Our Mission Statement

Hand to Hand makes an impact in the lives of women and girls in San Diego County by directing resources to programs that empower change and self-sufficiency.

Our History

In the spring of 2008, a group of women began to discuss ways in which they could make a difference in the community for women and girls through their combined philanthropy. In October 2008, Hand to Hand was established as a charitable fund at Coastal Community Foundation. Nineteen women joined as founders. Since then, we have grown to more than 60 women and distributed grants totaling more than $168,000 to more than 15 organizations that make an impact in the lives of women and girls in San Diego County. Among our members are professionals, both working and retired, in the fields of education, medicine, corporate business, finance, law, social services, advertising, retail, business services, broadcasting and technology.

www.handtohandsandiego.org
Casa Cornelia Law Center

Casa Cornelia Law Center (CCLC) serves an immigrant female population seeking to escape abusive situations for themselves and their children. Hand to Hand made a grant to CCLC; funds specifically designated to be spent on the expenses for the Domestic Violence staff members, volunteer attorneys, law clerks and interpreters. Expenses included rent, postage and telephone costs to help the women CCLC serves. In 2014, 210 woman (and approximately 500 children by indirect contact) were assisted by the staff in applying for Employment Authorization Documents so that each woman could work legally and independently of her abuser. With the help of our grant, and others like it, CCLC held 10 legal clinics and helped change the lives of 494 victims of domestic abuse.

Welcome Home Ministry

Welcome Home Ministry (WHM), working in conjunction with the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, operates a faith-based, peer driven, reentry program for women as they transition from jail into the community. Informal data suggests that the recidivism rate for women participating in this program is only 12%. While at the national level, the US. Department of Justice reported that 57.6% of females were rearrested within 3 years of being released, 39.9% were reconvicted, and 17.3% were resentenced. The data WHM is now collecting indicates the dramatic impact the Welcome Home F.A.i.R. Dorm program has on recidivism. As a result of this year’s grant from Hand to Hand, WHM was able to analyze and quantify data covering individual and program outcomes since its inception in 2010 – 688 individual records. Already this analysis is helping to tailor services for women according to their needs. Additionally, the project has grown into a vehicle by which Welcome Home Ministry can tell its story to potential future funders, and has truly helped towards their goal of demonstrating that the WHM/F.A..i.R. Dorm model is an evidence-based practice that can be replicated across the United States in other jail systems. Additionally, they have attracted the attention of local educators to help WHM develop and publish their findings in a professional journal.
Girls Rising Mentor Program Increases Numbers and Quality in 2014

Hand to Hand grant funds were used to increase the part-time Mentor Program Coordinator position to full-time, and enabled Girls Rising to recruit, screen, and train more mentors. Elevation of the Mentor Program Coordinator to full-time status resulted in the following improvements:

- 16 more Big and Little Sister matches than the previous program year (total of 45 at-risk girls)
- Reduction in waitlist for matches from 1-2 years to 6 months
- 18 new Big Sister orientations by the full-time Mentor Program Coordinator with personalized follow-up increasing mentor recruitment and longevity of matches (average of 2 years)
- 6-8 educational events for participants
- Better outcome tracking
- Maintained 100% high school graduation rate and mentee satisfaction
- Zero teen pregnancies

Congratulations!

2015 Grantees

Hand to Hand is pleased to announce the grantees for program year 2015.

- Girls Rising $10,000
- Just In Time for Foster Youth $10,000
- Welcome Home Ministry $9,828
- New Entra Casa $3,000
“My daughter is just getting better all around. The Girls Rising mentor program is truly better than I expected.”
~Mother of daughter enrolled in the program and being mentored by a Big Sister

“I was two weeks out of jail—I thought I had jail written on my forehead. I thought I would be judged, scorned and these women who had no reason to care—cared deeply. Thank you Hand to Hand.”
~Annie Marie Beiler-Burchard, Peer Mentorship Program Coordinator Welcome Home Ministry

The generosity of the Hand to Hand Fund's members lives on in the lives of hundreds of women assisted through your grants. Today, they have gained their independence, support themselves and their children financially, and have achieved freedom from abuse and fear.
~Carmen M. Chavez, Executive Director Casa Cornelia