

Laura Francis, Vice President and Foundation Secretary

Born in Chicago, and raised in Northern California and as one of six girls, I learned how to cooperate, prioritize needs, and appreciate family, friends and stability. My father was a professor, and my mother was a stay-at-home mom until it was necessary to go to work to afford raising six children. Paying my way through college was always expected and taught me how to manage my budget and schedules. There were times I had to ask for financial help. I am happy The Foundation can assist individuals with financial needs as we hear of those.

I remember eating 39 cent macaroni and cheese in college. While I never went to bed hungry, I can empathize with families who cannot put food on their table. If you do not have food, you cannot think clearly at school or work. In addition to The Foundation giving financially to food banks I volunteer every week at our local foodbank.

I raised four children and homeschooled 8 years. Education has always been a priority, not only in the school years, but throughout life. I believe education is not only vital to increase one's income, but to also provide an enriched life through mental growth and an ability to converse with others. Unfortunately, those who are born into poverty or low-income families do not have the same financial ability to pay for education.

As a mother I understand the life changing experience of having children. The time and money required to raise a child is huge. I believe women's health care is vital for a women's ability to plan a pregnancy. It is the woman's right to choose, not the Government.

I have been fortunate to travel and see many beautiful places. Our environment needs to be protected so generations to come can continue to experience our planet's natural beauty. In addition, the natural disasters that occur due to climate change have devastating effects on people's homes and lives. Our Government does not do enough to help in these situations so I want to help where I can.