

Advancing Equity for Women



Annual Review 2018



You give today, we give forever.

Standing on Shoulders...

Advancing equity for women remains at the center of our mission. By convening community, providing college scholarships, and grants to area non-profit organizations, we are creating change.

We must remain inspired and stand on the shoulders of those that came before us, to create the future we all want now. We know change takes time. It starts with information or an experience that affects our attitude. Then our behavior can be influenced to create a better culture...one where women and girls in our community can thrive.

To recognize the progress, it is important to view the landscape of history in years and decades. As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which is August 18, 2020, we long for perfect vision of equity represented in the year, and believe there is more work to do. However, we pause to acknowledge the Women's Suffrage Movement took 72 years, 48 states and 3 generations to come to fruition and even then it wasn't inclusive to benefit all women. Yet, it is a milestone of progress worth celebrating, protecting, and forever utilizing.

Join us in our effort to enhance our Women's Fund. Make a new gift. Attend an event. Visit the website to learn more. Tell others about our mission. All of this ensures the programming/events, HER Scholarships, Grants, and Cultural Giving Circles continue with the necessary financial resources that make it all happen. We are a collective effort of investments...some just a few dollars a year, others are more substantial. Though no matter the amount, your engagement is valued. Your generosity is cherished. You have the power of philanthropy as your tool. Thank you.

Julie Ragland, Chair, Board of Directors
Lisa Attonito, Executive Director



My family recently named the Women's Fund as a beneficiary in our retirement accounts. We have been donors and were inspired to create a lasting commitment. Doing this commits our financial investments to a cause that is important to us and ensures the work continues beyond our lifetimes.

~ Julie Ragland

WomenWill Planned Giving Program

Increase the power of your philanthropy by looking beyond what you give today and consider joining our WomenWill planned giving program. A bequest in your will or naming the Women's Fund as beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy are ways to make a legacy gift. More importantly, it also allows us to continue advancing equity for women for decades to come.

Women's Fund Presents The Power of Philanthropy



This annual education event is an opportunity to share information, start a discussion, and inspire action around a topic or issue relevant to advancing equity for women. In 2018, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote, our celebration featured a powerful keynote by Joan Marie Johnson, Ph.D. who authored *Funding Feminism: Monied Women, Philanthropy and the Women's Movement*.

Joan detailed how women wielded their social and financial influence to make change. The results include the right to vote, access to higher education, birth control, and better working conditions. She brought to life stories of various women who have been overlooked in history. Joan encouraged attendees to think about the power of their own philanthropy. She reminded us, "We have to understand that as we move forward it is certainly not a straight line. We have come a long way since 1900 but certainly there is far to go."

We were also proud to honor nine women, named by our Event Sponsors, who are using their philanthropy to make change in our community. Congratulations to these outstanding women. Let's stand on their shoulders and use the power of our philanthropy to advance equity for women, today and forever.

Philanthropists in Our Community

Holly Baumgart
Sargento

Named by Kane Communications Group

Jane Durment
Marcus Corporation
Named by Adient

Kristine L. Havlik
Foley & Lardner
Named by Foley & Lardner

Patty Keating Kahn
PK2group
Named by Quarles & Brady LLP

Jean Kreiser
Baird
Named by Baird

JoAnne McGrath
Highland Street Foundation
Named by Alvemo College

Rachel Monaco-Wilcox
LOTUS Legal Clinic
Named by Associated Bank

Joan Robertson
Named by Herb Kohl Philanthropies

Deb Roesner
BMO Harris Bank
Named by BMO Harris Bank



Community Talk Backs Connecting People & Creating Conversations

Convening the community to discuss topics that are instrumental to advancing equity for women is an important part of our work. Through these discussions, we connect people, provide information and inspire action to change attitudes, behaviors, and culture.

In 2018, two CTBs were held in collaboration with community partners. The themes were: “Sexual Harassment and Power.” and “Women.Voting. Democracy.” Attendees found the sessions powerful. Through intergenerational discussions, we gained a deeper understanding of the history and trends associated with women, voting, and insight on power. We are grateful for your participation and support.

Partners: League of Women Voters, Milwaukee Jewish Federation: Women in Philanthropy, Professional Dimensions, TEMPO Milwaukee



HER Scholars Women Reaching New Heights

We know that women who have a college degree have the opportunity to earn more money. They also have better living conditions, health outcomes, improved safety, for themselves and their family. Additionally, their children fare better with educational attainment. Helping a woman

obtain a college degree supports generations, lifting entire family systems into a higher economic and social status. This is why the HER Scholarship program exists!

Launched in 1996, the HER Scholarship program has awarded more than 120 scholarships to women aged 35 and older. These non-traditional students face more challenges in completing a Bachelor Degree. Our HER Scholars for 2018/2019 included 12 determined women, each of whom demonstrate passion and commitment.

Grant Program

Since 1989 we have awarded more than 330 grants, investing nearly \$3 million in advancing equity for women. We have been focused on changing attitudes, behaviors and culture so Milwaukee becomes an inclusive world-class community where women and girls realize their full potential and everyone thrives. The robust process concluded with the organizations receiving grants in 2018.

- Benedict Center
- Cathedral Center
- Girl Scouts of Wisconsin, Southeast
- HIR Wellness Center
- LOTUS Legal Clinic
- Milwaukee Muslim Women Coalition
- Joan Antida High School

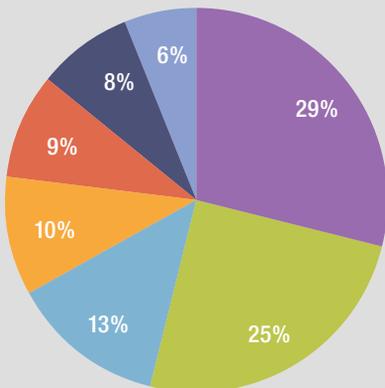


Flash Grants

The Flash Grant program was initiated in 2017 to respond to requests from organizations with an urgent need that would have an immediate impact on advancing equity for women. These grants are typically small, spontaneous with many requests \$1,000 or less. Flash grants were awarded to several organizations in 2018.

- Alliance Française of Milwaukee
- City of Milwaukee, Girls at City Hall
- Milwaukee Women, Inc.
- Prevent Suicide MKE
- TEMPO Milwaukee

This pie chart depicts the categories of our grants historically.



For more information about our grant program, please visit womensfundmke.org.

Inclusive. Powerful. Progress.

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Founding Mothers

These 36 women were bold. In 1985 they launched the Fund to ensure there would always be financial resources available to support advancing equity for women and girls in our community.

Judith Bluestone

Doris Chortek

Julie Carpenter

Alberta Darling

Austin Doherty

Susan Dragisic

Judith Drinka

Barbara Elsner

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Sister Joel Read

Esther Leah Ritz

Lyn Skeen

Annette Stoddard-Freeman

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You give today, we give forever.

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