

Women's Fund El Dorado
Member Celebration
\$1,000,000 Milestone in 15 years

October 6, 2022

More than 200 members of Women's Fund El Dorado met to celebrate the impact of collective giving over the last 15 years and the granting of \$1 million to local nonprofits on the western slope of El Dorado County. One of the founders, Katy Peek, described how Women's Fund El Dorado began by inviting a small group of women to imagine what could be done to better our community by pooling contributions to address community needs. Membership grew quickly. Members contribute a minimum of \$200 per year (\$16.66/month.) Cabinet member, Lynnee Boyes, outlined the growth of Women's Fund El Dorado and some of the programs funded. Nonprofits are invited to apply for funds. The Grants Committee reviews the applications and selects projects to be included on the ballot. Women's Fund members learn about each project and vote on the nonprofits they would like to have funded. The projects with the most member votes are funded. There are a broad range of programs that have received support which include providing food and basic necessities, services for seniors, natural disaster assistance, educational programs, and community beautification. Women's Fund Chair, Emily Smith, described the strength of Women's Fund, which is consistently granting \$100,000 per year due to the generosity and caring of its members. Women's Fund plans to add more funding to implement multi-year granting and to address the root causes of challenges within our community. Women's Fund is looking to grow its membership to 500 philanthropists who want to join with others to better our community.

The Women's Fund model grants 98.5% of the dollars that are donated by members; 1 ½% goes to the El Dorado Community Foundation for managing our funds. Businesses in our community also support our community through their generous support of Women's Fund.

The fifteenth anniversary was a proud night for Women's Fund El Dorado. We extend many thanks to our members, our sponsors, our vendors, and our supporters. The Women's Fund El Dorado is so grateful to this community of people who help make El Dorado County a kinder, healthier, and more beautiful place to live. New members, women and men, are invited to join. More information is available at womensfundeldorado.org