

Investing in SMART Girls

The Community Foundation Blog - May 2018

The Community Foundation works with local organizations to address the challenges occurring across San Luis Obispo County. Although these needs cannot be met overnight, we are very proud for the opportunity to make huge strides in making a difference.

One of the ways The Community Foundation is able to have a significant impact is through the work of our Field of Interest Funds. Through these Field of Interest Funds, we focus support towards very specific needs that require more attention. These Field of Interest groups include the Women's Legacy Fund to support women and girls, the Growing Together Initiative Fund to support the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, and Access for All Fund to promote accessibility and a barrier-free SLO County.

The Field of Interest Funds help support local organizations by providing financial resources for needs-based programs. An excellent example is a 3-year grant of \$40,000 from our Women's Legacy Fund to the Boys and Girls Club SMART Girls program in North County. The SMART Girls program is as a nation-wide initiative to encourage young girls in the Boys and Girls Club. Many girls in middle school face a lot of confusion, peer pressure, and self-esteem issues.



The SMART Girls program in North County offers this year-round after school program for North County middle school girls and provides them with critical skill life skills, relationship-building activities, guest speakers, field trips, and



celebrations. Mentors are also provided to help motivate and support the girls to do well in school, provide life guidance, and build lasting, positive relationships.

A 3-year grant of \$40,000 from the Women's Legacy Fund made it possible for more North County girls to access this program and the mentors that provide guidance and tools that allow them to be confident and more successful. Since the program has proven successful, the Women's Legacy Fund also granted \$15,500 to the Boys and Girls Club of South County for their SMART Girls program as well.

Although The Community Foundation's reach spreads far beyond the Field of Interest Funds, we are honored to share the stories of these funds and tell you about the impactful programs in our community that work constantly to help so many across our County. The SMART Girls program is just one impactful investment. With our 20th Anniversary, we are proud to share numerous major investments to organizations and programs like this one and thank you for joining with us in recognizing the important work of our grantee partners – like the SMART Girls Program!