



Newsletter
Spring 2017

San Juan Island Women's Fund

Mission

The San Juan Island Community Foundation Women's Fund is committed to:

- *Educating and expanding the pool of women engaged in philanthropy;*
- *Combining and building our resources to make a significant impact in our community; and*
- *Increasing awareness of important issues facing San Juan Island nonprofit organizations.*

About the Women's Fund

A Women's Fund is an organized way for women to combine their resources to make a significant impact in their communities. Women's Foundations and Funds can be found all over the nation, bringing together women of all ages and experiences who share an interest in making their communities better places to live, now and in the future. The Women's Fund of the San Juan Island Community Foundation meets the desire of many island women to provide an effective way to support important island needs. Pooling our money enables us to make larger grants and have a greater impact than we would be able to as individuals.

The Women's Fund was organized to minimize time obligations. It is structured as a pooled donor advised fund of the San Juan Island Community Foundation, using the Foundation's grant process to identify the prospective grantees and its professional administration and support services to reduce costs. The Women's Fund offers members the option to be involved a lot, a little or not at all. This approach appeals to many women, and Women's Fund members are involved in various ways that suit them. Many have been willing and able to share their time and expertise through the Women's Fund committees.

Our Women's Fund is designed to attract a membership that is broad, diverse and inclusive. It appeals to both permanent islanders and part-time residents, and includes working and retired women.

Over the past 14 years, the Women's Fund has been extremely successful, granting nearly \$190,000 from memberships, matching grants and donations in honor of friends and family. Membership is an annual commitment of \$100 or more. Those who are able are encouraged to give more.

Want to know more? Visit our website at sjiwomensfund.org or contact Amy Saxe-Eyler, our facilitator, at amysaxe@me.com for information about our grant history, how we operate, and how you can participate.

We...

- Create an inclusive environment that encourages all women, regardless of their financial means, to contribute.
- Give members the opportunity to volunteer as they choose—a lot, a little or not at all.
- Use a grants committee, composed of Women's Fund members.
- Review the grant proposals and vote on our preferences three times per year.
- Ensure that every member has the opportunity to vote on her preferences for grant recipients.
- Direct our grants to San Juan Island nonprofit organizations.
- Use the San Juan Island Community Foundation grant process.
- Grant monies to the nonprofit areas that are most important to the membership.
- Seek grant proposals for innovative programs and capital projects that have strategic importance.
- Enable grants that make a significant impact.
- Pool at least 90% of our members' contributions each year to be allocated to grants selected for funding (disbursed three times per year).
- Expect annual contributions to be \$100 or more.
- Support the San Juan Island Community Foundation's Operations Fund.

How the Women's Fund Works

Annual Meeting: *The Women's Fund members meet once a year, usually in June, to hear from last year's grant recipients.*

Philanthropy: *From May to September, Women's Fund members make their annual donations. New members are recruited during this time but are welcome year-round.*

Grant Requests Review: *As grant requests come into the San Juan Island Community Foundation (3 cycles per year), Women's Fund members review them and the members vote to determine which ones to fund.*

Awards: *Grants are awarded to the nonprofits at the conclusion of each grant cycle.*

Grant Making

The objective of the Women's Fund is to apply its pooled funds to those community issues the members feel are most critical and will make the greatest possible impact. It seeks to support San Juan Island nonprofit organizations in a variety of areas including arts, health and wellness, community infrastructure, education, basic social needs, and the environment. The Women's Fund uses the Community Foundation's grant evaluation process to provide the basis for selecting prospective grantees.

Ways to Participate

Many members say they were attracted to the Women's Fund because pooling their money with other members created an opportunity for larger grants that can have a greater positive impact on organizations or on the larger island community. Other members have said that they joined because the Women's Fund enables them to have a voice in how a pooled fund of this nature is spent.

Whatever the reason you join, your membership contribution, your commitment to make a difference in our community and your thoughtful consideration of grant proposals are the very best forms of participation and are sincerely appreciated.

Contribute at least \$100 annually (that's less than 28 cents a day) and vote on the distribution of our pooled funds during each grant cycle. If you have the desire and time for more personal involvement, there are plenty of opportunities! Contact Amy Saxe-Eyler, the Women's Fund Facilitator, at 360-317-8120 or amysaxe@me.com. She would love to chat with you about your interests!

2016 Women's Fund Grants

The Women's Fund granted a total of \$14,000 to support these important island projects:

SJI Family Resource Center Friday Harbor Emergency Rental Assistance Program - \$3,500

The SJIFRC Emergency Rental Assistance program provides one-time emergency rental assistance to local households at risk of eviction due to non-payment of rent. The funds are used specifically to help families and/or individuals who live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Based on data collected the last three years, SJIFRC anticipated approximately 50 households would need assistance in 2016. Qualifying households receive \$250 – \$700 in one-time emergency rental assistance.

Mullis Community Senior Center Unpaid Caregiver Support Group - \$3,000

The Mullis Community Senior Center Unpaid Caregiver Support Group is a resource group for those who care for a family member or friend, often 24/7, due to a health condition, a disability or other age-related issues. It has tremendous significance for those who become involved, because it offers a safe place to discuss this very difficult role with others in the same situation. The grant provides funding for a facilitator to lead the group, purchase and reproduction of educational materials, as well as a provision for an on-site respite caregiver as needed for those attending the support group.

SJI Family Resource Center Friday Harbor Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program - \$2,500

Neighbors Helping Neighbors provides much needed support to older and physically challenged adult neighbors to keep them active and well within their own homes and community. Funding provides an array of helpful services to be delivered by a cadre of volunteer community members. The Women's Fund provided start up funds to help meet a critical need previously filled by the no longer functioning "Friends and Neighbors" Mullis Center. This need was identified by the Community Needs Task Force conducted through the Community Foundation in the spring of 2015. The program creates the infrastructure for a system of volunteers, recruits and trains volunteers, conducts background checks, and expands community outreach to interested and/or isolated seniors and disabled residents.

Washington Vocational Services 7th and 8th Grade Dream Builders Program - \$2,000

WA Vocational Services Dream Builders Program is designed to help young adults with disabilities, and their parents, to gain independence and transition smoothly into adulthood. Students learn to communicate and understand their own dreams and goals. Dream Builders allows WVS to build relationships with the middle school teachers, families and students on San Juan Island. This program includes opportunities for job and college exploration, training in self-advocacy, work readiness training, and work-based learning experiences.

San Juan County 7th grade middle school students with special needs will gain skills including learning to communicate and understand their own needs and goals as well as how to be self-advocates who interact successfully with family, potential employers and community members. Parents will gain invaluable support as their child navigates from childhood to adulthood, including resources to assist them in this transition.

University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories Science Outreach Program - \$1,807

The Friday Harbor Laboratories Science Outreach Program has developed a set of hands-on projects designed to complement and enhance the current STEM curriculum at local schools. They work with students in the field, lab, classroom and on the UW research vessel Centennial to show students that science is interesting, fun and important. The Women's Fund grant helped purchase 30 loupes for a 1st grade Scientific Inquiry/Investigation Loupe Project, 18 youth and 3 adult life jackets for a 3rd grade Diver for a Day Project and 5th grade Friday Harbor Marina Water Quality Monitoring Project, and one year of printing costs for the entire Science Outreach Program.

San Juan Nature Institute Science Camp at Eagle Rock - \$1,193

Camp Eagle Rock is a summer program for kids ages 6-12. Science activities for Kindergarten and 1st grade students are provided to two groups, one day a week for ten weeks. Activities include salmon, marine invertebrates, solar power, island watersheds, soils, botany, and PEAK (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids). A "place based learning" approach helps students acquire a more holistic and complete understanding of our islands' fragile environment. The project also fosters collaborative learning between early learners and older campers as it promotes environmental stewardship and awareness in kids.

Please Join Us!

Name: _____

Address: _____

(*) Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

I prefer to be contacted by (circle): EMAIL PHONE FAX

Enclosed is my yearly contribution of \$ _____ (at least \$100)

Check or Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card 3-digit security code _____ Signature: _____

Please mail to: The Women’s Fund, P.O. Box 1352, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

() The Women’s Fund relies primarily on email to communicate with members. We always send our thank you letters to you in the mail, the old-fashioned way. If you don’t use the internet, we’re happy to communicate with you via phone or fax.*



SJI Women’s Fund

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