

TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND MAKES FIRST GRANTS

The Tahoe Donner Board of Directors and Giving Fund (TDGF) committee are proud to announce the first set of grants from our charitable giving fund. The organizations receiving grants were selected in a process managed by the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF). Forty one organizations submitted proposals in the TTCF Open Competitive Grant Cycle covering Health and Human Services; Education and Youth Development; Arts and Culture; and Environmental and Animal Welfare.

Our Giving Fund Committee appointed Co-Chair Dick Gander and member Jennifer Jordan to join TTCF's grant committee of 11 other Truckee/North Tahoe community members to hear all 41 proposals. This was a six day process of interviews and site visits, a financial review of each organization and discussion to validate the need for funds. "These organizations are doing such amazing work for our community" said Jordan. Gander added "It is clear the needs of these organizations far exceed the available funds. We had to make some hard decisions."

The Board approved making the following grants:

EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Boys and Girls Club of North Tahoe: \$2,500 to assist them in their expansion to Truckee.
- SOS Outreach: \$3,000 to support their mentor training program

BOOK SIGNING AT THE LODGE

AUTHOR CELESTE LEÓN PRESENTS NEW NOVEL

Luck is Just the Beginning

Join author Celeste León for a book signing on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 5 - 8 p.m. during Happy Hour at the Lodge Restaurant & Pub. León's recently published novel, *Luck is Just the Beginning*, was inspired by the true story of her father. When nineteen-year-old Ramón León wins the Puerto Rican Lottery in 1944, he believes his promise to open the first medical and dental clinic in his village will be achievable. But a series of catastrophic events intervenes. *Luck is Just the Beginning* is not only an enchanting story of the joys and sorrows of family, but the saga of one man's determination to see his dream through.

Alex Espinoza, author of *The Five Acts of Diego León*, states, "León's debut novel places her among the most exciting Latina writers working today." Come celebrate with Celeste and enjoy Happy Hour prices all evening. For more information, to read an excerpt, and to learn about additional signings, visit www.celesteleon.com or contact

Celeste at cjl@usamedia.tv to arrange a book club discussion.



Author Celeste León will be available for a book signing on Dec. 16 at The Lodge.

critical to their programs supporting over 225 disadvantaged youth from Truckee/North Tahoe.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES/ ENVIRONMENT

- Tahoe Food Hub: \$2,500 to support their gleaning program to supply free fresh fruit and vegetables to Project MANA for distribution to those in need.

ARTS AND CULTURE

- Truckee Community Theater: \$2,000 to purchase equipment needed to produce their theatrical productions.
- Arts for the Schools: \$1,090 to purchase a new sound board needed to produce their performing arts presentations in our area schools.

"Having the TDGF join our grant process increased our ability to give by over 10 percent," said Phyllis McConn, TTCF Grant Coordinator.

"We are so happy to be able to make these grants in addition to the \$1,000 scholarship granted last spring after our first year in operation. We hope to be able to do more next year," said Merle Fajans, TDGF committee co-chair.

Please see the insert that was included in your annual assessment letter and consider including the TD Giving Fund in your charitable giving plans for this year.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MEET OTHER MEMBERS, LEARN NEW SKILLS, AND
MAKE TAHOE DONNER EVEN BETTER!

Tahoe Donner Elections Committee

(Two regular and one alternate position available)

It is the responsibility of the Election Committee to assure the efficient administration of the association's elections process. The committee verifies the eligibility and good standing of candidates volunteering to run for election to the board and monitors the election process to help assure its fairness and impartiality. The committee works together with the Inspector of Elections to see that the election is conducted in compliance with California civil and corporate law as well as the association's governing documents.

Any member of the association who is in good standing, who has an interest in contributing to the welfare of the association, who is prepared to invest the necessary time, and who does not present a conflict of interest, is eligible to apply for appointment to this committee. All prospective new committee members wishing to be appointed should submit their written request to Executive Assistant Bonnie Watkins at bwatkins@tahoedonner.com, or call 530-587-9431. Initial applications should include a brief summary of the applicant's skills, abilities and experiences which the applicant possesses that are relevant to the purpose of the committee.