

Our Early Work

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The Elfenworks Foundation – In Harmony with Hopesm – is a 501.c.3 operating foundation that was established in 2007 with the goal of growing hope. Leveraging a strategic Silicon Valley location and mindset, and using a proven methodology known as the Seven Pillars, we have achieved significant, tangible results.

Our initial efforts spanned a wide range of work and grantmaking as we endeavored to raise hope by tackling related problems from various angles. This resulted in so many moving parts that we felt the need to include a graphical representation of our work, using the metaphor of an apple tree. At that time, clicking on any particular apple took the user to a detail page relating to the project depicted. We provided local targeted small grants. including to San Mateo Firehouse (purchased a paver during 2016 fundraiser); Shelter Network (sponsored tables at annual breakfasts); Boys and Girls Clubs (sponsored two tables, Founding CEO served as a Bay Area judge); Boys Hope Girls Hope USA (supported a giveaway contest); Burlingame UMC’s Backpackpaloozas (backpack giveaway), and Burlingame Police (for a police dog). To the right, tomatoes from a member of our team, on their way to the local food pantry, Call Primrose. Prior to the pandemic sent many of our team telecommuting, we had a long tradition of filling a barrel for Second Harvest Food Bank each year around Thanksgiving. Prior to the pandemic we also offered in-person “Reali-Tea” events, corresponding to the



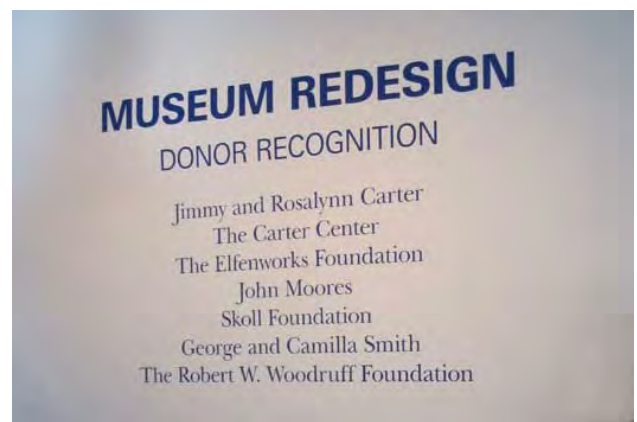
Climate Reality Project's "24-Hours of Reality." Post-pandemic, we provided funding to New Life Community Church in Burlingame for solar panels, which we believe is a first for a Burlingame/San Mateo church. We have refined our focus in the areas of *Preservation*, *Transformation*, and *Innovation*.

PRESERVATION

Many of our preservation efforts are still ongoing, and can be seen on our website. These include support for wildlife, waterways. Here is one that has been completed:

The Carter Presidential Library & Museum

In addition to having provided funding to the Carter Center's various initiatives, we were one of the key donors to the Carter Presidential Library and Museum's first major retrofit in 2009. Originally established in 1986, the museum houses 40,000,000 pages, 1,000,000 photographs, 2,200,000 feet of film, and 2,500 hours of video. The major overhaul upgraded the visitor experience with interactive learning opportunities, high-tech energy-saving lighting and an emphasis on education for the 21st century. Scores of visitors continue to learn about a key time in history, and the accomplishments of our 39th President and First Lady, through this museum. At The Carter Center, where our Founding CEO is a Life Member of their Board of Councilors, we also helped them to preserve life and well-being. We underwrote the publication of their first booklet on Women and Trachoma, we were the initial donor as they addressed malaria in Ethiopia (a program that ran from 2007-2014), hosted Center events, and provided grants to support their interns, mental health programs, and guinea worm eradication.



TRANSFORMATION

Student Social Entrepreneurs

We have, over the years, supported student social entrepreneurship education at Cal State University Monterey, Taras Schevchenko University of Kyiv, and Beijing's Capital University of Economics and Business. We have shared our methodology with these Elfenworks Scholars and we expect great things of them in the coming years. We have already begun to hear back from a few of the young students we met during our early outreach efforts to share our methodology. These included:

- **In Australia**, our CEO's book on our methodology was released in conjunction with a lecture at the Australia National University in Canberra, in 2012.
- **In India**, classes were taught in Tiruchirappalli, in Tamil Nadu, followed by zoom classes for three subsequent years. The visit also sparked a project that, for a number of years, brought sewing classes to a group of widows outside Trichy.
- **In China**, in 2015, we helped judge a competitive Star of Hope scholarship opportunity at Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing, where students presented their concepts for social entrepreneurship. These

students then joined us at the filming of China Central Television's feature series, "Public Power," with host Meng Shengnan. Press coverage also included China Youth News, and radio interviews. The project, a joint effort to catalyze the nascent field of social entrepreneurship in China and benefit the Chinese people. It was administered through Capital University of Economics and Business' College of Urban Economics and Public Administration, where students had the opportunity to study the Seven Pillars in a Chinese Language edition of our CEO's book on the subject. The recipient, Zhang Tiancheng, spoke of his goal of cleansing the air of Beijing. During the landmark award event of November 11, 2015, our CEO hailed the moment as auspicious, and exhorted students, "Why wait for some mythical hero to step in, when you are the one who sees a way to help?" She reminded them that whatever they practice, they will perfect, and if they want a more compassionate world, to practice compassion. And of course, to "never underestimate your ripple." Professor Xu then expanded on the power of partnership using the metaphor of a firefly: one alone may not be very powerful, but many together will light the darkness. After this, Vice Dean Wang Deqi addressed the crowd in fluent English, hailing this new partnership and the the possibilities for other such partnerships for the greater good. The winning group project, Miao Yi Fang (Traditional Chinese Culture Workshop), was presented with an award. Students, faculty, administration, and the press were all in attendance. CUEB, founded in 1956, is the leading municipal university in Beijing. It took its current form in 1995 after the merger of the Beijing College of Economics and the Beijing Institute of Finance and Trade. Over the last 60 years, CUEB has grown into a modern multidisciplinary university with strengths in six major subject areas including economics, management, law, literature and science, and engineering, of which economics and management are its core disciplines. CUEB's department of labor economics is has been accredited as a key national academic program, and is a member one of the Ministry of Education's Exceptional Key Disciplines Project. The departments of applied economics and statistics are both key first-class disciplines in Beijing, having been ranked 12th and 15th respectively among 88 universities, and 5th among finance and economics universities during the 3rd round of appraisal by the Ministry of Education. For the first time, Tilburg University ranked CUEB 9th for publications in top journals among all mainland universities. CUEB itself is considered as a "national education base for ecological civilization". Press Coverage Included: China Youth News Article [[linked here](#)] (this went viral and was covered at East Day, World People, and Gongyi China. Additionally, an interview with Speeth was aired on China Central Television's feature series, "Public Power," with host Meng Shengnan (in China and elsewhere), and Speeth's radio interview, CRI Round Table - Zhou Heyang Talks with Dr. Lauren Speeth about Social Entrepreneurship, was well received.

- **In Ukraine**, we partnered with Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University and Elfenworks Productions LLC to offer an Elfenworks Student Competition on Social Entrepreneurship in 2017. Taras Shevchenko National University, a classic university with a distinct research profile, is the leading contemporary academic and educational hub of Ukraine. The staff at the University have a broad range of formal achievements recognized, such as the State Prize of Ukraine in Science and Technology, as well as awards from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and branches of the National Academies of Sciences. The prize was awarded April 25, 2017 in Kiev to Vitaly Oleksyuk. The scholarship competition took place at the Institute of International Relations of the Kiev Taras Shevchenko National University in the academic year of 2016- 2017. The jury, led by Professor Aleksiy Stupnytsky, included: Igor Golubiy, Professor, Department of International Business; Nikolay Gnatovsky, Professor, Department of International Law; Svetlana Andrushchenko, Professor, Department of International Relations; and Ksenya Smyrnova, Professor, Department of European Law, assessed applicants for 1) knowledge of social entrepreneurship; 2) analysis of the state of the field, in Ukraine; 3) Personal experience; and 4) Vision. From the initial pool of 135 participants, 24 were selected for the second, juried phase, from whom four finalists - Anna Kikesheva, Vitaly Oleksyuk, Valeriia Slinko, and Oleksander Yaroshenko - were ultimately chosen. These

finalists met with the Foundation team for in-depth discussions. During a ten-day stay in the country, our team also had the opportunity to meet with nonprofit leaders from across the nation, as well as members of the press and university leaders. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for an Elfenworks Center at the university was graced by two adorable children bearing korovai, a traditional bread. The event was led by Dr. Valeriy Kopyyka, Director of the Institute of International Relations. Our CEO was bestowed with an honorary doctorate and the honorary title of Professor at the event, addressed students and faculty, compared the making of this bread (by seven women with happy marriages) to the process of social entrepreneurship, which likewise involves partnership, skill, and so on.

The knowledge shared in these and other more recent trips will, we hope, be put into practice and shared with others, growing hope in creative ways that befit the needs of the moment. We also have provided targeted support to the following universities:

Golden Gate University - Law

The support we provided to Golden Gate University centered primarily around the field of poverty law. A class by Professor Michele Benedetto Neitz that originally centered around the legal aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was transformed over the years, with our financial support, into a course covering poverty law as a whole. Members of the Foundation team also provided guest lectures and the course’s capstone symposium where students presented their work on various aspects of the law. Professor Neitz estimated that, as of 2017 she had taught hundreds of students and had 200 symposium attendees. In addition, we provided funding that allowed the university to bring The Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) on campus for a Conference “Vulnerable Populations and Economic Realities.” Our CEO was one of the event speakers, and she and other members of her band (John Watkins on guitar and Don Kane on bass) serenaded the attendees with a song on poverty. Finally, In October of 2010, we endowed *The Elfenworks Center for Employment Justice* at the university’s Women’s Employment Rights Clinic with a \$500,000 grant and a focus on legal services and education for domestic workers and other caregivers. The School of Law at Golden Gate University has closed, with 2023-24 having been the last academic year for new students.



Figure 1: GGU Lobby with Foundation Listed Top Center

College of California – Leadership Ethics

Support for Mills College began with the endowment of an interdisciplinary course, co-taught by Mills faculty from the German and Music departments, entitled "An Die Musik: German Poetry and Music." The course covered materials from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, highlighting the 19th century when dramatic and lyric poems by Goethe, his contemporaries and followers were set to music by composers such as Schubert, Schumann and many others. After the retirement of Dr. Elisabeth Siekhaus, the endowment was modified as a scholarship. Other support for the music program included: endowing and expanding the charter of the Mills Performing Group; bringing American Music Center career resources on campus; providing funds for needed repairs to electronic equipment; underwriting a two-year residency for the Grammy-Quartet San Francisco to work and perform with students and faculty; and endowing an Aaron Rosand Music Lesson Scholarship Fund. The Foundation was also the first major donor towards a nascent MBA program with a grant towards an Elfenworks Lectureship on Leadership, Ethics and Entrepreneurship. We provided three-years of funding sufficient to establish and sustain a Center for Responsible Business (CRB). Other hands-on support from the Foundation included developing a website for their CRB, and serving on the External Advisory Board for the Graduate School of Business through three successive changes of administration. In 2023, after Mills College ceased function as an independent entity and was subsumed under Northeastern University, the various endowments were consolidated and additional support was provided to Northeastern.



Figure 2: Our Founding CEO (fourth from the right) at the groundbreaking for the Graduate School of Business building. Photo courtesy of Mills College.

Feedback From Mills College

- In 2001, the very first year of the Mills MBA program, this was our first major gift, endowing one of our required core courses, Ethics, Leadership and Entrepreneurship. An endowed gift means that the Mills Graduate School of Business will always have as a requirement that all of its students study ethical behavior in business and make it a priority in their professional lives. As you may recall, 2001 was a time of great national concern over corporate scandal and corruption. (Elfenworks) saw the significance of an ethics requirement and made this gift when our program had only 12 students and many MBA programs were not even requiring that their students take a course in ethics. This foresight and generosity were extraordinarily important to those of us undertaking the



establishment of a new professional degree program focused on creating more women business leaders. The confidence demonstrated in our ability to achieve this goal was extremely significant in the first year of our program as it helped to validate what we were doing and inspired others to become involved. I will forever be grateful. —Nancy Thornborrow, Dean, February 22, 2007

- You have made Mills' Center for Socially Responsible Business possible. The entire Mills community is fortunate that you recognize and nurture the abilities of talented women and value the positive effects of education in improving people's lives and our world. —Janet Holmgren, President, May 8, 2008
- We are especially grateful for your vision and generosity in establishing the Center for Socially Responsible Business (CSR). The CSR strengthens our MBA program's foci on the integration of ethical principles into business decision-making and understanding how business activities impact human welfare and the natural environment. With your partnership, Mills is preparing entrepreneurial women to become tomorrow's leaders of business and non-profit organizations around the world. Thanks to you, Mills will educate more women to be collaborative leaders who understand how important diversity, ethical leadership, social responsibility, and sustainability are to business success. —Janet Holmgren, President, May 27, 2010

Northeastern University – Environmental Education

The Elfenworks Foundation and Northeastern University share a dedication to the environment, sustainability, and conserving water resources. In 2023, after Mills College ceased operation as an independent degree-granting institution, the endowments established at Mills College by the Elfenworks Foundation were consolidated and repurposed to endow an on-campus research co-op (co-operative education) position in a faculty member's laboratory at Northeastern University. In addition, the Foundation made a new financial commitment over three years to endow a stipend fund for students in unpaid co-op placements at environmentally focused not-for-profit agencies and organizations. The Elfenworks Foundation Endowed On-Campus Research Co-op and The Elfenworks Foundation Endowed Environmental Leadership Stipend will support students working directly on solving environmental problems and developing the knowledge and skills that they need to embark on careers in the environmental sciences. This offers a special opportunity to educate and train future generations of environmental leaders, to have an immediate and meaningful impact on environmental research and action, and to link The Elfenworks Foundation and Northeastern University in perpetuity.

Saint Mary's College – Socially Responsible Business

We endowed an Elfenworks Center for the Study of Fiduciary Capitalism. At its heart was the premise that institutional investors such as pension funds would be motivated to promote a more socially responsible agenda for their bottom line. By virtue of owning large portions of the global economy, what harms the "public good" will also mean greater costs of doing business over time. It's an idea so powerful that, in 2006, the United Nations used it to develop their six "Principles for Responsible Investment" which was subsequently adopted The New York Stock Exchange and which offers a much-needed framework for institutional investment decision-making. That done, the Center was rededicated to a broader focus – Responsible Business – on March 25th, 2014. At that launch, a panel discussed "Responsible Business: What It Is and Why It Matters," featuring leading executives from responsible businesses, moderated by Center Executive Director Saroja Subrahmanyam, and featuring Elfenworks Center Senior Fellow James Hawley. Provost Beth Dobkin noted that the Center *"expands on our prior focus on fiduciary capitalism. The research and educational programs of the ECRB will reflect the mission*

of the College by encouraging businesses, through the scholarship of our faculty and engagement of our students, to develop innovative solutions to help solve social and environmental problems in their immediate communities and across the globe.” Even as the Center's scope has expanded, its original work on Fiduciary Capitalism and activist investors continues, providing a firm foundation on which the new Center can build and grow.



Figure 3: At the Center. Our CEO, 3rd from left; our Founding CEO, 3rd from right.

Feedback From Saint Mary's College

- I am delighted that the Elfenworks Foundation has named the Center and elected to be a guardian in our efforts to study ethics and social justice in the corporate world and within capitalism itself. The 'fiduciary capitalism' of large institutional investors and other 'universal owners' plays an increasingly important role in the world, and we look forward to how this role responds to pressing social issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, among others. There is no doubt that your gift will advance the mission of Saint Mary's College and the Elfenworks Foundation. The Elfenworks Center at Saint Mary's College is uniquely placed to make a positive difference in the business community and in the field of higher education."
—Br. Ronald Gallagher, President
- The Elfenworks Center will allow our students to partner with, invest in and advise various enterprises that meet the criteria for responsible businesses in the Bay Area and internationally,” said Li. “These are important educational opportunities and they are an outgrowth of the ongoing focus on the global leadership and responsible business orientation in the School of Economic and Business Administration at Saint Mary’s.
— Zhan Li, Dean, Graduate School of Business
- “Our plans are for the Center to take a leadership role promoting and inspiring sustained research, advancing responsible business pedagogy and fostering ongoing partnerships among academics, students and businesses.”
— Saroja Subrahmanyam, Center Director

Stanford University – Center on Poverty and Inequality

Technical Support: We provided key technical support to launch of the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, designing and developing a database-driven website they maintained for ten years before melding into the main Stanford site. Years later, some of the original structure remains useful.^v

Members of our team designed a logo for the Center as well as branding materials used online, on their magazine, and their annual State of the Union events.



Figure 4 Web-development team

Concert Launch & Film: We co-produced a musical celebration of the Center’s launch, on Thursday, September 6, 2007, coordinating with local gospel and classical musicians including members of The Peninsula Symphony, conductor Mitchell Sardou Klein, and composer Giancarlo Aquilanti. We also produced an award-winning documentary of the event, *A Concert for Hope* (which can be viewed on our website). Stanford’s landmark event featured The Elfenworks Festival Ensemble with Maestro Mitchell Sardou Klein conducting a world-premiere work of Giancarlo Aquilanti as well as a gospel choir led from the piano by Ms. Tammy Hall. Filmmaker Lauren Speeth interwove the transcendent musical performances, stirring speeches, and enchanting animation, resulting in a compelling call to action. The film received international acclaim, is subtitled in five languages, and is available online for free viewing. Also available by request on DVD. See end-notes for subtitles.^{vii}

Ten years after the original Concert for Hope at Stanford, the documentary film on the event was screened again at a public movie theater. The audience was surveyed for feedback, with suggestions ranging widely. One viewer, an outlier who roundly panned the film, perceived a “*valid but outdated message in today’s socio-political climate*” and wanted it to relate to then-current presidency. Others suggested adding more animations and upbeat music to appeal to a younger crowd, clarifying the call to action, and lengthening the film.



Funding Visiting Scholars: The *Elfenworks Foundation Visiting Scholars Program* brings leading scholars and practitioners to Stanford University to carry out research, teach classes and inform public debate on



poverty and inequality policy. Each year, the Elfenworks Foundation funds two visitors: a distinguished scholar who spends one or two semesters in residence delivering several public lectures and writing a book for the *Controversies in Inequality* book series, and a visiting lecturer who contributes to graduate and undergraduate programs in poverty and inequality.

Poverty, Inequality and Policy Magazine: As part of its continuing involvement with the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, the Foundation helped the Center develop and launch Pathways magazine. The Elfenworks Visiting Scholars have been among many distinguished contributors to this magazine, which has for years provided a forum for top scholars to disseminate their research and to provide the facts and cogent analysis that inform crucial policy decisions on poverty and inequality.

External Advisor: Our CEO continues to serve as an External Advisor and our technologists continue to assist with expertise, as requested. We have worked hard to build bridges for the Stanford Center with other groups, including an early one which was sparked by Bruce Western (Harvard) and David Grusky (Stanford) which we worked towards facilitating. This Collaboration for Poverty Research, we believe, was a first between Harvard and Stanford, and other collaborations have followed.

Stanford-Harvard Effort: We initiated a Harvard-Stanford Transcontinental Bridge effort, hoping to tap their vast intellectual resources and tackle one of our most pressing problems: building hope through tackling poverty and inequality. The initiative would leverage the combined convening power of both institutions to offer a national stage for not only studying the problems but also influencing how they are tackled. The undertaking felt well-timed in light of economic trends and an emerging interest among political and intellectual opinion leaders to tackle underlying issues. One important result was the suspension of historic rivalries as the colleges came together for the first time on behalf of a higher mission. The universities have since forged other working partnerships, such as offering joint MOOCs (online course offerings).

Feedback: We received the following feedback from Stanford in March of 2017: “Thanks to support from the Elfenworks Foundation and our other funders, the CPI has produced 19 issues of Pathways Magazine, including 4 annual State of the Union Reports. Just in the first 18 editions, there were 137 articles. As part of the CPI’s collaboration with the Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, we produced 12 podcasts featuring discussions of cutting-edge research on poverty, inequality, and social policy. We also released America’s Poverty Course, the country’s first online course on poverty and inequality, which included 49 videos highlighting the most recent findings on poverty and inequality. Finally, support from Elfenworks has allowed the CPI to directly support 13 postdoctoral and visiting scholars, as well as to host shorter visits of both distinguished and new scholars of poverty and inequality.” We asked the Center Director, Dr. David Grusky, for feedback as to which parts might be attributable to Elfenworks, and he wrote back with this generous comment: “The problem is that pretty much everything we’ve done is due to Elfenworks. If it weren’t for Elfenworks, we’d be in a completely different situation, a much worse one! And hence it’s hard to sort out what we’ve done that isn’t attributable to Elfenworks. I’m not trying to be generous or nice ... that’s just the truth of it.”

INNOVATION

Hydroponics in the Middle East: Seven Pillars Ranch

This project was for a cutting-edge hydroponic farm and ranch in Jordan. It was led by scientists at the Jordanian nonprofit, The Blessed Ones Society (BOS), on a plot of land in the Jordanian Badia. The Seven

Pillars Ranch (so named to honor our Seven Pillar Methodology) demonstrated that hydroponics points the way to an inspiring future of sustainable agriculture in one of the world's 10 driest countries. Discussions regarding this project were initiated during our visit to Jordan in 2015, and by 2019 the ranch was functional... and using 90% less water than traditional farming methods. Using such methods, fodder and sheep sales provide dual sources of income. Using some of the barley to feed sheep can provide a partial buffer against market price vagaries while reducing fodder imports. Benefits include higher quality feed and a lower carbon footprint. And such methods increase the country's capacity to sustain livestock during a time of growing water scarcity while providing jobs to local farmers. During the COVID-19 lockdown, when ranch scientists were forbidden to travel, crops failed after well-meaning neighbors watered them with high-saline water, and livestock were stolen. Amman was hit with an unseasonable snowstorm and earthquake during the lockdown. And a mere seven months after the pandemic emergency decree was lifted, war broke out on Jordan's border with Israel, sparking regional unrest. The project was successful until the weight of multiple unpredicted geopolitical shocks proved overwhelming. A case study on this project is included in the 2026 update to Dr. Speeth's book, *Intelligence and Compassion in Action: Seven Pillars for Social Entrepreneurs*.

Nonprofit IT Security

We have created and maintain free, web-based resources for nonprofit professionals so as to help foster a stronger security mindset in the nonprofit community. ECNISC stands for The Elfenworks Center for Nonprofit Information Security Collaboration, and the motto was *Together we are stronger, safer and more secure*.sm Video resources can be found in our [Video Showcase](#).

Honoring Innovation in Social Entrepreneurship

We have celebrated innovation in social entrepreneurial efforts as well as individual good works on our social media. Prior to the pandemic, for the ten years from 2007 to 2016, we also honored outstanding social entrepreneurs with an *In Harmony With Hope*sm awards ceremony event. Thirty recipients were honored: Will Allen (Growing Power, 2010); Rafael Alvarez (Genesys Works, 2012); Fr. Greg Boyle (Homeboy Industries, 2009); Rose Broome (HandUp, 2015); Rosalynn Carter (Carter Center, 2007); Joyce Dattner (All Stars, 2007); Eric Dawson (Peace First, 2015); Robert Egger (DC Central Kitchen, 2009); Brenda Eheart (Generations of Hope, 2011); Dr. Paul Farmer (Partners in Health, 2007); Christa Gannon (FLY, 2013); Ted Gonder (Moneythink, 2015); Rosanne Haggerty (Community Solutions, 2010); Lois Lee (Children of the Night, 2008); Mauricio Lim Miller (FII, 2012); Dr. Jack McConnell (Volunteers in Medicine, 2008); Margaret Martin (Harmony Project, 2014); Jim McCorkle (College Possible, 2011); Suzanne McKechnie Klahr (Build, 2016); Bill Millikin (Communities in Schools, 2011); Paul Minorini (Boys Hope Girls Hope, 2007); Rebecca Onie (Health Leads, 2010); Gary Oppenheimer (AmpleHarvest, 2012); Doniece Sandoval (Lavamae, 2016); Dr. Gary Slutkin (Cure Violence, 2013); Scott Warren (Generation Citizen, 2014); Laura Weidman Powers (CODE2040, 2016); Andrew Yang (Venture for America, 2013); and Fr. Peter Young (PYHIT, 2019); Jim Ziolkowski (buildOn, 2014). The ceremonies were graced with emcees including: acclaimed actors Danny Glover, Elijah Kelley, and Nora Zehetner; news anchor Wendy Tokuda; radio personality Charly Kayle; Immunologist David Jackson; and football legend Ronnie Lott. During that same time, we also honored a wide variety of individuals with an *Elfen Works*sm award, recognizing notable individual (non-organizational) efforts of merit. While the program was active, we had honored a wide range of individuals, from preschooler Phoebe Russel, who raised \$4,000 for the San Francisco Food Bank, to Prince William of Wales, who spent a night on the streets to highlight the plight of homelessness. Additional recipients included: Ethan Barolette, Sophia Samant & Emily Sullivan, who funded 18,000 meals; high-schooler Kiran Sridhar (Waste No Food project); Phil Coombes (Put the Fork in Hunger); and the three young founders of the Noe Valley Girls' Film Festival. Other honorees include: Susan MacKinnon MD (medical pioneer); John Oliver (comedian, purchased and

forgave student debt); Linda Carlson (Women’s Recovery Association); Holly Carver, Crystal Brown, Cece Kaufman Himelstein, Erica Hunt, Michelle Parker and Linda Schaffer (supporting California education); December People (holiday benefit concerts); Shawny Anderson, Kathleen Haser, and Gregory Kloehn (homelessness); Kermit Kubitz, Jonas Svallin and Dr. Sang-ick Chang (heroism); Phil Lebherz (health care); John F. Mello (luthier - CD sales for food banks); Ursula Morgenstern (annual backpack giveaway); Diane Nilan (homelessness); Jennifer Pahlka (Code for America). The decision was made to back-burner this award for a wonderful reason: there are literally too many good people working hard and meritorious of recognition for us to keep up with them all. Congratulations to everyone who takes the time to help where help is needed. Keep up the good “elfen works!”

Music / Print / Web...

Music is food for the soul, and the right song can change the world. For this reason, we have invested in music over the years in a number of ways. And, since a picture is worth a thousand words, we’ve also invested in print and web efforts. Here is a summary:

Rejuve and Rejuve II (Soothing Music)

Because music provides comfort, we underwrote the free distribution of a soothing music CD – *Rejuve* – through two local nonprofits, Package of Prevention and the Greater Bay Area Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which is the local branch of the world’s largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research, education, and patient services. We also provided UCSF’s Springer Lab with copies of *Rejuve II* as a fundraiser giveaway.

Student Songs for Hope: Songwriter Prize at Campus Moviefest

During the years that Campus Moviefest offered a music component, we offered an Elfenworks Social Justice songwriter prize. Winners were often invited to sing at the Elfenworks Foundation’s In Harmony with Hopesm awards, from which a documentary music video short was created as a means of helping further their careers. You’ll find these performances on our [YouTube Playlist, \[here\]](#). These winners, in alphabetical order, are:

- [A Moment’s Worth](#) won for “Dedicate” and first performed with us in 2011. Six long-time friends from the Bronx who share an insatiable drive to create and perform their own music. Since 2004, the band A Moment’s Worth – Alex Bondarev, Anthony Albanese, Frank Quarto, Johnny Endico and Nicola Terzulli – has inspired their tightly-knit fans with their tremendous energy and passion, thoughtful lyrics, inventive beats, and can’t-get-them-out-of-your-head melodies. Our partnership with the band really took off after we heard how the band had its trailer stolen, and pitched in to help. A friendship was sealed, proving that sometimes new opportunities can arise from bad situations. The band was of great help with our “For Our Time” Peace Project. While working on spreading hope with us, he took our “never underestimate your ripple” message to heart, and branched out on his own with *Conversing With Oceans*, even while also continuing to work with the band. He has since composed music for Google, been featured on NPR and on Apple Music’s main page, had placements in national television ads and programs, and signed on to Sony’s Orchard for distribution. Together in these two incarnations, Alex’s compositions have over a million streams on SoundCloud, and we are always delighted by the creative and generous ways these outstanding musicians dream up, to uplift, heal and inspire! Founder Alex Bondarev continues an ongoing partnership with us through purpose-driven concerts, such as food drives, often in the Bronx at Jimmy Ryan’s. Watch their Q&A regarding the Foundation [\[here\]](#).
- [The Bailen Brothers](#) won for their song “Lady Liberty” in 2013, performing it at our In Harmony With Hope awards ceremony that same year. Hailing from NYU and Juilliard, songwriting twin duo David

and Daniel Bailen have been making waves since 2007. Hailed by Entertainment Weekly as one of the “Top 5 indie discoveries of the CMJ music festival” whose “vocals rival Simon & Garfunkel,” they were voted one of the top 5 bands in Manhattan by WNYC radio.

- [Beat Advocate](#) won for “The Other Side,” performing it at our In Harmony With Hope award ceremony the same year.
- [Eyeshine](#) joined us in 2009 with their winning song, “Alone,” a song with honest and simple lyrics that cut to the core of the human condition, featured on their album “My Paper Kingdom” and noted as one of Top 15 Most Played Indie Artist’s songs by the IAIRA and winner of the 2012 Ford sponsored worldwide “Gimme The Gig II.” Formed in 2004 Johnny Yong Bosch and Maurice Salmin, Eyeshine first found success in 2006 with a unique blend of pop punk and post grunge called Edge Rock. They went on to produce seven more albums, one of which, “Tone Of Echoes,” features the Elfenworks Foundation sponsored song “Hope Is So Far Away”. For many years, the band worked together with us to spread our message of hope. In the words of Johnny Yong Bosh, “it’s in our hands just to make it happen.” One of their fans wrote with positive feedback, stating, “I am happy to ‘like’ such a great cause. I heard of your organization through Eyeshine and couldn’t be happier that you are giving them your support. I can tell you now that their music has gotten me and several others through many tough times. Hopefully we can all work together to further the reach of these hopeful, uplifting and positive messages to help even more people! Thanks for everything you have done and will do in the future. – BV”
- [Jonny Shorr](#) won our award for his song “Grace” and was the featured artist at our In Harmony with Hope Award event in 2014, joined by his band members Nathan Fertig -piano/vocals, Yoonchan Choi -violin, and James Prinzi -percussion. He continued the partnership, writing a verse and recording a version of our peace-raising song, For Our Time (see below). He returned to play it for us, captivating our audience’s hearts for a second time in 2016. A singer/songwriter and musician born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago and attended the Music Industry program at the University of Southern California, Jonny’s self-titled EP was produced and recorded with Stonecutter Records and Grammy-nominated producer Chris Steinmetz. He wrote an acoustic score for USC-UCLA’s co-production of Columbinus, interned with Hans Zimmer’s Remote Control Productions in Santa Monica, and spent time working with writers at the Swedish label TEN MUSIC GROUP. He raised more than \$20,000 for therapeutic arts programs with his award-winning song “Grace,” and continues to make great ripples of hope through music.
- [Kathleen Elle](#) wowed us with “Don’t Let ‘Em In,” and performed song at our awards ceremony of the same year. The song has received recognition from Seventeen Magazine, Secret Deodorant, and Abercrombie & Fitch/Hollister, who included it in their anti-bullying PSAs. This young singer/songwriter, a National YoungArts Winner and TEDx speaker, is a founding member of the 2015 invite-only Lincoln Center Global Exchange, a symposium of world leaders across government, education, media, science and the arts, with the goal of advancing the arts as a crucial element of society, rather than an expendable option. She regularly speaks and performs for schools and youth groups on anti-bullying, believing in yourself, and the power of music. During her work with us she was pursuing a classical music composition and education degree.
- [The Thirstbusters](#) joined us in 2012 with their winning song, “Finders Keepers.” Mixing the sensitivity of jazz with the catchiness of pop/rock, the band’s sound reflects a unique blend of musical influences. Chase, Forrest, and Zach started playing music together in elementary school. When they met Ryan at Berkeley High School they decided to form a band. Across the miles and the years, they’ve continued to collaborate, releasing multiple CDs.

Second Saturdays – Songs for Soup Kitchens

Our second effort at using music to raise hope was in 2009. The simple act of singing together can spur engagement for the greater good, so we wrote a simple, invitational song and launched Second Saturdays (and Third Thursdays). In addition to sharing sheet music and a bouncing-ball sing-along video for our own simple song offering, “Such a Crime,” we suggested other moving songs including: Stephen Foster’s “Hard Times Come Again No More” and John Mayer’s “Waiting on the World to Change.” The first sing-along took place on the second Saturday of February in 2010. Participants joined us in multiple cities across the nation including a host of towns in California, with participants from: Burlingame, Carmel, Chico, Los Angeles, Moraga, Pleasanton, San Francisco, and Woodside, CA; Atlanta, GA; New York City, NY; New Haven, CT; and Boston, MA. Los Angeles rocker Lanny Cordola joined in the song from Los Angeles, and Commodore Callahan was there at the Elfenworks offices in Burlingame. Over forty students at Saint Mary’s College of California’s Catholic Institute of Lasallian Social Action sang along. Once during a Yuri’s Night celebration at NASA Ames, three of the team (with their families) sang under the shadow of a visiting (and very retro) rocket exhibit. One ambitious day, the band Commodore Callahan took the project on the road on an acapella “Hope Trail.” It was a “drive by singing” according to bassist Don Kane, as they drove through the land of tiny towns on a rainy Saturday. Their path covered over thirty five cities, starting near a little community-made labyrinth in Calistoga, and including: Calistoga, St. Helena, Oakville, Yountville, Napa, American Canyon, Vallejo, Crockett, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Oakland, Emeryville, San Francisco, Brisbane, South San Francisco, Millbrae, Burlingame, San Mateo, San Carlos, Belmont, Redwood City, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Miramar, Moss Beach, Pacifica, and San Bruno. Others covered Carmel and San Francisco, extending our reach, for a record-breaking day.

Songs of Peace: The “For Our Time” Project

With this participatory project, we offered a bare-bones song starter and asked other artists to pitch in with their own renditions, their own translations, and their own takes on the basic concept: “like a star in the night where there’s darkness spread your light...hand in hand take a stand for our time.” We launched our peace project on 12/13/14, and by the United Nations’ Peace Day we’d received new verses from three bands, and a Russian translation. Our partner band, A Moment’s Worth, created a demo version and posted it on the 100th anniversary of an historic armistice, and a wonderful music video for the song. We received feedback from a fan all the way in Russia. Given the good response, we kept the project active for five years. In the years that followed, the song was performed regularly by the band Healing Stream, with a new verse by band leader Kevin Morgenstern. In 2015 Kumu Puna Kalama Dawson, whom we’d met through dancer Kaluna Wong, performed the song in the Hawaiian language, with lyrics invoking the gift of a lei of stars in the darkness, the embodiment of Aloha (“alo,” sharing/presence, “oha,” friendship, and “ha,” life energy). Mahalo! In 2016, our Elfenworks / Campus Moviefest song competition winner Jonny Shorr rejoined the Foundation to perform the song at our In Harmony with Hope award event, adding a verse on bullying and a new bridge. In 2017, the song was featured in a “Concert Against Hate” at Jimmy Ryan’s in the Bronx, New York. Proceeds from the concert benefited Peace First, an organization founded by Eric Dawson, who had been a winner of an our In Harmony with Hope award. The unmissable concert featured many wonderful performers, including A Moment’s Worth, Yurby, Past Youth, Durieux, Synapses Firing, and Conversing with Oceans. BronxNet Community television covered the story [video still [online](#) as of January, 2020]. Enjoy peace-related videos on our dedicated [YouTube Playlist](#). Here are the lyrics:
Here are the *For Our Time* lyrics, as they currently stand:

FOR OUR TIME

<p>Basic Song Verse & Chorus Hand out stars in thenight, Where there’s darkness, shine your light. Hand in hand, take a stand, for our time. Build a bridge, dare to dream, That it’s easier than it seems. Hand in hand take a stand for our time.</p>	<p>Verse Addition by A Moment’s Worth: Brother, I have done you wrong Ehen I refused to listen to your song. Sister, I have caused you many tears. Brother, I have fallen down, Sister, when you come around, I will base my life on love not fear....</p>
<p>Verse Addition by Kevin Morgenstern: “Got lost in my little world, Cracked the oyster missed the pearl, Time to take the blinders off and see. Gonna break out of my shell, Could be heaven, could be hell, Which will be is up to you and me.</p>	<p>Version by Hanna M (Russia): Pushing through all the pain, Your weapons worn and dismayed, I take your hand, help you stand, one more time. Cross the bridge, let’s move forward. Our pens are mightier than their swords. They can’t take what we’ll make for our time.</p>
<p>Verse Addition by Jonny Shorr: “I wake up shaken by tears, I’ve been pushed around for all these years But you should be to me what I’m to you Listen to the song I sing, The voice I carry the love I’ll bring Reach out for my hand and pull me near</p>	<p>Bridge by Jonny Shorr: There are bridges still left to mend. I can see it all in my head.</p>
<p>Russian Translation by Alexey Kholodnyak: Как звезда вдалеке (<i>Like a star in the skies</i>) Свет души твоей во тьме (<i>Shine your soul’s light in the darkness</i>) Руку мне протяни, в наши дни (<i>Reach out your arms to me in our days</i>) Мост к мечте – твой ответ (<i>A bridge to a dream — your answer</i>) Трудно там, где цели нет (<i>It’s difficult where there is no hope</i>) Руку мне протяни, в наши дни (<i>Reach out your arms to me in our days</i>)</p>	<p>Скажи мне брат, я был неправ (<i>Tell me brother, I was wrong</i>) Не слыша песен твоих глав (<i>Not hearing the songs of your life</i>) Сестра, за слезы ты меня прости (<i>Sister, forgive me for your tears</i>) Поверьте мне друзья мои (<i>Believe me, my friends</i>) Быть может я сошел с пути (<i>Maybe I had lost my way</i>) Но жизнь свою построю на любви (<i>But now I will build my life on love.</i>) В наши дни.. в наши дни... (<i>In our days</i>)</p>

Film: Faces of Poverty

Completed in 2007, *Faces of Poverty* was one of our earliest collaborative efforts. Recognizing film as an effective medium for change, our CEO worked as Consulting co-producer, collaborating with the director Gerard Straub and editor Chad Mochrie of the San Damiano Foundation (SDF) in an effort to show the human face of poverty, telling stories taken from the millions of poor around us – those we perhaps hear about but may never see – in hopes of inspiring viewers to act. The film melded footage from three SDF films with startling statistics and memorable quotations compiled by The Elfenworks Foundation. Completed before the Great Recession, when American poverty was concentrated primarily in nine major cities, this film documents poverty in three of those cities: Philadelphia, Detroit and Los Angeles. Among those depicted are innocent children clinging to their hopes, unemployed auto workers, recovering addicts, homeless women, a neglected grandmother living in a mission, a young mother who lives in her car with her children, and a homeless veteran whose positive outlook - despite having no legs. Three nonprofits were featured in the film. *Capuchin Soup Kitchen (CSK)* provides for more than simple material needs, but acts as a healing force in the spirits and lives of the individuals serves. The CSK works to restore self-esteem, motivation, and meaning. *St Francis Inn* is a Franciscan community located in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. Their community is composed of religious and lay people who live and minister among the poor and homeless. They seek to empower persons to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty and address structural injustices. Their website informs visitors about leading causes of homelessness, and across the street from the St. Francis Inn is a treatment facility under their auspices, which helps those suffering from some of these root causes. *Union Rescue Mission* provides shelter and addiction treatment facilities in the Los Angeles skid row area.

In 2008, one of our interns contacted representatives in Washington about providing them with this film

and other resources they might find useful in their own existing anti-poverty and hope-raising efforts. By September, eighty-nine members of the House and Senate had answered our query and received copies of this 44- minute film. We received the following feedback from Professor William Julius Wilson of Harvard: "It is disappointing that this powerful film has not received the attention that it deserves. If it were widely viewed, for example on Front Line or some other public television program, it would raise the country's awareness of domestic poverty and inequality, and viewers would come away with a greater sense of urgency to combat these problems".

Film Laurels: Multiple airings on Starfish TV. Winner, Crystal Swan Award (best film) – Swan Film Festival, Perth Australia, 2011. Official Selection – GLOBAL WAKE-UP Festival, Chicago Illinois, 2011. Screening- Catholic Campus Ministry-University of Texas, Brownsville Poverty Awareness Week 2009. Screening – Sisters of St. Joseph of Oranges year-long “Moving Pictures: Friday Night Film Series” 2008. Official Selection – Calgary Fringe Film Festival, Calgary Canada, 2007. Official Selection – Artist Film Festival, Los Angeles California, 2007. In addition to screenings in Canada and Los Angeles, it was screened in Chicago, Washington DC, and Perth, Australia and had multiple airings on Starfish TV. The film received its Los Angeles premiere screening at 9:15 PM on Friday, November 9th, 2007 in the Spielberg Theatre at the Egyptian Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles as part of the Artist Film Festival. The film was given its international screen debut in the Calgary Fringe Film Festival session “Those that Have and Those that Have Not” at 4:30 PM on Thursday August 16th, 2007. Four years after completion, the film was still being selected for screenings at festivals including Global Wake-Up in Chicago and Perth’s Swan Film Festival, where it took the Crystal Swan award for ‘Best Feature Film, Short Film, Video Clip or Documentary’. Mr. Christopher Vas, then *Assistant Director of Workforce Innovation, Tertiary, Skills & Productivity Group with the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations*, represented us and accepted the award on our behalf. His moving remarks and the film’s important message inspired the audience, one of whom vowed to provide food daily to a homeless man she passes routinely. Below, Chris Vas accepting the Crystal Swan:



Film Effectiveness: A researcher Rebekah Dibble from U. C. Irvine studied the film for effectiveness as part of her research at the Artist Film Festival, where it was screened. She found it made people madder (3.76 vs 2.91) and sadder (4.59 vs 3.19) than many of the other films at a festival where it was studied. Our film was more likely to be recommended to others (4.56 vs 3.76) and more likely to result in a yes answer to ‘will you change your behavior’ (3.54 vs 2.81). Quality ratings were above average in every area, from direction and camera work to acting and score, to film and set quality. Other results that weren’t statistically significant still interested us, such as how the film was seen as both more optimistic and more pessimistic, less entertaining and more enjoyable, less new and unique but with more artistic value, as compared against other films. People were inspired and thought it expressed a clear vision. The researcher also asked viewers how they might change behavior as a result of watching. Responses included: get involved, help out homeless, donate clothes/food to homeless people/shelters, by not ignoring the homeless, will start volunteering again, volunteer-do something-anything, and “I will

be volunteering this winter for homeless-seriously.” Our thanks to Ms. Dibble for sharing her findings:
REPORT ON FILM VIEWER RESPONSES FOR ARTIVIST 2007 FILMS

FACES OF POVERTY

Number of viewers responding about your film: 17 Average number responding per film: 6

QUESTIONS	YOUR FILM		AVERAGE FOR ALL FILMS	
	Average	SD*	Average	SD*
<i>How Viewers Reacted to Your Film:</i>				
Did this film make you angry?	3.76	1.30	2.91	1.54
Did this film make you sad?	4.59	0.87	3.19	1.51
Did this film make you happy?	1.94	1.14	2.51	1.53
Did you find this film confronting?	2.82	1.13	3.21	1.42
Did you find this film to be pessimistic about the issues presented?	2.76	1.39	2.36	1.39
Did you find this film to be optimistic about the issues presented?	2.94	1.20	3.06	1.48
Were you entertained by this film?	3.41	1.33	3.51	1.38
Did you enjoy this film?	3.88	1.17	3.73	1.38
Were you inspired by this film?	3.94	1.20	3.65	1.46
Did this film educate you about the topic or issue?	4.29	0.85	3.94	1.17
Did your attitudes toward the issue change as a result of viewing this film?	3.00	1.41	3.02	1.46
To what extent was the film maker's vision for this project clear?	4.38	0.99	4.04	1.21
Is this film new and unique?	3.50	1.26	3.64	1.27
Does this film have artistic value?	4.00	1.00	3.62	1.30
Will you recommend this film to others?	4.56	0.63	3.76	1.43
Do you plan to change your behavior?	3.54	1.33	2.81	1.49
<i>Quality of the Film:</i>				
The director of this film is highly skilled	4.11	0.84	3.50	1.30
The camera work on this film was of high quality	4.17	0.99	3.42	1.30
The acting in this film was of high quality	3.69	1.10	3.21	1.34
The sets/location contributed to the film's quality	4.61	0.63	3.88	1.19
The dialogue/narration/screenplay contributed to the film's quality	4.31	1.11	3.91	1.22
The musical score contributed to the film's quality	4.18	1.10	3.47	1.37
Overall this film was excellent.	4.43	0.82	3.81	1.30

(Based on a scale of 1-5)
 1 = Not at all
 3 = Moderate extent
 5 = Very great extent

*SD = standard deviation (the +/- range of responses around the average)

Highlighted questions show the greatest difference between your film and the average for films at the Festival

Intended Behavioral Change As a Result of Viewing FACES OF POVERTY

Quotations From Responses To the Question:

“How Do You Plan To Change Your Behavior As A Result Of Viewing This Film?”

- Get involved
- Help out homeless
- Donate clothes/food to homeless people/shelters
- By not ignoring the homeless
- Will start volunteering again
- Volunteer—Do something—Anything
- I will be volunteering this winter for homeless. Seriously...

Report prepared 6/2/08 by Professor Cristina Gibson and Rebekah Dibble, the Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine. cgibson@uci.edu

Film: LVs Ride

This documentary was a collaborative effort with Campus Moviefest and with SDF on behalf of the Lassalian Volunteers of America (LVA). With neither the resources nor the expertise to film their adventure, The Lasallian Volunteers turned to us. We, in turn, brought in The San Damiano Foundation

(SDF) and Campus Moviefest (CMF) as well. Filmmaker Nishant Gogna was identified by CMF, and agreed to take on the project. CMF provided the editing software, and Elfenworks and SDF provided the film and data storage equipment required for the shoot. We continued to consult with the LVA to help spread the word about their film and advise them on how to submit to film festivals. Nishant Gogna did such a beautiful job with the film that Campus Moviefest hired him as a member of their staff. This rippled back to us, as Gogna added his artful flair to our CMF student filmmaker tips video. Gogna shared the following feedback: "I can't say it enough, it was such a great opportunity and a life changing experience! I got to see so much of the country, while producing a film, and portraying the plight of domestic poverty. I cannot thank you and the Lasallian Volunteers enough for that experience. ... This was one of the best filmmaking experiences I've ever had in my career." The trailer can be found online, here: <https://youtu.be/zrW1eV4bM-Q> Release Date: 12/4/2011 - A Nishant Gogna Film - An AI Cassidy Production, in association with: Lasallian Volunteers; The Elfenworks Foundation; Elfenworks Productions LLC; San Damiano Foundation; Christian Brothers Conference; Countless other supporters and volunteers.

Book: Tracks of Hope

Presented as a pleasing, unique coffee-table-style book *Tracks of Hope – The Forgotten Story of America's Runaway Train and What We Can Do to Change its Course* presents its case for doing something about poverty. Combining and contrasting the imagery of train tracks and thought-proving urban landscapes, it delves into the reasons why "getting on the right track" is in everyone's interest. With daunting facts, inspirational anecdotes, innovative ideas, and stories of hope, the book appeals to the mind while being gentle on the eye, leaving the reader with a greater understanding. An art exhibit based on the book was presented at the Mills College Art Gallery as part of the celebration of the kickoff of the school's new Center for Responsible Business on September 11, 2008. Like the book from which it draws its inspiration, the exhibit's intent was to spark discussion around the key questions, such as "what can one person do?" and "where does happiness lie?" The book received the following feedback from Prof. William Julius Wilson of Harvard: "Tracks of Hope is replete with important and useful information... I especially liked the way this book is organized, beginning each section with some common beliefs about poverty, followed by clear information that convincingly undermines such beliefs." The book was released the year before the Great Recession of 2008, when domestic poverty was not yet a part of the national conversation. Years later, many of its key points remain relevant.

Online Conference to Spark Pro-Social Business Practices

As with our music initiatives, this conference was meant to spark a conversation. Entitled simply "Fair Truth," it took place on 11/11/11, and explored the concept of a "seal of approval" for businesses who wish to signal their pro-social practices. Our archive of papers from the event includes a brief history of seals to set the stage for the discussion as well as white papers by: Dr. David Grusky of Stanford; Dr. James Hawley of Saint Mary's College; Michele Benedetto Neitz, Esq. of Golden Gate University; Barry Parker, Esq. of Parker Rightside; and Dr. Lauren Speeth, our CEO, and John Watkins of Futari Media. Copies of PDFs will be made available on request.

Communication/Web Efforts for Others

UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations (built their initial website); UHCAN - Universal Health Care Action Network (revamped website and developed web content and PSAs); and a grant to the Institute for Poverty Studies' Economic Hardship Reporting Project for research that led to a landmark report on the intersection of poverty and the law entitled "The Poor Get Prison: The Alarming Spread of the Criminalization of Poverty." As of January, 2026, the report was still [available online](#). We also built the

