



Volume 14, December 2011

Pat Amtower, Editor

### For Your Calendar

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 11, 2012             | 9:30 AM                    |
| Grants Meeting               | TBD                        |
| February 6, 2012             | 9:30 AM                    |
| General Meeting              | The Inn in the Garden Room |
| February 27, 2012            | 9:30 AM                    |
| Grants Committee Kick-Off    | Village Church             |
| April 25, 2012               | 11:30 AM                   |
| Grant Proposal Presentations | The Inn in the Garden Room |
| May 21, 2012                 | 6-8 PM                     |
| General Meeting and Awards   | To Be Announced            |

### Working Together Improving the Lives of Others



Over the last seven years, the RSF Women's Fund has provided 148 organizations more than \$1.6 million to improve the lives of their clients and impact our community. The Grant Committee Work Groups have recently completed the first phase of our eighth grant cycle to narrow the field of potential grantees to nine in each of the target areas--- Education and Research and Arts and Culture.

Our collective giving allows us to bring together incredible women with a common purpose: to pool our money, to research grantees and community needs, and to decide where to provide grants. Giving together magnifies the power of philanthropy and enriches our experience.

### Your Leadership

#### Advisory Committee Chair

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#### Advisory Committee Chair-Elect

Victoria Hanlon 759-6887  
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#### Grant Committee Chair

Donna Vance 756-2956  
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#### Grant Committee Vice Chair

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Connie Pittard 756-6815  
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#### Membership Committee

##### Vice Chair

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Jinda Schatz 523-1695  
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A few updates to share with you:

- Membership renewals were emailed to you on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Your check and renewal form are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Our next recruitment event will be a luncheon on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. See details in this issue.
- The November Annual Meeting was a fabulous event while benefiting Dress for Success with suits and financial support. Thanks to Dawn Hummel, Jinda Schatz, Nancy Jo Cappetta, Gillian Gillies, Cathy Hopf, Becky Horowitz, Annabel Moore, and Susan Danton for making the evening a huge success.
- The 2012 budget for the RSFWF is now available on the website. Thanks to Sue Sanderson, Candise Holmlund, and Nancy Hashim for preparing the financials and reducing expenditures.
- Our biannual Member Survey is scheduled for March 2012. If you have areas that you would like to propose, including speakers, volunteer activities, send these to Victoria Hanlon by January 4.

Thanks to each of you for giving of your time, talents and treasures.

**Happy Holidays!**

**Donna Walker**  
**Advisory Committee Chair**

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**Vice Chairs:**

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## Grant Committee Report

Work groups for Arts & Culture and Education & Research have completed the first phase of this year's grant cycle. The ladies have done an outstanding job of narrowing down the LOI's (Letters of Inquiry) to 9 from each work group. These 18 will move forward into our second phase, and will be asked to submit a grant proposal.

### Arts & Culture

Fallbrook Music Society  
Mingei Museum  
NTC Foundation Liberty School  
SD Children's Choir  
SD Dance Theatre  
SD Gay Men's Chorus  
SD Natural History Museum  
SD Public Library  
TERI

### Education & Research

Elementary Institute of Science  
Interfaith Community Services  
International Rescue  
Ivey Ranch  
Mira Costa Foundation  
Monarch School  
New Haven Youth Services  
NC Trade Tech High  
Tariq Khamisa Foundation

Join me in thanking and congratulating your 32 fellow members for their hard work and diligence during this first phase of our grant cycle! They reviewed and evaluated the LOI's to make hard decisions on which organizations to move forward to the RFP (Request for Proposal) Phase.

Kate Williams and Jinda Schatz, our two work group leaders did a great job of keeping us on track and leading us through the process.

The work groups will meet again beginning with the Grants Committee Work Group Meeting on January 11, 2012, and continuing for five weeks as we review, evaluate and narrow down the proposals from 18 to 14. Those 14 will move forward to phase three: Site Visits.

As you look ahead to your 2012 calendar, please consider saving some time in March to attend a site visit or two. They are always fun, informative and rewarding. Contact Diane [858-756-5574](tel:858-756-5574) or [www.spencedsm@hotmail.com](mailto:www.spencedsm@hotmail.com) and let her know that you would like to participate!

Best Wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends!

**Donna Vance**  
**Grant Committee Chair**

## **November Annual Meeting**

The Annual Membership Meeting was a tremendous success. The power of collaboration produced both a lively presentation of fashion know-how by the lovely fashionistas of The Fashion Code, Sara and Ruth Levy, and a successful drive for suits and financial support (over 100 suits and more than \$1000) for Dress for Success. Our savvy members successfully answered fashion questions and Ann Reed won the "Killer Shoes" competition with fur-lined spike heels, all the rage this year!

The Publicity Committee with Dawn Hummel, Jinda Schatz, Nancy Jo Cappetta and Gillian Gillies, and the Volunteer Committee with Cathy Hopf, Becky Horowitz, Annabel Moore and Susan Danton orchestrated the event and turned the Garden Room of the Inn of Rancho Santa Fe into a sophisticated venue with hot pink and black balloons and tables covered with satin cloths, golden with black leopard spots.

## **New Member Profile**



Marian Benassi has been a long time resident of Rancho Santa Fe and an active part of the community for over 17 years. She has served on the Community Center Board, the Rancho Santa Fe School Board, and in the Kids Korps USA, the RSF Women's Fund, RSF Book Club, the San Diego Chamber of Music and the RSF garden club.

The community has also been an integral part of her family's life. Annually, Marian and her sons team up with other community members to build bikes for military families, and other groups, through the Benassi Build-a-Bike foundation.

Her family had the opportunity to live all over the country and eventual settling in California. Marian attended San Francisco State, majoring in International Relations and Broadcast communications, and did her graduate work in International Affairs at Columbia University. As a passionate advocate for human rights, one of Marian's most exciting adventures was taking food and supplies to remote villages in the Philippines during the internal conflict when Marcos declared Martial Law.

Marian's past experiences include working at the United Nations for the Division of Human Rights, starting an import/export business, working as a CBS News correspondence in San Francisco, producing and directing documentaries in Tokyo, Japan and working in satellite communications and video conferencing. Marian's hobbies include gardening, tennis, international travels, gourmet cooking, visiting museums and collecting art and trying new adventures like skydiving and parasailing.

## Appreciation!

Cathy Hopf and Becky Horowitz forwarded this letter to *Humming Along*. The school supplies were collected at our September meeting for ACE Scholars and the Burn Institute.

Hello Becky,

I want to express our gratitude to the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation's Women's Fund. All of the students were delighted to receive the school supplies that your members so generously donated. We took a few pictures of some of the students as they received their packages of supplies and you can see their smiles of thanks. Even though we have 40 students these are the ones who we were able to capture on camera. Please express our appreciation for your organization's support for former foster youth at Cal State San Marcos.



Jim Mickelson, MSW, Director  
California State University San Marcos

## **New Members Luncheon**

During the fall, Connie Pittard and Carol Linovitz organized a “Cocktails and Conversations” evening for women interested in learning more about the RSFWF. Their next recruitment event will be a luncheon on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you know someone that may be interested in attending, please contact Connie Pittard.

## **Welcome to our New Members!**

A warm welcome to our new members: Eve Blackwood, Melissa Brewster, Sandra Coufal, Jean Hamerslag, and 2 returning members Jan (Cannon) Anderson and Betty Edman!