



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOMEN'S FUND HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY NEEDS

This year, Women's Fund El Dorado (WFED) will grant a record \$108,000 to nonprofit agencies located on El Dorado County's Western Slope. A nonprofit collective giving organization, WFED pools funds collected from its members to create a grants program. Which nonprofits will receive funding this year is the question 250 members and guests of WFED came to the Cameron Park Community Center on February 6th to decide.

Grants Committee Chair Ann Curtis welcomed WFED members and guests to the Ballot Showcase and the evening was closed by WFED Chair Dickson Schwarzbach. Both commented on the quality of this year's applicants and praised each agency's ability to articulate its project.

The Ballot Showcase featured seventeen agencies winnowed from the forty-five that submitted proposals. Representatives from each agency were available to explain their programs and answer questions as attendees visited tables set up around the room. Appetizers were provided by the Foothill Grill, which offers catering and dinner options provided by El Dorado High School's ROP Culinary Arts students.

This year, three Impact Grants (up to \$8,000 each), two Inspiration Grants (up to \$30,000 each), and three Acorn Grants (up to \$8,000 each) will be awarded to agencies addressing diverse needs. The six Inspiration Grant finalists are: Arts and Culture El Dorado ("Historic Downtown Placerville Cultural District"); Community Resource Center (Black Oak Mine Unified School District); El Dorado High School ("Vaping, Drugs, Alcohol and Violence Prevention and Intervention" and "The Connections Project"); Sierra Elementary School ("Defending Hope with Social Emotional Learning and Counseling Services at Sierra School"); Upper Room Dining Hall ("Generate Hot Meals 365"); and Walk With Austin, INC. ("Inclusive Playground at Bass Lake in EDH").

Each of WFED's 420 members will have the opportunity to vote online through February 29, 2020. WFED funds the projects with the most member votes in each category. *"By pooling our donations, WFED is able to fund full projects. This gives non-profits predictable funding for a high priority project"* says Schwarzbach.

ABOUT WFED



Women's Fund El Dorado, a fund of the El Dorado Community Foundation, is open to all for a donation of \$200 (or more) per year. In addition to grants to local nonprofit agencies, WFED also awards the annual Wickline Scholarship to women needing assistance in pursuing higher education and provides financial assistance to meet the medical, mental health, dental, and optical needs of women and children through the Lighthouse Fund. For details visit womensfundeldorado.org.

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Photos:

Photo Credit: Melissa Hayden Portrait

wf 27: (L to R) Lisa Hermann, Judith Dillon, Nancy Weddle, Pam Roberts

wf 49: Robyn Parker and Julie Parker (left) with Shawna Samboceti

wf 43: Debbie McClenahan with Assistance League learns more about nonprofit organization Walk with Austin, Inc. from Adam Reininger

wf 45: Deanna Santana (left) with EL Dorado County Recorder Clerk, Janelle Horne (right)

wf 50: WFED Marketing Chair Mindee Thyrring (left) with Ainslie Howenstine (right)