



## The Community Network for Appropriate Technologies

P. O. Box 2331 • Santa Rosa, CA 95405 • [www.CaringCommunity.org](http://www.CaringCommunity.org)  
 phone/fax: 707-539-2364 • [network@pacific.net](mailto:network@pacific.net)

### The Community Network for Appropriate Technologies A Quarter Century of Service

Prepared by Susan Keller, Founder/Executive Director, March 2005

#### **A. Background Information:**

The Community Network for Appropriate Technologies (The Network) was created and funded by Susan Keller as part of her Master's Thesis Project (Sonoma State University 1977/78).

The Network was incorporated in 1978 as federally recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt corporation specifically to:

- 1) develop an educational, information clearinghouse on aspects of appropriate technology, ecology and small scale community development;
- 2) research and demonstrate appropriate technologies for self-reliant living in urban and rural settings;
- 3) provide an educational, coordinative framework through which individuals, organizations, and community agencies can work equitably and flexibly in efforts concerned with their cooperative future; and
- 4) share learnings and expertise to improve conditions economically, socially and ecologically for individuals, organizations and communities.

The Network adopted colleague Sam Sadler's definition of Appropriate Technology:  
 "... technology which offers us a way to acknowledge and integrate our values into the way we use our tools. Appropriate technology reflects a concern for enhancing our skills and self-reliance, in utilizing our local resources to create employment within our communities, and in using available resources in a conserving and sustainable manner."

Work completed by the Community Network has had significant impact in the fields of renewable energy, the arts, affordable housing, community-based long-term care and palliative care here in Sonoma County and elsewhere.

#### **B. Who We Are**

Susan Keller, Founder/Executive Director/Principal Planner for the Community Network has a B.A. Degree in Art with a history emphasis from Sonoma State University, a Master's Degree in

Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and her Master's Degree in Management with emphasis on system design from Sonoma State University.

The Community Network Board President from 2000 - present is Gregg M. Steadman, M.D., F.A.C.S., an accomplished athlete, prominent anti-nuclear protester, retired Kaiser Permanente head neck throat surgeon, Clinical Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, volunteer physician with numerous community health clinics, and member of Kaiser SR Ethics Committee.

Other Network Board members include: Terry Hilton, Executive Director of the Self Esteem Living Foundation and Founder/Coordinator for the South and West Santa Rosa Business Association; Alice LaFollette, (Treasurer), retired Activities Director with London House Nursing Home; Carole van Aelstyn, RN, (Secretary), Acting Director of Compassion in Dying of Northern California; Kathy Rueve, a professional bookkeeper and partner in Sylabele, a provider of multi-media workshops giving voice to stories; and Don Taylor, owner of the Omlette Express and Santa Rosa City Planning Commissioner.

Advisors Emeriti includes people instrumental in creating the Community Network Journey Project: Pat Eliot, retired Director of the Massachusetts Association of Homes for the Aged; Marge Ling, retired Director of Nursing Santa Rosa Junior College; Helen B. Rudee, retired Sonoma County Supervisor; Arlene Ulmer, Ombudsman volunteer working in residential care homes; and Jerry Casson, a social worker here in Sonoma County professionally active from the time of the Great Depression into the late 1990's when she died.

The End of Life Care Alliance Steering Committee includes Nina Arbour, Community Relations and Volunteer Training Coordinator for Memorial and Petaluma hospices; Carole van Aelstyn, RN, Acting Director of Compassion in Dying of Northern California; Ann McEntee, Hospice of Marin and Valley of the Moon Hospice, Nancy Unger, Director, Chancellor Place - Windsor, Nancy Proctor, RN, hospice nurse and singer.

### **C. Major Accomplishments (Partial Listing)**

Under a variety of contracts with the County of Sonoma, the Community Network served as Principal Planner for development of the Community Network Appropriate Technology Resource Center, the Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County, the Sonoma County Energy Office, the Sonoma County Self-Help Housing Advisory Service, the Solar Technician Training Program and Residential Conservation Service Pilot Project.

Grant funds, private contracts and community donations enabled the Community Network to serve as Principal Planner for creation of the Bay Area Energy Information Network, Sonoma County Conservation Council, the Senior Residential Care Council, the Cost of Growth Project, the Open Arms Computer Training Center, the Natural Death Care Project, the Community Network Journey Project and the End of Life Care Alliance of Sonoma County.

As an advocate for the disabled, the poor, and the elderly, the Network has worked with staff in the CA Public Utilities Commission and the CA Energy Commission crafting rules and regulations needed to get utility ratepayer funds collected for conservation to serve the unmet needs of these

groups. Accomplishments concerning work promoting community-based long-term care and palliative care development are summarized in earlier sections of this report summarizing Journey Project accomplishments.

#### **D. Fundors and Contractors (Partial Listing)**

County of Sonoma - Board of Supervisors General Fund & Revenue Sharing Fund, Department of Housing and Community Development, Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) Office; California Department of Community Development, Department of Vocational Education, Office of Appropriate Technology, and Arts Council; Sonoma County Community Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Rallying Points Program; Renewable Energy Development Institute, National Office of Appropriate Technology, Innovative Housing, Aelphnull, LLC;

Office space housing the Community Network Appropriate Technology Library was provided free of charge during the 1980s by the Santa Rosa Indian Center and Real Goods Trading Company. The Network Appropriate Technology collection was integrated into the Sonoma County Library System, Sonoma State University Solar Technician Program and the Environmental Center in the early 1990s.

Since that time, library space to house and maintain the Community Network Journey Project Resource Center has been provided free of charge by Sutter Senior Health Center, Memorial Hospice, and Sutter Women's Health Center Library. The vast majority of Journey Project research materials are now housed in the Environmental Center, the Network home office.

Professional services required to initiate Network activities and help sustain the Community Network have most often been provided pro bono by Network founder and Executive Director, Susan Keller and scores of other professionals - many retired - donating time and assistance.

#### **E. Workshops and Publications**

For work produced concerning end-of-life and elder care issues, please see "The Community Network Journey Project Ten Year Prospectus" and "Advance Care Planning and Palliative Care Workshops, Publications and Consult Services."

In years preceding development of the Journey Project, the Community Network produced:

- a weekly KVRE radio program and Classified Gazette newspaper column concerning appropriate technology issues;
- a few hundred community workshops teaching low income people skills needed to repair and improve their homes, including energy conserving and passive solar energy techniques;
- a weekly lecture series addressing all aspects of appropriate technology;
- a year long solar technician training program training 40 youth to become solar technicians;

Planning reports done under contract with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors including production of the Sonoma County Energy Plan, the Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County Planning Project Report, the Sonoma County Self-Help Advisory Service Project Report, the Sonoma County Residential Conservation Service Plan, and the Sonoma County Energy End Use Study.

#### **F. Awards**

- CA Senate Resolution authored by all elected Assembly and Senate members representing Sonoma County acknowledging consumer advocacy and planning accomplishments
- Award for Energy Innovation, U.S. Department of Energy, Secretary of Energy
- Award for Energy Innovation, State of California, George Deukmejian, Governor

Note: When funding permits we will include photos of directors, advisors emeriti, EOLCA Steering Committee and workshop program faculty as well as a list of founding board and former directors.