



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Lawyers Club of San Diego Awards \$37,500 in Charitable Grants to Support At-Risk Women, Youth and Children in San Diego**

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Lawyers Club of San Diego presented grants totaling \$25,000 to 10 local nonprofit organizations at its annual holiday luncheon December 11. This amount is in addition to \$12,500 granted earlier this year, totaling \$37,500 in grants made by Lawyers Club, through its Fund for Justice, in 2014.

The Lawyers Club Fund for Justice awarded grants including \$7,000 to the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) Domestic Violence Prevention Project; \$4,000 to SDVLP for the annual Women's Resource Fair, co-sponsored by Lawyers Club; \$2,500 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego; \$2,500 to the Juvenile Court Book Club; \$2,500 to New Entra Casa; \$1,500 to Center for Community Solutions; \$1,500 to the Family Justice Center Foundation; \$1,500 to Reading Legacies; \$1,000 to Casa Cornelia Law Center; and \$1,000 to Women's Empowerment International.

In its Spring grant cycle, the Fund for Justice made grants totaling \$12,500 to seven additional organizations: \$2,500 each to Hannah's House, Kids' Turn, and Musicians for Education – Street of Dreams; \$1,500 each to Generate Hope and Palomar Health – Forensic Health Services; and \$1,000 each to Break the Silence and Dress for Success-San Diego.

Established in 1999 as the charitable arm of Lawyers Club of San Diego, the Fund for Justice makes charitable gifts to local nonprofit organizations that address social issues and specific problems that relate to Lawyers Club's mission of advancing the status of women in the law and society. The Fund also seeks to facilitate volunteerism and community service by members of Lawyers Club and to bring positive attention to the efforts of members, and lawyers in general, in service to their communities. The Fund for Justice, a donor-directed fund at The San Diego Foundation (Fund #6137), awarded its first grant in March 2000 and since then has provided 83 grants totaling \$209,938.

"Lawyers Club's mission is to advance women in the law and society, so giving back to the San Diego community has always been a hallmark of our organization," said Lawyers Club president Patricia Hollenbeck. "The need is great, and we are pleased and proud to be able to award grant money to deserving organizations that serve at-risk women and children. After the luncheon this year, I had many grant recipients approach me to say thank you. It was very touching. I let each

of them know that it is our privilege to help, and we will always do our best to lend a helping hand.”

SDVLP will use the grant for its Domestic Violence Prevention Project, which serves 1,000 women annually, to assist domestic violence victims in obtaining temporary and permanent restraining orders against their abusers. SDVLP will use the second grant to support the annual Women’s Resource Fair, which provides medical, legal and social services for homeless, battered and indigent women and their children. Lawyers Club provides more than 20 percent of the budget for the Women’s Resource Fair each year, as well as dozens of volunteers.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego will use its grant for a new project involving one-on-one mentoring of 17 middle school girls at risk of human trafficking.

Juvenile Court Book Club will use the grant funds to purchase books for teen girls incarcerated at the San Diego Girls Rehabilitation Facility, reaching 130 girls per month through the group’s 100 percent volunteer-operated book club. The group works with at-risk teens to develop their reading skills and encourage a love of reading that will help them as they pursue their education and enter the working world.

New Entra Casa will use its grant to help support the transitional housing facility and treatment center it operates for women ex-offenders and their children.

The Center for Community Solutions will use its grant to partially fund a full-time staff attorney who serves as a domestic violence advocate at the San Diego Family Justice Center and at the San Diego Police Department Mid-City Division.

The San Diego Family Justice Center, which provides coordinated legal, social and health services to victims of family violence and their children, will use its grant for the Family Justice Center Foundation’s Legal Center, which assists domestic violence victims in obtaining temporary restraining orders.

Reading Legacies will use its grant to provide women who are incarcerated in the Las Colinas Women’s Facility and two state work camps for women with the opportunity to be recorded on DVD reading books to their children. The books and DVDs are sent home to the children, helping the mothers and children maintain a bond, increase literacy, promote education, and reduce the risk of recidivism.

Casa Cornelia Law Center will use its grant funds to support its City Heights Outreach Project, which seeks to identify and assist victims of domestic violence through outreach through local schools and churches.

Women’s Empowerment International, which issues microloans to poor women in San Diego to allow them to start businesses, will use its grant to help pay for staff in the counseling center administering the microloans.

Lawyers Club collected more than \$19,000 in donations at the holiday luncheon to support future grants awarded by the Fund for Justice. More than 400 Lawyers Club members and friends attended the sold-out luncheon.

Lawyers Club, founded in 1972 with the mission “to advance the status of women in the law and in society,” now has more than 1,200 members comprised of female and male attorneys, judges, elected officials, business owners, law students and others in the San Diego community who share Lawyers Club’s interests and goals. For more information about Lawyers Club and the Fund for Justice, visit [www.lawyersclubsandiego.com](http://www.lawyersclubsandiego.com)

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