

The Rancho Santa Fe Foundation Reports Outstanding Investment Success.

The Rancho Santa Fe Foundation manages assets for local charities and for individuals through donor advised funds. Richard Carlson, Chairman of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation Investment Committee and Foundation Director, stated that, so far in 2009, the investment return for Foundation assets is 19.3%. The equity portion of the portfolio has returned 24.9% versus 19.2% for the stock market in general. The fixed income return is 12.7% versus 5.7% for bonds in general.

Mr. Carlson noted that “the Foundation has recouped much of the 22.5% decline of 2008 even though the stock market is still down 30% from its high. Not many Foundations can make that statement. Our investment committee is very attuned to the markets. The majority of our members are investment professionals who bring a wealth of experience to the Foundation. The Foundation manages its own assets and has kept investment costs to a minimum and has not used hedge funds or private investments.” Carlson says “the Foundation’s value-added approach is dynamic asset allocation. We do not just buy and hold. We evaluate the relative attractiveness of various asset classes and shift assets accordingly, while always moderating risk. For example, this year we added a 40% position in bonds to the portfolio while last year we held 45% in cash reserves. We also went back into emerging markets in March. We have been able to take advantage of opportunities in the market because we are not encumbered with dedicated outside investment managers who charge higher fees and can be inflexible. We keep expenses low and spend our time evaluating investments, not picking new managers.”

Carlson also noted the investment committee has a 20-year history of superior performance and has continuity of membership. “When we are so fortunate to have a great group of professionals, we do not let them leave. Some have been on the committee for over 10 years. We enjoy our professional discussions and reach consensus quickly.”

“We are very pleased our donors are again in a position to advance the charitable causes so important to the San Diego region and beyond. We are confident our investment approach will continue to be successful in the years to come”, says Carlson. If you would like to learn more about placing charitable assets with the Foundation, please contact Christy Wilson at 858 -756 -6557 or christy@rsffoundation.org.