

Women's Fund of Santa Barbara Awards \$365,000 to Five Local Nonprofits



Richard Kravetz, Executive Director, Domestic Violence Solutions; **Randy Sunday**, Executive Director Sarah House; **Mike Foley**, Executive Director, Casa Esperanza Homeless Center; **Brian Clark**, Regional Coordinator, Catholic Charities of SB; **Tish Gainey**, Co-Chair, WF Research Committee, **Rachael Steidl**, Co-chair, WF Oversight Committee; **Sister Betty Marie Dunkel**, D.C. Interim Executive Director, St Vincent's of SB; **Stina Hans**, Co-Chair, WF Research Committee; **Flaurette Barsom-Janigian**, Co-Chair, WF Oversight Committee; **Carol Palladini**, WF Founding Chair

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

THE WOMEN'S FUND TAKES PRIDE IN GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. Last week at their annual awards reception, the Women's Fund granted \$365,000 to five local non-profits.

"This is an exciting event because Women's Fund members find out which organizations will receive the grants," shared Flaurette Barsom-Janigian, WF Oversight Committee Co-chair. "Later in the year we will witness our donations in action at our annual Site Visits...Together we are helping to make things happen."

After reading an article in the *LA Times* about the Everychild Foundation, Carol Palladini and Meredith Scott invited its founder Jacqueline Caster to speak at the Santa Barbara Foundations' Women in Philanthropy program.

"I was burnt out from serving on non-profit boards," shared Palladini. "Jacqueline's presentation about women's donor funds was inspiring and simple. I thought, Santa Barbara has to do it."

Since its inception in 2004, the Women's Fund has given more than \$2.5 million to 33 agencies in the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. It has grown from 67 members in 2004 to 409 in 2009.

"Ninety-seven percent of the money donated to the Women's Fund goes straight into the community to give to others," shared

Palladini. "The Women's Fund is an all volunteer organization without board groups, fundraisers, parties...It's just giving, simply giving."

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. Another option is to create a woman's group, which collectively donate the \$2,500 and cast one vote. "The women love the groups," shared Palladini. "This year we have 44 groups."

The Women's Fund gathers twice a year. Each Spring the women identify three pressing issues in the community. This year it was narrowed down to human services, housing and shelter, and education.

The non profits that will benefit from this year's grants include: Casa Esperanza Homeless Center (\$90,000); Catholic Charities of Santa Barbara (\$85,000); Domestic Violence Solutions (\$75,000); Sarah House (\$40,000); and St. Vincent's of Santa Barbara (\$75,000).

For the sixth year, the luncheon at El Paseo Restaurant was underwritten and hosted by Meredith and John Scott. For the second year they were joined in underwriting by Kathryn Calise.



WF members and luncheon underwriters **Kathryn Calise** and **Meredith Scott**



Jacqueline Caster, Founder & President of Everychild Foundation

The Women's Fund of Santa Barbara responds to critical community needs by making substantial gifts in the Santa Barbara area.

For more information call 963-1873 or visit www.womensfundsb.org.



2010 Research Committee Members: **Stina Hans**, **Barbara Hauter Woodward**, **Susan Case**, **Donna B. Fisher Yates**, **Melissa Gough**, and **Tish Gainey**

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