



Beth
Longwell
Foundation

FOUNDATION CONNECTION

Summer 2017

REMEMBERING MY SISTER BETH

It's hard to believe that it has been 10 years since Beth passed away. Not a day goes by that I don't think about her. Most memories are fleeting moments that randomly arise during the course of my day – seeing someone walking down the street who looks like her, or hearing someone talk with an expression or inflection that sounds like her. But when I take a step back to more deeply reflect on Beth's life, personality and actions, some specific thoughts are prominent...



I think about Beth's compassion. She would consistently put other's needs in front of her own (little brother excluded!). It was always important to Beth that the people around her – friends, students, even strangers -- felt comfortable, happy and secure.

I think about how Beth "stuck up" for the underdog. She would always try to put herself "in the shoes" of the underprivileged and less

fortunate, and look for ways to help or improve their situation. At times, Beth even seemed uncomfortable growing up in Palo Alto around people who had so much, when she knew so many others had so little.

I think about Beth's pursuit of education. I used to joke with her about me being a (slightly) better student. I certainly was humbled and impressed

"Remembering" on page 4

Honoring the memory of Carol Platner

Carol Platner, a Founder of the Beth Longwell Foundation and Board Member for 10 years, passed away April 20, 2017. Carol valiantly fought cancer for many years. Carol will be dearly missed by the Beth Longwell Foundation Board for her immense energy, positive attitude and devotion to the mission of the Foundation. Carol was a longtime friend of Beth Levitas Longwell and the Levitas family.

Please Donate Today

To make a tax-deductible donation to the foundation, visit us at www.bethlongwellfoundation.org or mail your check payable to the Beth Longwell Foundation P.O. Box 50457 Palo Alto, CA 94303

FOUNDATION FINANCIALS 2016

Established on September 4, 2007 as a California non-profit, public benefit corporation; the Beth Longwell Foundation is completely run by volunteers. Our board devoted its efforts in 2016 to fundraising, planning for continued growth, and servicing our key initiatives as established in our Mission Statement.

The table below summarizes the foundation's financials and use of your generously donated dollars for 2016.

Income	
Direct Public Support	\$49,725
Investment Income	\$559
Fundraising Income	\$10,933
Total Income	\$61,217
Expenses	
Organization	\$3,449
Fundraising	\$13,042
Scholarships/Grants	\$41,000
Operations	\$3,276
Total Expenses	\$60,767
Net Income	
Total	\$450
Liabilities	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$110,697
Net Assets	\$110,697

Tribute Card Donations Available

Make a gift donation in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, or another special occasion. A gift announcement card will be personalized and mailed to the person(s) of your choice.

You can order on-line or send your request via mail. Visit our website at www.bethlongwellfoundation.org for details.

A BRIGHT NIGHT TO SHINE ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Thank you to all that attended last November's annual dinner and silent auction. With your generosity, we were able to raise over \$30,000. The evening included musical performances by Merit Scholarship students from our grant recipient, Community School of Music and Arts. There were also many opportunities to take home some great items from our silent auction. We hope you'll join us October 26, 2017 for our annual dinner at the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club. This year will be a celebration of Beth's life!

Save The Date!

What: Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
When: October 26, 2017
Where: Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club

Foundation Board Member Updates

The Board Members of the Beth Longwell Foundation would like to thank exiting board member Ashley Walker for her dedication, time and commitment to the Foundation.

The board is pleased to welcome two new board members: Lynn Gardner and Meridith Herman. Lynn owns and runs the Palo Alto Rowing Club. Lynn says she volunteers her time to the Foundation because it supports youth, the future of tomorrow! Meridith is currently gaining hours for her Marriage and Family Therapy license working at Palo Verde Elementary School. Meridith feels it is an honor to carry on Beth's legacy by supporting the health and happiness of the community.

2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CRISTAL ORTIZ-VALENCIA



Cristal Ortiz-Valencia was the 2016 Beth Longwell Foundation College Scholarship recipient. Cristal graduated from Palo Alto High School where she participated in the Latinos Unidos Club, the First Generation Club and

volunteered at the Palo Alto Community Child Care Center.

Cristal started her freshman year at California State University, Chico this past fall and chose to major in Psychology. She is the first person in her family to attend a four-year university. Their mother, a single parent, raised Cristal and her younger sister. Cristal's strong work ethic was motivated by watching her mother work hard to support her family, by her aunt, and by Cristal's desire to be a role model for her younger sister. Cristal explained, "I have seen my mother financially struggle day by day in order to give my sister and me a little more than the essentials. When I am older I want to be able to support my mother, both financially and emotionally, the way she has done with me since I was young."

Cristal expressed her gratitude for the grant award and stated, "thanks to the Beth Longwell Foundation I have the chance to go to a four-year college that many young Latinas may not have. I have the chance to explore my mind, expand my connections and find out who I am, and most importantly enjoy this journey. Although at some points it gets tough I just remember all the people who stand beside me and encourage me to go far. I also know that the Beth Longwell Foundation will also stand by my side and help me through these four-years of college."

POST COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT UPDATE

Our first scholarship recipient, Liz Garcia, graduated last year from the University of California, Riverside. We were excited to learn that she is back in Palo Alto and that she accepted a job right after graduation with The Primary School in East Palo Alto as the School Operations Associate. She spoke kindly of the Foundation and said, "I will always be so grateful to the Beth Longwell Foundation for the scholarship that allowed me to get my college diploma."

OUR 2017 GRANT RECIPIENTS

This year the Beth Longwell Foundation awarded grants to six Bay Area agencies. Recipients of Foundation grants exemplify Beth's visions and hopes for advancement in non-smoking lung cancer research, grief support for those who have lost a loved one, education, and the arts. The following are the Foundation's 2017 grant recipients:

Alum Rock Counseling Center (ARCC), San Jose, CA

ARCC is a second-time grant recipient and received a grant of \$3,000.

Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (ALCF), San Carlos, CA

ALCF is a four-time grant recipient and received a grant of \$8,000.

Children's Musical Theater (CMT), San Jose, CA

CMT is a previous grant recipient and received a grant of \$3,000.

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA), Mountain View, CA

CSMA is a six-time grant recipient and received a grant of \$4,000.

Kara, Palo Alto, CA

Kara is a ten-time grant recipient and received a grant of \$8,000.

Project Commotion (PC), San Francisco, CA

PC is a three-time grant recipient and received a grant of \$4,000.

For a full description of each of our grant recipients and how they will use their grants, please visit <http://bethlongwellfoundation.org/currentgrants>.

"Remembering" from page 1

when she received her law degree to go along with her Master's in Education. I am pretty sure she was one of the few elementary school teachers with a law degree! Beth truly loved learning, both for herself and for her students.

I think about how good Beth was with kids. Again, little brother excluded, she loved to be around children. She started as a sought-after babysitter, continued as a phenomenal teacher, a wonderful Aunt, and ultimately as an amazing mother to Lucy and Nathan!

I think about how proud she would be of Lucy and Nathan. Losing a parent is traumatic, whether you are 2 or 62. I know Beth would be so proud of the twins and of their strength and resilience. She would be so happy to know that their mother and father are raising such bright, kindhearted children!

When I reflect on Beth's defining characteristics – compassion, selflessness, education, and support of children – the parallels to the mission and accomplishments of The Beth Longwell Foundation (BLF) are abundantly clear.

Over the past 10 years, the BLF has granted over \$275,000 to nearly two-dozen wonderful Bay Area organizations. Through its grant recipients, the BLF has helped to send hundreds of kids to camp, expose thousands of kids to the arts, helped support reading programs and mentoring to low income students, and provided children with grief support to help cope with the loss of a parent. The BLF has provided college scholarships to students in need of financial support, and has funded targeted research for young, non-smoking victims of lung cancer.

I am so proud that the work of the BLF has truly exemplified Beth's character. My sincere thanks to all of you, our supporters, for helping the BLF reach this wonderful 10-year milestone!

Jim Levitas
BLF Board Member
2007 - Present

Lucy and Nathan Update!



Lucy and Nathan just finished the 6th grade at JL Stanford Middle School. Lucy's favorite subjects were art, English and science. She also sang in the school choir. Nathan really



enjoyed science and home economics. He also participated in band class and played the trombone in three concerts this year. This summer Nathan and Lucy will be off to camp.

Both kids love sports, Lucy loves snowboarding and swimming while Nathan plays catcher on his baseball team.

Their sense of humor is a delight and they are just as sweet as ever! They even joined the BLF board members when they attended the Grant Recipient Awards Reception. It is hard to believe they will be twelve this summer!

Mission Statement

The Beth Longwell Foundation's mission is to positively impact the lives of children through support of charities and organizations in the areas of childhood education, non-smoking lung cancer research, and grief support for children who have lost a parent.

Board Members

Ellen Levitas, Robert Longwell, Jim Levitas, Jennifer Braun, Alice Erber, Lynn Gardner, Rhoda Grumet, Meridith Herman, Carol Toppel, Ava Yajima.