



What's Happening in Q4

OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | 2025



Dates to Remember

Site visit Reports available on Foundant.....October 15
 2ND DOT Selection Meeting.....October 30 @ 6:30 p.m.
 CRC Holiday Blanket Drive.....October 30 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Grant CeremonyNovember 20 @ 7 p.m.
 Early Membership RenewalsDecember 2025
 Membership Drive 2026.....January 1 – 31, 2026

A Message from our President Joyce Mehrberg

Q4 is a busy and important time for Hand to Hand as it's when we are engaged in the nuts and bolts of granting out our philanthropy dollars. We had our first Dot Meeting September 4th and winnowed our Grantee choices down from 42 organizations to 12 finalists selected for site visits. 37 members attended the meeting, and because we allow proxy voting, 57 members voted. Site visits are occurring now and will be completed in early October.

The next big event on our calendar is the second Dot Meeting on October 30. Armed with the information gathered by the site visit teams, we will discuss, debate, and vote to select the handful of organizations who will receive grants. Prior to this meeting, you will receive the summary reports from all the site visit teams. I strongly encourage you to read those reports and attend the meeting, as it really is where the rubber meets the road. We will be making the biggest decisions of the year about where our philanthropy dollars go in 2026! If you can't attend the meeting to cast your vote and place your dots, please vote by proxy. It's really easy — just decide where you would like to place your three dots and respond to this email with your choices. Or pass those choices along to a friend who is attending the meeting, or send them to me! (joyce.mehrberg@gmail.com)

The culminating event of the quarter is the Grant Ceremony dinner on November 20, where we gather together and celebrate with our grant recipients. This dinner is the highlight of our grant making process. Typically, each grant recipient will send one or two people to talk to us about how our grant will be used to help them achieve their goals. Often, one of the attendees will be someone who has benefited from the organization in the past. It is an incredibly moving and joyous event, and I guarantee there will not be a dry eye in the room.

This year we increased the amount of money available to our grantees to keep pace with inflation by raising the maximum grant allowed to \$15,000. We will have over \$75,000 available to grant out this year, which is by far the most money we've ever had to distribute. This is due to a combination of growing our membership and the generosity of many members and 'friends of Hand to Hand' who donated more than the minimum. As a reminder, we are raising the dues in 2026 to \$700.

Susan Steele named 2025 Volunteer of the Year by Coastal Community Foundation

Please congratulate our very own Sue Steele for receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award. Sue was one of the original founders of Hand to Hand, and she has been instrumental in designing and continually improving our Traditions and Practices Handbook. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sue for her many contributions to the health, wellbeing and overall success of Hand to Hand. She continues to help bring new members into our giving circle and inspires all who join to become involved in leadership roles.

Sue is being honored on October 17, 2025 at the North County Philanthropy Council's Annual Volunteer Awards Celebration being held at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. For more information or to purchase a ticket (\$125 per person) to attend, visit: <https://ncphilanthropy.org/programs/volunteer-awards-celebration/>



A message from Sue:

More than 16 years ago, I had the privilege of founding Hand to Hand at Coastal Community Foundation, at San Diego Foundation with 18 other women in North County.

What inspires me most is giving others the tools to become impactful philanthropists. Through site visits and direct engagement with grantees, we have built lasting connections that deepen our commitment to this work. Drawing on my professional skills, I led the design of the infrastructure that keeps our giving circle healthy, strong, and sustainable for the long term, and have simultaneously made many friends with the same values.

Second DOT Selection Meeting Thursday, October 30th

Members will be selecting the finalists for our 2025 grant awards among 12 competing semi-finalists. This is a meeting not to be missed!

This meeting will include five-minute presentations from each of the 12 organizations we visited. You will receive a paper ballot when you sign in on which you will place your 3 dots next to your choice for a finalist at the end of the presentations. Please read the final site visit reports before the meeting as the presentations will only highlight something interesting about the visit and answer a few quick questions.

Grants will be awarded at this meeting according to the highest number of dots received by each nonprofit. Top grantees will be funded until our funds are exhausted. This year we have \$75,000 to grant out. This is the culmination of our work for 2025... you won't want to miss it!



Don't Ghost this meeting or the Goblins will haunt you!

October 30, 2025 6:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
890 Balour Drive, Encinitas

Halloween themed snacks provided, but please bring your own beverage!



Grant Committee *Mary Freeman, Chair*

The site visits reports will be available on **Foundant** by October 15. A separate email will be sent to all members to inform you when the reports are available on Foundant, along with a downloadable PDF package for each site visit. A link to **Foundant** at San Diego Foundation will be included.



Membership Committee *Dori Patterson, Chair*

Early Renewals: The Membership committee will be sending out membership renewal letters in December for those who wish to renew before the end of the year. Our official Membership Drive for 2026 will begin in January and run until January 31.

Email letters will be sent to all members explaining the several ways you may renew your membership. Please note that our minimum dues have been adjusted for inflation and increased from \$500 to \$700 annually.

We ask that ALL members renew next year before January 31, 2026. Thank you!

CRC's Holiday Basket & Blanket Drive *Sponsored by the Grants Committee*

Our friends at Community Resource Center have requested we again host a collection of NEW Throw Blankets for their senior clients in support of their Holiday Basket Drive. They also would welcome queen and king blankets for the families they serve. H2H has made a big difference in CRC's Holiday Basket collections in the last few years, and they really appreciate our contributions!

Bring your donations to the meeting and our volunteers will deliver them to CRC on your behalf.

A QR code will be available at our meeting on October 30 for those who wish to donate directly to the CRC Holiday Basket Drive.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER'S
Holiday Baskets