



# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Annual Luncheon Celebrates WHY!



The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon was held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Coralville. The hybrid event hosted 360 attendees in person and 100 more virtually to share our individual “Why’s”, and why the work of the Foundation is important to create impact across the state, why grantee partners are critical to the success of Iowa’s women and girls, and why we all can support and participate in the work that helps Iowa’s women achieve economic stability and success.

Keynote Speaker Chris Grumm spoke about the “Why” of women’s funds and why we need to support women and girls to be economically self-sufficient. IWF Founder Stephanie Clohesy shared “Why” this work is significant in Iowa, encouraging all to shake a bit when giving a donation to the work in support of the WHY.

Grantees shared their “WHY” through videos depicting the ways they are shattering the barriers to women’s economic self-sufficiency through IWF’s six identified barriers: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation and mentoring. Take a few minutes to learn more about this work and how your support makes an impact in each of these areas. Here is a link to each video: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1cJWUdiy1PAKePHXaK2bCw>

Our sincere thanks to Jeremy James and Lois James of James Investment Group! As the Luncheon Match Sponsor since 2014, we are incredibly grateful to Jeremy and Lois. And, due to the generosity of attendees, we met the match! Your support provides the foundation with the “Why” IWF is able to do what it does.



A heartfelt thank you to all sponsors, table hosts, attendees, grantees, and volunteers for sharing time, talent, expertise, and resources for the work of the Foundation. You are key to the “Why”!

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## 2022 Grants Announced

IWF announced 2022 Core Grant recipients at the Annual Luncheon. A total of \$100,000 has been awarded to eleven

organizations across the state to fund Core Grant programs for 2022, raising the total granted to over \$1.25 million since the first grants were given in 1997. Grants are awarded to projects that address one of six specific areas that have been identified as the most critical barriers for Iowa women and girls: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentoring.



### **Congratulation to each of these programs receiving a Core Grant for 2022:**

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Council Bluffs/Carter Lake
- Catherine McAuley Center, Cedar Rapids
- Easterseals Iowa, Des Moines
- Girls on the Run Eastern Iowa, Iowa City
- Hawkeye Community College Foundation, Waterloo
- Homes of Oakridge Human Services, Des Moines
- Lutheran Services in Iowa, Des Moines
- Opening Doors, Dubuque
- UI Labor Center, Iowa City
- Women Food & Agriculture Network, Ames
- YWCA Clinton, Clinton

To read more about each of these grant partners, visit the IWF website:  
<https://iawf.org/grantmaking/grant-partners/>

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## **Micro Grants**

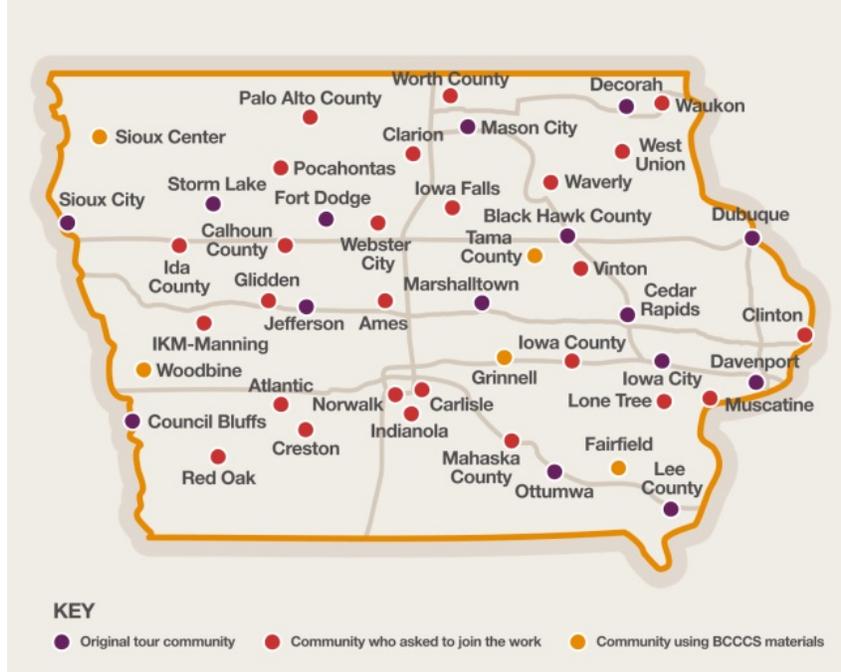
### **Dollars Available!**

A new grants program started earlier this year called Micro Grants. These are small, one-time cash awards given to nonprofits and other community organizations not eligible for traditional grants, to be used for emergency, non-budgeted, unexpected needs that sometimes arise during a fiscal year. Grants of \$300 - \$1,000 may be requested for these immediate needs. Applicants must serve women and girls, and their organizations must address at least one of the six identified barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation or mentoring.

Guidelines and Applications can be found on the IWF website: <https://iawf.org/micro-grants/>

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## **Shattering Barriers to Child Care**



Since 2017, IWF has worked with communities across the state to explore innovative child care investments that support families, businesses, and communities. The Building Community Child Care Solutions (BCCCS) Collaborative is a one-of-a-kind network engaging in solution-driven efforts that are research-based and community-led. 44 Iowa communities and 750 volunteers are working to increase awareness and investments through these sessions specifically addressing child care and workforce shortages.

Before COVID-19, Iowa had a child care crisis that was impacting families, businesses, and communities. Child care has become unaffordable, inaccessible or nonexistent. 75% of Iowa families with children under the age of six have all parents working outside of the home. On average, one in two (50%) children go without access to quality affordable child care. Iowa has lost 33% of its child care businesses over the last five years, a trend that started well before Covid hit.

At the height of Covid, 65% of child care providers closed. They are slowly opening back up with decreased revenues and increased expenses. The economic destruction spotlights how vulnerable and essential child care is for all of us.

The BCCCS collaborative is needed now more than ever. We are expanding the network of informed and aligned communities working to address the child care barrier. We are increasing awareness of the economic impact the child care crisis has on families, workforce/businesses and communities. We continue to grow a Public Private Partnership to financially support the community child care initiatives. The proposed strategies will be supported through tools, training, marketing materials and local events.

- Are the businesses in your community struggling to find a workforce?
- Are families driving to other locations for child care?
- Do you want to strengthen and grow your community's economy?
- Is your community ready to tackle this issue?

For more details about how you can get involved and start a collaborative in your community, contact Dawn at [dawn@iawf.org](mailto:dawn@iawf.org) or 319-774-3814.

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## Your Support

We can't do what we do without your support. Please join us and volunteer your time, talents, expertise, and resources to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls through economic self-sufficiency!

- Volunteer your time as a member of an actively working committee: <https://iawf.org/your-support/volunteer/>
- Contribute financially to the work online through the IWF website: <https://iawf.org/donate-now/>
- Pledge 3-year support through Circles of Giving: <https://iawf.org/circles-of-giving/> or the 18% Fund created specifically for men to support IWF's work: <https://iawf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/18-Fund-Pledge-Form.pdf>
- Attend an event during the year to learn more about IWF improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls.

**Thank you for your support this past year. As 2021 begins to come to a close, we are grateful for our donors and volunteers. Together we are breaking down the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency. You are key to the WHY we do what we do. Watch for IWF's year-end newsletter and learn more about the work and impact we can have together in 2022!**

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