

County Women Champion Change

Women in Santa Barbara County—daughters, mothers, grandmothers, and aunts—are demonstrating the collective power of modest donations to help families in crisis.

The members of the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara recently awarded \$725,000 to 10 local nonprofits to improve the lives of women, children and families in our community. Now in its fifth year, the Women's Fund boasts approximately 375 members who, individually or in groups, pool their charitable donations. The women research critical community needs and then vote on which organizations will receive funds. They represent all ages and backgrounds and are playing a vital role in creating a healthy and productive community: encouraging change where needed and supporting programs to meet community needs. The Santa Barbara Foundation is proud to be an active partner and provider of a fiscal home to the Fund since 2004. The Orfaea Foundations have been

A sister organization, the Women's Fund of Northern Santa Barbara County, was established in 2008 and has made awards to nonprofits that feed the hungry, advocate for children, and provide shelter to families. In partnership with the Northern Santa Barbara County United Way, this group of women plan to make awards in June.

Wherever they are located, in Santa Barbara County and across the United States, Women's Funds are cutting through red tape and helping families who are experiencing hard times. Doing good work with very little fuss, they are making philanthropy a tool for progressive social change, for developing women's leadership, and for making a difference. We're fortunate to have such groups in our midst.

To learn more about the two funds, visit womensfundsb.org and nsbwomensfund.com. See page 6 for details on the Women's Fund of

Santa Barbara awarded.



Thankful recipients. Front row from left: Silvana Kelly, Executive Director, Breast Cancer Resource Center; Gabriela Rodriguez, Santa Barbara program coordinator, Future Leaders of America; Cynder Sindair, Executive Director, Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics; and The Parent Project coordinator, Linda Guerrero. Back row from left: Craig Belknap, Executive Director, Casa Serena; Matt Sanchez, Executive Director, AllforOne Youth and Mentoring; John Becchio, Principal, Santa Barbara Junior High, on behalf of CORE at Santa Barbara Junior High; Amir Abo-Shaear, Director, Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy; Kim Kovol, CEO, United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara; and PathPoint Executive Director, Cindy Burton.

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