Eliminating disparities demands **bold action**, and we are partnering with those most affected to create **real impact**.

**Sierra Health Foundation forges new paths to promote health and racial equity in partnership with communities, organizations and leaders.**

Established in 2012, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation has expanded the foundation’s impact, working to eradicate inequities in communities throughout California with local, state and national partners.

We are committed to reducing disparities in economic, social, educational and environmental opportunities by supporting and working with our partners through convening, educating and strategic grantmaking. Our work is collaborative in nature, focusing on the power of people to create lasting and equitable change. We are helping to strengthen capacity, invest in movements and build on the momentum our partners have established. There is much work ahead. But we are making inroads. We celebrate our partners and the lives they impact daily.

*LETTER FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR*

**partners for change, action & impact**

It is a pleasure to share our report on the work that Sierra Health Foundation and its partner, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, have engaged in over the past five years. A tremendous amount of change — political, social and economic — has occurred during this period, and the work of both organizations has changed as well.

We invite you to read about our journey in *Partners For Change: Bold Action, Real Impact*, which tells the story of our work through narratives, authentic photos of communities in action and heartfelt quotes from our valued partners.

We took a bold step with the creation of The Center in 2012, which, as envisioned, has shifted our model of philanthropy to a more inclusive, community- and partner-driven approach. Since that time, our collective efforts have advanced many of the goals that gave rise to The Center’s founding. Together with our partners, we have deepened our understanding of the challenges that communities across the Central Valley are facing, expanded the resources committed to address these issues, and better connected the intellectual capital and ideas held by communities to policymakers at the local, regional and statewide levels. We have learned how important and effective a humble posture can be, and to rely on influence to reach agreement as opposed to wielding the power that comes with our resources. These changes have benefited our mission in many ways. We now are engaged in more partnerships, representing greater diversity, and we are generating more ideas and momentum for change than at perhaps any time in our history.

What hasn’t changed is our vision. We remain committed to promoting and achieving health and racial equity in urban and rural communities so that every Californian has the opportunity to lead a healthful life. Our community partners are on the front lines of this work. We believe that health and racial equity are best achieved with the leadership of community members who are directly impacted by disparities and injustice. Our work is to support them and help to build their capacity so they can make and sustain the change they envision. Together with our many partners, we are engaged in building a movement to advance our shared vision of health equity and racial justice for all.

*Claire Pomeroy*

*Board Chair*

*Chet P. Hewitt*

*President and CEO*
OUR WORK HAS ALWAYS BEEN GUIDED BY A BOLD VISION: every Californian leading a healthful life. We seek to erase disparities through mission-driven action, working with our partners to improve health and racial equity. We can’t do this alone. We recognize the value of partnerships in addressing the serious, complex and entrenched challenges our community partners face.

The needs of vulnerable communities in our region and throughout the state continue to grow. To address the barriers to opportunity and root causes of disparities, in 2012 we did something radical. We changed our role. We created a new model of philanthropy, a bold response to unprecedented social and economic need. The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, our nonprofit intermediary partner, is a structural and organizational innovation – the first of its kind.

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HEALTH FUND**
- Founded in 2014
- 90 community partners representing tens of thousands of Californians
- Funded by 18 state and national foundations
- More than $6 million in grants

**FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS**
- Eight organizations to help build capacity for civic engagement and activism
- Provide fiduciary oversight, financial management, human resources support and other administrative services to help partners achieve their missions

THIS NEW MODEL OF PHILANTHROPY IS BOLD IN ORIENTATION AND INNOVATIVE IN ITS APPROACH. The Center is an independent nonprofit bringing people, ideas, investment and infrastructure together for collective impact.

The Center’s structure makes us more adaptive, inclusive and effective. It attracts new partners to work with us in new ways. It brings in additional resources and financial and human capital. We now serve as fiscal sponsors for a wide range of programs that share a common transformative vision. We can scale initiatives much faster. Our footprint now covers the entire state.

Our partners today include public and private funders, community members and organizations, and local, state and national nonprofits, public agencies and businesses. Through our collective resources, we support organizations to expand their programs, advocate for policy change, deepen community engagement and share knowledge and expertise.
WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO FACE CHALLENGES HEAD ON. We are committed to achieving our goals. We cannot hold back or become distracted. We have a responsibility to amplify our resources. Thoughtful risk-taking is a component of our healthy community impact strategy. It informs our thinking and emboldens our actions.

We choose issues and partners reflective of California’s pressing health and racial inequities, linking symptoms to root causes and moving upstream. We help partners address issues such as food security, air quality, clean drinking water, family and child health, juvenile justice reform, immigrant rights, community safety, employment and more.

We facilitate candid conversations. Partners share their stories, ideas, trials and triumphs with each other. We leverage what we learn.

WE BELIEVE THOSE WITH FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE SHOULD LEAD THE TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. They are living these disparities. They deserve our attention, recognition and support. It is why we champion grassroots organizations. Often we are the first to invest in emerging organizations that show passion and commitment. This approach has proven itself through the emergence of stronger advocates for communities.

Investment is more than seed money; it’s proof of trust. It’s dedication of time, resources and respect. It supports the community organizations as they strengthen their ability to pursue their missions.

Amplifying resources also means connecting existing partners to new partners. Our connections to funded organizations attract new funders and colleagues. Partner networks grow to others that share allied and intersecting goals. Work builds across groups, locations and systems.

"WE REALM FEEL THAT THEY ARE PARTNERS, THINKING THROUGH SOLUTIONS FROM THE LIVED EXPERIENCE BY, WITH, AND OF THOSE MOST IMPACTED."
CHARISSE DOMINGO, Silicon Valley De-Bug

“SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION’S SUPPORT PROVIDED VALIDATION. IT LEGITIMIZED US TO OTHER FUNDERS."
JESSICA NOWLAN, Young Women’s Freedom Center

"THEY WERE WILLING TO LISTEN AND HELPED US GET OFF THE GROUND."
HECTOR LARA, Reinvent South Stockton Coalition

CENTRAL VALLEY IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION COALITION
San Joaquin Valley Health Fund increased their capacity to engage in advocacy and hire staff. The focus of the work is on the frontlines of immigrant communities under siege.

KARUK TRIBE’S URIPHÚTHAAM PROJECT
The Karuk Tribe used Responsive Grant Program funding to create community and school gardens in Happy Camp, reconnecting to Native foods, key to their tribal identity.
REAL CHANGE OCCURS WHEN EMPOWERED PEOPLE COME TOGETHER TO CREATE IT. Individuals learn and develop leadership skills, find their voices and become advocates. Organizations build capacity and grow. Instead of working one-on-one, we’re building movements. We help our partners address issues collectively. Partners connect and collaborate. Coalitions build momentum as they knock down roadblocks and clear the way for communities to solve problems to improve their health and well-being.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS
• 15,000 people attend meetings at the Conference and Education Center each year
• 339 Health Leadership Program graduates are guiding their nonprofits and public agencies to improve community health and well-being and reduce health and racial disparities
• 47 awards to 40 youth-focused organizations that are led by people of color through the Leadership Development for Racial Equity program (formerly the Minority-Led Organization Capacity Building and Leadership Development program)

FOR US, SUSTAINABILITY IS CAPACITY SCALLED FOR THE LONG TERM. It’s the cumulative impact of knowledge and capacity-building initiatives. We work with our partners to learn what tools they need to be successful in their work and deliver them in dynamic formats.

The foundation has facilitated trainings and hosted educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people. These individuals seek information and skills to lead their organizations to greater viability and impact, through offerings like the Health Leadership Program and Leadership Development for Racial Equity. Development opportunities include capacity-related programs and funding, conveinnings, Speaker Series and Knowledge Center products including Talk Boldly podcasts, videos, newsletters, community reports and advocacy guides.

Continued contact helps to strengthen our partners and elevate their work.
WE ARE COMMITTED TO LEARNING ABOUT EFFECTIVE PRACTICES AND USING WHAT WE LEARN TO INFORM DECISIONS AND ACCELERATE CHANGE. Program evaluation is one of the ways we demonstrate this commitment. Beyond lifting up organizations and communities, we have seen our partners successfully achieve demonstrable systems change.

One such initiative is the statewide movement toward a juvenile justice system that aligns with the well-being and development needs of youth. The 40 organizations working in 11 counties in the Organizing for a Healthy Justice System phase of the Positive Youth Justice Initiative have seen significant impact:

Los Angeles County partners –
• Successfully removed probation supervision of at-risk youth on school campuses.
• Continue efforts to free up Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act money for community-based prevention and intervention programs.

Contra Costa County partners –
• Advocated for a Positive School Climate Policy resolution in the West Contra Costa Unified School District, in an effort to ban suspensions and expulsions for willful defiance, and the implementation of restorative justice.

SAFE SLEEP PROGRAM
• Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Death members and the Black Child Legacy Campaign, with local partners First 5 Sacramento and the Child Abuse Prevention Council, advocated for this program to be in all hospital systems in Sacramento
• Parents are taught that babies need to sleep alone, on their backs, in a crib
• If families don’t have a safe sleep place, a portable crib is provided

ADVOCACY FOR STATE PESTICIDE REGULATIONS
• The Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment, Californians for Pesticide Reform, Community Alliance for Agroecology and CRLA, Inc. successfully advocated for state regulations that expand pesticide buffer zones around schools and childcare facilities

YOUTH REINVESTMENT FUND
• Improve outcomes of vulnerable youth populations
• $37.3 million for first-ever state fund dedicated to keeping young people out of the juvenile justice system and in the care of community organizations

Our partners are demanding – and already have helped to enact – significant policy changes. Together, our goals are to protect gains currently under attack and implement new programs and policies that move Californians forward.

LITTLE MANILA RISING
• Started an ethnic studies afterschool program in Stockton
• “Us History” teaches multicultural histories to high school students
• Inclusion of multi-cultural histories provides the context for who we are today and helps us shape a more inclusive tomorrow

“‘I’VE NEVER FELT THERE IS SO MUCH HOPE.”
DILLON DELVO, Little Manila Rising

(Right) Positive Youth Justice Initiative
(Below) Little Manila Rising

TO HAVE IMPACT ON A MASS SCALE, WE MUST CHANGE THE POLICY FRAMEWORKS THAT CREATE OR REINFORCE DISPARITIES.
WE HAVE MOMENTUM AND WE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE.
There will always be new challenges on the horizon. We will continue to learn from current partners and seek new partners to further the work.

As of 2018, Sierra Health Foundation and The Center have:
• Created a larger impact footprint (expanded statewide)
• Increased staff (many working within community groups)
• Connected with more partners (other funders, public and private entities at the local, state, national levels)
• Expanded supports (The Center enables accelerated scaling, fiscal sponsorships, partners to re-grant funds)
• Targeted advocacy and lobbying through The Center

Bold action empowers partner momentum:
• Network of 90 San Joaquin Valley organizations working to promote a regional policy platform
• County-based grassroots support for statewide juvenile justice reform
• Increased visibility of programs serving as national models
• Increased investment in communities, regions and populations

WE ARE IN THIS FOR THE LONG HAUL. There is always more to do. We will continue to watch, listen, learn, lead and be responsive to community needs and opportunities.

With and on behalf of our partners, Sierra Health Foundation and The Center will continue to:
• Be out in front of emerging issues
• Invest in equity for all Californians
• Ask what more we can do to help
• Listen to those who know best
• Help communities rise, strive, obtain and sustain
• Connect and empower partners to drive change
• Celebrate our partners’ wins
• Reflect, regroup and recalibrate our efforts

“...BUILDING TRUST, MAKING EVERYONE PART OF THE VILLAGE TO ADDRESS SHARED ISSUES.”
PASTOR LES SIMMONS, South Sacramento Christian Center

“THERE’S POWER IN NUMBERS.”
TINA ROBERTS, Roberts Family Development Center

amassing strength moving forward
2017 financial results

Sierra Health Foundation maintains a global and broadly diversified portfolio with allocations to a variety of asset classes, both public and private. Earnings from our investment portfolio are the foundation’s primary source of funds. At the end of 2017, total assets for the foundation and The Center totaled $76,064,411 and $15,185,792, respectively.

Program services and operating expenses for both the foundation and The Center are represented in the charts below.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice
Central Valley Freedom Summer
Central Valley United for Power
Cultiva La Salud
Fresno Legal Defense Fund
Sacramento Building Healthy Communities Hub
Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
WayUp Sacramento

This report is dedicated to Brandon Harrison, a young activist and partner with Fathers & Families of San Joaquin, who lost his life in October 2017. Working with Brandon enriched us all.

See our current list of funding partners at www.shfcenter.org/partners

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHET P. HEWITT
President and CEO, Sierra Health Foundation

DAVID W. GORDON
Superintendent, Sacramento County Office of Education

JOSE HERMOCILLO
Managing Partner, Hermocillo-Azevedo Strategic Communications LLC

NANCY P. LEE
Attorney, Nancy P. Lee PC; Consultant, Compostela Consulting LLC

ROBERT PETERSEN
Certified Public Accountant

CAROL WHITESID
Partner, California Strategies

SACRAMENTO REGION HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP
Responsive Grants Program
Positive Youth Justice Initiative
Office of Health Equity, California Department of Nonprofit Innovation Center
My Brother’s Keeper Sacramento Collaborative
Leadership Development for Racial Equity
Grizzly Creek Ranch
Conference and Education Center
California Funders for Boys and Men of Color

SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION
THE CENTER

$2,085,608
$267,633
$701,413
$335,381
$14,568
$25,130
$1,416,716
$1,021,608
$177,669
$42,507
$1,037,347
$4,779,907
$2,591,698

40.5%
5%
26%
3%
9%
27.5%
48%
10%
2%
26%
10%

SAVING LIVES
HELPING COMMUNITIES
SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP

PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES
BUILD BLACK Coalition
California Funders for Boys and Men of Color
Conference and Education Center
Grizzly Creek Ranch
Health Leadership Program
Healthy Sacramento Coalition
Leadership Development for Racial Equity
My Brother’s Keeper Sacramento Collaborative
Nonprofit Innovation Center
Office of Health Equity, California Department of Public Health
Positive Youth Justice Initiative
Responsive Grants Program
Sacramento Region Health Care Partnership
San Joaquin Valley Health Fund
Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Deaths and the Black Child Legacy Campaign