



OJAI WOMEN'S FUND

Winter Newsletter 2017



The Ojai Women's Fund has some big plans this year, and we hope to involve you in those activities.

After all we accomplished together in our inaugural year in 2016, this year we're working on being even bigger and better! Our plans include:

- **Informing you about the issues that face our communities in the Ojai Valley.** This means an event or two educating our members and the community at-large on key

trends and other research impacting our Valley. And if you cannot make an event, not to worry, this valuable information about our community is also conveyed to our grant recipients and reflected in the needs they are looking to address in the proposals we'll vote on.

- **Encouraging you to increase your involvement.** There are some exciting and engaging opportunities at OWF that could easily be led by our talented membership pool. Whether you volunteer on one of our committees, or lead your own small giving circle with your friends, we have an opportunity that is the right fit for you!
- **Empowering our group leaders and others involved in OWF** with additional resources including providing more detailed information for our Group Leaders to help prepare groups to vote on our grant recipients.
- **Increasing our membership.** Not only because that means we are informing and involving more Ojai Valley residents, but also because more members translates directly into more dollars for our grant-making. And more members means we will have a greater impact in our communities.
- **This year we will again devote considerable efforts to choose those local agencies that are doing a sterling job in targeting critical needs right here.** What does that mean? In 2016, OWF received 33 grant proposals from non-profits in the Ojai Valley. The 21-member Grants Committee spent hundreds of hours evaluating the proposals and conducting site visits to learn more about the agencies and programs involved. After this thorough research, the Grants Committee narrowed down the choices to 11 ballot nominees; the programs selected were considered the most likely to have the greatest positive impact and capacity to produce measurable results with our grant money.
- **The full OWF membership voted for six finalists to receive \$60,000 in grants.** In 2017 we will again devote our efforts to choosing those local non-profit programs that are doing a sterling job of targeting critical needs where we live.

So as you can see, we've got big plans for 2017! And we hope you will join us, and encourage your friends to join us for what will be another amazing year!

To learn more about each of these goals, plan to attend our Kickoff Event. . .



We are delighted to have Ojai resident Esther Wachtell as our guest speaker. She is active in charitable activities locally and regionally and will share with you why she has devoted her life to philanthropy. Ms. Wachtell is the founder and retired president of the The Wachtell Group, a fundraising consulting company specializing in large capital campaigns throughout the West. She served as the founding chair of the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California. She serves as a Director of Ojai Community Bank. She has studied and lectured on nonprofit management at the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA. Ms. Wachtell holds a master's degree from Cornell University.

The Ojai Women's Fund provides opportunities for women of all ages to join together and make a substantial difference to our Ojai Community.

Join us on the 28th and:

- Learn how to join or become more involved with the Ojai Women's Fund.
- Learn about the Ojai Women's Fund Awards of \$60K in Community Grants in 2016, our Inaugural Year.
- Learn how Ojai Women's Fund members, individually or collectively through giving circle groups, cast their votes to select annual grant recipients from carefully researched non-profit organizations serving the Ojai Valley.
- Learn about our exciting plans and upcoming events for 2017.

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www.ojaiwomensfund.org**

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