# 2024 WAS A YEAR OF HOPE & OPPORTUNITY



The JVS SoCal Women's Leadership Network (WLN) is a philanthropic group dedicated to serving women in career crisis or transition, including women launching their careers. Approximately 62% of the 30,000+ clients served by JVS SoCal last year are women.





Women gather at 2024's Woman to Woman Conference

#### **WOMAN TO WOMAN CONFERENCE**

The 12th Annual Woman to Woman Conference: Commitment with Compassion raised over \$1 million to support women participating in all of JVS SoCal's programs and services. Hosted by Spectrum News 1's Lisa McRee, this event was supported by over 500 members of the community. Guests were inspired by speakers ranging from an African princess and philanthropist, to an expert in gangs and systems change. JVS SoCal clients shared their stories of transformation and success.

The Women's Empowerment Award was presented to Bridgid Coulter Cheadle, who broke barriers to become an entrepreneur and producer. Thirteen Cedars-Sinai physicians, who are ground-breaking leaders, were honored for their service with the Rosaline L. Zuckerman Impact Award.

### **MEETING WOMEN'S**CRUCIAL NEEDS

The WLN Council awarded Impact Grants of over \$60,000 to support 30 women with crucial basic needs and career development tools. All of these women are clients across JVS SoCal's programs.

Among those women, Michelle McKinlay's life was changed when she received a grant for a new computer and training so that she could become a certified doula.



Michelle McKinlay at 2024's Woman to Woman Conference

## EXPANDING **RELATIONSHIPS**

The WLN welcomed three distinguished professionals to its Executive Council: Karen Kaplan Berger, a retired healthcare attorney; Cheryl Fair, former President and General Manager at ABC7; and Deborah Kallick, former Vice President of Government & Industry Relations at Cedars-Sinai.

Together they bring a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to advancing the mission of JVS SoCal through leadership and service.



WLN Executive Council Members. Left to right, back row: Cheryl Fair, Debbie Powell, Deborah Kallick, Barbara Leanse, Jane Z. Cohen, Eileen Coskey Fracchia, D'Angela Proctor Steed Left to right, front row: Leslie Spivak, Linda Brown, Joan August, Lauren Kurzweil, Karen Kaplan Berger. Not pictured: Judy F. Rosenberg, Alexandra Carter



Participants applauding at 2024's Culinary Journeys Event.

#### REACHING NEW MEMBERS

The WLN hosted an event featuring a panel of chefs discussing their journeys in the culinary industry. Kajsa Alger of Porto's, Jenn Rush of Blue Plate Taco and Oysterette, Akasha Richmond of AKASHA, and Daisy Garcia of LA Trade-Tech College participated, moderated by Brad Metzger of Restaurant Solutions. The event was attended by 75 people, who enjoyed delicious treats from Porto's and Akasha.





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