

Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund Grants \$285,600 To Local Non-profit Organizations

RANCHO SANTA FE, CA, JUNE 1, 2012: Last Wednesday night, May 16th, was an evening to celebrate for many local San Diegans. Representatives of ten non-profit organizations met at local resident Ann Feighner's home to be awarded more than \$285,600 in grant funds from the RSF Women's Fund.

The impact of these grants will be felt throughout San Diego County. Grants were given to organizations that serve Vista, Escondido, Downtown San Diego, Liberty Station, Logan Heights, Oceanside, and Mira Costa College in Cardiff. The RSF Women's Fund granted 100% of each organization's request with the exception of two. Yet, even these two organizations received a major portion of their original request.

Each year, members of the RSF Women's Fund champion two focus areas in the community where needs are not being met. This year the group's giving focus was centered on Arts and Culture, and also Education and Research. A total of 98 Letters of Interest were received from local non-profit organizations vying for an opportunity to submit a formal grant proposal request.

The vetting process takes nine months. During this time, the grant committee reviews the intent letters individually. The women then select those that are anticipated to have the most impact in the community and invite eighteen of these organizations to submit a grant proposal. When the formal proposals are received, the grant committee analyzes the organization's infrastructure and financials, and finally visits the non-profit organizations' sites. The RSF Women Fund members, currently consisting of 135 local women, then vote on which organizations will receive the grant funds. Each member has one vote.

The following finalists received a grant allowing their amazing work to continue in our community:

Interfaith Community Services	\$25,000
Mira Costa College	\$25,000
Monarch School	\$32,000
New Haven Youth Services	\$28,000
North County Trade Tech High School	\$28,000
NTC Foundation	\$37,600
San Diego Children's Choir	\$20,000
San Diego Public Library	\$40,000
Teri, Inc	\$50,000

In addition, a special military award to Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA in the amount of \$3,400 was made possible by the added generosity of a handful of Women's Fund members. By giving a little more than their annual contribution share, these women allowed the Women's Fund to give a little more, too. This award will enhance a program for which the Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA received a grant from the RSF Women's Fund in a prior year known as "Women in Transition". This program helps very young, active-duty or dependent military mothers, 19-20 year olds, who are at-risk for post-partum depression. As a hands-on volunteer project, the RSF Women's Fund also made personalized layette baskets for each of the women who complete the program. The program was hugely successful, so much so that the young mothers are now meeting on a regular basis to continue to support one another. Following a special plea from George Brown of ASYMCA for continued support of the layette project, the RSF Women's Fund's award of \$3400 will provide additional baskets for new young military mothers as they complete the "Women in Transition" program.

