WOMEN & GIRLS
THE IMPACT OF OUR COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

THE NEED

Our community can only thrive if women are free to live, work, and dream to their full potential. At Heart of West Michigan United Way, we recognize that women and girls face barriers to achieving their goals.

• Women earn 85 cents for every dollar earned by a man
• Women hold 50% of college degrees, but just 29% of STEM jobs
• 1 in 3 women has experienced domestic violence
• >80% of homeless mothers have experienced domestic violence
• 30% of households headed by single women are food insecure

HOW WE HELP

Our Community Grant Fund offers comprehensive support for women and girls. The programs we fund offer career training, access to healthy food, safe shelter in times of crisis, a path to a stable home, and educational enrichment in math and science for middle school girls, among other services.

The impact of our Community Grant Fund:

• 947 women received career services
• 89% pursuing healthcare credentials through funded programs are women
• 77% of homeownership program attendees are women
• 50% of students in funded STEM programming are girls
• 4,484 women and girls cared for after domestic or sexual violence

NOW, I KNOW I CAN DO ANYTHING.”

Jasmine was a single mom working temp jobs and living with her twins boys in a homeless shelter. WMCAT saw her potential and helped her overcome the barriers that stood in her way. Jasmine graduated from WMCAT’s pharmacy technician program in 2013 and began her pharmacy career. Habitat for Humanity of Kent County helped her reach the next milestone: homeownership. By putting in her “sweat-equity” hours, Jasmine was on track to own her own home for the first time in her life. With a matching investment from Inner-City Christian Federation, she pulled together enough money for the down-payment. Jasmine and her boys have been in their home for over a year, and she’s saving up for their college education. “Now I know I can do anything,” Jasmine says.