

FOSTERING A COMMUNITY KINSHIP

By **SUZANNE SULLIVAN**, Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Chair

We are sharing correspondence received from a Truckee High School teacher, Craig Rowe, because every Tahoe Donner member should know the impact that Giving Fund donations have on the lives of students. Thank you for standing with these students. We'll say no more - you can supply your own adjectives once you read Rowe's words.

Dear Tahoe Donner Giving Fund,

One of the true pleasures of July and August for me, in addition to enjoying the warm weather, is catching up with our La Fuerza Latina [LFL] undergrads who are home from college and learning how I can help support them with internship planning, gap-year targeting and post-grad preparations.

But unlike the seasons, which inevitably come each year, more and more of our LFL scholars have the incredible generosity of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF), and especially the IMPACT awards, to thank for enabling their college dreams. I never want to take the Giving Fund (GF) nor IMPACT scholarship awards for granted, never want to let our scholars become complacent and never want them to forget the true altruism that Tahoe Donner Giving Fund models.

Three years ago when one of our quietest-yet-determined DACA students, Fatima, was awarded an IMPACT scholarship, it felt to many Latinx kids that they had been "seen" and that, through hard work and dedication, the Giving Fund IMPACT would not only recognize their achievements but crucially help fund their education.

Very, very few communities in California, or even the entire country, afford local low-income kids the types of opportunities to improve their lives through education as does the Giving Fund IMPACT scholarship, and that transformational generosity should never be lost, overlooked, presumed or forgotten - it certainly will not be by myself nor any of our LFL scholars.

I also felt compelled to reach out and affirm the importance of Tahoe Donner Giving Fund's work, because it seems that we continue stumbling along in a polarized America. When I read the paper or watch the latest partisan newsclip, I sometimes feel a sense of disorientation or even doubt about what we can truly call "American" - what things actually bind us together. In those troubling moments this summer, I rediscovered who I am and the values that transcend race, gender and class through the impact and generosity of the Giving Fund and the IMPACT grants.

The Giving Fund embodies a set of universal principles that every community in America needs right now: kindness, empathy, generosity and a sense of shared responsibility. Those are the types of values that give myself and all of our scholars hope - the belief that when the sun rises, it rises for everyone, and I'm deeply grateful for the continued presence and support of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund and the IMPACT scholarships.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer!

Craig Rowe, Ph.D.
Instructor, Truckee High School
Director, La Fuerza Latina

The IMPACT Scholarships are up to \$50,000 for up to five years. You too can join in this endeavor with a minimum donation of \$10,000 per year pledged for five years. Contact Giving Fund Committee Chair Suzanne Sullivan at TahoeDonnerCares@gmail.com for details.

The current IMPACT scholarship donor says, "It is my goal to change lives by providing the means for first-generation students to fulfill their educational and career goals."



Arturo

Chuy

Daniella



Daphne

Emily

Fatima



Jairo

Jesus

Luis



Mariela

Ozzie

Stephanie



Victoria

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the TD Board of Directors. All contributions are voluntary tax-deductible gifts from TD members and friends. The Giving Fund is administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. For more information on the Giving Fund or to make a contribution, visit our webpage at tahoedonner.com/giving-fund. Contact tdgf@tahoedonner.com with questions or to volunteer for the committee. We thank and are grateful for our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, for their continuing support.

