

A heartfelt thanks to our community



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At Hood & Strong, we've had the privilege to provide accounting, financial and wealth management services to Bay Area corporations, nonprofits and individuals for over 92 years. That's a proud legacy that also comes with a large dose of responsibility – to our clients, to our employees, and to the communities where we live and work. It also demands a firm culture and focus on not merely examining the financial bottom line of what we do, but the social and environmental performance metrics as well.

As the managing partner, I have the opportunity to spend time in each of our three Bay Area offices -- San Francisco, Redwood Shores and San Jose. While each office has its own distinct personality and client base, there is an unabashed shared sense of pride and camaraderie among our partners and staff that comes from being able to “give back” and hopefully leave our world a little better than we found it.

One-hundred percent of our partners and 95 percent of our employees participate in regular volunteer activities, and everyone receives 48 hours of paid-time-off a year to dedicate to the charity of their choice. In an environment where for many of us the biggest deficit is one of “time,” we believe vol-

unteerism results in a stronger, more cohesive firm, as well as stronger communities and relationships with our clients.

The dividends of community involvement, both financial and personal, can be enormous. Under the leadership of Mollie Marshall, an audit partner in our not-for-profit services group, Hood & Strong has raised more than \$200,000 for the March of Dimes' “March for Babies” events, which helps give infants a healthy start. Just think of the financial and psychological burdens that can be relieved for mothers, families, and indeed our entire health care delivery system with concerted, long-term focus and education on neo-natal health.

The health of our planet is also top-of-mind. Earlier this year, Hood & Strong employees volunteered at the Presidio Hills Habitat, one of the few spots in San Francisco where our state bird, the California quail, thrives. We assisted in restoration efforts, including the removal of invasive plants to create a healthier and more sustainable ecosystem for all “residents.” Through efforts like this, we hope that the beauty of California and the Bay Area can be sustained for future generations.

When you step off the elevator into our San Francisco office, you can't miss the 600-pound steel heart by artist Peter Magnan. The heart was part of a successful community effort, led by volunteers, to support the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation. It is also a symbolic and very visible reminder to each of us that people with heart and soul can accomplish extraordinary things. For while financial contributions are always important, equally imperative are the contributions of time, talent and passion that Bay Area businesses, employees and nonprofits bring to creating and sustaining environmental, social and economic justice.

We are indeed heartened to be a longstanding and participatory member of the Bay Area business community. We congratulate and thank our clients, employees, philanthropic organizations and the community at large for working toward a better quality of life for all of us.