

Recycling Money: Great Things Happen!

by Sharon Bard ~ srbard@comcast.net



Sonoma County Ca. ~ Bread for the Journey Sonoma County is a neighborhood grass roots philanthropic organization that been around since 1999. We've given 80 grants totaling nearly \$64,000. Our philosophy is simple: we offer small seed grants typically between \$500-\$2000 to people and groups who have the passion to make changes to improve our community. We believe that everyone brings something to the table... whether it's money, or time, or contacts, or enthusiasm, or a particular skill...and out of our shared strengths we all grow and great things happen.

Our grant process is very informal with minimal pa-

perwork and we don't require any interim reporting or final accounting. It's built on trust. We fund in all areas...education, art, food and community gardens, elder care, media, literacy. Nearly all our grants are local. One of our slogans is "We Recycle Money," although we have given grants of time, or counseling, or connection with a resource.

Many of our early grants enabled organizations to move forward and become a large presence in Sonoma County. Among them: Ceres Community Project, Global Student Exchange, Free Bookmobile of Sonoma County, and Daily Acts. Others work quietly be-

... continued on page 4

Recycling Money

... continued from page 2

hind the scenes.

One of our recent grants was to Operation Bicycle, a teen-run microbusiness of Sonoma Valley Teen Services. Operation Bicycle focuses on getting pedal-powered transportation into the hands of teens and low-income residents by promoting physical activity and street safety skills, and through teaching teens how to tune-up, repair, and rebuild used, donated bikes. Bike related repairs, sales and services generate paid work opportunities. A \$1,000 grant from Bread for the Journey covered the cost signage for the front door of the Teen Center and purchased helmets, bike locks, lights and other program supplies.

While we are always looking for donors and for board members, our main thrust now is to find grantees. We currently have money to recycle and give away and welcome the opportunity to help fund worthy projects in our community. You can contact us at: sonomacounty@breadforthejourney.org. You can read about our grants and our philosophy and apply for funding at sonoma.breadforthejourney.org.