



Volume 18, December 2012

Pat Amtower, Editor

For Your Calendar

January 9, 2013 9:30 AM
Grants Committee Work Group
Village Church, Fellowship Hall

February 4, 2013 9:30 AM
General Meeting
The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe

February 25, 2013 9:30-11:00 AM
All Grants Committee Meeting
Village Church, Fellowship Hall

April 24, 2013 9:30-1.00 PM
General Meeting & Presentations
RSF Golf Club

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Happy Holidays!

December is here, which is always hard to believe, but even more so when considering what our valued membership has accomplished collectively this fall. In May, when we award this year's grants, the Women's Fund will have contributed over Two Million Dollars to our community in just nine years of grant making.

The Women's Fund makes all of this possible through our exceptional membership and the efficient, impactful model of collective giving in which we all participate, share, and learn from one another. It's truly a pleasure to be a part of this organization!

Here are a few of the highlights from this fall:

- **Grants Committees Underway:** Our Human Services and Health & Research Grant Committees met throughout the fall to review the 150 LOI's received, narrowing the pool to 18 potential grantees.
- **October Prospective Member Event:** Thank you to Connie Pittard, Kathy Yash and Libby Frank for hosting our fall event.
- **October Financial Review Workshop:** Candise Holmlund guided members through the fundamentals of financial vetting.
- **November Annual Membership Meeting:** Stacy McCarthy's "Mind Body and Spirit" program was a refreshing treat for all of us. Thank you to Nancy Jo Cappetta and Gillian Gilles for all of their efforts in putting such a nice evening together.
- **November Member-Speaker Event with Jean Wells, Sculptor:** Jean opened her home and studio for our first Member-Speaker event in November. Thank you, Jean, for such a special opportunity.
- **WCGN Austin Conference/San Diego Grant Maker's Conference:** Gillian Gillies and Pat Amtower attended the San Diego Grantmakers' conference and Gillian and I attended the Women's Collective Giving Network Conference (WCGN) in Austin. We were thrilled to learn more



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about the 28 women's collective giving groups across the country. Over the past 17 years the members of these groups have together contributed over 45 million dollars to their communities.

Looking Forward:

- **Membership Renewals** were emailed out to our membership on November 9th and are due back by February 1st, 2013.
- **New Member suggestions?** If you know of someone that might enjoy being a member of the Women's Fund, please forward her name to Connie Pittard or Kathy Yash, Membership Chairs.

We wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season! We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

Victoria Hanlon
Advisory Committee Chair

Grants Committee Report

Congratulations to all of our very dedicated 2013 RSFWF Grants Committee Work Group members on the successful and thorough completion of Phase 1 of our Grant Review Cycle.

Twenty organizations (ten for each work group) have been selected to submit full proposals for the Committee's Phase 2 Review, beginning in January. Please remember to mark your calendars for our next full Grants Committee meeting to launch Phase 2 on

**Wednesday, January 9, 2013
at 9:30 AM**

Village Church Fellowship Hall.

Kate Williams
Grant Committee Chair



New Members Welcome!

Please welcome Pam Wasserman and Alchera Ayyad, our most recent new members. Both of them are already making valuable contributions to the work of the Women's Fund! The next prospective member event is planned for January 2013. Details will be available soon.

Connie Pittard
Membership Committee Chair

General Meeting Monday, February 4, 2013, 9:30 AM The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe

The speaker for the First General Meeting of the New Year is Dr. Gordon Hanson, Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Hanson has an impressive resume, including Professor for International Relations and Pacific Studies and Director of the Center on Emerging and Pacific Economies. We are fortunate to have so knowledgeable a speaker provide so timely an overview of the current economic conditions. The cost of the meeting is \$10 (a bargain), which can be paid at the door or by sending a check (RSF Foundation) to Nancy Hashim or register on our web portal (www.rsfwomensfund.org).

Volunteer Committee Activities

At the November Membership Meeting, we received great musical instruments for the San Diego library. The staff at the library was so excited to receive a guitar, two piano keyboards, a flute and several other small pieces. If anyone else still has instruments to donate, please take them directly to the library office. The library staff would be very grateful; they need so much more. Now the students that have learned to play are teaching the younger children. It is so impressive to see the teenagers passing on their gift of learning to the younger students.



My LOI Didn't Win!

Many of us have had the experience of seeing our favorite LOI fade in the voting, perhaps it was the one you shepherded or perhaps it was one you simply came to really support. You lobbied for your favorite in the Grant Working Committee; you committed your hopes for their success. It didn't make it in the voting. What to do? Many of us have charitable institutions we support beyond those of the RSFWF, perhaps because a loved one needed their help, such as hospice or research, and that organization offered comfort and hope to your family in your time of need. Or perhaps your professional life overlapped with the aims of the organization, such as military counseling or legal aid to the poor.

Rally your resources, donate anyway to the organization of your choice or volunteer your time! They will be especially grateful in this year of economic downturn.

Philanthropy in the Age of Austerity

The year 2013 will bring tremendous fiscal constraints on all of us and these are not going to be relieved any time soon. The size of the US federal debt \$16,306,703,000,000, the reduced net household wealth (down 35% from 2005 to 2010 according to the Census Bureau), high unemployment, all put downward pressure on the economy and therefore on charitable giving. Charitable organizations depending on voluntary donations are already feeling the pain. The media report that charitable donations are down and we all get solicitations from charities, which bemoan their shortfalls.

This situation is likely to get worse. With the retroactive California wealth tax enacted this year and with the serious possibility of laws reducing the amount of charitable deductions for tax purposes, and with government cutbacks in support, our favorite charities and institutions are facing a new reality, the age of austerity. Museums and libraries, orchestras and choral groups, scholarship programs, medical research institutions are going to be forced to cut back. We have already seen this with the loss of one of our fine San Diego orchestras, Orchestra Nova.

Advocacy is rapidly becoming an important tool for successful and meaningful giving for the future and for educating members of Congress about the important work of foundations. Advocacy has become a philanthropic mission. The Council on Foundations (www.cof.org) has a legislative committee that represents charitable organizations to Congress. It has taken several positions in support of foundation work, such as advocating simplification of the excise tax on foundations to a flat rate, maintaining current law on charitable deductions, extending and expanding the IRA charitable rollover. For more information on the impact of government laws on foundations and on private individuals, go to the Council website and look for their legislative updates.



Special Event January 18th!

Members of the Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund have been invited to visit New Haven Youth Services for a tour followed by a lunch especially prepared by the catering students.

Look for the announcement for sign-ups for this exciting site visit on our website. It will be posted in about two weeks. This organization received a grant for \$28,000 last year to help with a culinary arts program for at-risk students to provide them with multiple pathways for career exploration and job preparation in hospitality and tourism with a primary focus on culinary arts. This is an opportunity to see where the money went!

Mark your calendar for January 18, 2013 for 10:30 AM and don't forget to sign-up when the announcement is posted on the website! We will try to coordinate a carpool.