



**SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS
WOMEN'S FUND**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Amy Inman

314-479-4343

amyinman@yahoo.com

**A QUIET FORCE FOR GOOD - SOS CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF
INFLUENCING CHANGE IN THE GREATER ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY**
“Spirit Awards” on May 22 to announce next round of grants to area nonprofits

SAINT LOUIS, MO (2019) — When Shelby Schagrín brought the idea of collective giving to St. Louis in 2006, she asked the question - *What if a group of female change makers coordinated their efforts, working behind the scenes to help those in the region who need it most? What kind of spark could they ignite? How many lives could they affect in a positive, meaningful way?*

For the Spirit of St. Louis Women’s Fund (SOS), the answer is thousands, maybe tens of thousands, in less than two decades.

Powered by a diverse group of women from nearly every corner of the St. Louis region, SOS has been a quiet but mighty force for change, delivering **over \$2.5 million** in focused and informed grants to **over 70 small nonprofits** throughout the community.

The philosophy that propels these “angel investors” is simple: they can do more together than on their own, pooling their resources for greater social impact.

Those who benefit include health care providers, shelters, school-based groups and crime advocacy centers, to name a few. They are often short on staff and money, but big on dedication and vision.

SOS support can act as the first stepping stone for these fledgling nonprofits, giving them the credibility to gain larger funding.

It is collective giving in its finest form. And the work continues.

On **May 22, 2019**, this all-woman organization will host its Spirit Awards & Annual Meeting, celebrating another year of giving back to the community. At the event, a new round of nonprofits will be announced as SOS grant recipients.

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Norman K. Probststein Golf Center in Forest Park, 6141 Lagoon Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112.

For those interested in SOS's behind-the-scenes work, the event offers the chance to meet the members — real women, from all demographic and geographic backgrounds, who have come together for the shared purpose of collective giving.

It will also be an opportunity for SOS to reflect on its ongoing work and mission.

Because at the end of the day, it is about more than writing checks. It is about the people who find help and hope through these efforts.

It is about the homeless student who was afraid to go to school because she didn't have clean clothes to wear. Or the nine-year-old boy, just a few zipcodes away, who struggled to make sense of life after losing his brother. Or the single mother who struggled to escape her past, as the latest victim of the region's hidden but prolific sex trade.

These are real people living in the St. Louis community — now looking at brighter futures, thanks to the nonprofits SOS has chosen to support.

To learn more about SOS and the difference these women are making in the community, visit www.spiritstlwomensfund.org.

Grant recipients who will be recognized at the Spirit Awards & Annual Meeting:

Lydia's House (third year of a \$100,000 multi-year grant), Almost Home (\$7,500), Angels' Arms (\$20,000), Create a Loop (\$18,000), Fit and Food Connection (\$19,500), Girls in the Know (\$16,722), Healing Action Network, Inc. (\$9,984), Megan Meier Foundation (\$5,000), Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project (MICA) (\$20,000), Sneakers with Soul (\$14,000), St. Louis BWorks (\$10,000), The SoulFisher Ministries (\$25,000), Urban Harvest (\$25,000).

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