



City of Rohnert Park PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Name: Leo Tacata

Phone: 707-588-2247

Email: ltacata@rpcity.org

For Immediate Release

CITY OF ROHNERT PARK FOUNDATION AWARDS \$100,000 TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Rohnert Park, CA (July 12, 2018)– The City of Rohnert Park Foundation, a non-profit, charitable corporation for which the Rohnert Park Council is financially accountable as its Board of Directors, yesterday announced \$100,000 in grants that will support 28 small projects to enhance and benefit the community of Rohnert Park. The grants were announced at the City of Rohnert Park Foundation Board Meeting on July 10 at Rohnert Park City Hall.

The Foundation’s Small Grants Program is the organization’s new grants-making initiative. Funding is from the Community Investment contributions from the Memorandum of Understanding between Rohnert Park and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to mitigate impacts of the casino on the city. The Foundation receives approximately \$300,000 a year in Community Investment contributions. In February, the Foundation Board designated \$100,000 towards the new Small Grants program for community groups.

“I’d like to thank the community for coming out and taking advantage of this,” said Gina Belforte, Rohnert Park Councilmember. “This extremely positive partnership between the Tribe, the City and our non-profits ultimately fulfills our strategic plan of building a vibrant community.”

The 2018 grantees comprise a number of community organizations including the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park-Cotati, Girl Scouts, Council on Aging, Animal Shelter League of Rohnert Park, and the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. The grantees will conduct projects to benefit seniors, veterans, families, arts & culture, and students. One of the projects will build a peace garden at the Burton Recreation Center. Food will be distributed to families in need. A community band and a military banner program will receive support. The Scout Hut on Santa Alicia Drive will receive a kitchen and exterior renovation. A mural will be painted at the City’s Senior Center. Two schools will enhance play yards. Wellness clinics will vaccinate and microchip pets. Several school and university workshops will be supported. The full list of awardees and their programs can be found at www.rpcity.org/SGP.

The Foundation was established in 2008 for charitable purposes in connection with civic projects to “advance the spirit of community.” The Foundation has recently been focused on assisting the Spreckels Performing Arts Center raise funds, and last year made a contribution to the Cotati-

Rohnert Park Project Graduation event. The new Community Investment contributions through the MOU allow the Foundation to greatly expand its activities. In addition to the \$100,000 budgeted for the new Small Grants Program, the Foundation will fund a fee waiver program that will help community groups to use City facilities and will also fund project improvements to the City's parks and community facilities.

For information on the Small Grants Program contact Leo Tacata, Senior Analyst, at 707-588-2247.

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