



For immediate release

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Women's Fund of Santa Barbara gives \$535,000 in grants to seven local nonprofits and celebrates 14 years of Changing Lives Together

A Field of Interest Fund of the Santa Barbara Foundation

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Santa Barbara, CA – On Monday, May 2, 2018, the **Women's Fund of Santa Barbara gave grants totaling \$535,000 to seven local nonprofit agencies at its 14th annual Presentation of Grants reception.** This event celebrates the end of the annual Women's Fund grant cycle and honors its newest grantees, voted on by the membership of 868 women.

Since it began in 2004, the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara has awarded grants totaling more than \$6.6 million to 93 local nonprofit programs impacting more than 97,000 women, children and families in Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria. The announcement of the new grantees—kept secret until the reception—was held at Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort (formerly The Fess Parker).

The nonprofits receiving 2017-18 Women's Fund grants are:

CADA—Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse – \$75,000 to provide mental health support to help prevent possible reoffending and incarceration of Teen Court youth.

Children's Resource & Referral – \$65,000 to provide quality child care and business development training for in-home Family Child Care providers.

Dyslexia Intervention Program – \$50,000 to expand a pilot program to remediate the effects of dyslexia in K-3 students in the Santa Barbara School District.

Early Childhood Classroom Behavior Intervention Program – \$50,000 to expand a program to respond to disruptive classroom behavior for 3-5 year olds in the Goleta Union School District.

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County – \$95,000 to partially fund the purchase of a new refrigerated box truck that will collect, store and distribute fresh food, reduce food waste, and meet new emission requirements.

Santa Barbara Rescue Mission – \$100,000 to increase the number of beds and build bathroom facilities for women needing emergency shelter.

United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County – \$100,000 to replace and rebuild sections of leaking roof for a clubhouse that serves low-income youth in Carpinteria.

“We are a volunteer-driven organization based on a simple, creative model—women combining our charitable donations so we can make a larger impact on the community than most of us would be able to accomplish on our own,” said Laurie Tumbler, Steering Co-Chair. “We strive to be educated, strategic givers working to make a difference in the lives of women, children and families in our community. We are optimistic, compassionate and caring women, and we are determined to continuously improve our community and our organization. We are capable of a bold vision—that by combining our charitable dollars, we can change lives together.”

The popularity of the collective giving model is evident in the more than ten-fold growth in membership the Women’s Fund has achieved in 14 years. The volunteer-driven organization also prides itself on its efficiency—striving to minimize expenses in order to maximize the annual grants pool.

Shelley Hurst, next year’s Steering Chair concluded by saying: **“We contribute to the Women’s Fund because we want to make a difference and collectively that difference is larger than what most of us can do on our own.** Together we’ve fed families, provided medical care to vulnerable women and helped young people realize their full potential. We’ve helped house seniors, provided a refuge for troubled teens and protected women and children from violence. The more than \$6.6 million we’ve given together since 2004 is more than a number. It represents people. Lives we helped change together.”

Photos are available upon request. For more information, please contact Leslie Dinaberg, 805/452-3749, Leslie@LeslieDinaberg.com

***About the Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara:** The Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara is a volunteer-led collective donor group focused on the needs of women, children and families in Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria. Committed to “Changing Lives Together,” Women’s Fund members pool their charitable donations, research critical community needs and then vote on which agencies will receive the funds collected during the year. The Women’s Fund is a Field of Interest Fund of the Santa Barbara Foundation. For additional information about the Women’s Fund, visit: womensfundsb.org.*