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CHERISH Los Altos Hills:

A New Way for Neighbors to Invest in the Town We Love

Article and photo by Rajiv Bhateja, Los Altos Hills Mayor

Los Altos Hills has always been more than a place to live — it is a place defined by its landscape, its quiet beauty, and the generations of residents who shaped it with care. From the volunteers who penned the original "Green Sheets," to the families whose generosity created the Byrne Preserve, Westwind Community Barn, and Town Hall, the Town's most beloved spaces exist because neighbors believed in preserving a way of life that feels increasingly rare in the Bay Area.

A New Chapter of Community Driven Excellence

Today, that tradition continues with CHERISH Los Altos Hills, a newly formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit that invites residents to invest directly in the future of the Town they love. CHERISH LAH offers a modern, community-centered way to support projects that enhance the exceptional lifestyle Los Altos Hills is known for. As an IRS-recognized public benefit organization, it provides a philanthropic pathway that reflects the values and priorities of the people who call this place home.

Like many small towns, Los Altos Hills faces rising costs for public safety, infrastructure, wildfire preparedness, and state mandates. With no sales tax revenue and limited funding for new initiatives, pursuing enhancements that enrich daily life can be challenging. CHERISH LAH helps bridge that gap by supporting resident-inspired projects that strengthen the Town without replacing its core responsibilities.

Investing in What Matters Most to Residents

CHERISH's early priorities reflect two areas of broad community interest. The first is improved security services — an essential part of maintaining the peace, privacy, and sense of safety that define life in Los Altos Hills. The second is assisting the Town in meeting its state-mandated low-income housing obligations, including the potential to help secure the right property so the Town can fulfill its requirements in a way that respects community character and long-term planning.

These priorities complement other resident-driven initiatives such as pathway improvements, environmental stewardship, and wildfire resilience. Together, they support the elements that make Los Altos Hills so distinctive: its natural beauty, its rural charm, and its commitment to thoughtful, community-guided growth.

Gifts up to $1,000 may be made directly through cherishlah.org , and larger contributions — including appreciated stock or legacy gifts — can be coordinated through the Contact Us page.

"Philanthropy can play an important role in preserving the Town's unique character while supporting meaningful community improvements," said Bill Coughran, longtime resident and CHERISH LAH Board member. "This is an opportunity to ensure Los Altos Hills remains special."

Continuing a Legacy of Giving

Every generation has the chance to leave something better than it found it. The landscapes we treasure, the institutions we rely on, and the traditions we enjoy were all created by residents who believed in investing in their community. CHERISH Los Altos Hills invites today's residents to carry that legacy forward. Whether through a charitable gift, an idea for a future project, or simply by sharing the vision, every resident can help shape the next chapter of Los Altos Hills' story.

To learn more, explore CHERISH's mission, or make a contribution, visit cherishlah.org.

Rajiv Bhateja is a Los Altos Hills resident. He and his wife have lived in Los Altos Hills since 2005. They have three adult sons.

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