

The Communique

A PUBLICATION OF IMPACT 100 REDWOOD CIRCLE



Women Transforming Sonoma County Through Collective Philanthropy

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Head and Heart

Recently, I was in a meeting where the facilitator asked everyone to say a few words before we started. She asked us to tell the group what was in our heads and what was in our hearts. I was struck by the dual concept of the head and the heart, and realized that often what is in my head can be entirely different from what is in my heart. By sharing both those things with the group, I believe that we truly connected with each other at a deeper level.

The head and heart concept applies to Impact 100 Redwood Circle. The intellectual acts of pooling our dollars and carefully selecting nonprofits quickly appealed to my head. As I became engaged in the organization, met brilliant, active, and caring women, and saw our grants' impact on our grantee partners and their organizations, my heart was truly engaged.

I've spoken with many other leaders of giving circles across the country, and there is a common refrain: Engaged members enjoy their membership more



URGENT!

Volunteers Needed

The Events Committee is in dire need of members. Click [here](#) to see how you can help.

New Members:

- Geri Brown
- Patti Callahan
- Jackie Reuling
- Bridget Sheils

Upcoming Impact Events:

- [Visit The Living Room](#), 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11
- [ED Talk](#), 1/18
- [Bustin' Bias](#), 1/23-2/27



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Women Transforming Sonoma County Through Collective Philanthropy

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT (CON'T)

fully and make their giving circles stronger. We are curious and concerned about each other and our communities in the best ways. We are most likely to renew our membership, as we become fully integrated into our giving circles and the health and vibrancy of our communities. We truly make an individual and a collective difference.

I invite you to engage more deeply with Impact 100 Redwood Circle. We are always seeking committee members and other leaders. As I finish my term as President, I can promise you from personal experience that your time will be enjoyable and well spent.

It has been an amazing year helping to lead this organization to our now \$1,449 million of contributions to our Sonoma communities. I am grateful to each of you for that opportunity. From both our heads and our hearts, we have a great deal to be proud of and are well-positioned for our future.

My best wishes for a warm and wonderful holiday season,
Mindi

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ALCHEMIA

With support from Impact 100 Redwood Circle, Alchemia is expanding and developing community awareness and engagement surrounding the contributions of artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Every artist has a voice. Alchemia supports artists who have intellectual and developmental disabilities to share their voices through the visual, performing, and creative arts. Through their local galleries, innovative performing arts programs, and mentoring of creative projects, they raise awareness and break down barriers. Their vision is art without labels, where all artists are invited to contribute and collaborate.



When Alchemia applied to Impact 100 Redwood Circle, they had positioned themselves internally to support the growth of artists. However, as a small organization, they were challenged to sustain communication with the world outside of Alchemia. Impact 100's grant is helping Alchemia to share their life-changing work with a broader community by building their marketing and communications capability.

Using funds from the Impact 100 grant, Alchemia has:

- Promoted a member of the Alchemia team to serve as Artist Engagement Coordinator. A primary responsibility of this position is to facilitate outreach and promote artists' participation in the communities Alchemia serves. Alchemia applied a portion of their grant to start-up funding to support training and effective onboarding.
- Engaged a marketing firm to reimagine Alchemia's public-facing communications. A new website, which will eventually include links to purchase art, will launch in early 2024. Alchemia applied a portion of the grant to the first phase of the project.



ALCHEMIA (CON'T)

- Developed a second job description for a position supporting ongoing marketing and communications. This position will be opened once Alchemia's new public-facing communications are launched, and Alchemia will apply a portion of their grant to support training and effective onboarding.
- Engaged a current employee with a background in photography to capture high-quality images of artists Alchemia serves, including new artist profile pictures, for inclusion in public-facing communications. Alchemia applied a portion of their grant to fund extra hours for the employee to organize and edit images.

Subsequent to receiving the Impact 100 award, Alchemia was selected by the California Arts Council to receive an Artists in Communities grant. This funding will allow Alchemia to produce an arts festival highlighting the work of artists with disabilities in the North Bay, and (thanks to the support of Impact 100) promotion and registration will be well-presented. The festival, which will take place in May or June of 2024, is the first event of its kind in this area. Stay tuned for an invitation to volunteer or just attend!



SONOMA LAND TRUST



Sonoma Land Trust recently acquired 654-acre McCormick Ranch. This property, which straddles the boundary between Sonoma County and Napa County in the Mayacamas, will be transferred to conservation and park agencies for everyone to enjoy.

LIAISON



VOICES

Gratitude at Thanksgiving

Like your first child, Voices has that special place in our hearts as the first Impact grant we gave in 2016. Since that time, we have donated dishes for Thanksgiving dinner for their clients. After a hiatus during some COVID years, the new leadership came back with gusto and enthusiasm. You met one of them, LaDarius, at the November meeting.



Thirty-two members cooked and cooked; making up to 50 servings of dishes that included 3 turkeys, 7 different side dishes and tons of dessert. Dropping things off in a hectic kitchen, seeing the beautifully decorated dining room and snapping a few photos was the culmination of hard work and coordination by so many members that deserve a big thank you.

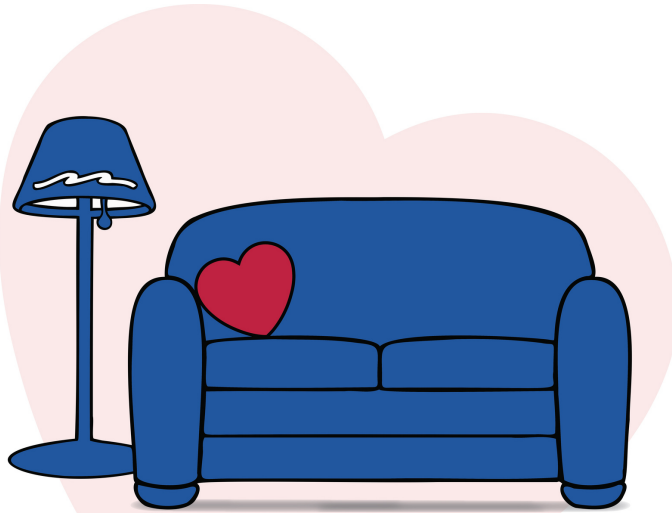
Voices was able to serve over 95 of their young adult patrons, including a take along meal and also provide dinner for 20 to 30 folks living in a sober living community. Attendees were able to participate in posting notes on a Grateful tree and of course, our food was mentioned frequently.



2023 IMPACT GRANTEE – THE LIVING ROOM

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

On cold evenings The Living Room hands out warm blankets to the women they are serving. Many of these women are experiencing homelessness and live in their cars. The supply of warm blankets at The Living Room was low on December 1 – a very cold day. Marion Weinreb, the Liaison ambassador to TLR alerted the Marketing team and they put out an emergency request to Impact 100 Redwood Circle members. Our members responded quickly and 40 blankets were delivered to The Living Room. Thanks to all our members that acted so quickly! A great example of local philanthropy in action.



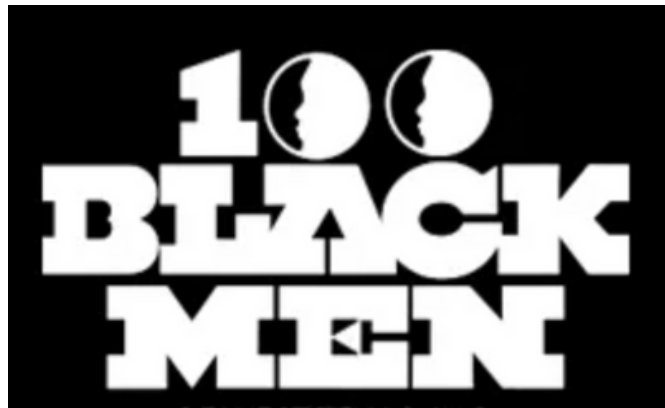
The Living Room

OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE LIVING ROOM

Are you interested in finding out more about The Living Room? Marion Weinreb the Liaison Ambassador to TLR is organizing tours in January. The current dates are: January 8, 9 and 11 from 10 to 11:30. If you are interested in attending please contact Marion at: marion@mweinreb.com

100 BLACK MEN OF SONOMA COUNTY

100 Black Men of Sonoma County's charter was established in 1990 by a group of men who breakfasted together frequently at Community Baptist Church in Santa Rosa to discuss issues impacting the African American experience in Sonoma County. These men eventually formed a local chapter of 100 Black Men of America, which has headquarters in Atlanta, GA.



The mission of 100 Black Men is to serve as a catalyst to improve the quality of life within the community by providing resources, increasing awareness and focusing collective efforts towards meeting the challenges of the community by enhancing educational and economic activities. 100 Black Men seeks to serve as a beacon of leadership by using talents of local professionals to create environments to motivate the community and empowering those in it to become self sufficient shareholders in the economic and social fabric of the community.

Key programs focus on educational projects for youth of the community, such as the Financial Literacy Money Matters Project which began in 2020 in the form of workshops online, especially during Covid. Those leading the sessions found that many interested students did not have the resources for online workshops because they lacked the technology. The plan is to restart this project with in person or via Zoom monthly workshops on Saturdays for 2-3 hours, serving 100 students aged 14-20. This program is planned to begin the second semester of the '23-'24 school year. Students will learn about savings and checking accounts, credit cards, investments, payroll deductions, bills, interest, etc. If the students attend 80% of the monthly Saturday sessions, they will each receive a \$50 stipend at the completion of classes in the hopes they will establish a bank account.

Please stay tuned- Impact 100 members will be invited to the kickoff for the Money Matters project.

EVENTS



EVENTS COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS A.S.A.P.

The message is loud and clear: Impact 100 Redwood Circle loves in-person meetings! That's where we get to know our fellow members and our nonprofit partners.

The 2024 leaders of Impact 100 Redwood Circle are eager to start planning next year's in-person Membership Meetings. But we cannot move forward until members step forward to lead and join the Events Committee.

The Event Committee is integral to our organization, and right now, it's the one committee that lacks co-chairs and members.

If you would like to ensure that we have in-person meetings in 2024, please consider leading or joining the Events Committee. For more information, contact Linda Drew, our President-Elect, at impact100liaison@gmail.com.



***Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”
– Helen Keller***

BEYOND THE CHECK

VOICES: Donations Wanted

Donations Wanted for Youth Program

- Food
- Clothing
- Cleaning supplies
- Toiletries
- Cookware
- Art supplies
- Discarded phones
- Working laptops
- Target gift cards



In addition, the culinary program run by LaDarius Spikes is looking for items for their kitchen.

- Kitchen table for food prep
- Cutting boards
- Salt and pepper shakers.

Contact LaDarius Spikes at ladarius@voicesyouthcenter.org if you can donate any items.

ROSELAND COLLEGIATE PREP BENEFIT EVENT



ROSELAND COLLEGIATE PREP

"Empowering the future LEADERS of our community"

Roseland Collegiate Prep, a 2018 Impact 100 Redwood Circle Community Grant recipient, is hosting an Annual Scholarship Benefit Event and all are invited.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Roseland Charter Scholarship Benefit Dinner
at Balletto Vineyards

Please pass the word among your committee members and beyond.

Further questions? Contact Jenn Del Rosario, Coordinator of Community Relations, at jdelrosario@roselandsd.org or 707.495.5230. Or go to the website at:

<https://www.roselandsd.org/RCP/771-Annual-Scholarship-Benefit-Event.html>

EDUCATION

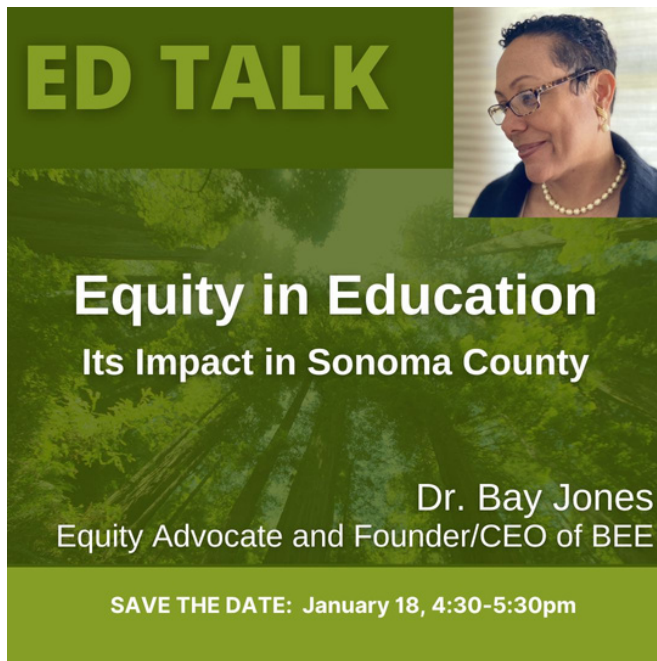


TWO EXCITING EVENTS IN JANUARY 2024:

ED TALK

JANUARY 18

EQUITY IN EDUCATION AND ITS IMPACT IN SONOMA COUNTY



4:30–5:30 pm, Zoom

Imagine creating classrooms students deserve, where teachers want to teach. What is the current and near-term future impact of inequity in Education in Sonoma County? What does equity in education even look like?

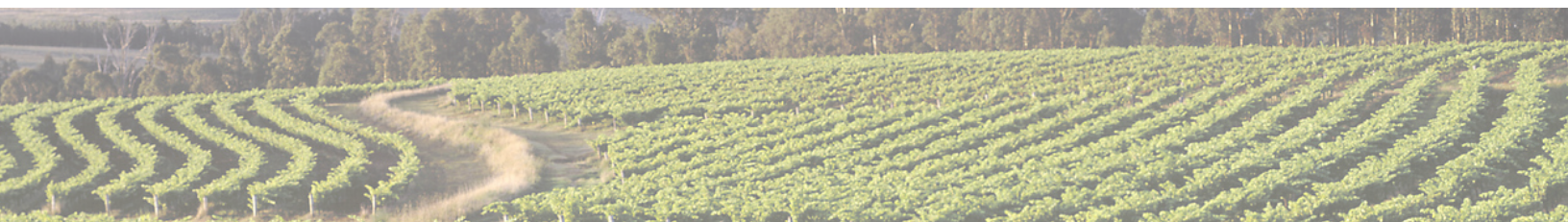
Join us to hear Dr. Bay Jones, Equity Advocate and Founder/CEO of BEE – Beyond Equity in Education (<https://beeqed.com>), speak about meaningful system changes and interventions needed to support youth in our schools. What actions can community members take to

make a difference?

Dr. Jones has dedicated her 30-year career to equity, community and social justice issues. She has spearheaded district-wide system changes to ensure equity is integrated into every action, decision, and resource allocation.

Watch your email for registration information. Register a friend, too!

Questions? Contact Eliska Meyers at eliskameyers@comcast.net.



EDUCATION



BUSTIN' BIAS

REGISTRATION OPEN

TUESDAYS 4:30-6:30PM
JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 27

Have you heard about Bustin' Bias, Impact 100's in-house exploration and discussion group about equity? It is a safe and welcoming opportunity to learn more about implicit bias and destructive historical policies still impacting our culture every single day.

Typically, you may imagine something dry or uncomfortable, but it's not! Here's just one comment from the 70 plus members who have participated:

"This helps me understand – I am a good caring person, but maybe I harbor some ideas that came from growing up... just by being in this society... we need to actually unlearn things!"

Our next six-week Zoom session runs each Tuesday afternoon from 4:30-6:00 from January 23rd through February 27th. You won't believe how fast it goes!

Please join us! Bustin' Bias is a welcome surprise in countering uncomfortable conversations that too often are avoided.

For more info and registration: Contact Nancy Vogl nancyvogl@gmail.com 707-328-4448.



MEMBERSHIP



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

- Geri Brown
- Patti Callahan
- Jackie Reuling
- Bridget Sheils

Welcome

Happy holidays from the membership committee!



Philanos is dedicated to developing and offering resources to assist women's giving circles in their growth and local community impact. Impact 100 Redwood Circle is one of more than 90 Philanos Affiliates located across the United States, in addition to the UK and Australia. All members of Impact 100 Redwood Circle are encouraged to subscribe to the monthly newsletter and access the Members Only portal for helpful resources. Visit www.philanos.org

There are also monthly virtual offerings for Educational Webinars, Comms Club, Tech Talk and Membership Roundtable. Each of these provides opportunities to bring together women from Philanos Affiliates across the country to Connect, Learn and Share. A value for being part of a Philanos Affiliate! Advance registration is required and all giving circle members of Philanos Affiliates are welcome.

Upcoming Philanos Events:

Educational Webinar: January 9, 2024 12 PM ET. Personal Philanthropy Planning featuring Nina Needleman, Business and Financial Consultant and member of Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund. [Register here.](#)

Membership Roundtable: January 16, 2024 12 PM ET. Discussion to highlight: new member outreach and onboarding, members only website portals, retaining and engaging long standing members. [Register here.](#)

Comms Club: January 23, 2024 12 PM ET. Discussion to highlight: blogging with purpose, efficient scheduling, integrating blogging with circle communications. [Register here.](#)

Educational Webinar: February 13, 2024 12 PM ET. Building a Culture of Belonging: Recruiting AND Retaining a Diverse Membership. [Register here.](#)

Challenges in registering or accessing the members only portal? Email admin@philanos.org.

Memories













