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Sonoma Valley’s Katherine Fulton Wins National Philanos Willoughby Award
Honoring Visionary Women Philanthropic Leaders
Donates \$1,000 Prize to Impact100 Sonoma

SONOMA, Calif. — Sonoma Valley philanthropist Katherine Fulton has received the 2022 Willoughby Award from Philanos, the leading women’s giving circle network in the United States. The award includes a prize of \$1,000, which Fulton has donated to Impact100 Sonoma, a Philanos member affiliate.

Fulton was one of three finalists for the national honor. Philanos announced the winner on October 11 during an online ceremony. The annual award is named for the organization’s 2009 founder, Colleen S. Willoughby, a pioneer of the collective giving movement.

“We’re very proud to count Katherine among our members and longtime leaders,” said Impact100 Sonoma Co-Presidents Debbe Noto and Claudia Sims. “She has always inspired and encouraged us in our mission of supporting a just and thriving Sonoma Valley. We are honored and grateful that she chose to entrust her \$1,000 prize to our stewardship, and we look forward to collaborating with her on its best use.”

Fulton's professional career has spanned investigative journalism, teaching, and business consulting as well as philanthropy. Today she is co-chair of Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund, which mobilizes philanthropic support and innovative approaches to better address urgent, emergent, and chronic challenges. For the past 25 years, she has been a leading strategic advisor to foundations, high-net-worth donors, and major nonprofits and has published and spoken widely on the future of philanthropy, impact investing, and social change. Her volunteer work has included service on a dozen nonprofit boards.

Philanos presents the Willoughby Award to honor visionary women leaders in philanthropy, annually recognizing someone in the network whose involvement with her collective giving organization has inspired her to extend her philanthropic efforts more widely within her community. It also recognizes her for taking women's leadership in new directions, challenging the status quo to help other women find and amplify their voices.

Lynne Lancaster, co-president emeritus of Impact100 Sonoma and a Philanos liaison, nominated Fulton for the Willoughby Award. "Philanos asked affiliates to nominate a member who applied her experience with her local giving circle to create something extraordinary," she said. "Nominating Katherine was an easy choice, but she is so modest I didn't even tell her I was doing it. I am thrilled she was chosen for national recognition."

"This award is for all of us," said Fulton. "Impact100 and Catalyst Fund both stand for and depend upon cooperation and generosity. We can accomplish so much more together than separately as we work to address Sonoma's growing challenges and support our great nonprofits. The complexity of what faces us requires this."

"Katherine is an inspirational force for good in Sonoma Valley," said Sheryl Alexander, interim CEO of Community Foundation Sonoma County. "From working to shine a light on the valley's most pressing inequities through the *Hidden in Plain Sight* report, to her leadership of our regional partner Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund, where she helped raise more than \$1.6 million to

fight the impacts of the Covid pandemic, her passion and commitment have reshaped the face of philanthropy in our community.”

About Impact100 Sonoma: Women Giving As One

Founded in 2009 by Annette Lomont and Christine Dohrmann, Impact100 Sonoma is a women’s philanthropic organization that pools its funds to support nonprofits 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 and responsible stewardship 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. The amount of funds it grants each year depends on the number of annual members, which now exceeds 300. One hundred percent of grant donations go directly toward the grants pool, maximizing the number of local funding opportunities. Each January, area nonprofits apply for grants. Impact100 member committees review proposals, make site visits, and select finalists. All members vote on recipients, and grants are awarded in the spring. In 2022, Impact100 Sonoma granted a record \$335,500 for a cumulative total since 2010 of \$3,324,500, making it one of the valley’s largest 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.

About Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund

Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund mobilizes philanthropic support and innovative approaches to better address urgent, emergent, and chronic challenges. Catalyst is a fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County. For more information, visit sonomavalleycatalystfund.org.

About Community Foundation Sonoma County

Community Foundation Sonoma County is the hub of philanthropy for the county, connecting people, ideas, and resources to benefit all who live here. Founded in 1983, CFSC works with philanthropists to create plans that will make an impact in our community and become part of

their family's legacy. Since 1983, the Foundation has made more than \$275 million in grants to nonprofit organizations working to better their communities. For more information, visit sonomacf.org.

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