

FDD

Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Foundation for Developmental Disabilities

6050 Santo Road, Suite 145

San Diego, CA 92124

858-256-2222

www.foundationfordd.org



▶ CONTENTS

04 [Mission & Vision](#)

05 [A Letter from the CEO](#)

06 [Our Governance and Staff](#)

- Board Committees
- Staff

07 [Programmatic Strategy](#)

- Grant Making Over Time
- Funding Over Time

08 [Grant Making in FY2022-2023](#)

09 [Program Highlights](#)

- Tackling Housing Insecurity with Southern California Housing Collaborative (SCHC)
- Blissful Seeds: Cultivating Creativity and Entrepreneurship in the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community

12 [Help Fund Program](#)

14 [Raymond M. Peterson Scholarship](#)

15 [Our Gratitude](#)

MISSION

We generate and distribute funds to innovative programs that enhance the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) in San Diego and Imperial County.

VISION

Equitable access to opportunities that maximize the potential of individuals with IDD.



WHAT WE DO

Through the generosity of our community partners including corporations, businesses, and individuals, the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities provides:

- Affordable housing development.
- Micro-enterprise job development and creation.
- Emergency assistance for persons with IDD.
- Scholarships for students entering the field of IDD.
- Training for individuals with IDD and their families.
- Funding for innovative community programs.

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

Over the past 37 years, the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities (FDD) has funded initiatives across San Diego and Imperial County within our four impact areas— **Employment, Family Support, Housing, and Self-advocacy**.

Our Family Support category encompasses initiatives focused on **health and wellness, resources, and social connections**— assuring partnerships that drive high-impact results for our community.

We thank our partners for supporting our distinguished programs over the past year. As we work to bring awareness to the remarkable initiatives that serve individuals with IDD, we also provide scholarships to students entering the IDD field and emergency funds to the San Diego Regional Center's 37,000 clients facing financial hardship.

In FY2022–2023, we offered more funding to programs than we did in the previous year, awarded 16 scholarships, hosted two successful in-person fundraisers, and offered emergency assistance funds to 380 individuals with IDD and their families.

Thanks to you, we continue to develop relationships that work to enhance the quality of life for individuals with IDD.

In this report, you will find our programmatic strategy and the programs that the Foundation supported in this fiscal year.

Join us in accelerating access as a community for one of the most underserved groups in our community.



Sitara Sethi
Chief Executive Officer
Foundation for Developmental Disabilities

In FY2022-2023, we offered more funding to programs than we did in the previous year, awarded 16 scholarships, hosted two successful in-person fundraisers, and offered emergency assistance funds to 380 individuals with IDD and their families.

SITARA SETHI, CEO



OUR GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

FDD is led by an accomplished staff along with its volunteer board of directors—ensuring successful operational management and strategic planning. FDD's committee membership includes professionals with strong business, law, and nonprofit acumen who are dedicated to the Foundation's mission.

BOARD COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jan Adams, Chair
Lori Kay, Vice Chair
Ed Kenney, Treasurer
Angela McNeece, Secretary
Wade Wilde, Member

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ed Kenney, Chair
Nathan Schmid
Rose Hanson
Jerry Harris
Dan Clark

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Wade Wilde, Chair
Bruce Wexler
Jerry Harris
Darius Davis (Non-Board City National Bank)
Kevin Foley (Non-Board Umpqua Bank)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Jerry Harris, Chair
Jan Adams
Rose Hansen

PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sylvia Paulson-Peterson, Chair
Lori Kay
Angela McNeece
Dr. Raymond M. Peterson

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Linda Bay, Chair
Lori Kay
Angela McNeece
David Drazenovich
Dan Clark

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nathan Schmid, Chair
Angela McNeece
Ed Kenney
Rose Hanson
Wade Wilde
David Drazenovich

NOMINATING AND BYLAWS/ CONFLICT COMMITTEE

Bruce Wexler, Chair
Nathan Schmid
Jan Adams
Lori Kay
Wade Wilde

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

David Drazenovich
Falon Leszczynski
Kim Keane

STAFF

EXECUTIVE

Sitara Sethi
Chief Executive Officer

DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

Nickelina Noel
Development and Marketing Manager

OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Rebecca Engard
Office Manager

PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGY

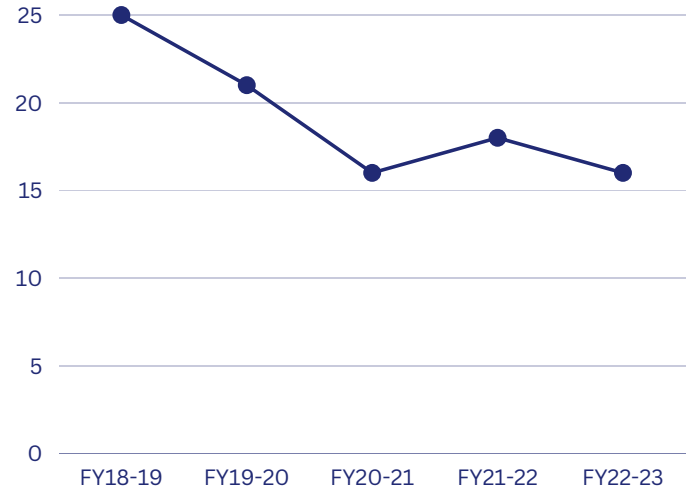
We consider the evolving needs of our community and make strategic decisions surrounding initiatives that focus on individuals with IDD.

Our programs support all individuals with IDD including their families to enhance their quality of life.

Over the past five years, **FDD has provided 1.2 million dollars in grants to support 96 nonprofit organizations throughout San Diego and Imperial County.** More recently, the Foundation has strategically focused financial support on a select few nonprofit organizations, channeling increased funds to these partners to maximize their impact and create a concentrated effort within the IDD community.

GRANT MAKING OVER TIME

Our funded programs over the past five years.



Over the past five years, we have provided grants to 96 nonprofit organizations in San Diego and Imperial County.

FUNDING OVER TIME

In FY2022-2023, we offered \$355,267 in grants—ensuring that our community received the support that it needs.



GRANT MAKING IN FY2022-2023

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT	PROGRAM	YEAR
Adjoin	\$1,000.00	"Leading the Charge" Conference	2022
Arms Wide Open	\$7,500.00	Performing Arts Classes	2022
Foundation for Unified Esports League	\$13,762.00	General Operating Support	2022
Outside the Lens	\$25,000.00	(vis)Ability, Media Makers	2022
Resounding Joy Inc.	\$15,000.00	Shine & Sing Therapy	2022
SD Children's Discovery Museum	\$10,000.00	Sensory Friendly Sundays	2022
SDRC NC Parent Support Group	\$2,005.00	Spanish Parent Support Group	2022
Special Needs Resource Foundation SD	\$7,000.00	ShopAble	2022
Arms Wide Open	\$10,000.00	Performing Arts Program	2023
Autism Society San Diego	\$13,000.00	Camp I CAN	2023
Banding Together	\$15,000.00	Music Therapy Groups	2023
Blissful Seeds	\$100,000.00	Social Enterprise Program	2023
Fred Finch Youth & Family Services	\$14,000.00	C.A.R.E.S. Behavior Education and Skills Training (B.E.S.T.) High School Program	2023
Merakey	\$100,000.00	Mystic Lobster Roll Franchise	2023
Positive Action Community Theatre House	\$13,500.00	Performing Arts for Autism	2023
Tap Fever Studios	\$8,500.00	Tap Fever Adaptive Dance Program	2023

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

IVEY RANCH PARK ASSOCIATION is a wellness and fitness-focused nonprofit organization located in North San Diego County. The organization offers educational and recreational programs including therapeutic horse riding, counseling services, and summer camp for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ivey Ranch launched the “Ivey Ranch Park Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT)” program which was dedicated to offering individuals with disabilities recreational activities that also facilitated behavioral therapy. The program successfully achieved its goals of improving physical activity and positive behaviors in participants.

OUTSIDE THE LENS is a learning center whose mission is to amplify youth voices through creative expression including photography, filmmaking, and digital media. The center creates programs to engage youth while employing proven educational strategies and fostering community involvement. Outside the Lens developed its (vis)Ability, Media Makers’ teacher training lab and workshop series for visiting artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program was open to Media Makers’ participants and the public.

FERIA Families, Educators, Resources, IHES, and Agencies (FERIA) hosted its 6th Annual FERIA Partnership Virtual Conference for Spanish-speaking Latino parents with children with developmental disabilities. The event focused specifically on clients of the San Diego Regional Center.

The FERIA Partnership Conference’s mission is to provide a culturally inclusive conference that offers evidence-based programs, home/school language and literacy strategies, and resources available within the community to support the socio-emotional and academic development of children with developmental disabilities.

NOAH HOMES is a disability services and support organization whose mission is to provide residential care and opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. The organization values inclusivity and upholds a community that is rooted in Catholic values.

Noah Homes collaborates with other organizations to provide state-of-the-art housing solutions, resources, and services to individuals with developmental disabilities while cultivating a community that enables them to thrive.

Through the “Community Placement Plan”, Noah Homes was able to secure housing accommodations, advocate for low-income housing, and strategize and execute inclusive community integration plans for individuals with developmental disabilities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT FOUNDATIONFORDD.ORG.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tackling Housing Insecurity with Southern California Housing Collaborative (SCHC)

Southern California Housing Collaborative (SCHC) is a nonprofit corporation that provides affordable housing opportunities for low-income individuals with developmental disabilities.

SCHC works to create affordable housing opportunities for the 37,000 clients of the San Diego Regional Center. SCHC was founded in 2008 to serve individuals facing issues concerning affordable housing, employment, and transportation. Further, the organization partners with local nonprofits and organizations to develop and operate affordable housing projects.

In 2022, FDD partnered with SCHC's Countryside II (Girasol) Affordable Housing program in Imperial County and **granted \$300,000 in funding to support the development of Girasol, a two-story, 56-unit affordable housing community** that includes 10 units set aside for individuals with IDD.

Girasol is one of FDD's most impactful partnerships and one of the largest grants the Foundation has offered to an individual organization.

FDD is proud of our partnership with SCHC. The grant is one of the largest that the Foundation has bestowed. The partnership culminated in the successful provision of affordable housing for our IDD community.

SITARA SETHI, CEO



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Blissful Seeds: Cultivating Creativity and Entrepreneurship in the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community

Blissful Seeds' mission is to plant the seeds of blissful lives for adults with autism and other disabilities through empowering employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Blissful Seeds, an organization known for its unwavering dedication to providing support for individuals with IDD was awarded \$100,000 in capital funding through the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities' Special Gift Funds RFP Cycle XI Capital Funding. FDD's Special Gift Funds program is aimed at empowering organizations dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) in San Diego and Imperial County.

The funding will allow Blissful Seeds to expand into a new brick-and-mortar store in Poway, California, enabling them to increase their impact and reach. Additionally, the grant will support the organization's efforts to enhance its vocational training programs, empowering individuals with IDD with the necessary skills for meaningful employment and increased independence.

Learn more about Blissful Seeds by visiting their website at www.blissfulseeds.org.

EXPLORE OUR SPECIAL GIFT FUNDS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT FOUNDATIONFORDD.ORG.

[Back to top](#)





HELP FUND PROGRAM

The FDD Help Fund program assists San Diego Regional Center clients facing emergency situations. The individuals with IDD and families supported by this program are **granted emergency funds for rental and housing, utility assistance as well as other situations that could negatively affect their quality of life.**



\$338,892.38

Total funding disbursed to individuals with IDD and families in San Diego and Imperial County.

380

Number of individuals with IDD and families supported by the Help Fund.



HELP FUND PROGRAM

Our Help Fund program is one of our most impactful programs. Since 1986, we have provided approximately \$2,000,000 to directly assist the San Diego Regional Center clients in emergencies such as homelessness prevention and assistance with utilities, including water and electricity.

Below are some stories of our impact.

SUSANA receives rental assistance and is on the Section 8 waitlist. Her rent was recently increased by over 50% although her rental assistance has not increased. Susana was unable to pay this new amount for a month and requested assistance from our Help Fund while she sought alternative housing.

MARCUS feared for his safety at his previous residence. Although Marcus notified his Section 8 caseworker and followed the proper relocation protocol, he owed rental late fees due to delays surrounding a new caseworker assignment. FDD provided funds to cover those fees.

GOMEZ FAMILY struggled to meet the expense needs of their daughter, Sarah, who is a child with a developmental disability after a parent experienced a salary loss. The financial strain led to missed payments on rent and other utilities. The Foundation assisted them by covering \$1,000 of their rent.



CARLOS is a 5-year-old boy who was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. After his father left the home, Carlos' mom struggled to maintain the usual working hours in order to care for Carlos and his brother. The Foundation offered support to the family during this difficult time.

RAMIREZ FAMILY faced reduced work hours as Mr. Ramirez's employer laid off its employees. The Ramirez family cares for their daughter, Lily, a child with a developmental disability. The family requested assistance from the Foundation which we were happy to provide.

JOSEPHINE is a child with a developmental disability. Her mom, Christina, works part-time while seeking full-time employment. The family needed assistance with covering Josephine's Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy at home. The Foundation stepped in to offer funds to support the family.

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of those represented.*



RAYMOND M. PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, FDD provides funding through the Raymond M. Peterson Scholarship, a resource for the leaders of tomorrow.

Scholarships are available to university or college students who are planning a career or presently working in the field of IDD or related fields. Recipients of the scholarship are residents of and/or attending colleges in San Diego and Imperial County.



I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to apply and be awarded the Raymond M. Peterson Scholarship as it has helped me further my education and financially assist me with pursuing my Master's degree.

VIVIAN THORNTON
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



The generous grant I received has supported me through my undergraduate work at San Diego State University. I will be continuing my education at CSU San Marcos in the fall to earn my MS in Speech-Language Pathology. Thank you, Foundation for Developmental Disabilities, for helping me to get here!

LINDSEY JACKSON
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

\$46,000

Total in funding disbursed in FY2022-2023 to students who are planning a career or furthering their education in the field of IDD.

16

Number of college or university students awarded the Peterson Scholarship in San Diego and Imperial County.

OUR GRATITUDE

*We are creating a community
where all individuals with IDD
can thrive*

The Foundation for Developmental Disabilities thank you for your support of our organization and the outstanding programs and initiatives that serve individuals with IDD and their families.

We are grateful for our supporters and individual donors who are committed to improving the quality of life for all individuals with IDD and their families in San Diego and Imperial County.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Debra E. and Warner C. Lusardi Foundation
Union Bank of California
Umpqua Bank
Chelsea Investments
Pauline & Peter Weeks

*We invite you to partner with us
as we strive to create meaningful
opportunities for individuals
with intellectual and
developmental disabilities.*

LEARN MORE AT FOUNDATIONFORDD.ORG

[Back to top](#)

