



Iranian American Women Foundation

Annual Report 2018

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Founder's Message

As Iranian American women, we share a unique identity that brings color to the world around us. Whether we are leading a top company or creating great works of art, our identity as hyphenated Americans adds an extra layer of depth to the work that we do. There is power in uniting with our sisters across the diaspora, and that is why I founded IAWF back in 2011. Seeing the incredible turnout at our very first conference in Orange County made it clear that so many of us share the desire to be seen and heard by others who might better understand our experiences.

Now, we are a full-fledged nonprofit organization that serves as a bridge between our sisters across the country. IAWF has also grown to meet the needs of the next generation through our Mentorship to Internship program, which aims to empower participants by providing them with the tools they need for their professional development, and also connects them with leaders in our community. It has been humbling to witness the support of our members blossom into so many inspiring events and programs, and I look forward to seeing what else we can grow together.

Mariam Khosravani
Founder, IAWF



About IAWF

Since its inception in 2011 in Orange County, California, IAWF has empowered, inspired, and connected thousands of women both nationally and globally. It has served as a home away from home; a community that celebrates creative, innovative, tenacious, and competitive women who are problem solvers and a force for the greater good.

The organization has hosted sold-out conferences in Orange County, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, London, and Toronto. By offering a platform for open dialogue, IAWF creates lasting connections, inspires women to follow their dreams, empowers Iranian American women to achieve their highest potential, and contributes to the very heart of the American dream.

With more than 6,000 members nationwide, the organization showcases the diversity of America, celebrates the confluence of American fabric and Iranian heritage, and propels women forward by helping them develop dynamic professional and leadership skills.





Conferences

IAWF conferences inform, inspire, educate and invigorate Iranian American women. Born from a desire to empower and connect, IAWF's conferences, held nationwide, offer a place where Iranian American women from all walks of life can celebrate their heritage, network, promote personal and professional growth, and showcase their community's contribution to the American fabric. Speakers are hand-selected based on their impact on society, success in business, and/or ability to share their stories and motivate others. Most participants walk away from IAWF conferences feeling rejuvenated and energized.

IAWF events are more than just conferences, they are an experience. At these conferences, women make new lifelong friendships, expand their career opportunities, commit to personal and professional achievements, and celebrate their culture.

Los Angeles Conference

April 29, 2018

IAWF hosted its 16th Women's Leadership Conference at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Over 600 attendees joined us in the heart of the City of Los Angeles to hear from highly accomplished Iranian Americans from across the country. Our Master of Ceremonies kept audiences engaged throughout a day full of inspiring panels and meaningful connections, and we were joined by incredible speakers across a variety of professional sectors. Ambassador Azita Raji and Mahnaz Afkhami attended the conference as our keynote speakers, and IAWF recognized Ms. Afkhami for her decades of work as a women's rights activist. We also received the honor of accepting the first Proclamation from the City of Los Angeles declaring April 27th as Iranian American Women's Day.



New York Conference

November 11, 2018

IAWF's New York Chapter hosted the 17th Women's Leadership Conference at New York University's Kimmel Center. We had over 400 attendees join us for our third conference in the Big Apple, and our panels covered topics including "The Importance of Civic Engagement in Democracy" and "Know Your Worth and the Power of Your Voice." IAWF also presented Maryam Panahy Ansary with the Shirzan Award in recognition of her work in building a bridge between cultures and advocating for women's rights around the world. It was a day full of awe and inspiration as we connected with our members from cities throughout the East Coast.



Chapter Events

Over the years, IAWF has expanded its reach throughout the United States. We have four active chapters on both coasts of the country where our members can connect with each other at various events throughout the year. Here's a look at some of our activities, and we look forward to starting new chapters in even more regions!



Women Owned Small Business Development & Financing

February 21, 2018

Our first IAWF Connect event of the year focused on sharing tips and tools to make the best financial decisions. Thank you to Ashkan Entesari & Leila Mozaffari for speaking at this event!



International Women's Day Celebration March 3, 2018



IAWF partnered with UCI's Jordan Center to host our annual IWD Celebration. We had an amazing group of panelists join us for a fascinating discussion, followed by beautiful live music performances.

Art Exhibition June 23-24, 2018



IAWF hosted a two-day Art Exhibition at the Coastline Community College Art Gallery. Our members joined us in Newport Beach to view the breathtaking art created by Mr. Ali Shahbazi.

Los Angeles Chapter Launch

February 1, 2018

We had a great turnout for the official launch of IAWF's Los Angeles Chapter. We were joined by so many supporters who are dedicated to our mission of uplifting women in our community, and it helped start off an exciting new year.



Los Angeles Chapter

“Born in 1361” Play

July 29, 2018

Our Los Angeles Chapter hosted a showing of "Born in 1361," a play written by Naghmeh Samini and performed by Asiyeh Ziaei. We had a great turnout for this amazing performance, and it was inspiring to witness such talent.



Mentorship to Internship Program

IAWF is proud to offer our Mentorship to Internship program to students and young professionals between 17 to 32 years of age. Our program encompasses four areas - mentorship, scholarship, Life Academy workshops, and internship.



Mentorship

Our mentorship team matches applicants with mentors who can provide professional and personal guidance through their careers.

Scholarship

We provide financial assistance to our mentees who have a demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, cross-cultural bridge-building, and community service.

Life Academy

Life Academy is a series of informative workshops which gears mentees with the tools necessary to excel in their classrooms and workspaces.

Internship

IAWF offers internship opportunities to active mentees, as well as access to our wide network of professionals throughout the country.

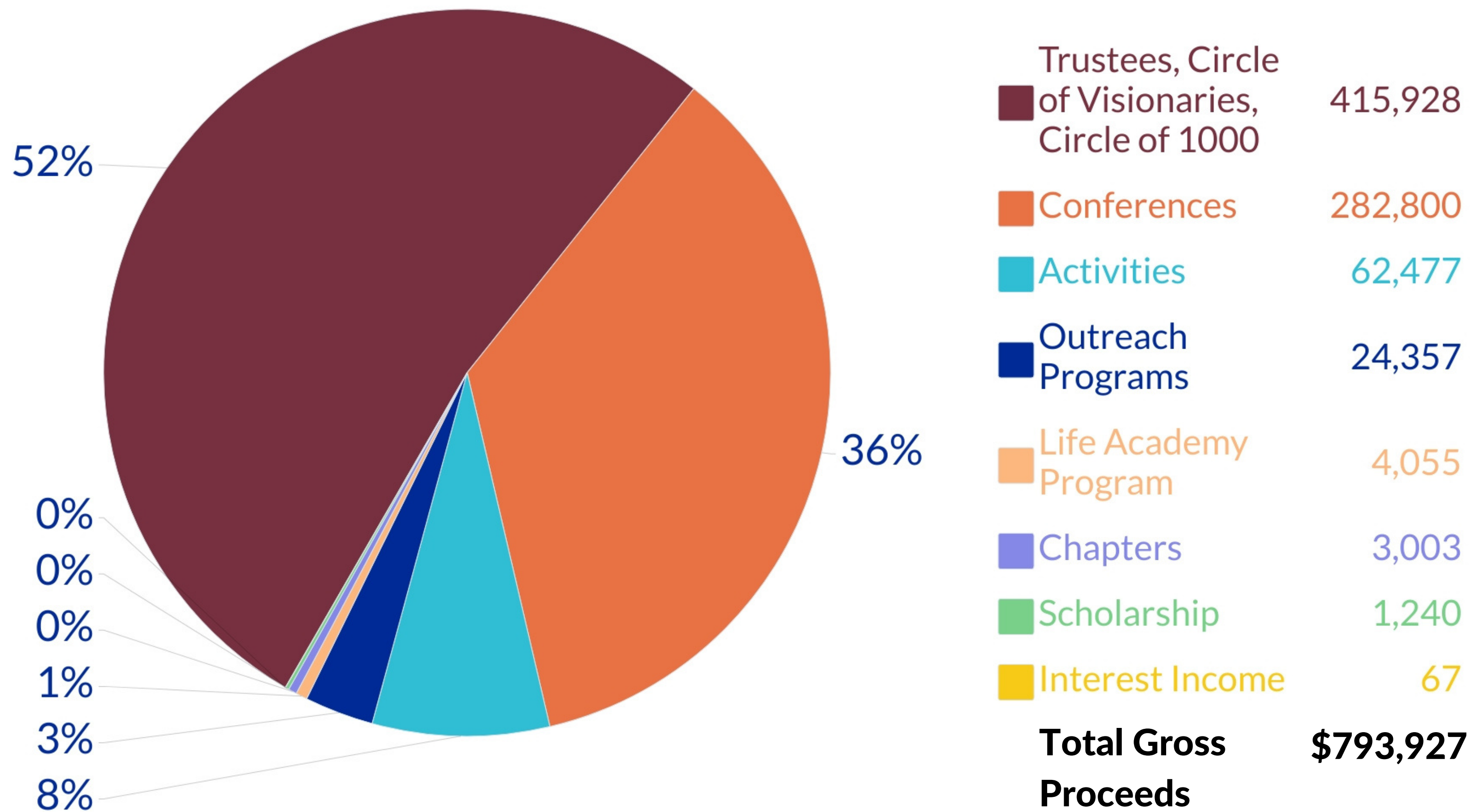
Life Academy

August 1-4, 2018

In August 2018, IAWF invited our mentees to join us for a three-day trip to Silicon Valley. Participants enjoyed private tours of the headquarters of some the biggest names in tech, including Facebook, Google, Plug and Play, and Stanford University. It was an amazing weekend where we heard from leaders in our community and attended a variety of motivating workshops. A special thanks to Mandana Soleimani, Sepehr Hejazi Moghadam, Shahed Sajadieh, Somayeh Sardashti, Amira Fouad, Kaveh Shahabi, Roya Soleimani Winner, Ava Asgari, Neda Amidi, Shima Salehi, Pejman Nozad, Narges Bani Asadi, Zohre Elahian and Kamran Elahian for helping making this event possible.



Financial Report 2018



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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our Chapter Leaders in Northern California, Orange County, Los Angeles, and New York for their commitment to IAWF's mission.

Thank you to our committee members in Los Angeles and New York who helped organize our Women's Leadership Conferences - we could not do this without you!

Thank you to our staff and volunteers who make every event possible. Your time and dedication allow us to work towards our mission of inspiring, empowering, and connecting Iranian women both locally and globally.

Lastly, thank you to our members and supporters. None of this would be possible without your enthusiasm and encouragement.