct larger volunteer training sessions. Staff members supervise up to 45 volunteers each, and their important work is directly supported by this generous grant from The Julia Burke Foundation; we expect this much-needed improvement to our facility to be completed in 2022. For more information, visit [www.yolocasa.org](http://www.yolocasa.org)



Monique Straws, a former foster youth served by the Casa Program, with her son Sani

## Registration of "Cattelya Julia Burke" with the Royal Horticultural Society of London

Dear Marilyn & Jerry,

Many years ago we met Frank Fordyce at the Orchid Ranch in Livermore. He was regarded as a world wide hybridizer of extraordinary Cattleya orchids. On our many visits to his greenhouses, he would take the time to educate me about orchids and their care. He became a mentor and a friend. I was honored when he named an orchid after me - Potinara David Tomassini'.

One of his most famous hybrids is 'Circle of Life', which was registered by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1998. Many hybrids to date are derived from this cross. Frank passed in 2011, but his legacy is passed forward in the beauty he created breeding orchids for generations to come.

Last March we were visiting an orchid nursery in Bolinas. We discovered they had an orchid that was a cross with 'Circle of Life'. Researching further, we found it had not been registered or named. We asked Frank's daughter about it. She said that her Dad made the cross, but never registered it. She gave us permission to register it and name it.

We wanted to give you the background of this particular orchid and how we came about this opportunity. We registered it in April with the Royal Horticultural Society of London. And it was our pleasure to name it after your daughter, Julia. The photo and certificate is a keepsake for you acknowledging that she will forever be recognized in the International Registration of Orchid Hybrids.

Sincerely,  
David and Alice Tomassini

# A Place Called Home

By Hannah Berger, Chief Development Officer

Community-based organizations like A Place Called Home (APCH) have been challenged to persevere in the face of the greatest health crisis of this generation. But this year, The Julia Burke Foundation stepped up to help us support hardworking first-generation college students and K-12 youth struggling to learn remotely during the pandemic, and expand our modest food service program to sustain hundreds of families facing unprecedented need in the under-resourced community we serve.

The Foundation's generous support of the APCH Family Resource Depot has helped ensure the success of one of our primary COVID-19 response programs—a program launched in the March 2020 shut down of schools and businesses, to directly address food insecurity in South Central Los Angeles. With The Foundation's support, our Family Resource Depot has delivered enough groceries to provide more than 600,000 meals for more than 400 households in South Central Los Angeles.

At the center of our diversified pandemic response has been APCH's innovative launch of hundreds of ongoing virtual programs to sustain learning while students and instructors have been working remotely. The Foundation's grant for virtual education infrastructure has supported the technology and training necessary to launch a suite of fully virtual programs that prioritize live instruction, individualized care, and relationship development. In the last academic year, these virtual programs served hundreds of APCH youth daily, and the growing strength in virtual and hybrid programming we are developing will help to underpin recovery



in South Central, where pandemic-related learning loss and the digital divide remain acute. The Julia Burke Foundation provided scholarship support for 12 APCH college scholars, all of who are the first in their families to attend four-year institutions. The Foundation's funding helped APCH keep our ambitious young members in school, digitally connected, and focused.

The shared values, trust and respect between our organizations has forged a connection that is saving lives, and will continue to fortify young people facing learning loss, emotional trauma and social isolation. Your support is allowing us to envision and create a bright future for youth in South Central, one in which they will succeed and thrive as they stride with purpose into the challenges and opportunities ahead.

For more information, visit [www.apch.org](http://www.apch.org).

## Students Rising Above

By Sarah Fahey, Interim Director of Development

Like countless other individuals and families around the world, Students Rising Above (SRA) scholars have faced immense uncertainty, isolation, and unprecedented hardship over the past year. While graduation looked a little different this year, our students' accomplishments and resiliency were more apparent than ever. Despite 18 months of financial, educational, and socio-emotional disruption, 47 SRA scholars earned their degrees across a variety of disciplines including legal studies, political science, business administration, and human services. These young leaders represented colleges and universities across the nation, including Kenyon College, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, University of Pennsylvania, Wesleyan University, Yale University, and more.

A recent study by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health at Penn State showed that 85% of the nearly 50,000 college students surveyed reported that COVID-19 negatively impacted at least one aspect of their lives; one-third of students reported seeking mental health services as a direct result of COVID-19. With generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation, SRA is thrilled to now offer no-cost therapy to every single SRA student, staff member, and recent alumnus through Talkspace, a digital mental health service that connects members to thousands of dedicated providers from a secure, HIPAA-compliant platform.

The SRA approach is unique in its holistic nature, providing students with financial capability training, socio-emotional support, healthcare navigation, workforce preparedness, academic mentorship, and financial support. SRA expresses its deepest gratitude for the support of The Julia Burke Foundation; because of your partnership, we are able to provide individualized wraparound support to low-income, first-generation college students through their critical senior year of high school, throughout college, and into the workforce. For more information, visit [www.studentsrisingabove.org](http://www.studentsrisingabove.org).



# National Speech & Debate Association

By Nicole Wanzer-Serrano, Director of Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The 2020-21 school year brought innovation and new levels of access to speech and debate, and the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) is so thankful for support from The Julia Burke Foundation! With The Foundation's generous support, we set up a Tech Resource Fund for speech and debate schools across the country. The Tech Resource Fund allowed teachers to request funding to provide technology like webcams, headphones, Ethernet cords, ring lights, hotspots, tripods, and laptops. 126 schools received funding and reported an estimated 3,300 students and coaches benefited from the technology purchases.

The 2020-21 school year also saw the pilot release of free online speech and debate tournaments through the Springboard Series. Open to every school across the country, the Springboard Series offered schools free synchronous and asynchronous competition in a wide variety of speech and debate events. The three-tournament series provided competition for over 1,500 unique students from 189 unique schools and served as an excellent opportunity for students to



practice their performances in front of live audiences, pre-competition, and to receive essential feedback. The NSDA is excited to expand on the Springboard Series and to offer free speech and debate competitions for all schools for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

Many people wrote in to thank The Julia Burke Foundation for their support last year. One coach wrote, "Thank you so much! I am the coach of a new middle school team with high poverty and low funds! This opportunity allowed our students this year to compete in their first tournament! Without you, we likely would not have had a tournament this year. Thank you so much for the incredible generosity and for treating our students so well!" And one of the student competitors wrote, "It was a very amazing thing to be able to debate against people from around the country and that is something that never could have happened without this set up."

For more information, visit [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org).



## Bluegrass Debate Coalition

By Bill Eddy, Director

Debate education enriches lives by providing students with essential life skills and abilities that improve self-confidence, increase academic performance, and empower student voices. The Bluegrass Debate Coalition (BDC), a program of the University of Kentucky's award-winning Intercollegiate Debate Team, seeks to expand debate education throughout the state of Kentucky. Thanks to the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation, the students we engage with through after-school learning programs, online events, and summer camp are undergoing a transformative change in their learning. Kentucky schools are among the least funded schools in the country – every program choice faces tremendous tradeoffs, and the current pandemic is reversing years of educational gains. The BDC was created in response to a severe drop-off in debate participation throughout the state. Spreading debate education has many challenges, and teachers are often overworked, anxious, or unable to supervise debate programs. The Bluegrass Debate Coalition's goal of providing debate education to every K-12 student in Kentucky is bold and ambitious. It is also working.

Over the past academic year, the BDC serviced over 125 schools in the state of Kentucky, engaging directly with 100 students. BDC students have experienced incredible successes, with four students going on to become Kentucky State Champions while also producing nearly half a dozen state finalists and semi-finalists. Thanks in part to outreach efforts by the BDC and its partners, we are noting an increase in newly established programs, with numerous teachers requesting professional development from us in this area. The BDC has helped students translate their passion for debate into action, creating clubs at their schools and finding teachers to help meet that need. Research shows it is essential to establish a foundation early and provide a continuity of service along the entire K-12 spectrum. To achieve this goal, the BDC has expanded into elementary and middle school education, offering training, events, and support for debate clubs. Support from The Foundation will allow us to expand these programs, help them become self-sustaining, and further expand these services into more rural and often impoverished communities. The Bluegrass Debate Coalition believes in the potential and viability of every child's successful future – we also believe debate education can be a vital part of that success.

For more information, visit <http://www.bluegrassdebate.org>.

## The Julia Burke Awards For Debate



**1 HAMED HEKMAT** The College Preparatory High School 2021 Recipient, Oakland, California • Attending Stanford University, Stanford, CA

**2 JAZMYN LUCKETT** Tournament of Champions Julia Burke Award Recipient • From Roosevelt High School, Sioux Falls, S.D. • Charity of Choice: Cheyenne River Youth Project Consortium

**3 THOMAS VANCE** American Debate Association 2021 Recipient • From the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI • Charity of Choice: University of Michigan

# Washington Urban Debate League

By David Trigaux, Director of Programming and Development

The 2020-2021 debate season will forever be defined by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many schools saw tragically low attendance rates, with students simply checking out of formal education or finding themselves drawn into the workforce, to help their families stay afloat during the accompanying economic turbulence. Tournaments that for decades have drawn students from across the country to storied campuses moved into cyberspace, while students had to master new platforms to connect themselves to their peers, coaches, and competitors.

Some of the challenges that we thought we'd see, such as a lack of access to devices and hotspots,

proved unfounded, while others, such as a lack of space to digitally engage without interruption, or the efficacy of hotspots in certain neighborhoods, loomed larger. Students were tired, burnt out on screen time, cut off from most social outlets, and often given more classwork than in years past. Already overworked teachers were asked to do more, while also taking care of their own families.

Throughout the challenges, however, there was resilience, determination, achievement, and joy. While many nonprofits struggled with engagement, the Washington Urban Debate League (WUDL), with support from The Julia Burke Foundation, was able to thrive. With a



tangible topic (Criminal Justice Reform) that students could connect with, we worked hard, started new teams at 11 schools, and experienced net growth despite the pandemic and without compromising on the depth of participation we know leads to student growth. The WUDL Travel Team evolved over the course of

the year, with some of its most regular members from the previous year struggling in remote learning, but other rising stars emerged. We thank The Julia Burke Foundation for your continued support in our mission. For more information, visit [www.urbandebatewashingtondc.org](http://www.urbandebatewashingtondc.org).



## Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League

By Michael Cirelli, Executive Director

Despite global lockdowns, school closures, and a new virtual world, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League found the silver lining in it all and created a number of new online programs and events for students, debaters, and fans of our program. Sustained support from The Julia Burke Foundation enabled us to engage with our community online in powerful ways and expand opportunities to the students that we serve.

This year, we used our network and accessibility to offer online debate seminars, and College & Career panels, as well as a popular program for new and novice debaters called Speech, Flow, GO! that provided a much-needed online community for new students to experience the power of debate, and also to inspire their high schools to join our league. Furthermore, because the national debate landscape was all online this year, which facilitated access in new ways, we had record numbers of students involved and a record number of invitational debate tournaments that our students participated in, including debates in Washington D.C., Atlanta, and Berkeley. We hosted three powerful online Public Debates that showcased the power of our work, and also enlisted special guest speakers and judges that included former U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, and L.A. District Attorney George Gascón. Finally, we were proud to have two top national debate honors—Debater of the Year and Coach of the Year. For more information, visit [www.lamdl.org](http://www.lamdl.org).

## Bay Area Urban Debate League

By Jonah Feldman, Executive Director

The Bay Area Urban Debate League (BAUDL) works with twenty schools from five school districts across the Bay Area to build sustained, engaged, active debate teams. We have deepened debate opportunities for public school students, and engage students interested in various pathways, including competitive debate, confidence building, and civic advocacy.

With support from The Julia Burke Foundation, BAUDL works with teacher-coaches to recruit, support, and sustain students in the program. Teacher-coaches are a valued part of the BAUDL organization and even if they do not have a debate background, they feel supported and able to serve as effective coaches and conduits between the students, school, parents, and BAUDL. Additionally, BAUDL supports our school partners to develop debate courses and for-credit speech and debate classes; strong partnerships with schools support our recruitment and successful student engagement.

This year, Bay Area Urban Debate League students will be debating the topic: "Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States." The students worked hard over the summer to prepare research on this topic and to develop their argumentative prowess, and we thank The Julia Burke Foundation for continuing to support student debate in the Bay Area.

For more information, visit [www.baudl.org](http://www.baudl.org).



# JW Patterson Foundation

By Elizabeth Patterson

The Kentucky Derby is not the only competitive event that draws the best of the best to the Bluegrass state every spring. In the world of high school debate, there is no greater honor than to qualify for The Tournament of Champions in Lexington, Kentucky. Thanks to the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation, students from all over the nation have the ability to attend the Tournament regardless of financial constraints.

For nearly 50 years, the Tournament of Champions has been considered the most prestigious debate tournament on the national circuit. Founded in 1972 by Professor J.W. Patterson from the University of Kentucky, the Tournament quickly emerged as the premier championship for high school debaters.

The J.W. Patterson Foundation for Academic Excellence in Speech & Debate was started in 2013 as a vehicle for those who believe passionately

in the value of communication skills, to offer opportunities to students who would otherwise not be able to participate. That same year, support from The Julia Burke Foundation helped launch our first need-based scholarship program, enabling students to participate in the Tournament of Champions regardless of financial constraints.

More recently, a grant from The Julia Burke Foundation enabled us to broaden our scholarship awards to include participation in the Tournament of Champions' qualifying tournaments, as well as tuition assistance for summer speech and debate camps.

The world of high school debate is fiercely



competitive and gaining access to qualifying tournaments and summer study opportunities can be challenging, and for many, prohibitively expensive. But thanks to The Julia Burke Foundation, we have supported students from throughout the nation to pursue opportunities in training and competition. We are deeply grateful to The Julia Burke Foundation for its continued support of our mission to make debate competitions possible for ALL students. For more information, visit [www.jwpattersonfoundation.org](http://www.jwpattersonfoundation.org).

## Monument Crisis Center

By Alexa Gambero, Pantry Services Coordinator

In order to serve Contra Costa County, in Northern California, as a full-service family resource center, Monument Crisis Center made significant changes to our programming at the onset of the pandemic, and with support from The Julia Burke Foundation, we have sustained our five core programs during this critical time, as the need in our community skyrocketed.

In previous years, we have hosted a community event, fondly known as Backpack Day, for the youth we serve who are heading back to school. The typical day included a breakfast, entertainment, and the opportunity for local students to choose a backpack filled with school supplies for the coming academic year. This family event was always a highlight of our year, but due to health and safety concerns with the pandemic, Backpack Day was canceled last year. This year, thanks to the efforts of volunteers and generous donors, we were able to give out backpacks during our food distribution program. Volunteers joined us for outdoor backpack giveaways during the entire month of July. We received donations of backpacks and school supplies for students of all ages. While county COVID-19 protocols did not allow for a large event this summer, our dedicated volunteers and staff did not let the opportunity to give out backpacks pass by—over 1,000 backpacks, filled with supplies for grades K-12, were distributed just in time for our students to start the school year. With all the uncertainty and change our world has faced, it was a joy to bring back a Monument Crisis Center tradition.

This year, we will keep offering virtual tutoring programs for students in grades K-8, in addition to a college preparatory program called High School and Beyond. As we continue to modify our programming to operate safely during these critical times, we are inspired by the resilience of the youth in our community. Thanks to the generosity of The Julia Burke foundation, we were able to reinstate a vital service to our youth and their families. Support from The Julia Burke Foundation inspires us to serve, and The Foundation's support has been invaluable as we adapt our services to meet the needs in our community. For more information, visit [www.monumentcrisiscenter.org](http://www.monumentcrisiscenter.org).



## Trinity Center

By Pamela Arend McGrath, Development Director

Trinity Center is a doorway to opportunity, providing essential safety net services and a pathway forward for vulnerable populations. We advocate for those who are seeking housing, financial stability, and wellness; our mission is to uphold the values of dignity, respect, inclusion, equity, and vibrancy of life for all. Beyond essential services, Trinity Center provides personalized support and advocacy through case management that helps people regain income, health, housing, and community connections. Additionally, we offer a Substance Use Program and a seasonal Evening Program winter shelter.

With the generous help of The Julia Burke Foundation, Trinity Center was afforded the opportunity in October 2020 to add a program through the addition of a staff member dedicated to connecting with and offering opportunities to young adults. The program is designed to connect with youth dealing with housing and food insecurities. As we approach the one-year mark of this new program, we look back on many wonderful collaborations and successes. Our Program Coordinator relates:

"My favorite part of this job is helping a young person realize their own worth, especially when it comes to applying for jobs. Much of the time, members do have good work-experience, but due to dealing with discouragement, hopelessness, trauma, or abuse, they just don't realize it and don't believe in themselves. Helping to flip a person's resume into something they can be proud of doesn't only give that individual a better shot at landing a job they want, but also works to give them newfound confidence..."

We keep dreaming about ways to enhance our program. A big dream is a prevention program based on outreach to at-risk youth. Our goal is to remove barriers and help them make healthier decisions by organizing community-building youth activities. Trinity Center is also making plans to strengthen our Substance Use Program and mental health resource connections, which will be of great benefit to young adults who are ready to engage in those services. For more information, visit <https://trinitycenterwc.org>



# Generations In Jazz Foundation

By Irene Pech, Board Member

The Lafayette Summer Music Workshop (LafSMW) provides jazz instruction to students of all ages. The faculty includes professional musicians and music teachers from the United States and other countries. This was the 23rd year of the Workshop and it was held from July 19-23 in Lafayette, CA. After auditions, students were placed into classes and combos based on their abilities, and the workshop culminated with a concert of 17 student combos and followed with solo performances by our instructors.

A generous grant from The Julia Burke Foundation allowed us to provide funds for various aspects of the camp, including students scholarships, teacher travel expenses, and equipment upgrades. We funded student scholarships (full, partial, and work-study) with The Julia Burke Foundation Scholarship Fund, and were able to double the budget for LafSMW faculty travel. A number of teachers come from the east coast, and we have continued to increase the diversity of our teaching staff and to recruit more women faculty. We were able to upgrade the PA system in the Generations in Jazz trailer, and to purchase new equipment, limiting the need to borrow from schools and companies. During the year, this equipment is loaned to people and schools with limited resources. Over the years, the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation has allowed many talented young musicians of all backgrounds to attend the LafSMW. All of us at Generations in Jazz thank you for your support. For more information, visit [www.gijf.org](http://www.gijf.org).



# The Society Of St. Vincent de Paul Of Contra Costa County

By Claudia L. Ramirez, Executive Director

As the impact of the pandemic is still being felt and the need for assistance continues to be great, we at St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, California (SVdP) are proud to be frontline workers, helping our neighbors in need. Thanks to the generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation, SVdP continues to help our neighbors with rental and housing assistance. In a typical year, SVdP distributes funds for assistance through its 29 branches in the county, which helps keep roofs over our neighbors' heads. In this last year, however, the need for rental assistance grew significantly, including security deposits and additional rent for our neighbors who were forced to downsize. Compared to last year at this time, SVdP and our 750 Vincentians (volunteers) have distributed more than double the funds in rental assistance, helped with generous support from The Julia Burke Foundation. Thankfully, through your support and compassion, SVdP has helped protect hundreds of families from homelessness and further despair.

In addition, funding from The Foundation has allowed us to continue large-scale food distributions that we started in March of 2020. Since placing our first box of food in a family's car, we have been able to feed more than 110,000 people in Contra Costa County through our large-scale, drive-thru distribution events. Food insecurity increased dramatically during the pandemic, with many families having to seek help for the first time; with The Foundation's assistance we make sure that families in Contra Costa County do not need to go to bed hungry. For more information, visit [www.svdp-cc.org](http://www.svdp-cc.org).



# South County Outreach

By Dennis W. Williams,  
Director of Development

South County Outreach partnered with The Julia Burke Foundation in Orange County, CA this spring to prevent food insecurity and homelessness for 5,000 low-income households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. After social-distancing mandates were set in March, The Julia Burke Foundation reached out to organizations all over the country in an effort to expand its impact during the global crisis.

Addressing the recent surge in people seeking help, President & CEO, LaVal Brewer says, "South County Outreach is experiencing a 34% increase in the number of families coming to us for help because of the pandemic. Many of these families have never been in this situation before – facing eviction for not paying rent, or not having enough food to put on the table." Orange County typically averages an unemployment rate between 3-4%, but since the forced closures of many area businesses, these communities peaked at almost 15% unemployment this year.

"We are so thankful for the generosity of The Julia Burke Foundation during these unprecedented times of social, health, and economic uncertainty. Without this substantial investment in the well-being of our clients, thousands more single-parent households, children, seniors, the unemployed or otherwise underemployed would be facing homelessness and hunger. The Julia Burke Foundation gave us the power to help pay rent and feed those most vulnerable to the economic fallout of COVID-19, and we are beyond grateful for their partnership," says Brewer.



South County Outreach has been in operation since 1989 and offers a variety of services targeted to prevent hunger and homelessness by helping people help themselves. The organization offers rental and utility assistance, emergency food assistance, a housing program whereby they are able to offer affordable homes in one of seventeen condominiums owned and managed by the agency, and case management to help with resources and referrals – all in an effort to help build dignity and self-sufficiency.

For more information, visit [www.sco-oc.org](http://www.sco-oc.org).



75-5722 Kuakini Hwy., Suite 106  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
808-960-1705  
[www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](http://www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org)

## Memorial Walk & Reunion Postponed

We look forward to rescheduling in the future to walk, catch up and honor Julia.  
Please check our website for updates throughout the year for updates.

[www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](http://www.JuliaBurkeFoundation.org)



Over 23,000 Californians are currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.



Donate Life California saves lives by creating opportunities for all Californians to sign up on the official state organ, eye and tissue donor registry. Julia called this "A no-brainer!"

Sign up online To become an organ donor today!  
[www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org](http://www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org)



## Let's Stay In Touch!

Please take a moment to update us with your address when you move.



Contact: Joy Johnson at  
[Joy\\_Johnson@JuliaBurkeFoundation.org](mailto:Joy_Johnson@JuliaBurkeFoundation.org)