

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — May 6, 2024

Information Contact:
Brenda Lhorner
brendalhorner@gmail.com

**Impact100 Sonoma Grants Record \$350,000 to 13 Valley-Serving Nonprofits
at 15th Annual Celebration**

Sonoma Immigrant Services Receives First Multi-Year Encore Grant

SONOMA, Calif. — On Saturday morning, May 4, members of women’s collective giving organization Impact100 Sonoma gathered at Hanna Center to celebrate its 15th anniversary and the annual awarding of grants to nonprofits serving valley residents. Thirteen \$25,000 Impetus Grants were awarded. One recipient, Sonoma Immigrant Services, also received the organization’s first Encore Grant, providing a second consecutive year of the same funding.

The 2024 grant total of \$350,000—donated by some 330 members—sets a new annual giving record for Impact100 Sonoma and raises its cumulative grant total since 2010 to \$4,025,485. It is one of the valley’s largest funders. Grant recipients represented a broad range of nonprofit organizations serving residents of all ages and needs.

“This year, our biggest challenge was building the Encore Grant into our Impetus Grant application process, and we’re incredibly pleased with the results,” said Grants Oversight Co-

Chair Dana Simpson-Stokes. “Sonoma Immigrant Services is a prime example of an organization that can most benefit from the Encore Grant. As a small nonprofit, it might not be eligible for very large grants, yet its work is essential. Receiving a smaller grant two years in a row can be a game changer in fulfilling its mission.”

Founded in 2019, Sonoma Immigrant Services (SIS) is a Boyes Hot Springs nonprofit that helps residents navigate the complex immigration system. “Access to legal services and the cost of immigration applications are barriers to many in our community seeking legal status,” said SIS Founding Attorney Vicki Handron. “For example, the federal filing fee for a citizenship application recently increased to \$760. The Impetus Grant will enable us to help more residents pursue U.S. citizenship and help offset the costs of providing citizenship classes and legal representation. The second year of funding will enable us to expand our fee assistance to applications for DACA, work authorization, and permanent resident status, all prerequisites to citizenship.”

“Three organizations, including our Encore Grant honoree, are first-time full grant recipients, showing that our members continue to embrace new possibilities for our funding,” said Grants Oversight Co-Chair Kathy Bloch. “That we have given more than \$4 million in 15 years, helping to strengthen more than 60 local nonprofits, is an impressive achievement, especially for a community our size. It’s a testament to the philanthropic spirit of the valley.”

Every Impact100 Sonoma member makes a one-year, fully tax-deductible minimum donation of \$1,200 (\$600 for a shared membership), \$1,000 of which goes toward grants, and some donate additional funds. The more members, the more money is available to distribute. Applicants submitted their grant proposals in January. Over the winter, Impact100 Sonoma volunteer committees reviewed applications, made site visits, and selected the finalists. Those organizations presented their proposals to the full Impact100 membership at the Sebastiani Theatre on April 20, after which members voted online for grant recipients.

For the fourth year in a row, Impact100 Sonoma awarded multiple Impetus Grants of up to \$25,000 to selected nonprofits. This strategy of disbursing funds widely, as opposed to offering fewer large grants, was initiated during the pandemic and is planned to continue long term, based on feedback from the nonprofit community. Grant recipients can use the money to sustain their current programs, expand or improve their offerings, or meet organizational needs that support their mission.

In honor of its 15th anniversary, the group also debuted the multi-year Encore Grant. In addition to receiving a second consecutive year of funding, the Encore Grant recipient has the option of selecting one woman from among its staff members, board members, or volunteers to receive a fully paid, two-year membership in Impact100 Sonoma. The membership may also be shared between two women, giving them both full member privileges, but with one grantmaking vote.

2024 Impetus Grant Recipients

- **Art Escape:** \$25,000 to support the salary for the program director, who oversees the design and implementation of creative education programs
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley:** \$25,000 to expand the free mental health program, which provides individual and group therapy sessions at all seven club locations
- **Ceres Community Project:** \$25,000 to fulfill the specific nutritional needs of people struggling with serious illness
- **Community Matters:** \$25,000 to implement the Safe School Ambassadors® Program at Adele Harrison Middle School and a second high-need school
- **Kid Scoop News:** \$25,000 to support the Parent Engagement Program, a literacy project that engages more than 600 predominantly Spanish-speaking families
- **La Luz Center:** \$25,000 to support the Uplift in Unity Project, which will develop a cohort of Latino community leaders to identify essential family needs and facilitate access to resources
- **North Bay Children’s Center*:** \$25,000 to fund the development of a new Infant and Toddler Center at Sassarini Elementary School, fostering whole-family connection campus-wide
- **Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation*:** \$25,000 to upgrade facilities at Larson Park, a vital family gathering place in an underserved Springs neighborhood
- **Sonoma Immigrant Services*:** \$25,000 to fund the citizenship program and access to legal services such as green cards, visas, and work permits
- **Sonoma Overnight Support (SOS):** \$25,000 to provide meals and community connection for unhoused and food-deprived residents

- **Sonoma Valley Education Foundation:** \$25,000 to support the Empowerment Academy at Sonoma Valley High School, an after-school enrichment program offered by a collaborative of local nonprofits
- **Valley Vibes Youth Orchestra:** \$25,000 to expand music education programs at El Verano Elementary School and Sonoma Valley High School
- **Vintage House:** \$25,000 to support myRide transportation services that help non-driving seniors stay active and connected to the community

* First-time full grant recipient

“We thank our Impact100 member donors who fund our grants and the 66 volunteer review-committee members who so carefully vetted applicants for voting by the full membership,” said Co-President Debbe Noto. “Once again our grants are showcasing some smaller and even newer nonprofits serving Sonoma Valley. We are thrilled to award funding to them during our 15th anniversary year, and we hope our recognition generates additional donations, volunteers, and other support for them.”

About Impact100 Sonoma: Women Giving As One

Impact100 Sonoma is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2024. Founded in 2009 by Annette Lomont and Christine Dohrmann, the women’s philanthropic organization pools member funds to support nonprofits serving valley residents from Schellville to Kenwood. Its vision is to support a just and thriving Sonoma Valley by empowering women to invest in a more sustainable nonprofit community through collective giving, responsible stewardship, and active engagement while emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion. The first Impact100 chapter in California,

Impact100 Sonoma is an affiliate of [Impact100 Global](#) and a member of the national [Philanos](#) network. Today it has more than 300 members and typically grants more than \$300,000 annually. Its cumulative grant total since 2010 of \$4 million and climbing makes it one of the valley's largest, most reliable funders. Impact100 Sonoma is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are fully tax-deductible. For more information, visit www.impact100sonoma.org or write info@impact100sonoma.org.

###

Photo Caption:

On Saturday, May 4, at Hanna Center, Impact100 Sonoma honored 13 valley-serving nonprofits during its 15th Annual Grant Awards Celebration. Accepting checks on behalf of the 2024 Impetus Grant recipients were: (front row, from left) Ashley Ranger, Community Matters; Elissa Gibb, Ceres Community Project; Cary Snowden, Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley; Melissa Kelley, Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation; Madolyn Agrimonti, Sonoma Overnight Support; (back row, from left) Michael Mulcahy, Kid Scoop News; Leonardo Lobato, La Luz Center; Kristina Sisseck, North Bay Children's Center; Landon LeMoine, Valley Vibes Youth Orchestra; Stacie Morales, Vintage House; Angela Ryan, Sonoma Valley Education Foundation; Alondra Bravo Marroquín, Sonoma Immigrant Services; and Alex Marroquín, Art Escape.

Photo Caption:

Accepting both a 2024 Impetus Grant and the inaugural Encore Grant for Sonoma Immigrant Services was Co-Founder Alondra Bravo Marroquín (second right). Congratulating her were (from left) Dana Simpson-Stokes, Kathy Bloch, and Leslie Blankenship, Impact100 Sonoma Grants Oversight Co-Chairs.