



The Hope Ranch Living group of the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara. Pictured from left, Emma Bridges, Grace Neumann, Monica Lenches, Stina Hans, Sandi Hirsch, Meichelle Arntz, Becky Craig, Liz Heitmann, Cindy Hughes, Cindy Feinberg, and Marjorie Larkin. Not pictured group members are Cathy Cash, Marilyn Gutsche, and Bonnie Paul. Photo by Kerry Parker.

HOPE RANCH WOMEN **MAKING LASTING CHANGE**

Hope Ranch Women Support The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara

Nearly 50 Hope Ranch women are members of the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara, a volunteer-led collective donor organization that enables women to combine their charitable dollars into significant grants addressing the critical needs of women, children, and families in south Santa Barbara County. The Women's Fund represents over 1,100 local women whose generosity is making lasting change in our community.

Members of the Women's Fund start by identifying critical community issues to be researched. Next, they research local nonprofits addressing those issues and create a ballot of possible grants for members to consider. The research process includes a thorough review of a nonprofit's goals, financials, leadership, sustainability, and measurable results and ensures that all projects are compelling and worthy of support.

Individual membership is open to all women and most new members join as a member of a group. Each group meets to discuss the ballot and vote to select the nonprofits the Women's Fund will support. The number of votes is determined by how much each group donates. There are several groups in Hope Ranch, and each has a unique name, such as Empty Nesters, Spinners and Friends, SB Gals, Helping Hands, to name just a few. There is a *Hope Ranch Living* group comprised of Meichelle Arntz, Emma Bridges, Cathy Cash, Rebecca Craig, Cindy Feinberg, Marilyn Gutsche, Sandi Hirsch, Cindy Hughes, Margie Larkin, Monica Lenches, Grace Neumann, Bonnie Paul, and Liz Heitmann.

This year, 10 local nonprofit agencies were awarded grants totaling \$750,000 from a record-breaking pool of member donations collected by the Women's Fund during 2020. The recipients were announced at the Annual Women's Fund Celebration of Grants event held virtually on May 5 and attended by hundreds of members and guests. These new grants bring the total amount awarded to local organizations to more than \$8.6 million since the Women's Fund was founded in 2004.

The 2020-2021 grant recipients will:

1. Provide mental health support in schools and to youth in crisis.
2. Expand the reach of medical services for families, low-income, and homeless people.
3. Sustain a successful preschool and expand childcare capacity for working families.
4. Distribute food to people experiencing homelessness.
5. Provide educational support to close the achievement gap.
6. Support homeless people living in their cars.

Agencies that received 2020-2021 grants are:

CALM - Child Abuse Listening

Mediation: \$75,000 to help sustain school-based mental health services for students, families, and educators. This grant will fund one full-time clinician at Franklin Elementary School.



Carpinteria Children's Project:

\$90,000 to sustain operations of the Carpinteria preschool serving low-wage working families. This grant will provide gap funding to sustain a tuition-based preschool.



Casa Pacifica: \$80,000 to fund an additional SAFTY mobile crisis counselor to respond to youth experiencing mental health emergencies. This grant will fund one additional counselor, reducing crisis response time and increasing the number of low-income youth receiving mental health services.



The Cecilia Fund: \$50,000 to expand coverage of medical and dental costs for patients who have no other way to pay for needed care. This grant will expand the program covering costs for additional patients.



Children and Family Resource

Services: \$100,000 to provide training, management, and support for 24 community workers, known as *Promotores*, to obtain certification and work as family health navigators. COVID-19 disproportionately impacted the Latino community and highlighted the need for equitable access to health care services. *Promotores* are Spanish-speaking volunteer educators who are able to discern and overcome cultural barriers that prevent people from accessing healthcare and other social services.



Children's Resource and Referral of Santa Barbara County:

\$100,000 to expand child care capacity by supporting more women to become licensed child care providers. This grant will provide funding to recruit, train, and assist 30 women to obtain family child care licenses that will create 240 new child care spaces in family-run daycare centers. Santa Barbara County has a deficit of 28,000 child care spaces with three children in line for every licensed child care space. This gap has widened significantly due to COVID-19; child care has become even more necessary as parents attempt to return to work.



Doctors Without Walls - Santa Barbara Street Medicine:

\$60,000 to sustain the daytime outreach specialist providing medical and mental health services to the homeless. This grant will fund the salary of the daytime Outreach Worker for one additional year.



New Beginnings Counseling Center:

\$75,000 to expand the Safe Parking program providing protected space and support for people living in their cars while seeking stable



Women's Fund board members (from left) Nancy Harter, Governance Chair, Melissa Gough, Corporate Secretary, Lynn Karlson, Board Chair, and Jacki Belt, Volunteer Engagement Chair. Photo by Kerry Parker



Co-chairs of the Communications & Marketing Committee (from left) Jamie Dufek, Sarah de Tagyos, and Mary Luthy. Mary also serves as the Newsletter Editor. Photo by Emily Hart-Roberts.

housing. This grant will pay for lot insurance and sanitation stations for 25 new parking spaces, direct financial assistance to clients, and a half-time staff person to manage Safe Parking program operations and expansion.

PATH Santa Barbara - People Assisting the

Homeless: \$50,000 to replace the cargo van used for collecting and distributing donated food to 450 PATH clients as well as a dozen agencies that feed the homeless.



United Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara

County: \$70,000 to provide scholarships to 103 low-income youth to attend a nine-week summer camp with daily educational sessions.



With no paid employees, volunteers operate the Women's Fund with impressively low overhead. More than 92 cents of every dollar spent in 2020 funded grants and education programs addressing the needs of women, children, and families in our community.

The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara is committed to building a large community of educated, strategic givers who are inspired to make lasting change in our community through the impact of collective giving. To learn more, visit www.womensfundsb.org.