



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the Iowa Women's Foundation

Dear Friends,

2016 was a banner year for the Iowa Women's Foundation. We gave a record number of grants to [Iowa organizations](#) helping women and girls overcome barriers to success. We toured the state of Iowa, visiting 18 communities to better understand those barriers. And we produced [Creating Pathways to Success](#), a new video showing a few of the many ways our grantmaking has made an impact on Iowa's women and girls, among many other accomplishments.

The year went by quickly, and thanks to your support, we were able to achieve a lot in a short amount of time. But there is always more work to be done.

Women in our state continue to earn only 77% of what their male counterparts earn when all other factors are equal. Women account for only 22% of our state's representation in state legislature. Women and children make up a staggering 87% of Iowa's poor. And girls face unprecedented challenges as they struggle to discover their self-worth in the digital age.

As a nonprofit organization, the Iowa Women's Foundation has always relied on the support of our donors and volunteers to help us accomplish our important mission. Help us improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls and take action today.

**I want to help improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls.**

---

## Our Top 10 Strategic Accomplishments of 2016

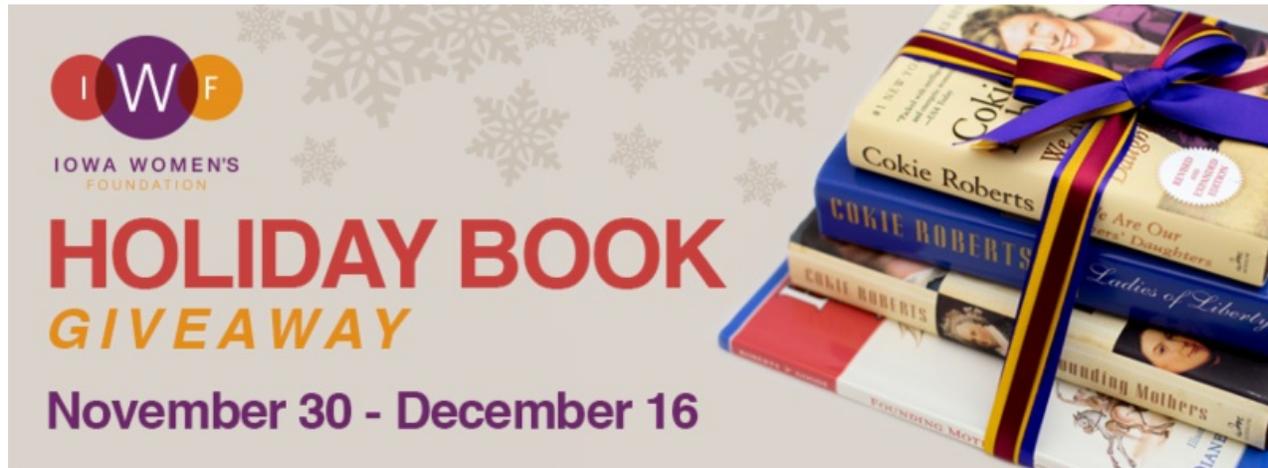
10. Expanded the size and diversity of the Board of Directors with the inclusion of men.
9. Hosted the 20th Annual Luncheon to a sold out crowd of over 920, with [Cokie Roberts](#) as the keynote speaker.
8. Recognized 89 women and girls from across the state in the third edition of *OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls*, with unveilings in Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, and the Quad Cities.
7. Raised more than \$350,000 in charitable support, a 12% increase over 2015.
6. Expanded our Directors' Circle to 15 and our Leadership Circle to 207 contributors.
5. Worked with advisory teams in Des Moines and the Quad Cities, and the Cedar Valley Chicks for Change to increase awareness and support for IWF work.

4. Produced [SHE MATTERS: We Listen and Iowa Wins](#) economic self-sufficiency report, identifying the top six barriers women and girls face to economic self-sufficiency (employment, childcare, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentors), and the four commonalities across all six barriers (awareness/knowledge, empowerment, flexibility, and generational poverty).

3. Traveled more than 4,800 miles, returning to 18 communities across Iowa to personally interact with leaders and share the *SHE MATTERS* report, identifying pathways to overcome the barriers women and girls face to economic self-sufficiency in each community.

2. Celebrated our first anniversary as a collaborative partner in [Prosperity Together](#), with \$29 million donated to 996 organizations, impacting over 4 million women and girls across the United States.

1. Awarded [18 grants](#) totaling \$108,610, a new record for IWF!



## IWF Supporters Share Their Favorite Historical Heroines

As a part of our Holiday Book Giveaway, we asked our Facebook followers to tell us about a historical heroine who inspires them. We received some great responses! Here are a few that showcase the wonderful contributions these women made to the history of our state, our nation, and our world:

"Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts. Inspired me and millions more to build courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place. Amazing Woman, endless impact!"

"Jane Adams, founder of Hull House in Chicago and a female social work pioneer."

"Hatshepsut, Egypt's second woman pharaoh."

"Jacquie Kennedy O. For the grace and humility she showed this nation."

"Rachel Adams, who "ran the farm" while her husband was helping to start the new government, as she begged him to "remember the ladies" and include their rights and role."

"Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. She had many struggles in life, the loss of parents at an early age, a controlling mother-in-law, an unfaithful husband, his health issues. Yet she rose above...such a strong woman, determined to live life on her own terms. She was an activist for racial and human rights, served in the United Nations, among other things. One of my favorite quotes from her (there are so many!): 'In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.'"

"Eleanor Roosevelt; in a time when women were still largely seen and not heard, she overcame crippling self-doubt (from mental abuse) to become a leader who could hold her own on the world stage. She consistently reinvented herself."

"Amelia Earhart hangs on my office wall to remind me women can go anywhere we want to go in life."

"Louisa May Alcott-author, abolitionist and career woman."

"Bobbi Gibb and Katherine Switzer-first women to run in the Boston Marathon, in the 1960s. Switzer was the first woman to run with a numbered entry because she only used her initials on the registration paperwork; Gibbs ran unregistered. Women were not officially sanctioned to run the Boston

Marathon until 1972. Gibb and Switzer proved that women certainly were strong enough for anything."

"Iowa's own Louise Noun, social activist and civil libertarian. She founded the Chrysalis Foundation, and worked on many women's issues."

We love hearing from you! Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and use your voice to inspire others.

---



*From left to right: Jill Olsen, Dawn Oliver Wiand, Liz Swanson, Stephanie Clohesy and Jean Trainor.*

## Dine and Unwind 2017

Imagine a busy, blustery December evening and you are in a room full of advocates for women and girls...in one of the coziest restaurants serving some of the best food and drinks! That's the beauty of "Dine and Unwind," an annual event designed to thank and nurture the Cedar Valley network of donors and allies for the Iowa Women's Foundation.

Of course the event is also a great opportunity to rally our friends, old and new, to give an extra end of year gift to IWF's important work. Many participants say they look forward to the event because it is such a relaxing respite from the hectic holiday hustle and bustle, and yet also a wonderful way to learn about the issues/opportunities for women in our state and IWF's role as a grantmaker and change maker.

One attendee said, "I look forward to this event every year. What a great chance to catch up on IWF and all that is happening in our state on women and girls. And, of course, who wouldn't enjoy eating and drinking at Montage and chatting up a storm with friends!"

---

## OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa's Women and Girls

Every year, IWF publishes OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa's Women and Girls. This book celebrates women and girls with personalized tributes written by loved ones, admirers, colleagues, and friends. You can honor a woman or girl you love by writing your own tribute and by doing so, you inspire and encourage other women and girls across Iowa.

When you honor a woman or girl through a tribute in OVATION, you:

- Introduce an inspiring female role model.
- Tell a story about the amazing effect women and girls have on our towns, businesses, families, schools, and more.
- Contribute funds that help IWF make grants to organizations across the state.
- Strengthen our communities socially and economically by strengthening the women within them.
- Have the opportunity to attend a festive event introducing and recognizing each year's honorees.

We need to hear the stories of women and girls. We need to invest in our women and girls. And we need to empower our women and girls. Pay tribute to a woman or girl in your life [here](#).



IOWA WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION

**STAY CONNECTED**

