

# Women's Fund of Santa Barbara Donates \$725,000 to Local Nonprofits



2008 Women's Fund Award Recipients Third Row: **Cindy Burton**, PathPoint Executive Director; **Matt Sanchez**, AllForOne Youth and Mentoring, Executive Director; **John Becchio**, Santa Barbara Junior High Principal; **Craig Belknap**, Casa Serena Executive Director. Second Row: **Silvana Kelly**, Executive Director, Breast Cancer Resource Center; **Linda Guarena**, The Parent Project Coordinator; **Kim Kovol**, CEO United Boys & Girls Clubs of SB; **Amir Abo-Shaeer**, Director Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy. First Row: **Gabriela Rodriguez**, SB Program Coordinator Future Leaders of America and **Cynder Sinclair**, Executive Director SB Neighborhood Clinics

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS**/ CASA

**HANGING LIVES TOGETHER** is the motto of the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara who gathered at a packed El Paseo Restaurant for their annual awards luncheon. The Women's Fund donated \$725,000 to ten local nonprofits at the luncheon, underwritten and hosted by Meredith and John Scott.

"The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara celebrates its fifth anniversary and has set yet another record in the amount being presented today, raising \$125,000 more than last year," commented Jo Gifford, 2008 Oversight Committee Co-Chair of Women's Fund of Santa Barbara.

The Women's Fund has a unique way of working, there is no board of directors, no scheduled meetings, and no fundraising events. To become a member an individual woman makes a donation of \$2,500 once a year and is allowed to cast one vote to decide which organization will receive

a grant. Women who contribute small amounts, can also participate by creating a group, in which they collectively donate the \$2,500 and cast one vote.

"The good we do together is more than the good we do alone," shared Gifford. "The recent generosity of our members and the matching grant of \$353,000 from the Orfalea Fund has helped keep The Fund's expenses to two percent this year, allowing us to contribute more to our community."



**Rachel Ross Steidl**, 2008 Oversight Committee member and **Meredith Scott** Women's Fund member and Luncheon host

In the last five years the Women's Fund has donated \$2.2 million to programs serving women, children, and families in Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria. The Fund has also seen an

increase in membership from 79 members in 2004 to 400 in 2008.

The nonprofits that received 2008 Women's Fund awards include: AllforOne Youth and Mentoring (\$65,000); Breast Cancer Resource Center (\$30,000); Casa Serena (\$75,000); Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy (\$150,000); Future Leaders of America (\$65,000); The Parent Project (\$35,000); PathPoint (\$75,000); Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics (\$80,000); and United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara (\$80,000).



**Carol Palladini**, Women's Fund Founding Committee Chair; 2008 Research Committee Co-Chairs **Stina Hans** and **Sarah de Tagyos**; and **Jo Gifford**, 2008 Oversight Committee Co-Chair

For more information visit [www.womensfunds.org](http://www.womensfunds.org).

See more **Photos by Priscilla** at [santabarbaraseen.com](http://santabarbaraseen.com)  
Contact her at [priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com](mailto:priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com) • (805) 969-3301