



# TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND FUNDING AND FULFILLING POTENTIAL

When individual streams support a local watershed, their influence affects the wider ecosystem. When donations to the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF) support local grants and scholarships, their influence affects individual recipients and the wider community.

Such is the story of TDGF scholar America and Truckee High School Teacher Craig Rowe, founder of La Fuerza Latina (LFL).

## America – Already Making a Difference



America is a sophomore at the University of California, Davis, double majoring in Sociology and Chicana Studies with a minor in Education. She was initially awarded a TDGF scholarship in 2023, which was extended for a second year of support in 2024.

“I am so grateful for both the financial assistance offered through the TDGF Scholarship and the regular check-ins from my Giving Fund Committee coach,” which are supporting the education that fuels her journey to becoming a teacher who works with and serves the underserved, the vulnerable and the low-income community.

Born and raised in Truckee, America graduated from Truckee High School. She credits her active membership in LFL and its founder, teacher Craig Rowe, with boosting her self-confidence and providing the guidance and encouragement she needed to realize her dream of attending college.



America at work at UC Davis.

“Mr. Rowe gave me so much, so I just want to give back. I want to be someone’s Mr. Rowe. He’s like a second dad to all of us.”

At UC Davis, America was inspired by the professor of her Sociology class, “Social Problems” to volunteer with the Prison Education Project (PEP). There, she worked at both the Sacramento County and Solano County Juvenile Centers, mentoring 16- to 22-year-olds in a career development class.

America then formed a university-approved campus PEP Club for student volunteers interested in continuing this important mentoring work. She also volunteers with the Reintegration Academy, which mentors ex-convicts as they learn to live back in society after incarceration.

## La Fuerza Latina – Changing Lives



LFL was founded in 2015 by Truckee High School teacher Craig Rowe when he noticed an imbalance in the demographics of students in AP and honors classes, which were filled with mostly white students and just a few Latinos. Today, LFL comprises Latina girls with good grades, strong work ethics and

tremendous potential but limited resources to help them successfully navigate the arduous college prep and admission process.

Craig Rowe is dedicated to providing students with the kind of high-caliber admissions preparation typically offered by paid consultants but may be unaffordable for many local students. LFL has a 100% acceptance rate and a 0% drop rate among its students. To name a few, LFL participants have attended Harvard, Bowdoin, Stanford, Tufts, Williams, Trinity, Wesleyan, Davidson and all of the University of California campuses.

Many of Craig Rowe’s LFL students are the beneficiaries of TDGF scholarships. The recent \$10,000 TDGF grant to LFL will help pay for SAT prep courses, AP Chemistry tutoring, college application fees, travel expenses and more.

## A Watershed of Potential

Combine the La Fuerza Latina college preparation program for first generation college students such as America, with the scholarship support and grant funding of Tahoe Donner Giving Fund donors, and you have a watershed of potential for the future.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is administered as an affiliate fund of the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 68-0416404. All contributions are voluntary, irrevocable, and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tahoe Donner Giving Fund grants and scholarships are made through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation’s annual review process. The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee is chartered by the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors to carry out the mission of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund: to inspire generosity and charitable giving among Tahoe Donner members in order to support deserving programs and youth in the greater Truckee community. The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee thanks our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, who has supported the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund since its inception in 2014, and the anonymous Tahoe Donner member who has generously funded the IMPACT Scholarships each year since 2019.

