



For Immediate Release

Creative Investment Strategy Brings Results for Families in Need in North Lake Tahoe

North Lake Tahoe, Calif.—[Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation](#) (TTCF) recently launched a new model for serving those in need. Traditionally, community foundations raise funds, invest these funds and use earned interest to support local public benefits programs in their region through a competitive grant making process. In an unprecedented show of innovation, foresight and boldness, the 16 year old community foundation based in Truckee, California decided to leverage their \$20 million in assets in a different way. In an effort to deepen their impact in the region, TTCF invested in transforming a 1950s blighted motel into an innovative, integrated service center providing critical services in the area.

“We decided that to really stimulate social change in North Lake Tahoe for families and individuals in crisis we had to be bold, think outside the box, do things differently,” said Stacy Caldwell, CEO for Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.

The result of this creative investment strategy is Community House, a welcoming center, in the heart of Kings Beach, California, where community members can access a multitude of social services in one location. TTCF leveraged their \$20 million in assets to borrow \$2 million dollars to buy the run-down motel. Using in-house staff and volunteers the team raised public and private sources in under two years and paid back the loan, never touching their interest earning assets.

“The Community House Project is a great example of bold, creative impact investing that will serve as a model for other community foundations around the country,” said Brian Sharpe, managing director, UBS Institutional Consulting, the firm that facilitated the investment strategy for the foundation.

There are over 700 community foundations in the U.S. and over 1,700 worldwide that use the model of raising dollars and offering grants through competition. The model is successful and asset trends for community foundations continue to grow, according to a Foundation Center report on giving trends in 2013.

The TTCF Board of Directors broke the traditional community foundation investment model when they decided to leverage their assets to invest not only in a building renovation project but a new way of serving the community.

“Community House is a great example of maximizing donated dollars for public benefit. TTCF showed great leadership when they decided to provide a new space for several of the North Tahoe non-profits to come together rather than take the safe route of only offering a traditional grants program,” said Andy Wirth, CEO, Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Ski Corporation and TTCF board member.

About Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation: Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation connects people and opportunities, generating resources to build a more caring, creative, and effective community. Since opening its doors in 1998, TTCF has awarded over \$20,000,000 in grants and scholarships. For more information visit www.ttcf.net.

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