

LAS PATRONAS

Partnering with the San Diego Community since 1946

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Las Patronas Announces 31 Grant Beneficiaries and the Legacy Society Grant Recipient

La Jolla, California (December 1, 2016)—Thirty-one local organizations have been selected to receive funds raised by Las Patronas from two different Jewel Balls: 10 major beneficiaries will receive funds that will be raised during the upcoming 71st Jewel Ball ***Taking Flight*** and 21 minor beneficiaries will receive funds raised during the 70th Jewel Ball ***Shangri-La***. Also this year, Las Patronas introduces its first ever Legacy Society Grant recipient, a minor beneficiary.

“We are thrilled to announce our major and minor beneficiaries,” said Leigh Plesniak, President of Las Patronas. “Each Las Patronas member is truly inspired by the incredible work our beneficiaries do to make a difference in the lives of so many San Diegans. Many of our members say visiting our beneficiaries is a highlight of being in Las Patronas because it offers an opportunity to learn more about the needs in our community.”

Grant applicants come to Las Patronas from many sources but are funded for a singular purpose—to provide critically needed equipment and capital improvements. Once a grant submission is made and passes an initial screening process, a team of Las Patronas members visits the requesting organization and completes an on-site interview.

Las Patronas members evaluate each organization and consider requests for funding from smaller community groups as well as larger nonprofit organizations. Las Patronas balances the allocations of funds among a variety of organizations throughout San Diego County. All funds contributed stay in the County.

Also this year, Las Patronas will introduce a grant called the ***Legacy Society Grant*** that is made possible through the Las Patronas Endowment Fund. The endowment is funded through generous supporters who have either made a direct contribution to the endowment or have included Las Patronas in their planned giving. The recipient of this year’s Legacy Society Grant is Big Sister League, Inc. The funds from the grant will be used to purchase a refrigerator and frost-free freezer for the transitional women’s home at the Big Sister League, Inc. in San Diego.

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Las Patronas members have started this year's fundraising efforts that will culminate with the presentation of the 71st Annual Jewel Ball **Taking Flight** on August 5, 2017, at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. The Jewel Ball is the main fund raising effort of Las Patronas and today is one of the most enduring, cultural, and philanthropic traditions in San Diego.

The following major grant beneficiaries will each receive more than \$20,000, funded from the proceeds of Jewel Ball 2017 **Taking Flight**. These beneficiaries will receive their funding in January 2018:

1. **A Reason to Survive:** A passenger van for youth outreach programs
2. **Center for Community Solutions:** Painting and upgrades to long-term emergency housing and a new storage shed
3. **International Rescue Committee in San Diego:** A used passenger van for refugee assistance programs
4. **La Jolla Playhouse:** Hearing loop systems in the three main-stage theaters
5. **Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center:** A used 84-passenger school bus
6. **National Conflict Resolution Center:** New computer hardware infrastructure
7. **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center:** A new panel van for educational programs
8. **Scripps Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital Foundation:** Infant bed warmers for the Maternal and Child Health department
9. **Urban Corps of San Diego County:** A new pickup truck for youth education and job training programs
10. **Voices for Children:** An integrated phone system for their offices

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The following fall grant beneficiaries will receive grants up to \$20,000 funded from the proceeds of Jewel Ball 2016 **Shangri-La**. These beneficiaries will receive their funding in December 2016:

1. **Alzheimer's San Diego:** Tables and chairs for support and on-site education programs
2. **Aseltine School:** A van to transport students in their transformative education program
3. **Boys and Girls Club of Vista:** A van to transport children from school to their facility
4. **Feeding San Diego:** A 32-foot scissor lift
5. **Friends of Balboa Park:** Interactive touch screens for Balboa Park visitor information kiosks
6. **Include Autism/Community Coaching Center, Inc.:** A van to transport students with autism to community learning programs
7. **Karen Organization of San Diego:** Video equipment for refugee assistance programs
8. **La Jolla Community Center:** Kitchen updates to expand offering of cooking classes
9. **Palomar College Foundation:** SimBaby manikin simulator for educational use
10. **San Diego Junior Theatre:** Wireless microphone transmitters and digital receivers
11. **San Diego Police Officers Association – SWAT:** Advanced pointer illuminators to enhance night vision
12. **San Diego Police Officers Association Charity Fund:** Video equipment to assist in fundraising for families of fallen officers
13. **San Diego Public Library Foundation:** Computer technology to establish the first Memory Lab on the West Coast
14. **San Diego Rescue Mission:** Computer lab and classroom equipment for clients' use in long-term recovery
15. **Solana Center for Environmental Innovation:** Van to transport staff and equipment for environmental educational programs
16. **Solutions for Change:** New server hardware to improve resident education and job search programs

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17. **St. Madeleine Sophie's Center:** Computers for use by adults with developmental disabilities and staff
18. **The Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.:** Warehouse forklift
19. **The Rosie Network:** Office equipment to assist in providing services to military families
20. **Timken Museum of Art / The Putnam Foundation:** Audio visual equipment for art display and educational programs
21. **Townspeople:** New washers and dryers for their Wilson Avenue Apartments

Las Patronas is a philanthropic organization with a long history of giving. Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated more than \$20 million to more than a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego. All funds raised by Las Patronas stay in San Diego County and are distributed to many small grass-root nonprofits as well as larger, more visible organizations. Las Patronas is a 100 percent volunteer organization that remains steadfastly noncommercial, nondiscriminatory, nonsectarian, and nonpolitical. For more information about Las Patronas and the annual Jewel Ball, please visit www.laspatronas.org.

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