

# ninety-nine girlfriends

COLLECTIVE GIVING FOR IMPACT: PORTLAND & SW WASHINGTON

c/o GRANTMAKERS of Oregon & SW Washington  
PO Box 6381, Portland, OR 97228  
503-226-6340 X 103  
ninety-ninegirlfriends.com  
info@ninety-ninegirlfriends.com

## WHAT DO WE DO AS NINETY-NINE GIRLFRIENDS?

### What do we do as ninety-nine girlfriends?

We are an all-volunteer group of women grantmakers. We each give \$1100 to reach our goal of giving one \$100,000 grant (the Impact Award) to a single organization in our four-county region (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Clark). This substantial grant amount will allow an organization to achieve great things. We will have significant impact.



### If we each give \$1000 towards a grant, where does that other \$100 go?

The other \$100 goes for administrative, event and educational expenses. These include our annual fee to Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington for their fiscal sponsor services, dues in the national Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network (WCGN—they have been a great source of information and inspiration for us), website fees, printing, mailing, and event costs.

### We had 117 members in our first year. Where did the extra \$17,000 go?

After giving our first \$100,000 Impact Award to Gateway to College National Network's PDX Bridge Project, the remaining \$17,000 was divided into four Finalist Awards of \$4,250. Those went to Family Forward Oregon, The Circus Project, Friends of Zenger Farm and Street Roots. Depending on the number of members we have in 2017, the remainder beyond \$100,000 will again be divided evenly, unless we have 200 or more members. Then we will give two \$100,000 grants, with any remainder above that divided.

### How are we letting organizations know that we are offering this wonderful, huge, impactful grant?



We have followed every commonly used channel in the nonprofit world—listings at nonprofit sites, newsletters, regular grant announcements, word of mouth, individual suggestions from all of our members, Facebook, and emails. We also conducted a training for all interested parties about how to submit Letters of Intent. We are thrilled to have received a broad cross-section of LOIs in our first year.

### **Is there just one area of giving?**

We give in five focus areas: Arts and Culture, Environment, Education, Health and Wellness, and Family and Human services. Our giving does not specifically focus on women and girls.

### **Who chooses the organizations we give to?**

As members, we all choose who gets the Impact Award. One woman equals one vote. We have incorporated guidance from other grantmakers and nonprofits to develop a process for Review Teams to research the projects and make recommendations for finalists. In the fall, all of us will be able to vote for our top choice. We hold an annual Meet the Finalists event in November where members hear short presentations from our five finalists before voting.”



### **When do we know the outcome?**

We share the voting results with a December celebration. We hope to have as many members there as possible to celebrate, connect, and contemplate on future possibilities for our great region.

### **How can I learn more about these organizations and the issues surrounding them if I am not on the Grants Committee?**

We will hold an educational Discovery Forum in mid-June to help educate us all and draw on local expertise. You may bring friends!

### **I'm really busy this year. Are there requirements for members regarding our involvement?**

The only requirement is that you vote in November (online voting). Beyond that, you may be involved as little or as much as you would like, year by year. Call or email us anytime and tell us your needs, skills, thoughts and ideas or if you want to jump onto a committee. Alternatively, if you don't want to be bothered, let us know that too. We know you are there in spirit supporting a wonderful cause, and that is highly appreciated. Every single member is highly appreciated, especially since we are all volunteers. Thank you.



### **If I do want to volunteer, what types of jobs are there?**

You can be a regular part of a committee (Communication, Education, Events, Grants, Membership), or you can do occasional small jobs for any of these committees, such as making calls, donating food, working at events, moderating, photography, research, sending thank-yous, providing expertise, and many more tasks.

## **Why do we write our membership checks to Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington?**

Your donation is tax deductible because we have a fiscal sponsor. Our sponsor, GOSW, also provides accounting help, a repository for our funds, a resource library, legal guidance, and general mentorship. They are committed to developing new and diverse philanthropies in our region, which is a great match for us. Because we are part of their group, all our ninety-nine girlfriends members have access to their many resources, workshops and seminars about local issues and about philanthropy: <http://gosw.org/get-the-latest/newsletter/>. Please contact them to have your email added to the list.

## **My friend wants to join. She missed the June 1 deadline this year—can she join anytime?**

Yes, she can join any day of the year by going to our website and filling out the membership form. She will be eligible to participate in the 2017 voting if she pays her membership contribution by June 1, 2017. Members who join after June 1, 2017 will have to wait until 2018 to vote.

## **My husband wants to give. Can he join?**

Not directly, yet he can participate through our Friends category of giving. "Friends" are women, men, corporations, foundations or others who want to support the work of ninety-nine girlfriends with a tax deductible contribution of any amount. Friends funds defray costs of our education and administrative expenses. Friends are listed on the website and invited to interact with us and subscribe to our newsletter. We love our Friends. Your husband or other friend, or even your business, can also contribute as a sponsor of one of our major events. This is a great way to get visibility with a distinguished and diverse group of women. Call Deborah for more information at 512-797-6211.

## **How do we find out what's going on with ninety-nine girlfriends?**

We have regular updates on our website ([www.ninety-ninegirlfriends.com](http://www.ninety-ninegirlfriends.com)), at our facebook page (Ninety-nine girlfriends), and with our upcoming quarterly newsletter. We also occasionally send a membership email with updates. A phone tree is sometimes used to contact our members



## **When do we have fun and just get to be girlfriends?**

All the time. We expect that fun is part of every event and every committee meeting across the year (it's up to all of us). We do plan to have a few relaxed joie de vivre, non-business evening gatherings.