

The Communique

A PUBLICATION OF IMPACT 100 REDWOOD CIRCLE

Women Transforming Sonoma County Through Collective Philanthropy

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Impact Members,

One of the most notable strengths of Impact 100 Redwood Circle is our adaptability and eagerness to evolve. In early 2023, we shifted our approach to grantmaking, transitioning from funding specific projects to supporting the core missions of our nonprofit partners. And now, we are engaged in another significant change as we adapt to an entirely new leadership structure, one tailor-made for a volunteer-led giving circle that continues to expand in membership size and philanthropic capacity.

Last July, following the Leadership Team's approval of the new leadership structure, the Executive Committee appointed a Leadership Transition Team (LTT) headed by former President Suzy Marzalek. The LTT, including Sharon Keating, Gail Ginder, Christy Pichel, and Susan Milstein, has begun working with current and incoming officers and committee co-chairs. Our goal is to ensure a smooth transition into our new roles and responsibilities while enhancing our collaborative efforts for the betterment of our organization.



(Continued on page 2)

Congrats to our 2024 Officers!

- Christy Pichel
- Linda Drew
- Jody Edwards
- Susan Milstein
- Frieda Ireland

Upcoming Impact Events:

- [ED Talk](#), 10/17
- [Impact Grant Awards](#), 11/11



Upcoming Grantee Events:

- Alchemia - Petaluma's Arts Live Event 10/19
- VOICES - Thanksgiving, 11/21
- Alchemia - Open House, 12/15

More information on events can be found on the following pages



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Women Transforming Sonoma County Through Collective Philanthropy

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT (CON'T)

We are fully committed to this preparatory work so that our 2024 officers and committee co-chairs can start the new year fully equipped in their roles as members of the Steering Committee (formerly the Executive Committee) and the Coordinating Council (formally the Leadership Team).

How might this affect you as a member? The new organizational and decision-making structure was designed to allow for a more robust, cross-committee discussion of the goals we set and strategies we employ to deepen our impact in our community. Committee members will hear more from their co-chairs about how their ongoing work is linked with that of other committees. All other members, stay tuned for reports on our progress.

I'd like to take this moment to congratulate the 2024 officers: Christy Pichel (President), Jody Edwards (Vice President), Linda Drew (President-elect), Susan Milstein (Secretary/Archivist), and Frieda Ireland (Treasurer). I cannot imagine a more capable team to guide us into this new era.

The entire 2023 and 2024 leadership team looks forward to collaborating over the next few months to ensure the smoothest transition possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at impact100president@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Mindi

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MEMBER EVENTS



YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR IMPACT!

Our final in-person event of the year will be held on November 11th at Iron and Vine from 9 to 11 AM! This is an opportunity to socialize, enjoy a continental breakfast, hear a quick business update and enjoy presentations from three of our past Impact Grant recipients: VOICES (2016), The LIME Foundation (2021) and the Jewish Community Free Clinic (2022). Following these three presentations, we will learn who the members of Impact 100 Redwood Circle have selected to receive our \$100,000 Impact Grant for 2023!



Registration is now open. Respond to the email invitation sent to all members or [click here to register](#). Guests are welcome but must be both registered and hosted by a member. All attendees must be registered in advance. For questions on the event, email Impact100Events@gmail.com

Women *in* Conversation The Press Democrat



Thank you to the members of Impact 100 Redwood Circle who supported our exhibit at the Women in Conversation Experience at the Green Music Center on September 20. We had fun sharing our story and community impact. A special thanks to: Suzanne Abrams, Robin Anderson, Sharon Beckman, Linda Drew, Ann Marie McGee, Carol Orme, Janie Read and Eloise Tweeten.

IMACT GRANT



2023 IMPACT GRANT FINALISTS

The Impact Grant Committee is pleased to announce the three finalists for the 2023 Impact Grant.

Conservation Corps North Bay
Los Cien
The Living Room

These nonprofit organizations were selected after multiple rounds of rigorous application review, including live Q&A interviews and careful vetting. The Impact Grant Committee is confident that all three organizations are capable of putting our \$100,000 grant to powerful use in our county.

Watch your email for your online ballot, which will be sent on Friday, October 20th. All current members in good standing will have two weeks to read the finalists' written summaries of their organization and proposal, view their short videos, and cast votes for the winning organization. Dyad members may cast a single vote. **All ballots must be submitted by 5 pm on Friday, Nov. 3rd.**

The organization who receives the top number of votes will receive the \$100,000 Impact Grant and the other two finalists will receive \$20,000 Merit Grants each. All three grants will be announced at our Annual Impact Grant Celebration Event on Saturday, Nov. 11th, 9am – 11am at Iron and Vine. Stay tuned for more details!



NOMINATING



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 OFFICERS!

We are thrilled to announce the unanimous approval of the 2024 slate of officers for Impact 100 Redwood Circle. You will have an opportunity to meet them at our November 11 annual meeting:



EDUCATION

ED TALK: OCTOBER 17 "TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE...ONE STEP AT A TIME."

October 17th, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Zoom

Don't forget to register and attend!

We present Misti Arias, General Manager of the Sonoma County Ag and Open Space District, who will inform us of the hard work being done in our county to protect our environment and slow climate change, from forests to oceans to everywhere in between. Rather than climate fatigue, let's hear what the issues are and the progress being made.

Watch your email for your invitation to this last ED TALK of 2024. Register **a friend and yourself** now.



BEYOND THE CHECK



VOICES IS IN NEED!

Needs: Foodstuffs, clothing suitable for youth aged 16 to 24, Target gift cards, cleaning supplies, toiletries, discarded phones, laptops in working order, fresh food, cookware, art supplies and, of course, cash. If you are interested as an individual in making a one time or recurring gift or if your church group or club would like to create an ongoing donation program, **contact Andres Cantera:**

707-812-3786 or
andres@voicesyouthcenter.org



ALCHEMIA UPCOMING EVENTS

Our 2023 Community Grantee has upcoming events:

1. Petaluma's Arts alive event. October 19 from 5-8, 111 Kentucky St, Petaluma
2. On Friday December 15 from 10-12 they will be having an open house at their Santa Rosa location. 394 Tesconi Ct, Santa Rosa

ANNUAL EVENT: THANKSGIVING AT VOICES

The inaugural grant in 2016 was given to Voices -- a non-profit that supports foster, probation, and homeless youth access to services in Sonoma County. Each year since then a group of members have provided some of their favorite dishes for a Thanksgiving dinner. This year they are expecting to return to pre-Covid numbers of attendees and we'd like to continue this lovely tradition. The event is on Tuesday, Nov. 21. For future details about the dishes to sign up for, quantities and delivery time, please send a note to theahensel@gmail.com and we shall put you on the contact list.

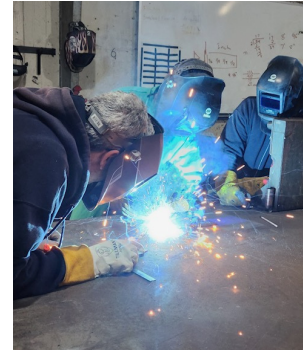
NEXTGEN TRADES ACADEMY

Reforming Youth with Trades

Since receiving the 2021 Impact Grant, the LIME Foundation has enhanced its hands-on training to students at the NextGen Trades Academy while also expanding the number of its graduates.

The NextGen Trades Academy offers education, professional development, and employment opportunities in the construction trades to individuals aged 16–24. This program not only guides participants toward promising job prospects and careers, but also addresses the workforce shortage within the local construction industry.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Academy successfully enrolled 144 participants in 2022 and through the present year of 2023. Out of this total, 86 students have graduated from the program, an increase of 7.5 percent over the 2020 and 2021 graduation rates. Furthermore, two additional classes, each with a capacity of up to 15 students, are scheduled before the end of 2023.



“We’re excited because, by the end of this year, we’ll have the opportunity to graduate another 20 to 24 students,” LIME Foundation Founder and Executive Director said.

“Receiving the Impact Grant has positioned us to be able to do more great work in our community and has freed us up to take our organization to the next level.”

Since 2022, 84 percent of the graduated students have landed jobs in various trades, including roofing, plumbing, electrical work, painting, and construction. Other graduates are either actively seeking employment, pursuing further education, or fulfilling their obligations in juvenile custody. Several of these graduates face obstacles in gaining employment such as the lack of a driver’s license or personal transportation.

In September, Letitia gave her final update to the Liaison Committee. The video recording of that presentation will be posted on our website soon.

Letitia will deliver the final presentation of the LIME Foundation’s grant period at our November 11th membership meeting. She will also give us a glimpse of her vision for the organization’s future.



2023 COMMUNITY GRANTEE: PLAY IT FORWARD MUSIC FOUNDATION

Johnny, a young cello student, struggles with ADHD and anxiety. Access to lessons his family could not afford has given him focus and an outlet through his instrument when experiencing stress. Brenda has always dreamed of joining the youth orchestra, but her parents are immigrant farm workers and can't pay for lessons. Felipe lives out of the car with her 4-year-old twins. Music Mondays at The Living Room is "the one joyful thing [she] has to look forward to".

Play it Forward Music Foundation (PIFMF) believes in the power of music to improve lives, both collectively and individually, which is why, in 2016, music teachers Nick Simmons and David Silva joined together to raise funds for students who could not afford music lessons. PIFMF's Free Music Lessons program currently supports 15 students with weekly lessons on an instrument of their choice with a local teacher. Our robust instrument donation program sees unused instruments put in the hands of those who will play them. And through collaboration with other organizations, we provide interested students with performance opportunities.



Johnny playing the cello

But PIFMF doesn't stop there. Through grants and organizational donations we have been able to offer vibrant music programming in two schools that serve some of our county's most vulnerable youth. New Horizon School and Learning Center is a non-public school that offers students who don't quite fit in the traditional mold of our education system an alternative. Journey Academy serves teens whose lives have been disrupted by situations out of their control. We also are proud to host a singing group at The Living Room Day Center, which provides a safe place for women and their children at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.



None of this would be possible without the support of companies, organizations and the individuals who believe in the power of music to transform lives. **The Impact 100 Redwood Circle Community Improvement Grant has given us the opportunity to strengthen these programs and focus on building our organization from the ground up, so we can continue to Play the Music Forward.**

GRANT MAKING



PHILANTHROPIC TRENDS: RESOURCES FOR YOUR LEARNING

Over the past year, the Grantmaking Task Force submitted a monthly article to share research highlights about current philanthropic trends. In this final column, we wish to share resources for those who want to delve deeper into the topic.

Listed below are general sources we consulted. While we found all 12 worthwhile, the Center for Effective Philanthropy was the most helpful.

1. **[Center for Effective Philanthropy](#)**, a resource for improving the effectiveness of philanthropic funders.
2. **[Candid](#)**: in 2019, Foundation Center and GuideStar joined forces to become Candid. This is an information center for both grant-seekers and grant-makers and a prominent resource in the non-profit community.
3. **[Council on Foundations](#)** provides opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations.
4. **[Grantmakers for Effective Organizations](#)**, committed to providing smarter grant making practices.
5. **[The Monitor Institute](#)**, a social enterprise that surfaces and spreads best practices in public problem solving and pioneers next practices.
6. **[The Women's Funding Network](#)**, a collaborative philanthropic network dedicated to funding women's solutions worldwide.
7. **[PEAK Grantmaking](#)**, provides articles/webinars to operationalize equity-centered, values-driven Grantmaking practices
8. **[Philanthropy Together](#)**, a national initiative by the Gates Foundation for scaling and strengthening collective giving networks.
9. **[Philanos](#)**, supports women-led giving circles across the US, provides peer to peer sharing on topics such as "Grant Making with an Equity Lens" and "Organizational/Membership DEI Strategies".
10. **[Lilly Family School of Philanthropy](#)**: University of Indiana, the [Women's Philanthropy Institute](#) is the only academic institute dedicated to furthering the understanding of gender and philanthropy through research, education, and knowledge dissemination
11. **[Kellogg School of Nonprofit Management](#)** (at Northwestern) – Equity Essentials courses and materials (including downloadable PDF's and videos)
12. **[Stanford University](#)** – Center for Social Innovation; wealth of courses, free webinars, research, online resources and the journal

GOVERNANCE



The revised Governance Policies and Organizational Information document, which was approved by the Leadership Team in September 2023, is now accessible to members on our website's members' page.

The revised Governance document encompasses all policies approved by the Leadership Team to date and provides details about the new leadership structure, which will be fully implemented by January 2024.

If you have any questions about the Governance document, please contact Valorie Bader, Vice President – Governance, at valorie@wellyweaver.com.

GIVING CIRCLE AFFILIATE

PHILANOS



UPCOMING PHILANOS EVENTS

Tech Talk – October 19 – 9 AM PT. (Virtual Event) Open to all interested members. Discussion will be covering: Software programs to simplify operations for your circle. Using website graphics to boost your messaging. Non-techies welcome. [Tech Talk Registration Link](#).

Membership Roundtable – October 24 – 9 AM PT. (Virtual Event) Open to all interested members. Discussion will be covering: Various ways that Philanos affiliates recruit and attract new members. Member activities for engagement and retention. [Membership Roundtable Registration Link](#).

Philanos National Conference “PowerUP: The Spark Igniting Collaboration” – November 5–7, Baltimore (In-Person and Virtual Event) This is both an in-person with a streaming option for portions of the conference. The virtual pass includes the keynote on Sunday, November 5; 4 breakout sessions on Monday, November 6; and the plenary speaker, awards and a breakout session on Tuesday, November 7. The entire conference is open to all members of a Philanos Affiliate and includes Keynote and Plenary speakers, 20 breakout sessions, networking, affinity groups and more. Visit the [Conference Event Page](#) for more details.

INTERESTING ARTICLE

[Philanthropy Women: Leaders First for Feminist Giving in Congress with First-Ever Hill Day \(Sept 20, 2023\)](#)