

## **The Little Engine That Could...**

13 September 2017  
by Carol Bower Foote

Do you remember the timeless children's story by Watty Piper (aka Arnold Munk) about a little blue engine who successfully pulled a long, heavy train carrying Christmas toys over a high mountain, chugging all the way up "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..." ? RioVision and the good people of our town often remind me of that little engine.

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We have been keeping you updated on one good example of people coming together with "I can" on their minds: the Riverview School Garden Project (nicknamed "Riverview Farms"). RioVision volunteers constructed the 12 large planter boxes and filled them with topsoil. The school's first crop is thriving under the care of Riverview students with the support of school admin, faculty, and parents. Additional funding is needed to build a tool shed and fill it with tools, and for the school curriculum that will support the garden in years to come. On September 5<sup>th</sup> to support this project, Riverview Middle School launched a one month fundraising event to raise the \$1668 needed by October 6<sup>th</sup> to match a grant from the Healthy Planet organization. You can add to the \$150 raised as of 9/8 by donating on-line at [healthyplanetus.org/school/riverviewmiddleschool/](http://healthyplanetus.org/school/riverviewmiddleschool/) and clicking on "Support this Project". Or you can bring a check or cash to the school office at 525 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Can we do it, Rio Vista? I think we can.

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We can also feed the hungry in our community by supporting Rio Vista Food Pantry's donation drive for their October Rummage Sale fundraiser during Bass Festival weekend. They accept donations at 45 Main Street from 5:30-7:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through 10/4 and on Saturdays from 11am-3pm (except 9/23). Books, clothing, electronics, mattresses, sheets, pillowcases, and large exercise equipment are excluded. Contact Nora Crane at 707-334-6191 for more info or to discuss a pick up for large items.

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With RioVision, The Flamingo downtown held a fundraiser on September 9<sup>th</sup> to refurbish their iconic neon sign and light up the night again on Main Street. Stay tuned for other opportunities to help out. With community support, one small chug at a time, we can bring vibrancy to the nightlife of downtown Rio Vista.

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Outdoor tables and chairs have also been ordered for the "patio areas" outside The Pizza Factory and Rio Vista Market to allow downtown visitors, day or night, to enjoy our river-fresh air.

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RioVision introduced projects under consideration for 2018 at our General Meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned to next week's article for an update. There might be one in which you wish to become part of the little engine that could make it happen. RioVision e-news subscribers, watch your email for our September newsletter coming soon.

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A last word on what we can do when neighbors help neighbors: free transportation is being provided from Rio Vista to the North Bay Veterans' "Stand Down" event on the Dixon Fairgrounds on October 17<sup>th</sup> with return transportation available the afternoon of October 19<sup>th</sup>. This event offers a variety of free services to veterans. Meet at Main and Front at 9:15am on the 17<sup>th</sup>. For more info, call 707-784-6590. "I think you can, I think you can..."

