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Women's Giving Fund donates \$20,000 to Inland groups that help women, children

This year's recipients are the Society of Extraordinary Women, Time for Change and Corona Life Services



From left, Inland Empire Community Foundation board Vice Chair Nefertiti Long; Corona Life Services board President John Weyhgandt; and Jordyn McKenzie, client services coordinator and administrative assistant for Corona Life Services; are seen at the foundation's grantee ceremony Thursday, Aug. 19, at the Riverside Art Museum. (Courtesy of Inland Empire Community Foundation)

By **REBECCA K. O'CONNOR** | Inland Empire Community Foundation

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The Women's Giving Fund has awarded \$20,000 to local organizations supporting the needs of women and children.

Since its inception in 2018, the Women's Giving Fund at the [Inland Empire Community Foundation](#) has given \$60,000 in grants to nonprofit groups that benefit women and families in the Inland Empire.

The fund was launched by a diverse group of professional women who wanted to build a welcoming and inclusive network of female donors. Together, the women sought to discover more about the local challenges of women's economic security. As a group, the women could focus their giving on issues challenging women and children and have a larger effect by pooling together their donations to make more impactful gifts.



From left are: Trina Schneider, Society of Extraordinary Women founder/president; Shirley Coates, Inland Empire Community Foundation vice president of programs; Celia Cudiamat; and Kennedy Schneider at the Inland Empire Community Foundation's grantee ceremony Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, at the Riverside Art Museum. (Courtesy of Inland Empire Community Foundation)

"Your heart fills with the opportunity to help women in the region," fund committee Chair Nefertiti Long said. "For \$100, a small donation, you can be part of the process."



Donors who give \$100 or more to the fund can nominate nonprofit organizations to be considered for grants. These organizations are vetted by foundation, ensuring donors can be confident their gift will make a difference. These nominations are then pared down to a smaller list by the committee and voted on by all who have given at this level or above.

This year's grant presentation event took place Aug. 19 on the rooftop of the Riverside Art Museum. The event was attended by donors as well as grantees, who gave touching presentations about the work they are doing.

The 2021 Women's Giving Fund awardees were:

- **Society of Extraordinary Women, \$10,000**
- **Time for Change, \$5,000**
- **Corona Life Services, \$5,000**

The Society of Extraordinary Women works to better the lives of young girls, helping them build leadership skills, gain self-esteem and investigate career possibilities. The organization also provides mentoring after graduation. The award will be used to hire two part-time GIS instructors and to buy additional software.

Time for Change Foundation assists homeless women and children with housing and supportive services in response to the housing crisis, mass incarceration and family separation. It helps clients achieve self-sufficiency through evidence-based programs and strives to help women become leaders who can advocate for the change they want to see. The grant will be used for its Housing and Family Reunification Program.

Corona Life Services is a non-profit Christian organization that offers physical, emotional and spiritual support to women and men surrounding unplanned pregnancies. This includes pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, options education, referrals for medical services and childbirth classes. The organization also offers a grief recovery program to individuals who have suffered a pregnancy loss. Funding will be used for its Holistic Health Resilience Program.

The fund welcomes new donors to help continue the grants and to increase its ability to support local organizations. Those who join can learn about philanthropy, its impact and make a larger difference with the level of support with which they are comfortable. Donors also learn about the work of nonprofit groups.

Long hopes that the fund will continue to grow and perhaps ultimately be large enough to endow and ensure that women in the community will always be supported.



“Joining the WFG has many advantages,” Long said. “One is networking with like-minded philanthropists who have huge hearts for improving the lives of women in the region.”

Donations to the Women’s Giving Fund can be made online through the foundation’s website at www.iegives.org/womensgivingfund.

Information: Darcy McNaboe, regional charitable giving officer, 909-477-7615 or dmcnaboe@iegives.org

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