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Women's Fund Leans in to Support Community

In the midst of an unprecedented time of urgent community needs, Women's Fund El Dorado's (WFED) membership came together to provide immediate need funding to organizations serving the western slope of El Dorado County that provide direct services to vulnerable community members impacted by the Coronavirus. *"This urgent need granting was new for WFED. A survey of our over 400 members showed overwhelming support for funding organizations that could provide direct relief to community members with urgent needs. This granting is in addition to the annual grants program,"* said WFED chair, Dickson Schwarzbach.

WFED awarded \$24,600 in rapid response grant funding to six organizations serving the western slope of El Dorado County. Each of the following agencies received \$4,100: El Dorado County Office of Education's homeless youth program, New Morning Youth and Family Services, The Upper Room Dining Hall, El Dorado County Food Bank, The Center for Violence Free Relationships and Military Family Support Group. Additional program and funding details can be found on the WFED website at womensfundel dorado.org/covid19funds.

El Dorado County Office of Education Homeless Youth Coordinator, Margaret Lewis, who received funding in support of their food pantry, which serves homeless and low income youth and families, offered her gratitude to WFED noting, *"I am deeply and sincerely appreciative for this gift toward our food pantry. These funds will allow us to continue to supplement the nutritional needs for our families in a consistent and meaningful way. Thank you, WFED, for all that you do in the community."*

The granting process was led by WFED's Grants Chair, Ann Curtis. *"I am so privileged to be a part of WFED. I feel like I have personally contributed to helping our community in a way I never could have done alone. Our whole team came together to identify funds, create a strong process, identify agencies, provide funding and have data to report back to our members at the end. It is such a powerful example of what we can do when we work together,"* noted Curtis.

Since its establishment in 2007, WFED has used the power of collective giving to provide needed funding to nonprofit organizations and schools. WFED combines donations from its members for an annual grants program. The urgent need awards will not affect WFED's 2020 grant cycle, which will award an additional \$108,000 in funding this year.

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 organizations serving our community, WFED also awards the annual Wickline Scholarship to women needing assistance in pursuing higher education. It also provides financial assistance to meet the medical, mental health, dental, and optical needs of women and children through its LightHouse Fund. For details visit womensfundeldorado.org.