



## MONTHLY NEWS

### March 2024



#### IN THIS ISSUE

- Co-Presidents spread the word—and encourage all members to do the same.
- March blood drive addresses critical need.
- New buttons help start conversations about Impact100 Sonoma.
- Next Spotlight event shines a light on the status of women.
- Major grantmaking events are right around the corner.
- Members gather for learning and inspiration.

## CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Springtime in Sonoma—a time of fresh beginnings! As we write this, it's pouring, but once the rain passes, we'll have new flowers and greenery everywhere.

As we prepare to make our 2024 grants, we've been busy representing Impact100 Sonoma in the local media. **Claudia** gave an interview last month on KSVY radio's "Sonoma Chamber Chat" show (see the link below). **Claudia, Debbe,** and Grants Oversight Co-Chair **Kathy Bloch** were interviewed for an upcoming feature story in *The Sonoma Index-Tribune* in honor of Women's History Month. These were wonderful opportunities to talk about what you, our member donors, do for the nonprofits in our community through collective giving. Such conversations remind us of all we've achieved and make us even more grateful, especially in this 15th anniversary year.

We're always proud to promote our organization. It helps us sustain and build our membership, which increases the amount of funding available to nonprofits. We have gone from awarding \$110,000 in grants in 2010 to raising a record \$350,000 for grants in 2024.

So, thank you if you are a member donor, and if not, please join us and tell your friends. We know there are many women out in our community with the potential to become part of our giving circle and help enable valley nonprofits to continue their important work.

We hope to see you around the Plaza or at an event (spreading the word!) soon.



**Claudia Sims** and **Debbe Noto**, Co-Presidents



Co-President **Claudia Sims** talked with Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce CEO **Mark Bodenhamer** on KSVY 91.3 radio during "Sonoma Chamber Chat" on February 8. Listen [HERE](#) at the 43-minute mark.

## VOLUNTEER OPENINGS



### Events Team Members

The Events Team needs help at our next two big events with preparations, setup, and breakdown. On April 20, 8:30am at the Meet the Finalists event and May 4, 8:30am at the Awards Celebration. If you'd like to join a fun, exciting team, contact **Karen Sherman** at [ks@axlecom.com](mailto:ks@axlecom.com).

### Impact100 Cares—About YOU!

If you or a member you know is going through a difficult life transition such as a family loss or serious illness or is celebrating a milestone event, the Impact Cares team is standing by to offer encouragement or cheer.

To reach out, contact **Mary Jane Stolte** at 415-518-3389 or [mjstolte7@gmail.com](mailto:mjstolte7@gmail.com).

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



### **Impact100 Sonoma Helps Mitigate Critical Blood Shortage**

The U.S. blood supply is the lowest it's been in 20 years. You can help!

On **Friday, March 15**, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, we will again team up with the American Red Cross for a blood drive at the Sonoma Community Center. Make an appointment to donate or encourage someone else to participate. To sign up, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code **Impact100 Sonoma**.

There are **39** donor slots available. Let's make sure all are filled for this important cause! Learn more about donating, eligibility, and other requirements [HERE](#) or call 1-866-236-2376.

We also need **four volunteers** to help check in and direct donors, two for each shift. If you are interested in working from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM or 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM, contact **Bobbie Collins** at [bobbie.collins4@gmail.com](mailto:bobbie.collins4@gmail.com)



## Button Up for Impact!

Word of mouth is our most effective member-recruitment tool. Now when you're out in the community working, volunteering, or even walking the dog, wear one of our new buttons to invite those you meet to learn more. Wear it at our events, too, to let prospective and new members know you're happy to share your experiences. Pick yours up at the next event or contact Membership Co-Chair **Stephanie Chakmak** at [thechakmaks@gmail.com](mailto:thechakmaks@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Thursday, March 28, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**Spotlight Series/The Status of Women in Sonoma County**

In honor of Women's History Month, we'll welcome **Joanne M. Brown**, MSW, JD, from the Commission on the Status of Women in Sonoma County. She will present and facilitate a discussion on the role, history, and current programs of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women as well as other initiatives concerning issues relevant to women today. She currently serves on the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Committee and on the board of directors of Friends in Sonoma Helping (FISH). Learn more about **Joanne Brown** [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). Watch for your invitation for this free event at the Pueblo Serena Clubhouse.

**Bring a prospective member!**



To suggest topics for future Spotlight events,  
contact Sherry Preiss at [shpreiss@aol.com](mailto:shpreiss@aol.com).

- **Expand** your knowledge about the needs and concerns of our community and the wider world.
- **Experience** new ideas, perspectives, and ways of thinking while interacting with local leaders engaged in unique, inspiring work that fuels and informs our philanthropic commitment.
- **Extend** your network while enriching your membership experience.



**Saturday, April 20**

**9:30 AM Check-in, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Presentations**

**Meet the Finalists**

Get inspired and informed! Help decide your vote by meeting our 2024 Impetus Grant and Encore Grant finalists at the Sebastiani Theatre. Come hear them summarize their missions and proposals. Then learn how to cast your ballot online for our 2024 Grant Awards. Watch for your invitation.

**Thank you to our host and sponsor, [Sebastiani Theatre](#).**



**Saturday, April 20, through Sunday, April 28, 9:00 PM PDT  
Online Voting for 2024 Grant Recipients!**



**Friday, April 26**

**NextGen Book Exchange with Sonoma Valley Woman's Club**

Save the date! Gather up those books you'd like to swap and bring your own bags. Watch for details or contact **Amy Gallagher** at [amyngallagher@gmail.com](mailto:amyngallagher@gmail.com) or **Emma McCulloch** at [dremmamcculloch@gmail.com](mailto:dremmamcculloch@gmail.com).



**Saturday, May 4**

**9:30 AM Check-in, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Presentations**

**15th Annual Grant Awards Celebration**

Join fellow members and the community at Hanna Center to honor the recipients of our 2024 Impetus Grants and inaugural Encore Grant. Find out which nonprofits will receive our record \$350,000 in funding. It will be an anniversary celebration to remember! Watch for your invitation.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### **Spotlight Series Continues with Focus on Indigenous Cultures**

On February 22, more than 35 women gathered at the Pueblo Serena Clubhouse to meet **Madonna Feather Cruz**, a distinguished and inspiring Native American advocate committed to making a difference in the North Bay community. Addressing many questions from the audience, she raised awareness about the critical issues facing Native Americans today, particularly around her work with missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW), cultural preservation, and Native history curricula in schools. A member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes, she shared her history growing up in Ukiah and Napa, raising her two children, and learning about Native history and culture from her beloved grandmother. Her passion for sharing the richness and diversity of Native American traditions made for an enlightening evening.

Learn more about Madonna Feather Cruz [HERE](#).



### **First Wine & Wisdom Gathering Gives NextGen Members a View on the Grants Process**

On February 23, the 2024 Grants Team hosted the first NextGen Wine & Wisdom gathering. The purpose of the mixers is to create stronger connections between younger members and senior leaders. The group spent the evening getting to know each other, sharing stories, discovering many commonalities, and discussing our 2024 grants strategy and grant review process. NextGen members' questions and suggestions were enthusiastic and insightful and sparked interesting new ideas.



Coming together to talk about grantmaking and life were (front row, from left) **Amy Gallagher, Emma McCulloch, Jennifer Ramsey, Kathy Bloch, and Cheryl Hannon**; and (back row, from left) **Marcia Carruthers, Jess Peabody, Dian Duvall, Maura Healy, Lisa Ganame, Eileen Foster, Dana Simpson-Stokes, and Hannah Foster.**

## 15th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTES



“To newer members: Know that change only happens in our community if we engage with others and listen well. Trust the people closest to the issues so you can learn how to help effectively. Ask hard questions respectfully and be open to looking at problems in new ways.”

*–Founding Member*

“Thank you for your generosity, for your thoughtful consideration, and for your organized and cheerful way of working together to support local nonprofits. We promise to make you proud of your contributions.”

*–Square Peg Foundation, 2023 Impetus Grant Recipient*