

**For Immediate Release – May 10, 2019**

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### **Women's Fund Celebrates Grants**

A record \$100,000 was awarded to seven nonprofits by Women's Fund El Dorado (WFED) at its annual Grants Gala held at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds on May 2.

The dinner event, which recognized the successes of WFED's 2018 grant recipients and formally recognized the 2019 grantees, was open to the community and was attended by about 200. WFED is a collective giving organization open to all that pools donations from its more than 300 members. These are leveraged in the form of grants that support community philanthropy to enhance the quality of life on the western slope.

In her opening remarks, Chair Dickson Schwarzbach announced that WFED had reached its endowment goal of \$500,000, thereby assuring the fund's long-term stability.

Inspiration Grants of \$30,000 each were awarded to two organizations. An organization that combats human trafficking, 3Strands Global Foundation, received its second grant for its Employ + Empower Reintegration Program. This is a partnership with community agencies to place survivors of human trafficking and at-risk youth in jobs and give them the behavioral health services they need to succeed.

Another Inspiration Grant was awarded to Sierra Elementary School for Defending Hope with Social Emotional Learning for ALL Students at Sierra School, a program that offers counseling services to students in an age of increased school violence.

Operation School Bell, the Assistance League Sierra Foothill's program funded by WFED in 2018, was able to provide 380 deserving children in grades K-8 with new clothing for the school year.

The Inspiration Grant recipient, 3Strands Global Foundation, reported that their Employ + Empower Reintegration Program was able not only to educate agencies in recognizing victims of human trafficking but also to work with victims to ensure they receive the services they need.

Additionally, five Acorn Grants, totaling nearly \$40,000 were awarded to new nonprofits or those that have never received a WFED grant. Recipients were El Dorado Fire Safe Council (Develop Defensible Space Buffer Around Homes, \$7,750), El Dorado Union High School (Supporting Youth in the Pursuit of STEM & Robotics, \$8,000), SAFE-D of El Dorado County (Free Grab Bar Installations for Low Income, Seniors and Disabled, \$8,000), Hands4Hope

(Empowering Youth at El Dorado High School and Beyond Through Education and Community Engagement, \$8,000) and UCCE Extension Master Gardeners of El Dorado County (Share the Goodness of the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, \$8,000).

The evening also provided WFED's Education Committee with the opportunity to recognize recipients of its Wickline Scholarships, which help women overcome challenges and return to college. Raquel Davidson received \$2,000 to complete her nursing degree at Sacramento City College; Mary Ann Van Schoyck received \$1,000 to pursue her master's degree in Social Work at the University of Louisville; and Jo Ann de Roco received \$1,000 to attend a six-week full immersion program at the Spanish Institute of Puebla in Puebla, Mexico,

For more information or to join Women's Fund El Dorado, please visit [womensfundeldorado.org](http://womensfundeldorado.org).

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All photos by Shelly Thorene

Photo 1: WFED Members L to R: Cynthia Leisz Higgins, Barbara Bills, Nancy Dunk

Photo 2: 2019 Wickline Scholars and WFED Education Member L to R: Linda Lockwood, Raquel Davison, Jo Ann de Roco

Photo 3: Master Gardeners L to R: Robin Stanley, Jan Sherwood, Tracy Celio