Grant Recipients Announced for Women’s Fund Gala June 3

Six West Slope nonprofits will receive $60,000 in grants from Women’s Fund El Dorado (WFED) at its annual Grants Gala, set for Friday, June 3, at Lakehills Covenant Church, El Dorado Hills; all community members are welcome. The $25 ticket price ($30 after May 27) includes a buffet dinner. For tickets or information visit www.womensfundeldorado.org. The recipient 501(c)(3) organizations were selected by the WFED membership through voting.

Reflecting a change in the granting process this year, three Community Focus Grants totaling $45,000 will be awarded, along with Acorn, Human Services and Community Benefit grants of $5,000 each.

Community Focus Grants recipients are: Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County Western Slope, Only Kindness, Inc., and 3 Strands Global, Inc. The Boys and Girls Club will use the funds for its 2016–2017 SMART Girls program at its new facility in Placerville, benefiting more than 80 vulnerable girls ages 8–17. The program offers age-specific experiences to enhance physical and emotional health, creating a sound foundation for girls to feel great about themselves.

Only Kindness’s grant will go to assisting at-risk individuals in El Dorado County with a Street Outreach Mobile Office to bring services directly to those who need it most. It will provide in-depth screenings to determine each individual’s needs and respond with on-site service and referrals. 3 Strands Global, a program focused on human trafficking prevention, will use its grant to further its Break Free Education outreach to middle-, high-school and college students, teaching them about risk factors, tactics of exploiters and legal aspects to prevent and encourage identification of exploitation.
Additionally, three Impact Grants of $5,000 each will be awarded. The recipient in the Acorn category, for organizations that have never received a WFED grant, is Windows To My Soul, which provides mental health services using horses as therapeutic partners working in concert with a licensed human therapist. Its clients include veterans healing from PTSD. A grant in the Human Services category for organizations that meet human needs will go to The Center for Violence-Free Relationships, many of whose clients struggle with the major issue of transportation; The Center will collaborate with Uber on a remedy. Master Gardeners of El Dorado County (UCCE) will receive a grant in the Community Benefit category to help sustain its Sherwood Demonstration Garden, a place for visitors to experience hands-on learning in a beautiful environment of 16 individual gardens. The Community Benefit Grant supports the arts, environment, community beautification, animal welfare or community development.

The recipients of WFED’s Wickline Scholarships for women overcoming challenges to pursue further education will be announced as well, and attendees will also be inspired by accounts from some of last year’s grant recipients, which include Tahoe Turning Point of Placerville, Boys and Girls Club, NAMI El Dorado County Western Slope, CASA El Dorado, and the Safe At Home and A Brush With Kindness programs.

Since it was founded in 2007, WFED’s membership has grown to more than 400. After this year’s funds have been awarded, the organization will have granted approximately $410,000 and will have an endowment totaling more than $365,000.

A collective giving organization that pools its members’ donations, the Women’s Fund is open to all. Most members donate $200 each year and some donate more; donations are leveraged in the form of substantial grants that support community philanthropy to enhance the quality of life on the Western Slope of El Dorado County.

WFED has entrusted the El Dorado Community Foundation with overseeing its endowment fund and investing monies appropriately to diversify income and ensure its longevity. For details and to join or renew, please visit womensfundeldorado.org or call 530-622-5621.