



Newsletter  
Spring 2018

# San Juan Island Women's Fund

## Mission

*The San Juan Island 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 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 Women's Fund committees and events.

*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 15 years, the Women's Fund has been extremely successful, granting more than \$200,000* 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](http://sjiwomensfund.org) or contact Amy Saxe-Eyler, our Coordinator, at [amysaxe@me.com](mailto: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 3 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 using 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 for grants dispersed 3 times per year.
- Expect annual contributions to be \$100 or more.

## How the Women's Fund Works

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**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 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 San Juan Island 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 wider 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 Coordinator at [amysaxe@me.com](mailto:amysaxe@me.com). She would love to chat with you about your interests!**

## 2017 Women's Fund Grants

The Women's Fund granted a total of \$25,000 in 2017 to support these important island projects:

### *Hospice of San Juan Community Caregiver and Volunteer Training - \$1,945*

Hospice of San Juan regularly provides caregiver training to its volunteers, since one of its primary services is caregiver respite. Non-licensed, or informal, caregivers in homes need training to protect themselves and their clients from injury.

### *San Juan Community Theatre Up Close Event - \$755*

Up Close is an art project that pairs local artists with elders in our community. Composers, playwrights, choreographers, and poets will meet weekly with elder partners. The artists gather stories and engage their elder-partners directly in the creation of original creative work.

### *Friday Harbor Elementary School Summer Academy Program - \$4,700*

Summer Academy provides 30 struggling 1st to 4th grade students with 12 extra days of instruction. Without summer school, most students lose academic ground during the summer months. The goals of this program are to eliminate the achievement gap, raise math and reading skill levels and increase student academic confidence for historically under served populations.

### *San Juan Island Library English Language Learning - \$2,000*

The San Juan Island Library received funds to support English classes at the library for immigrants and non-native speakers of English. The program included a partnership with the SJI Family Resource Center, which provided a children's enrichment program. This allowed parents to focus on learning during the classes with no need to arrange for separate childcare.

### *PADS for Parkinson's Training for Canine Detection of Parkinson's Disease - \$1,800*

PADS stands for Parkinson's Alert Dogs. Grant funds supported Phase II of the project to pay for training materials, brochure development, printing and rent expenses.

*Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Harbor Seal Pup Rehabilitation - \$2,000*

Wolf Hollow resumed rehabilitation for small marine mammals in 2017. The majority of injured and orphaned animals like harbor seal pups come to Wolf Hollow from coastlines in San Juan County and have suffered as a result of human interference and activity. Grant funds were used to purchase fish, vitamins, specialized formula and medical supplies to treat 5 injured and orphaned harbor seal pups.

*Friday Harbor Elementary School PTO Pie Booth Remodel - \$2,500*

The FHES PTO pie booth structure was built in the 1970s as a means for the organization to raise funds in the summer during the County Fair. In July of 2016, SJC asked the structure to be moved out of the fairgrounds. The booth was completely rebuilt for 2017. Grant funds were used to purchase a new double axle trailer large enough to support the new booth structure.

*Friday Harbor Labs Science Outreach Projects - \$300*

The Friday Harbor Labs Science Outreach Program received funding for a laptop, three micro-pipettes, electrophoresis power supply and one year's worth of document copy expenses to support the program. Over 745 local students and 25 teachers from the SJI School District and Spring Street International School participated in the program. Friday Harbor Labs has been providing exciting, inquiry-based and relevant environmental science in the K-12 classrooms since 2001.

*WA Vocational Services 7th and 8th Grade Dream Builders - \$3,000*

Dream Builders is a semester long curriculum designed to help young adults with disabilities gain independence and transition smoothly into adulthood. This program teaches students and parents a variety of tools from goal setting and self-management to building self-esteem, teamwork, communication, problem solving and more. Funding provided class time, prep time and travel time to Friday Harbor Middle School as well as the supplies needed for projects.

*SJI Family Resource Center 2018 Kindergarten Kickoff Event - \$1,000*

The Kindergarten Kickoff event provides dinner, an informational presentation for parents and enrichment activities for children, all with the goal of familiarizing families with FH Elementary School and helping them make connections with staff and other families. Grant funds were used to cover the costs of dinner, children's activities and Spanish language interpretation assistance.

*SJI Family Resource Center Special Needs Parent Support Program - \$870*

Our community has a rapidly growing population of children with special needs. Due to our small community size, limited resources and geographic isolation, parents of children with special needs encounter barriers to accessing appropriate services and support for their children. The Special Needs Parent Support Program follows a simple model of monthly peer support meetings for parents of children with special needs.

*SJI Family Resource Center Spanish Class for Human Services Professionals - \$1,000*

The Family Resource Center offered a 26-week evening Spanish class for Human Services professionals and volunteers working on San Juan Island. The two-hour weekly evening class provided instruction in beginning conversational Spanish, with the goal of enabling helping professionals and volunteers in our community develop the skills to engage in basic conversation with Spanish-speaking clients.

*Island Stage Left Equipment Upgrades/Replacement - \$730*

Island Stage Left received funds to purchase a trailer and update equipment (lighting and audio) to make moves from venue to venue more efficient and less likely to damage costumes, props and technical equipment.

*Family Umbrella Group Preschool Scholarships - \$2,400*

The Family Umbrella Group (FUG) received funds to help provide preschool scholarships for preschoolers on their waiting list. FUG funded 9 preschoolers using \$15,900 that has been raised through private donations from community members and the annual luncheon in 2017.

## What's Next?

- **The SJI Women's Fund will be featured at the San Juan Island Community Foundation's fair booth. Don't forget to stop by during the San Juan County Fair August 15 - 18!**
- **The next grant cycle will be in October 2018. Watch for your ballot via Survey Monkey.**
- **Do you have ideas to help strengthen the Women's Fund or an interest in volunteering? We'd love to hear from you! Contact Amy Saxe-Eyler, the Women's Fund Coordinator, at [amysaxe@me.com](mailto:amysaxe@me.com).**

**Please Join Us!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you're sponsoring another member, please indicate her name and email

address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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