Donated funds covered the cost of two holiday dinners for former foster youth attending Fresno State’s Renaissance Scholars Program. Currently serving 53 students, the Renaissance Scholars Program hosted dinners in November and December where students could celebrate the holidays together. These are important social events for Renaissance Scholars students, many of whom do not have a home to return to for the holidays. Creating a strong sense of community is essential to the overall retention and success of students in the program and these events directly contribute to that!

“These events are important for me because they give me a sense of family at school. They give me a chance to connect with other people that are similar and I don’t have the family dinners that others do.” – Student

Career Services: $1,890

Online career-oriented modules were purchased to increase the range of 24/7 online resources available to students. These modules included Optimal Interview (interview tips and techniques), Optimal Letter (cover letter tutorials) and Optimal Efolio (portfolios).

“I am so glad the Career Coach told me about this website! I was able to create a resume and send it through the Review Center for feedback...all online!” - Student

“I was embarrassed to do a mock interview in-person, so I took advantage of the Interview Prep module to practice beforehand. After practicing with the Optimal Resume system, I scheduled a mock interview with a career counselor. I felt a lot more prepared for my actual interview.” - Student

Dog Days: $1,258

Dog Days purchased two new iPads for New Student Orientation purposes. Dog Days staff members were able to conduct major advising sessions using the iPads as a reference source. The iPads were also used to help students register for classes, look over academic requirements, access student information, assign enrollment appointments, lift orientation holds and more.

“The ability to access information quickly was very helpful in a time sensitive environment.” – Dog Days Staff
Veteran’s Benefits Office:  $2,633

This office required funds to pay for supplies used at various outreach events both on and off campus to promote the services available to the prospective and current student veteran population at Fresno State. Supplies that were purchased with parent funds included a pop up tent with logo, a folding wagon cart, promotional materials and more.

University Health & Psychological Services:  $1,800

In an effort to educate students on cold and flu prevention and treatment and to possibly avoid unnecessary visits to providers, University Health & Psychological Services launched the Cold and Flu Self Care Station. The Cold and Flu Self Care Station was open during the peak cold and flu months from October 2011 through April 2012.
Learning Center – Supplemental Instruction: $2,800

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic support program that utilizes regularly scheduled out of class study group sessions for traditionally difficult academic courses. With Parent funds, SI purchased 5 iPads with the goal of increased quality of study sessions, communication and attendance.

“The use of the iPad this semester was beneficial to the students who attended the S.I. sessions. Students became more engaged in what was going on and wanted to become more involved in the learning process. Several students, after S.I. sessions, came up to me and commented on how using the iPad made them feel more compelled to pay attention and try harder.” – Peter, S.I. Leader

International Student Services and Programs: $1,200

Money was used to live stream the 2011-2012 International Commencement Celebration on the internet.

SupportNet: $2,380

SupportNet utilized Parents’ funds to purchase SupportNet bookmarks and 500 Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) tests. Students appreciate the assessment which is used as a tool to prioritize what study skills area the student needs assistance in.

“SupportNet is about helping students learn how to learn and we use the LASSI as a resource to identify and address the needs and obstacles faced by students. By using LASSI, I can help students pinpoint areas for improvement as well as their strengths.” – SupportNet Adviser
Finals Cram Jam: $3,000

Parents Association support paid for the Finals Cram Jam events in the fall and spring semesters. Finals Cram Jam provides free snacks (fruit, coffee, tea, etc.), Scantrons and pencils to students during final exams week. Finals Cram Jam has two key components: the morning program, connecting with students on the way to their finals, and an evening program each night in the USU where students gather to study and relax.

“Love ‘Cram Jam!!’ One of my favorite events each semester! I appreciate the energy drinks, fruit, coffee and especially free Cantons....so thoughtful!!” – Student testimonial

Women’s Resource Center: $762

The funds provided by the Parents Association were used to purchase an anatomical breast model which allows for a hands-on experience in detecting lumps in the breast. By having a better understanding of the various types of lumps, students will be more informed about when to seek medical attention. The funding was also used to purchase an accompanying poster used to demonstrate breast self-examination.

Thank you for supporting projects like these through your donations to the Division of Student Affairs and the Parents’ Fund!