



For Immediate Release

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Women's Fund Celebrates Passion, Purpose and Philanthropy

Passion. Purpose. Philanthropy. Those three words sum up the ingredients of social responsibility, according to Andrea Howard, featured speaker at Thursday evening's (Oct. 4) Annual Celebration of the Women's Fund El Dorado (WFED), attended by more than 250 members and guests at the fairgrounds. The purpose of the October event is to celebrate what the organization has accomplished over the previous year.

Guest speaker Howard, herself a WFED member since 2011, commended WFED for using the power of collective giving to "elevate nonprofits all around us and achieve maximum impact." She is principal planner for Parker Development Company and is active on a number of boards and numerous professional and nonprofit organizations.

Howard stated that "passion, purpose and philanthropy" hadn't come to her naturally, but her belief in community service began with a mentor's challenge to "think about something bigger than myself." She came to learn that a passion and purpose for serving others "is not just seeing and complaining" about injustices; instead, it's "being part of the solution...leaving things better than you found them."

Juggling the many facets of a busy life requires the support of family, she acknowledged, sharing another formative event in her journey to social responsibility, her father's depression and suicide in 2011. Giving back has also become a form of therapy, she said.

Social responsibility and philanthropy needn't "break the bank," and WFED's collective model "has shifted the paradigm...people in all income brackets can practice philanthropy," she concluded.

Following Howard's talk, attendees enjoyed a video tribute to WFED that featured personal testimonials from people directly affected by just three of the nonprofits recently funded: the Marshall Foundation for Community Health, the Military Family Support Group and the Boys and Girls Club El Dorado County Western Slope.

Outgoing WFED Chair Robyn Parker noted that 2018 "was an energizing year," with a record \$84,000 granted to west slope nonprofits. This was in addition to a total of \$6,000 awarded to three deserving women through their Wickline Scholarship fund, and over \$6,500 granted to 18 under - and uninsured women and children through the LightHouse Fund, both administered by WFED.

She also outlined two major structural changes on the horizon for WFED. Since its Endowment Fund now surpasses \$500,000, as of Jan. 1, 2019, membership donations will

be restructured to allow more of members' contributions to go directly to grants, furthering the organization's mission of improving the quality life on the county's western slope. In addition, requests for proposals (RFPs) for the 2019 grant cycle will be released earlier, on Nov. 8, 2018.

Incoming WFED Chair Dickson Schwarzbach closed the evening by paying tribute to her predecessor, Robyn Parker, expressing gratitude for her support and her "wise and capable" stewardship of "our collective giving."

About WFED:

Founded in 2007, Women's Fund El Dorado is a collective giving organization that pools its members' donations and is open to all. Members' 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.

The El Dorado Community Foundation is entrusted with overseeing the WFED endowment fund and investing monies appropriately to diversify income and ensure its longevity. Over the past decade, WFED's membership has grown to more than 400 and more than \$566,000 has been granted to local nonprofits.

For details and to join or renew, please visit womensfundeldorado.org or call 530-622-5621.