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480 Portland Area Women Make FIVE \$100,000 Grants in Fourth Year of Experimental Collective Giving Project

In year four, local women's giving circle gives \$500,000 for a total of five grant awards

Portland, Oregon – December 11, 2019 – [Ninety-nine girlfriends](#) women's giving circle is thrilled to announce a \$100,000 Impact Award to each of the following: [Open Signal](#), [Open Signal Labs](#); [Oregon Tradeswomen](#), [Training Women, Strengthening Communities](#); [Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors](#), [Investing in ECO to Build the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders](#); [CARES Northwest/Randall Children's Hospital Foundation](#), [Expansion of Child Abuse Interventions](#); and [Rose Haven CIC](#), [Rose Haven Mental Wellness Program](#).

Ninety-nine girlfriends hopes to make a meaningful impact in our local, four-county area. The awardees in their own words:

The team at Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors sent a note saying, *"This is a watershed moment in the history of ECO. The ninety-nine girlfriends Impact Award will launch ECO into our next chapter, reaching students across the state of Oregon."*

Rebecca Burrell, Director at Open Signal, told the girlfriends, *"Support for Open Signal Labs will help us take our pilot program to a dramatic new level in the coming year, empowering us to pay black filmmakers industry rates to create new work."*

Karen Phifer, Program Manager, CARES Northwest, shared her excitement, *"THANK YOU to the ninety-nine girlfriends for investing in our child abuse prevention program expansion into Washington County."*

In 2016, the *ninety-nine girlfriends* collective giving circle was launched in the Portland/Southwest Washington four-county region. Friends invited friends to join. Each woman contributed \$1,100: \$1,000 went into the grant fund pool and \$100 was applied to administrative and educational expenses. During a yearly cycle, contributors (aka "girlfriends") learn about philanthropy and community issues. In the first year, 117 women joined the Founder's Circle. In 2017, ninety-nine girlfriends more than doubled and welcomed 253 women to its second cycle of learning. In the third year, 401 women created a grant pool of \$401,000. This year, 480 members came together and are awarding \$500,000. **In total, these women have awarded \$1,271,000 in three years (four funding cycles).**

ninety-nine girlfriends

COLLECTIVE GIVING FOR IMPACT: PORTLAND & SW WASHINGTON

Michelle Hynes, Lead of the Outreach Team of *ninety-nine girlfriends* says, “*I love that ninety-nine girlfriends makes it possible for me to multiply my contribution, learn more about my community, and meet great people who care about making an impact.*” More than 70 volunteers reviewed 190 bold ideas in the form of letters of interest. Ten projects were then recommended to the members for a vote in November to determine which would be awarded the \$100,000 Impact Awards. One award was made in each of the funding categories: Arts & Culture, Education & Lifelong Learning, Environment & Sustainability, Family & Human Services, and Health & Wellness. We believe large grants can be catalysts for bold, transformative change in our community.

Ninety-nine girlfriends is an all-volunteer project that uses a collective giving grantmaking model styled after the Impact100 programs and is a member of [Catalist](#), the women’s collective giving grantmakers network, a group of 70+ national independent giving circles. *Ninety-nine girlfriends* is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3).

#30 [End of Press Release]