

you are



greater than...



It's in the
overcoming
of difficulties
that greatness
emerges.

you are. we are...

Women's Fund Letter 2024

As we begin the 25th year serving our community, we reflect on the profound impact we've had on the lives of women and children throughout Winnebago County. This milestone reminds us of the power of **collaboration and teamwork**; our collective efforts are far **greater than** the sum of our individual contributions. This philosophy is woven into the fabric of everything we do.

Since our founding, the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation has granted **over 3 million dollars** to local nonprofit organizations. These funds have been instrumental in aiding survivors of domestic violence, facilitating educational programs for single mothers, supporting mentorship initiatives for at-risk youth, and so much more. Every grant awarded, every program supported, and every initiative launched has been fueled by our **shared commitment** to uplift and empower. With the support of our generous donors, volunteers, and supporters, we've created opportunities, fostered a sense of belonging, and sparked change that travels through generations.

Together, we are stronger, more resilient, and **capable of achieving greater things** than we ever could alone. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. We look forward to the next 25 years!

~The Women's Fund Team



"A woman's greatest strength is her ability to empower other women." ~Unknown

our mission

Improve the lives of women, girls and all members of the communities in Winnebago County through philanthropy, grant making and education.

our vision

Inspire people to be philanthropic and invest in change that impacts the lives of women and their families.

our work

We raise and give money, distribute the message, and empower women and girls to live their lives to their full potential.

you are greater than your doubts, stronger than your fears, and capable of achieving more than you can imagine.

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grant committee

Amy Albright
 Cheryl Brooks
 Cassandra Dorn
 Allison Garner
 Barb Herzog
 Katie Lindemann
 Marie McKelleps
 Sue Panek
 Denise Prehn
 Nancy Ralofsky
 Ann Trembly

our board

The Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation board and committees are comprised of dedicated community volunteers.

Barb Herzog, *Past President*
 Vicki Krueger, *President*
 Amy Albright, *Vice President*
 Katie Hoxtell, *Secretary*
 Karen Schneider, *Treasurer*
 Ken Arneson
 Rosangela Berbert
 Melissa Kohn
 Denise Prehn
 Carrie Rule
 Patty Shea

governance committee

Barb Herzog
 Kelli Karpinski
 Vicki Krueger
 Kim Moliter
 Angela Rust

emeriti

Nancy Albright
 Susan Elbing
 Chrys Hyde
 Judie Koepler
 Kelly Laux
 Sylvia McDonald
 Kim Molitor
 Susan Vette

power team committee

Theresa Brockman
 Nan Devermann
 Barbara C. Effertz-Doherty
 Jolene Heuchert
 Kelli Karpinski
 Lynn Kleman
 Vicki Krueger
 Kelly Laux
 Michelle Rector
 Carrie Rule
 Patty Shea

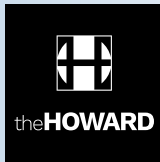
[LEARN ABOUT OUR TEAM](#)



staff

Dawn Clark, *Executive Assistant*
 Karlene Grabner, *Executive Director*
 Siri Pollnow, *Marketing and Communications Manager*

we are greater because of you, our community partners.



OSHKOSH™



The Helaine Fund

Ann & Jeff Trembly



Carol Joseph



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Aurora Health Care
Badger Federal Services
Baker Tilly
Bank First
Blended Waxes
Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh
CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA)
Nan Deverman
Dream Jewelers

Dumke and Associates
Evergreen Retirement
Community
Fox Communities Credit Union
Fox Valley Technical College
Insurance Services by Karen
InterGen, Inc.
Courtney Lasky
Lourdes Academy
Nicolet Bank

Omni Glass
Provident Financial Consultants
Sadoff Iron & Metal Company
Judy Seibold
Simply Yoga
Susy Vette
ThedaCare Physicians Oshkosh
Verich Law
Visit Oshkosh
Windward Wealth Strategies

thank you for investing in the work of the Women's Fund!

Women's Fund

Funds list as of April 2024

Through grantmaking and fund development, the Women's Fund strives to create measurable social change in the lives of women and their families in Winnebago County. The following funds have been established by donors to address challenges experienced by women across all age groups within our community.

A Cut Above Fund
Alexandra K. Koeppler Fund
Alice/Adella Fund
Altrusa International Club of Oshkosh Fund
Arline Sitter Fund
Belles, Books and Candor Fund
Blonde Ambition Fund
Chrys Hyde Fund
Community First Credit Union Fund
David and Susan Elbing Fund
Dawn Johnson Smith Fund
Dorothy Ruland Fund
Doug and Shelda Fosso Family Fund
Friend of the Women's Fund
G.E.M.S. (Giving Empowers My Sisters) Fund
Granny Annie Fund
Helaine Rudoy Lasky Fund
Herzog Family Fund
Jeanette G. Westfahl Fund
Jeanette Hebblewhite Scholarship Fund
Jean I. Caudle Fund for Women
Jeanne and Quintin Metzsig Fund
JES Fund
Josephine and Marie Schneider Fund
Kaitlynn A. Koeppler Fund
Larson Family Fund
Marcia Smith-Leslie Fund
Mary Anhaltzer Fund
Mary C. Leitch Memorial Fund
McDonald Girls Fund
Mike and Julie Maslowski Family Fund
Nan West Devermann Fund
Nelson Women's Fund
Nina M. McCandless Fund
N. L. Dirlam Women's Fund
Oshkosh Service League Scholarship Fund
Patricia J. Koll Fund
Rose Fund
Ruth A. Nordhaus Designated Scholarship Fund
Ruth A. Nordhaus Fund
Ruth Vorpahl Education Fund
SHE3 Fund
Stadtmueller-Kilp Family Fund
Stadtmueller-Kilp Scholarship Fund
Susan Hardy Heaney and
Doris Hardy Schwalm Fund
The Service League Fund
The Wine Ladies Fund
The Women's Division 50th Anniversary
Endowment Fund
Touch of Silver Young Women's Twirling
Corps Fund
Verve Credit Union Fund
Vette Girls Fund
Vierthaler Family Fund
Women in Medicine Fund
Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area
Community Foundation
Women's Fund Program and Operating Fund

Invest in Our Mission: Ways to Give

Cash Gifts

Cash gifts are the simplest way to give to the Women's Fund. Aside from the convenience, cash gifts may also be eligible to be deducted from your federal income tax.

Appreciated Securities (Stocks)

Gifts of Appreciated Securities or stock save income tax and avoid the capital gains tax you would pay if you sold them yourself. For most donors, the full fair-market value of publicly traded stocks and bonds may be eligible to be deducted for income tax purposes. The actual impact on your personal taxes should be reviewed by your tax advisor.

Bequests

A bequest is often the simplest way for many donors to make a significant, lasting gift to their community. By naming the Women's Fund in your will or estate plan, you can create a named fund that will forever support the causes or organizations important to you. A bequest of 1 percent to 10 percent of your estate can dramatically reduce federal estate and inheritance taxes, with little or no impact on your heirs.

You are greater than the
voices that say "you can't."

There are many additional ways to give to the Women's Fund including Charitable Trusts, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Life Estates, Life Insurance, and Real Estate.

Learn more at [Women.OshkoshAreaCF.org](https://www.Women.OshkoshAreaCF.org).



[CLICK HERE TO DONATE ONLINE](#)



you are

than
your

struggles
conditioning
negative self talk
trauma
mistakes
fears
challenges
pressures
past
limitations
worries...

Your support of the Women's Fund work helps women, girls, and children begin to feel + believe that they are "greater than" whatever may be holding them back.



Supporting those raising the next generation.

Our work often leads us to fund grants around initiatives for children and teens. Places that can make a difference earlier in a child's life. But we also know the support for parents in our society is severely lacking. We learned a lot from our past work with single mothers and the RISE 2.0 initiative. We wondered if there were ways to bolster parent support in our own community. If parents were healthier and more supported, children would directly benefit.



What began as focus groups of community parents, caregivers, and those involved in the lives of children and teens, became a multi-year initiative. The start of our parenting work began in 2019 with focus groups of parents, doctors, teachers, agency leaders, caregivers, and more. We listened to their experiences and insights into what support they needed most and what that could look like in action. As you can imagine, many ideas came out of the focus groups.

Across nine focus groups and listening to well over 100 participants, it became clear that connection, conversations, and sense of community were common threads of need among parents. These were also areas where we could infuse resources and expertise. Then there was COVID. The need for connection and community grew even more while opportunities were limited. Through a partnership with Go Valley Kids (GVK), Go Oshkosh Kids (GOK) was created. GOK was designed to serve as a local resource hub to connect families to community education, experts, and ideas that can help them be healthy, happy, and successful.



[Scan, or click
here to listen
Online:](#)



In addition to the online platform with articles and blog posts sharing local resources and opportunities, our “Let’s Talk” podcast incorporated discussions with local experts on topics that parents were curious about. It allowed the information that was shared to have a conversational feel yet allow parents to listen at their convenience.

Knowing our efforts around parenting support would differ from our traditional grant work and require a multi-year effort, our board approved \$40,000 toward the parenting initiative. This grant helped fund the GOK website and podcasts through the end of 2023. We are very proud of the resources and connections that were built with families throughout our partnership with GVK and GOK.

The Women's Fund partnership with Go Oshkosh Kids was created in 2021. Here's what we've been up to!

go oshkosh KIDS!



300+ EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS

WEB 81K
SITE VISITORS As of 12/31/23



WEBSITE LAUNCHED
AUGUST 2021

f 2,908
GROUP FOLLOWING



118K+
WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS



As of 12/31/23

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN ONLINE](#)



Let's 
TALK
PODCAST



LAUNCHED
JANUARY '22

1,357 
PODCAST LISTENS

10 
PODCAST EPISODES

Go to the Source.

If you are looking for honest insight into what kids are experiencing, ask and then listen to a teen girl. We are currently in the eighth class of our Girls Granting Initiative (GGI) that began over 15 years ago. Since then, nearly 150 high school junior and senior girls have participated - granting over \$80,000 to local nonprofits. Using the knowledge of school counselors to determine the right mix of girls who will be honest, vocal, and have diverse backgrounds, every other year we bring together 20 girls ages 15 to 18 from public and private Oshkosh high schools. The girls are representative of all different socio-economic backgrounds.



We meet with the team of girls and a facilitator, who guides the team through discussions about the most pressing issues facing their generation, and each year they give us a longer list of concerns.

The main mission of this initiative is the education and empowerment of young women in our community through philanthropy; but the bigger lessons are ours. We can make educated guesses about what challenges teens might have but, on

many levels, we simply cannot relate or even imagine what their lived experiences are. So, learning from them directly is invaluable knowledge that we can then use to help drive some positive change. Some of the grant efforts past GGI classes have funded include:

- Mentoring support for teen girls and programming focused on preparing for life after high school, safe teen activities, and social emotional support.
- A collaborative pilot program at two local schools with sessions on: self-esteem, resiliency, determination, healthy relationships, body image and more.
- “4-Real” program, an interactive multi-week program for middle school girls focused on healthy relationships, positive body image, and social media management.
- A week-long camp focused on healthy relationships with team building, classes, and small group work.

The GGI continues to be one of our most engaging and enlightening granting efforts. The contribution each class makes will have ripple effects on the lives of girls in our community.

“Participating in **Girls Granting** showed me how a small thought can turn into a whole movement. In the future, I want to work with kids who have a poor upbringing to improve their lives.”

~ Class of 2016 Participant

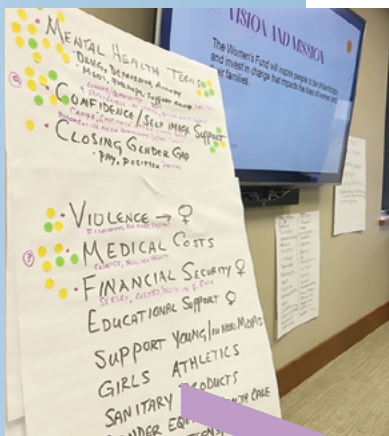
Girls Granting | Big Brothers Big Sisters



"My Big Sister showed me that you should never change who you are for anybody. She always tells me to be true to myself and enjoy who I am, which is reassuring to me. I know my Big Sister likes me just the way I am, so I don't have to impress anybody." ~Izzy



Being a teenager is hard. Teenagers today are faced with more academic, mental health, and social emotional challenges than ever before. But Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin believe that one positive adult relationship can make all the difference in the world for teens. Thanks to the 2022 Girls Granting class, Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin was able to use funds to provide intentional support and activities for 35 teen girls in their one-to-one mentoring programs. Teens like Izzy, who has been matched with her Big Sister Cheryl since she was 8 years old. Cheryl's been a constant support for Izzy from elementary school, through middle school, and now as a sophomore in high school. They love to try new restaurants, go for walks together, and attend Big Brothers Big Sisters events. Cheryl always encourages Izzy to try new things and reminds her to believe in herself and abilities.



You are greater than the doubts of others.

The Perennial Learner.

Education and research are foundational parts of our work at the Women's Fund. As conduits of funding for programming, initiatives, and grants for underserved populations, particularly women and children, it is essential that we are always learning and listening. We organize many educational opportunities to support and deepen our understanding of the needs in the community. These learning occasions are not only for our team, they're for our volunteers, other nonprofit leaders, and for interested community members.

The topics we gather panels around are often tough ones. In some cases, like our panel discussion on women's healthcare post-Roe, it was potentially divisive. Or the fentanyl education panel with the Love Logan Foundation, that felt shocking, scary, but also hopeful.

Our presentation with Sue Klebold, mother of Dylan Klebold, Columbine School shooter, was extremely vulnerable and could have been viewed as taboo. The mental health therapists and experts we gathered to learn from most recently, felt overwhelming and daunting at times. But each of these difficult discussions and uncomfortable conversations had so much insight and awareness within them.

Did they give us solutions to the problems? No. Did they open lines of communication? Invite understanding or compassion? Remove stigma? Inspire next steps? Yes, to all. Our work to serve and our role as "students" will never end. Progress will be made and lives will improve, alongside new challenges and barriers. Thanks to your continued support and trust, we will continue to grow and learn so we can serve more.



You are greater than
the barriers to education
and opportunity.

Reach Counseling

Reach Counseling is a sexual assault service provider for children and adults that offers culturally responsive outreach, prevention education, victim advocacy, trauma counseling, and sex offender treatment. Through Reach Counseling, survivors find not just support but often a lifeline, a connection that becomes their turning point from despair to hope. The impact of this connection is vividly captured in the words of those Reach has served: “If it weren’t for our counselor we’d probably be dead by now;” “My counselor, advocate, and case manager have been there for me ... they SAVED my life;” “[My advocate] is one of the best things that have happened to me;” “I honestly don’t know if I’d be here if it wasn’t for [my therapist].” Such testimonials bear witness to the essential, life-saving support Reach provides. The Women’s Fund is proud to support the work of Reach Counseling through a grant to help raise awareness of their services, with a focus on those that serve single mothers.



You are greater than the sum of your struggles.



Granting Dollars
Per Fiscal Year*

\$7,404
1999

\$37,202
2002

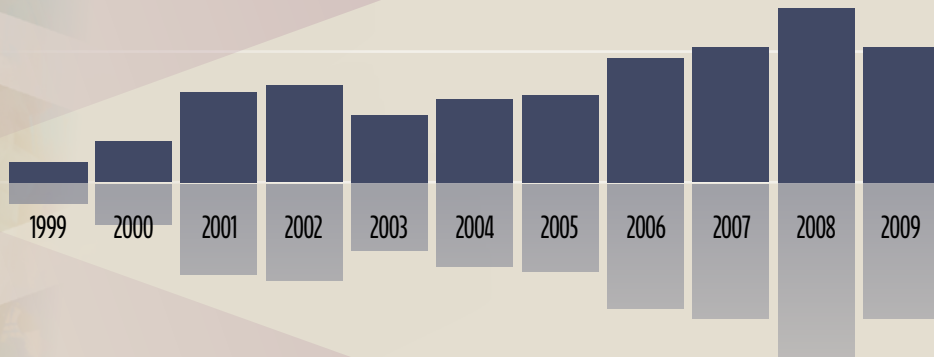
\$33,620
2005

\$66,893
2008

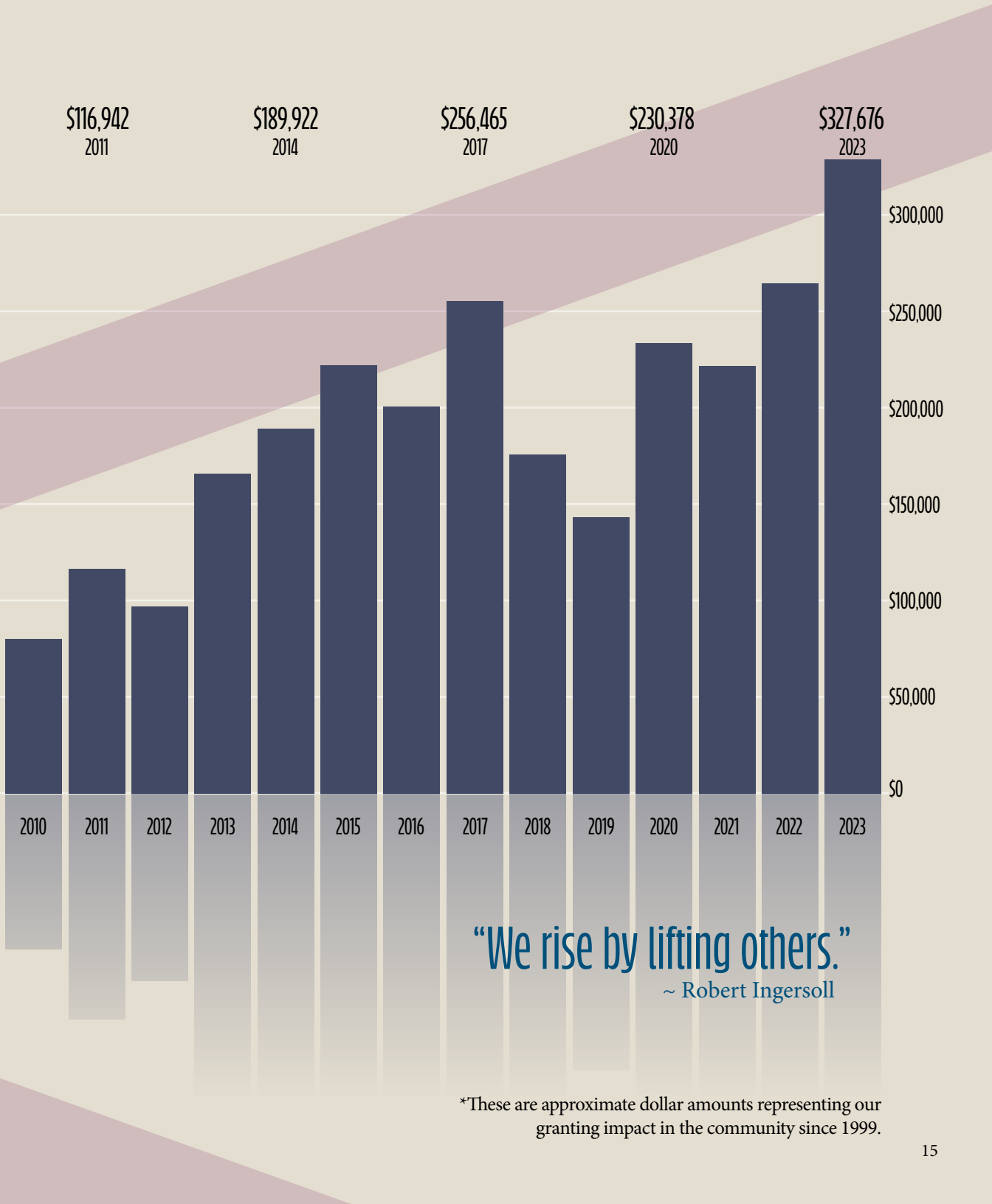
Thank you to our supporters!

Because of **YOU** - this was possible!

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR GIVING HISTORY](#)



You are greater than any circumstance that seeks to define you.



“We rise by lifting others.”
 ~ Robert Ingersoll

*These are approximate dollar amounts representing our granting impact in the community since 1999.

Pathway of Hope

My name is Krista. I'm 36 years old and have two beautiful daughters. Unfortunately, most of my life I struggled with drug addiction. My addiction led me to a very dark place. I carried around shame, guilt, resentment, and anger. I did things that went against my morals and values. I was constantly getting in trouble and spent a lot of time in and out of jail. I found myself broken and nowhere else to turn. I had to make a choice. To change my life and get help or continue the destructive path that my addiction was taking me. Fortunately, I chose to get help. I applied to a county treatment program. They connected me with different resources in the community, the Salvation Army being one of them. At first, I applied to volunteer at the Salvation Army. I met with the volunteer coordinator and told her my story and the obstacles I was experiencing. She was willing to help in any way that she could and signed me up to volunteer in the kitchen and in the food pantry. That same day, she introduced me to Al, who could help me get started on my journey in the Pathway of Hope program. Pathway of Hope has allowed me to set realistic goals for myself and give me the resources needed to obtain those goals. Before coming into this program, I never allowed myself to set goals, mainly because I didn't have the ability to ever accomplish one, so I never even tried.



You are greater than the
obstacles in your path.

Pathway of Hope has empowered me to overcome barriers on my path to stability. I was working a part-time job that was approximately 15 miles from where I lived. Funds from the Women's Fund grant were used to purchase gas cards so that I could get back and forth to work. Because of this resource, I was offered a promotion with full time hours and benefits. Without this help, I might not have been given this opportunity.

Being involved in the Pathway of Hope program has opened my eyes to my own potential. I am now able to set that example for my daughters - that they, too, can accomplish anything.

~Krista, Pathway of Hope program participant

You are greater than
limitations imposed
by others.

Reflections of Grace

Reflections of Grace (ROG) performing arts school is a nonprofit organization offering inclusive, adaptive, dance instruction that is non-competitive, community outreach focused, and affordable for families of all faiths and backgrounds. ROG offers ballet, jazz, adaptive, and lyrical dance classes for students ages 3-18. In an environment where children feel loved, encouraged, and safe, the school serves low-income families, single parent homes, foster care families, refugees, and many more. The goal of the organization is that all students can participate, no matter their financial situation or physical abilities. The Women's Fund is proud to support ROG with a grant to empower local youth through the vehicle of dance, mentoring, and community service.



Tiny House Village

The Tiny House Village (THV) offers a short term, safe, and stable house for children and their families currently experiencing homelessness. With the help of Oshkosh Kids Foundation, ADVOCAP, and Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development, THV provides life, financial, employability, and home management skills in a community environment. The 32 fully furnished, 400 square foot homes are complete with everything a family would need to move right in. The Women's Fund aims to support the families living in THV by helping to eliminate as many financial barriers as possible. A recent grant from the Board of Directors offers assistance for essential needs and extracurricular items for children, such as football cleats or bicycles.





b a r e

ESSENTIALS

d r i v e

MAY 9TH - JUNE 13TH

**shampoo - deodorant - feminine products
women + girls underwear**

Items can be dropped off at designated donation boxes.

Goods being donated to Tiny House Villages
+ the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.

Scan for locations:



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Ann + Jeff Trembly

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shape your
destiny.



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Thank you to those
making a positive
impact.



Khou
with
4imprint
15 years

Dave
with
4imprint
9 years



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The Helaine Rudoy Lasky Fund



The Women Who Count

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When you believe in your work, pursue it with passion, and infuse it with heart, success becomes not just a destination but a natural outcome of your authenticity and dedication.

Believe. You can.



Our Pledge
All products
renewable
or recyclable
by 2025



You use our packaging every day!

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You belong

Thank you to the women who contribute their unique perspectives and ideas, build great careers and do their best work all while making a difference in our community.



oshkoshcorp.com



TODAY'S WOMEN:
Support diversity.

Listen to differences.

Find common ground.

TOGETHER, WE CREATE CHANGE.

**Oshkosh
Herald**
Bringing Oshkosh news home

**Neenah
News**
Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

LEARN MORE, SAVE LIVES



If only he had known...
ONE PILL CAN KILL

Fentanyl Poisoning is the #1 Cause of Death for 18-45 Year Olds in the U.S.

Source: www.familiesagainstoffentanyl.org - 2022

Fentanyl does not discriminate against any one type of person, group or population.

The #1 Tool to Save Lives From Fentanyl Poisoning? *Education and Awareness*

Mental health and substance use education is key to bringing awareness to students, families and the community.

Be Part of the Solution

Contact us at the Love, Logan Foundation to learn how we can help your group or organization learn more about: **the deadly dangers of fentanyl and fake pills, ways to cope with stress and mental health, and the power of choices.**



LoveLoganFoundation.org
wecare@loveloganfoundation.org



Who is Love, Logan Foundation?

*Born out of tragedy,
motivated by love*

Rick and Erin Rachwal of Pewaukee, Wisconsin tragically lost their 19-year-old son, Logan, to a fentanyl poisoning on Valentine's Day, 2021. Erin (a licensed clinical social worker) and her husband, Rick, turned their grief into advocacy by co-founding the Love, Logan Foundation in 2022, a nationally recognized organization that educates and informs communities around the country about the impact of fentanyl and how education and awareness can save lives.

Our Mission

- Save lives through increased education and support
- End the stigma of mental health and substance use disorder
- Raise awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and other drugs

you are

greater than
you know.

~Mother Teresa



*We want to see you
conquer the world.*

Understanding today's
financial landscape can help
women rise to the challenge and
take control of their futures.

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complimentary consultation.*

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With your help, The Women's Fund is able to support Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services (CADAS) in their new space. As we continue our partnership through the Rise 2.0 program that started years ago, we're granting \$25,000 to CADAS for their expansion to provide transitional housing. Rise 2.0 aims to decrease generational poverty by providing housing and support for the needs of single mothers and their families. Learn more about the work of Rise 2.0 at Women.OshkoshAreaCF.org.

Christine Ann
DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES, INC.
HELP IS HERE

I am grateful
to be a woman.
I must have done
something great
in another life.

~Maya Angelou

Proud Supporter of The Women's Fund
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She is

STRONG

BEAUTIFUL

SMART

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CONFIDENT

POWERFUL

FIERCE

GIVING



Supporting women is a powerful force that strengthens communities, organizations, and societies, paving the way for a more equitable and inclusive world. We're proud to help women and girls **find a way** in our community.



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CREDIT UNION

We'll Find A Way!

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