



# The Joy of Local Giving

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## Ojai Women's Fund to Award \$100,000 in Grants in 2018

The Ojai Women's Fund is pleased to report its 2018 membership drive raised over \$70,000 in donations through 348 memberships, with 265 renewing members and 83 new ones.

This year's OWF donations increased almost ten percent over 2017 and will soon convert into community grants for local nonprofits when OWF members vote in the coming month to select the 2018 grant recipients. Last year, OWF awarded \$64,000 to eleven Ojai organizations to help fund programs focused on local arts, education, environment, health, and social services.

OWF Membership Committee Co-chairs Tiarzha Taylor and Caryn Bosson are particularly delighted with this year's membership drive: "It's immensely gratifying to hear the collective voice of Ojai women raised in support of our community and demonstrated through good works," said Taylor.

Bosson added that "We are delighted at the generosity of women in the Ojai Valley who are becoming Ojai Women's Fund members and helping to grow this important philanthropy year by year."

### **Additional Good News!**

**The Ojai Women's Fund is further thrilled to announce that it has received a \$30,000 grant from the Wilson Family Fund, awarded by the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) to supplement OWF's member-raised dollars for this year's local grant awards.**

VCCF Chief Compliance Officer Jim Rivera explained the VCCF grant: "The Ventura County Community Foundation is honored to serve as fiduciary of the Wilson Family Fund, established in 1993 by John and Barbara (aka "Ginger") Wilson. The couple moved to Ojai in 1952, where they raised five children, and were actively involved in the Ojai Valley. For Ginger, her community service included the Children's Home Society of California, the Ventura County Symphony League, Ojai Valley Garden Club, HELP of Ojai, Ojai Valley Hospital Auxiliary, and the Ojai Valley Museum. After retiring from Standard Oil, John taught science and chemistry at Ojai Valley School and Buena High School. In honor of the Wilsons' commitment to service and their dedication to the Ojai community, it seemed only appropriate to provide support from the Wilson Family Fund to the grantmaking process of the Ojai Women's Fund so that the critical needs in the Ojai Valley could be more effectively addressed."

VCCF President and CEO Vanessa Bechtel added, "We are deeply moved and

inspired by the leadership of the Ojai Women's Fund and their focus on inspiring and educating women to become leaders in local philanthropy. The Ventura County Community Foundation strongly believes in the power of Giving Circles as agents for change, and with over 300 members, the Ojai Women's Fund is having substantial impact on the arts, education, environment, healthcare, and social services in the Ojai Valley.”

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# Who's on our 2018 Ballot?

The OWF Grants Committee invites all voting  
Group Leaders and interested OWF members  
to learn about our 2018 ballot nominees!

*5:45 pm* Doors open and light refreshments available on the patio

*6:15 pm* Welcome by Grants Committee Co-chairs Margo & Marquita

*6:30-8:30 pm* Visit our Information Tables:  
Arts, Education, Environment, Health & Social Services

Grants Committee Members will be available at each table to answer  
your questions about the 2018 ballot nominees and the voting process.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 22**

**OJAI ART CENTER**

**113 South Montgomery Street  
Patio & Gallery**

**[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)**

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## Don't Miss... OWF's New Community Corner Webpage!

Next time you are on the OWF website, be sure to check out our new Community Corner page! This page will be updated throughout the year and house in-depth pieces on OWF grantee projects, written by Gillian McManus, a member of the group *Caring for Ojai*. [Click here to visit >>](#)

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October 22 | [Who's On Our 2018 Ballot? Event](#)

October 23 | Group Leader Toolkit distributed to Group Leaders

October 30 | 2018 Voting Ballot emailed to Group Leaders and

Individual Members

**November 21** | Deadline to submit voting ballot for 2018

**Beginning of December** | 2018 Grant Recipients announced

**January 17, 2019** | OWF Kickoff and Grantee Celebration

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