

# The Whitney Foundation Annual Report 2004

## **Message from the Board Chair**

The Whitney Foundation has completed another successful year in supporting individuals and families on their journey to self-determination and self-reliance. During our fourth year of operation we funded five projects, four in California and one in Idaho.

This year the Board Members served on several committees to further support our mission. The committees included the Investment Policy Committee, the Grant Evaluation Committee and the Website Development Committee. As a result of this committee work we validated our Investment Policy, revised our Grant Application process and forms, and contracted the development of our website ([www.thewhitneyfoundationfresno.org](http://www.thewhitneyfoundationfresno.org)). We are very excited about our website and encourage you to visit it to learn about the various grants we have funded, how to apply for a grant, and to read our Annual Report and the results of projects that have been funded.

In addition to a successful year of funding grants and committee work, the Board also decided to create a new Board position, Chair of the Board. This un-paid position is in place to support the varied activities in reviewing and receiving grants and to facilitate the business conducted during our Board Meetings. We have also hired a part time staff person to assist the Board in accomplishing the clerical work surrounding Board Business.

We look forward to another successful year and encourage you to visit our website as the year progresses.

Brian Ross  
Board Chair, The Whitney Foundation

## Funded Programs for 2004

### **Stone Soup, Fresno, CA**

Stone Soup of Fresno, CA was funded \$16,500.00 to assist in the start-up of their Hmong Artisan Village.

The Central Valley is home to one of the largest Hmong refugee populations outside Laos. The Hmong people have many obstacles overcome, however, they bring many strengths. They are the last of the traditional artisans skilled in the making of silver jewelry, knives, ritual clothing, baskets and the Qeej, a ceremonial flute important in wedding and funeral rituals. It was the vision of the community of basket and Qeej makers already working here to utilize the well-known talent of the new Hmong refugees to create an entrepreneurial opportunity. The first goal is to begin building an inventory of crafts that can be marketed over the Internet and generate business practices that can stimulate self-sufficiency. Secondly, is to provide socialization and support of acculturation of these at risk families. The final goal is to promote the appreciation for diversity and ameliorate discrimination around the Hmong in our larger society.

Stone Soup is about "sharing with others what has been given to you". They are working to bringing about positive change. Overcoming obstacles to health, education and supporting cultural diversity and educating the larger society fits well with The Whitney Foundation's values.

### **Break the Barriers, Fresno, CA**

The Buddy Program for Break the Barriers of Fresno, CA was funded \$10,000.00 by The Whitney Foundation. The Buddy Program partners with five local school districts to match students with a disability to a non-disabled peer. The Whitney Foundation grant will assist in supplying coaches, materials and some transportation to and from the schools participating.

Non-disabled students are transported to Break the Barriers (BTB) every other week for instruction. Some of these classes include dance, gymnastics, martial arts and sign language. The Buddy Program serves the school districts by developing and carrying out a program to teach inclusion of everyone. They accomplish the building of self confidence in both special needs students and their able bodied peers to foster understanding and acceptance between them.

### **Catholic Charities of Idaho, Jerome County, Idaho**

The Whitney Foundation funded Catholic Charities of Idaho \$6000.00 for office and program supplies, curriculum materials and travel expenses for project participants (start-up support for a new service center) as part of the Family Support and Learning Center in Jerome County, Idaho.

Jerome County is one of the poorest counties in Idaho with a per capita income of \$15,530. The per capita income for the Latino population is \$8,300. Due to educational deficits (school drop-outs), the traditional "anglo" population in Jerome County has a high number of people that are unable to compete in today's economic arena. In addition the large, new immigrant population from Mexico also has very low education levels. Both groups can benefit greatly from the academic skills improvement as well as daily living skills. These types of skill training have been requested of CCI.

Catholic Charities of Idaho has addressed Jerome's literacy and poverty needs by offering a series of adult education classes that focus on improving the entire person – parenting & family life, health, language skills and basic education (reading, writing and math). By providing these skills the community it serves is provided with the opportunity to lead healthy productive lives in addition to being successful parents.

The goal, as a result of participating in the Family Education and Support Program, is to have adults and youth, improve their education to at least a GED level, and increasing their English fluency thereby making them more marketable for better employment opportunities. By offering parenting and life skills classes, adults can become better parents in addition to encouraging their children to lead healthy lifestyles and pursue higher education.

### **ADAC Non-Profit Center, Fresno, CA**

The Whitney Foundation funded \$9858.00 to ADAC Nonprofit Center, Fresno, CA., for handicap access and security improvements of their existing facilities. The funding was used to improve the restrooms by reworking the flooring and fixtures to facilitate handicap access. As some of the clients served are at-risk, the funds were also used to replace the secure perimeter fencing in addition to paint retouching.

The ADAC facilitates social change and service by providing low-cost office and meeting resources for non-profit community benefit organizations in Fresno, CA. The two 10,000 square foot buildings currently serve organizations that assist clients in obtaining housing (Advocates for the People), health matters (Fresno New Connections), education (Friendship Center for the Blind) in addition to The Arthritis Foundation, Alzheimer's Foundation and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

**Coalinga-Huron-Avenal House at Berkeley – West Fresno County, CA**

The Whitney Foundation made an investment in students ranging in age from 14-17 by, once again, funding \$10,000 to assist students from rural West Fresno County to participate in the Academic Talent Development Program, which is sponsored by the University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Education. Students were enrolled in classes that demanded good study skills, self-discipline, independence and sheer determination. These students enrolled in classes such as, Architectural Design, Spanish, American Literature, Grammar, and Algebra, just to name a few. The goal of the program is to provide these students an opportunity to experience college life. Many, if not all, of these students come from a background that consists primarily of rural field work. The CHA House at Berkeley provides these students with a glimpse into what their future can hold, an opportunity to pursue higher education and expand on the gifts and talents that they have been given. Many “graduates” of the CHA House have applied to colleges and universities throughout California.

The goal of the Coalinga-Huron-Avenal House is to broaden the outlook of, mostly minority, rural students. Providing them with the tools to make realistic plans, have careers that require a college education and to demonstrate high academic performances in a highly competitive setting.

**Financial Information**

**INCOME**

Donations	\$0.00
Dividends	\$36,355.33
Interest	\$21,367.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$57,722.74</b>

**Investment  
Realized/Unrealized**

Gains/(Losses)	\$239,605.76
Foundation Expense	\$91,958.23
Grants Distributed	\$52,358.00