

**Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation**  
**1200 S. Oakland Ave**  
**Pasadena, CA 91106**  
**213-248-5117**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Information  
Jonathan Jaffrey  
PISF Chairman  
(213) 248-5117

**PISF Announces Local Charities To Receive Grants**

The Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation (PISF) has announced the 16 local charities that will receive grants this school year, which is twice as many as were reviewed last year. During the 2010-11 program year, the PISF student participants will meet with and review the charities, and they will select eight to each receive a \$10,000 grant from PISF; the remaining eight will receive \$2,000 each. The \$96,000 total is the largest amount ever distributed by PISF.

“Those that are selected to receive \$10,000 will be visited a second time during Year 2 of the program to see how the funds were expended and to see how their decisions affected the community in real time,” said Jonathan Jaffrey, PISF’s board chair. “The goal of the program is to give the students a comprehensive and thorough understanding of philanthropy and nonprofit operation, learn skills in critical thinking and decision making, and develop and build leadership skills and learn the benefits of volunteerism. By giving the participants of this program the opportunity to experience the fulfillment of contributing to the betterment of their community, PISF’s ultimate goal is to have these students acquire a life-long passion for giving.”

For more information about PISF, visit [www.pisf.org](http://www.pisf.org).

The 16 charities under consideration for 2010-11 grants include:

**Armory Center of the Arts**

The Armory Center for the Arts is a community arts center that offers innovative approaches to creating, exploring and presenting the arts to students of all ages. In addition to providing an outlet for contemporary art exhibitions and performances, the Armory offers studio art classes and a variety of educational outreach programs to schools and throughout the community.

**Asia Pacific Museum**

Established in 1971, the museum is one of only four U.S. institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands, serving the Greater Southern California

region. The museum's mission is to bring art and people together for self-discovery, learning and enjoyment and to promote cross-cultural understanding, illustrating points of connection in an increasingly global community while encouraging inclusiveness and curiosity.

#### Assistance League of Pasadena

Assistance League of Pasadena is proud of Operation School Bell, as studies show that children who attend school with the appropriate clothing have improved attendance and better performance. Benefits of the program are readily evident to teachers and counselors, but more profound and immeasurable is the bolstered foundation of pride and self-esteem that each child carries beyond the classroom.

#### Birthday Box Project

The Birthday Box Project was founded in 2007 by four mothers to help homeless families spend meaningful time together preparing and celebrating birthdays. More than 150 families in transitional housing centers in greater Los Angeles have celebrated their children's birthdays with the help of The Birthday Box Project.

#### Community Health Alliance of Pasadena

The mission of Community Health Alliance of Pasadena is to provide high-quality, accessible and culturally sensitive health care and related services in an environment of care and mutual respect in the greater Pasadena area. Taking into account the unique needs and characteristics of the local community, CHAP provides a continuum of care throughout the lifecycle for children and adults.

#### Foothill Unity Center

Foothill Unity Center provides critical support, in the form of food, clothing, motel vouchers, and referrals/advocacy to local residents in crisis. "As the need for food brings people to us, we listen to their problems and help them find solutions," a Foothill Unity Center spokesman said. "We work with other agencies to provide long-term shelter, counseling, medical, educational, employment and spiritual assistance depending on the person's needs."

#### Frostig Center

The Frostig Center is a non-profit organization that specializes in working with children who have learning disabilities. Founded in 1951 by Marianne Frostig, a pioneer in the study, diagnosis and treatment of learning disabilities, the Center is dedicated to a three-part mission of: conducting research on the causes/effects of learning disabilities; providing parent, tutor, educator training and consultation in how to work with children who struggle to learn; and offering direct instructional services to children with learning disabilities through the Frostig School and other community services.

#### Hear Center

The Hear Center was founded in 1954 by Ciwa Griffiths, Ed.D. As a dedicated teacher of the deaf, she developed the Auditory Approach — helping hearing-impaired children

gain the gift of speech through early identification of hearing loss, amplification with hearing aids and training in learning to listen and speak.

#### Hillsides

From its inception in 1913 until its present-day status as a foster care children's charity, Hillsides creates safe places for children at risk and their families. Upon emancipation from foster care, former foster youth must make their way in the world with little support or experience. YMO, a 24-month transitional housing program, provides stable, safe, affordable housing in a supportive community to empower former foster youth in their journey towards successful independence. Hillsides helps youth transition into a life of independence.

#### Los Angeles Childrens Chorus

The mission of Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) is to educate, develop and inspire musically talented children to attain the highest level of choral artistry. Considered one of the nation's leading children's choirs, LACC has appeared in more than 300 performances with such renowned organizations as the LA Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

#### Pasadena Education Foundation

The Pasadena Educational Foundation was established in 1971 to increase community support for the public schools of Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre. As a community-based nonprofit organization supporting the goals of the PUSD, PEF develops community partnerships, financial resources and educational opportunities that benefit all students and encourages greater involvement from the community in support of public education.

#### Pasadena Pops/Youth Symphony

The Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO) has been training tomorrow's classical musicians since 1972. Now in its 38th year, PYSO is considered among the best youth orchestras in the Southland. This exceptional ensemble is comprised of talented middle school students from grades 6-9. These committed young people receive advanced instruction and challenging music opportunities through a rigorous program that emphasizes ensemble playing and includes a minimum of three concerts a year.

#### Saturday Conservatory of Music

The Saturday Conservatory of Music was established to provide affordable, quality music instruction to children in the greater Los Angeles area, primarily targeting children from low-income families.

#### Teen Futures

Teen Futures is a multi-program organization centered around youth empowerment. Their largest programs are implemented within two Pasadena public high schools, as well as a Pasadena foster youth transitional living organization. Their primary program, "My Life, My Future," focuses on teen parenthood prevention. MLMF follows a 12-week-long

curriculum emphasizing relationship-building, small group discussion, and values exploration.

#### Western Justice Center

The mission of the Western Justice Center is to increase the opportunity for peaceful conflict resolution and displace the power of violence in our society. Western Justice Center designs, implements, evaluates and promotes innovative methods of conflict prevention and resolution for children, communities and courts.

#### YWCA Pasadena

The YWCA is the oldest and largest multicultural women's organization in the world. Across the globe, the YWCA has more than 25 million members in 122 countries, including 2 million members in 300 local associations in the United States. More important than the numbers is its mission to eliminate racism and empower women. "We provide safe places for women and girls, build strong women leaders, and advocate for women's rights and civil rights in Congress," a YWCA spokeswoman said.