



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — June 9, 2015**

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**Women's Fund Awards Grants to Local Nonprofits**

Six Western Slope nonprofits received nearly \$60,000 from Women's Fund El Dorado (WFED) at its annual Grants Gala June 4 at Lakehills Covenant Church, El Dorado Hills. The recipient 501(c)(3) organizations were voted on by the membership of WFED, a collective giving organization that pools members' donations. "United, we can accomplish so much for the nonprofits in our community," noted WFED Grants Committee Chair Debi Harlow.

A total of \$42,500 in Focus Grants was awarded to two organizations aimed at "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty" on the Western Slope: **Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado County Western Slope** and **Tahoe Turning Point of Placerville**. Funds will go to the Boys and Girls Club's Sponsor a Child Program to help hundreds of kids every day come to the club who otherwise could not afford it. Tahoe Turning Point will use its grant to provide a full spectrum of outpatient counseling and therapy services to help clients with a condition called dual diagnosis (addiction and mental health disorders).

Additionally, Impact Grants of \$5,000 each were awarded in three member-selected areas of need: providing solutions to mental health challenges, supporting women and children and promoting senior services. **NAMI El Dorado County Western Slope** will receive funds to expand its outreach and begin a new class directed toward families with a child or children developing symptoms of mental illness. **Child Advocates of El Dorado County (CASA El Dorado)** will be granted funds to ensure that every identified child at risk of human trafficking is provided a CASA advocate in 2015. An Impact Grant awarded to a collaboration between **A Brush With Kindness** and **Safe At Home** programs in Western El Dorado County will go toward providing home safety measures and exterior repairs to senior homeowners in western El Dorado County so they can age-in-place safely and with dignity.

The recipients of WFED's Wickline Scholarships were announced as well, and awarded to Amanda Hairston, Tonya Pena, Susan Read and Vanessa Zavala, three of whom were present at the gala. The scholarships, a gift of the late Marian Wickline, are awarded to women

overcoming challenges to pursue further education. “This second chance would not be possible without things like the Wickline Scholarship,” said Read, who is pursuing a degree in social work from Cal State Sacramento.

Attendees also heard inspiring stories from representatives of last year’s grant recipient nonprofits, which included New Morning Youth and Family Services and a collaborative partnership of Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Dorado County and The Center for Violence-Free Relationships.

Since it was founded in 2007, WFED’s membership has grown to over 400. After this year’s funds have been awarded, the organization will have granted more than \$350,000 and will have an endowment totaling more than \$340,000.

A collective giving organization, 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](http://womensfundeldorado.org) or call 530-622-5621.

## **PHOTOS:**

**2015\_WFED\_Wickline\_Scholars.jpg** — From left: Amanda Hairston, Vanessa Zavala and Susan Read were presented with Wickline Scholarships at the June Grants Gala. Not pictured: scholarship recipient Tonya Pena. The scholarships, a gift of the late Marian Wickline, are awarded to women overcoming challenges to pursue further education.

**214\_WFED\_Focus\_Grants.jpg** — Clockwise from lower left: Matt Williams (The Center for Violence-Free Relationships), David Ashby (New Morning Youth and Family Services) and Brenda Frachiseur (Big Brothers Big Sisters El Dorado County) shared inspiring accounts of those helped by Women’s Fund Focus Grants in 2014. The three were featured speakers at the June Grants Gala.

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