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By Sunny Merik

The Eastside Project received \$5,000 in July from the Flora and William Hewlett Foundation to pursue projects that educate about and help fight homelessness.

The Eastside Project money, half of a \$10,000 SCU grant, is part of a larger Hewlett Foundation grant to California Campus Compact.

Compact (a consortium of colleges and universities dedicated to helping undergraduates learn from community service), received \$200,000 last September to establish a Bay Area Homeless Program incorporating 12 northern California campuses, and SCU was invited to submit a proposal outlining what the university could contribute to the overall project.

"This grant will help underwrite the Eastside Project's segment of the Voice for the Voiceless Human Rights Institute," said Laura Jimenez, Eastside Project

coordinator. "It will also help us continue the work we're now doing in San Jose."

The work the Eastside Project is now engaged in includes students visiting with the homeless at Julian Street Inn and taking care of and playing with the homeless children at Agnews' Family Living Center.

"We can also use this grant to help faculty members develop units on homelessness for their courses," Jimenez said.

Beverly Overbo, a professor at San Francisco State University, is coordinating the Bay Area Homeless Project.

"Each campus works in its own way to help undergraduates learn community service to the homeless," Overbo said.

"For instance, Santa Clara sees homelessness as a social justice issue which is political in nature. USF is focusing on homeless women and children, which comprise the fastest growing group of homeless in this country. Stanford has

done a great deal of advocacy work around migrant workers. Sonoma State, through its fieldwork center, works more directly with county organizations and programs than any other campus."

Overbo said that each campus can learn from the projects of other campuses.

She said the \$200,000 Hewlett Foundation grant is a two-year grant to Compact, \$80,000 of which is earmarked for coordinating the regional program. The other \$120,000 funds eight individual campus projects, including Santa Clara University's.

Daniel Germann, S.J., one of the Eastside Project directors, said the Eastside Project has also helped spread the word about SCU's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat builds quality, low-cost homes for people who do not have the income to qualify for a conven-

tional home loan. Habitat homes are sold at cost (no interest), which enables those with low incomes to be able to buy. The mortgage payments go back into the program, so that more homes can be built.

"Santa Clara's involvement with Habitat serves as a great model for other campuses in our homeless project," Overbo said.

Other campus members of California Campus Compact include California State University-Hayward, De Anza College, San Francisco City College, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Sonoma State University, Stanford University, University of California-Berkeley and the University of San Francisco.