

# Investing in Her



**WOMEN'S fund**

for the fox valley region, inc.

**2019 Impact Report**

# Continuing to Evolve...

In 2019, the Women's Fund experienced a leadership transition and welcomed Julie Keller as its next executive director. Under Julie's first year of leadership, the Women's Fund went through a strategic planning process; fine-tuning its mission, vision, and focus areas to have greater impact. All while continuing to build on past successes and impact.

From the Young Women's Initiative to the Girls' Grantmaking Project to investing in women and girls through project grants and donor funds, the Women's Fund continues to make a difference in the lives of women and girls in the Fox Valley.

When you invest in the Women's Fund you are joining others to make a lasting impact in our community not just today, but for generations to come. When we invest in women and girls we are investing in the foundation of our community. When women thrive, the community thrives.

Please enjoy this recap of how your support has made, and will continue to make, a difference for women and girls. As we embark on our 25th year, we are just getting started! Thank you for investing in a brighter future for the Fox Valley.

**Amy Van Straten**, President

**Julie Keller**, Executive Director



## Overall Impact

**217**  
Programs  
Supported

**\$1.6M**  
Granted

**\$2.5M**  
in Assets

**83**  
Nonprofit  
Partners

*...and counting!*

**WOMEN'S fund**  
**willpower**  
planned giving program

Make a gift that will support Fox Valley women and girls forever! Increase the power of your philanthropy by looking beyond today and consider a legacy gift through the WillPower planned giving program.

*"The Women's Fund is in my legacy plans because as a founding donor, I have always believed that women helping women can lead to lasting change."*

Carla Salmon

# Investing in Her 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



2019 Girls' Grantmaking Project Participants



The 2019 Issue Spotlight featured an inspiring panel of local entrepreneurs.

*"The best part of this experience was meeting girls with the same goals and building consensus to help our community."* Girls' Grantmaking Project Participant



2019 Project Grant Recipients. Ten organizations were awarded a total of \$70,000.



Hannah Davis shares her story with luncheon attendees.

*No doubt the Women's Fund provides an umbrella for women and girls in this community. The organization makes hopes and dreams possible and clearly provides the kind of expertise to lead the way when you have an idea that takes a village."* Kris Hietpas, Philanthropy Matters Panelist



Philanthropy Matters participants demonstrate 2019 International Women's Day theme #BalanceforBetter.



# FROM STRUGGLE TO HOPE... *The Impact OF The Young Women's Initiative*

In 2017, the Women's Fund formally launched a new multi-year initiative to increase the life-long economic security of women and their families by strategically addressing the needs of young women ages 18-29. The initiative includes two programs:

## *Starting Point 2.0*

A two-generation approach to reducing poverty, this program strengthens families through empowerment workshops for young, low-income mothers and quality early childhood education for their children.

## *EmpowHER*

Launched in 2018, EmpowHER is geared toward young women ages 18-29 who are *not* parents, covering many of the same topics as Starting Point 2.0 such as financial literacy, confidence, self-esteem, career planning and conflict management.

### Impact on MOTHERS

- ▶ Learn Life & Family Strengthening Skills
- ▶ Overcome Mental & Emotional Hurdles
- ▶ Prepare for Career & College Success
- ▶ Build a Network of Support
- ▶ Improve Parenting Skills

### Impact on CHILDREN

- ▶ Quality Early Childhood Education
- ▶ Improve Physical, Social & Emotional Development
- ▶ Engage in Age-Appropriate Learning
- ▶ Boost School Readiness

*"After I had my daughter my whole life changed. I isolated myself and started losing my self-confidence and motivation for my own life. I tried going back to school on my own, but got discouraged with finances and child care. I didn't think I would be able to do it alone. Thanks to the Women's Fund, now I have resources and feel I will be more prepared when entering college."*

*"Jennifer" - Starting Point 2.0 Program Participant*



AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019...

**51 YOUNG WOMEN & 66 CHILDREN** HAVE *brighter visions* FOR THEIR future

## *Giving through the Women's Fund*



## *Why Give to the Women's Fund?*

*Knowledge* AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN & GIRLS

*Partner* IN PHILANTHROPY TO MEET YOUR GOALS

*Collaborator* TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST IMPACT

## *Grantmaking Program Areas* 2019

**37%**

Starting Point 2.0 / EmpowHER

**8%**

Leadership

**11%**

Education

**23%**

Economic Security

**21%**

Safety, Health & Well-Being

**\$154,833**  
Total Funds  
Granted

# Mission

The Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region promotes the advancement of women and girls in our community.

# Vision

A community of equality where power and opportunity are not limited by gender.

# Focus Areas

Using the collective power of philanthropy and community collaboration, the Women's Fund focuses on the following areas to meet our mission and vision:



SAFETY, HEALTH,  
AND WELL-BEING



EDUCATION



ECONOMIC  
SECURITY



LEADERSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Beth Bowers**

Werner Electric

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McCarty Law LLP

*\*Term ended 6/30/2019*

*Board Advisor***Sara Micheletti**

*Beginning 7/1/2019*

## STAFF

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Executive Director

**Jen Peeters**

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# WOMEN's fund

for the fox valley region, inc.

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