

OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls

Every year, IWF honors Iowa women and girls from all walks of life through our annual publication, *OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls*. In May, we honored more than 90 women and girls for their personal stories in our fourth edition of the book. Their beautiful stories inspire others to reach their goals and enjoy their dreams. They have empowered the people around them to be the best that they can be. These women are Iowa.

The publication of *OVATION* also serves as a critical part of the IWF's annual operating funds and enables the Foundation to accomplish its mission through a diversified mix of action and funding. Additionally, monies raised through these tributes enable us to educate women and girls about philanthropy, and help the Foundation play a leadership role in the challenges and opportunities facing women and girls in our community.

Our 5th edition will be published in Spring 2018, with unveilings scheduled in several Iowa cities. Please join us in honoring the amazing women and girls in your community and, through your tax deductible contribution, help us serve the women and girls who most need our support.

For more information, or to submit a woman or girl to be honored, please contact Ann Parker at ann@iawf.org or 319-774-3815.



IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

2201 East Grantview Drive
Suite 200
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Live Your Own 'Big Life'

At this year's Annual Luncheon, author and editor Ann Shoket spoke about what it takes to live a fulfilling, purposeful life—and how millennials are redefining what it means to be successful on both a professional and personal level. Learn more about Ann's perspective in her book, *The Big Life*. Copies are available for purchase at IWF headquarters in Coralville. Email ann@iawf.org for more information.

Leadership Circles Grow

As our Leadership Circle of support has grown, we've added new levels of giving and more opportunities to support ongoing efforts to raise funds, make grants, educate, and advocate about issues affecting women and girls. **Please consider making a three-year pledge at one of these four levels:**

- ▶ **Newcomers Circle (1st Time Supporters)** \$100 - \$249 per year pledge for 3 years
- ▶ **Leadership Circle** \$250 - \$499 per year pledge for 3 years
- ▶ **Directors Circle** \$500 - \$2,499 per year pledge for 3 years
- ▶ **Presidents Circle** \$2,500 or more per year pledge for 3 years

We're grateful for the continued support of our Circles of Giving members. Pledges can be made on the IWF web site, or by calling the office at 319-774-3813. Thank you for your support!

Visit www.iawf.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE

DEC

5: Dine and Unwind
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Please RSVP to Stephanie Clohesy,
319-277-4130

Please join us December 5 for an evening of fine food, conversation, and fundraising at *Dine and Unwind*, an annual fundraiser organized by Chicks for Change to benefit the Iowa Women's Foundation. Founded over a decade ago by residents of the Cedar Valley who were passionate about the work of the Iowa Women's Foundation, Chicks for Change has raised more than \$175,000 for our organization.

JAN

We will begin taking submissions for Ovation honorees. Watch the website for more details.

MAR


Grant Applications will be available online. Watch the website for more details.

Interested in supporting the Iowa Women's Foundation?

Want to do more? Looking for volunteer opportunities?
Contact Dawn Oliver Wiand at (319) 774-3814.

 dawn@iawf.org

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www.iawf.org 319.774.3813

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IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

Building Solutions: 2017 Annual Luncheon

IWF Annual Luncheon attendees filled the Coralville Marriott ballroom October 5th to show their support for Iowa's women and girls. Board President Alison Ames-Galstad welcomed guests and announced 2018 Grant Partners.

Megan Schulte, HR Director at Frontier Co-Op, helped introduce an important issue that IWF will delve into in 2018—childcare—by sharing how on-site childcare and other company-sponsored benefits have had a positive impact on Frontier employees.



To learn more about this issue, visit iawf.org and watch "Building Solutions," our latest video showcasing how a lack of affordable, accessible childcare impacts Iowa women, our workforce, and our communities.

After hearing from Jeremy James, a loyal supporter from the James Investment Group, and Jerry Waddilove of SouthGate Companies, millennial expert and former editor of *Seventeen* Magazine, Ann Shoket, took the stage for our keynote address, where she spoke about the opportunities to learn from the millennial generation and how they are changing the meaning of power and success.



Visit www.iawf.org to learn more.

FROM
THE

President

It's been a busy year at the Iowa Women's Foundation! Once again, we celebrated the women honored in the newest edition of "Ovation." We partnered with Tippie College's "Women in Business" group. We came together in huge numbers for another fun and interesting Annual Luncheon. And most importantly—we thoughtfully made our way through another grant review process and awarded \$100K in grant funding to worthwhile and meaningful Grant Partners across the state who are making a direct impact on Iowa's women and girls.

We listened. We learned. And now we're moving forward to break down the six barriers that were identified in our statewide research as obstacles to economic self-sufficiency. We continue to research, advocate and build solutions to overcome the barriers that our communities have identified: childcare, employment, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentoring.

We believe that when women are successful, their families and ultimately, their communities are successful. For 2018, we have chosen to focus specifically on childcare as a result of the *SHE MATTERS: We Listen and Iowa Wins* report. During our state tour of 18 communities, childcare was identified as a significant barrier to success common to many of those communities. We are working at the local level to help make connections to begin to solve this issue.

The lack of affordable and accessible childcare affects all of us, especially our ability to attract and retain a strong workforce. This is a statewide issue and, together, we can work to identify, support and advocate for realistic, viable community-based solutions. Because one size does not fit all. And one solution does not solve the problem.

2018 will also bring more research, advocacy, and partnerships to combat the six key barriers facing women and girls. As we tackle childcare, the barriers of employment, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentoring will begin to work themselves in as a part of the puzzle. With your generous support, we can make a bigger impact and solve these issues.

Thank you for being a part of building solutions.

ALISON AMES GALSTAD



Women in Business

IWF partnered with the Hawkeye women's basketball team and the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business' Women in Business group to host "Women Shoot High" in February. This was an opportunity for mentoring and assisting women across Iowa to dream big, aim high, and shoot for success. In April, this group met again during a networking breakfast where we discussed creating a resume early in a college career.



"Working the Room," another great opportunity for students and mentors to work together, is scheduled for December. IWF is honored to partner with this group of young women.

Introducing Our 2018 Grant Partners

The Iowa Women's Foundation received 87 grant applications this year. After careful review, our grant review panelists made suggestions to our Grants Committee and the Board of Directors. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are able to fund 14 grants for a total of \$100,000 for 2018. These grants will provide funding to break down the six barriers identified as obstacles for women and girls to attain economic self-sufficiency. Congratulations to each of our grantees listed below!

Catherine McAuley Center, Cedar Rapids Offering Hope and Opportunity through Transitional Housing for Women

The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) Transitional Housing Program will provide individualized programming and support services for at least 35 homeless and near-homeless unaccompanied women in order to help them successfully transition into safe, stable housing, achieve and maintain financial security, and build healthy social connections.



Dorothy's House, Des Moines Daring to Rise Strong

Iowa has high rates of human trafficking, in part due to the intersection of Interstates 80 & 35 in Des Moines. Up to 800 victims may be trafficked in Iowa every month; as few as 1% of those victims may be rescued. Dorothy's House provides residential housing, basic needs, transportation, care coordination, and educational programming for women and girls whose lives have been interrupted by sex trafficking.



Dress for Success Des Moines Professional Women's Group

IWF will provide this organization, well known for their Suits to Success program, with funding for their Professional Women's Group (PWG), a networking association for Dress for Success clients who have recently entered the workforce to assist them with their transition into work. PWG was created to promote employment retention and career advancement by providing valuable skill building information and support from other employed women.



Dress for Success Quad Cities Empowering Women to Economic Independence

The approach for Dress for Success Quad Cities starts where many emergency or transitional programs leave off: targeting job-ready women with an interview scheduled. A third year of IWF funding will help further develop services to reach more women and improve outcomes-based programming and measurements.



EyesOpenIowa (EOI), West Des Moines Building a Culture of Support for Pregnant and Parenting Young Women

Pregnant and Parenting Teens (PPT) still struggle to graduate and continue on to college and/or employment. Eyes Open Iowa will work with five school districts by training personnel to end unsupportive behaviors (e.g., talking negatively about PPT in the teachers lounge, insisting that the PPT be removed to an alternative setting) by substituting supportive actions (e.g., helping them plan a future that includes graduation, college, and a career) to develop trust and support between the PPT and school officials.



First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cedar Rapids Cafe 361

Cafe 361 is a safe place for young women in grades 6-10 living in or near the Wellington Heights neighborhood. About once a month, 15 young women plan, prepare, cook, serve, and share a meal with up to 100 guests from the community. In doing so, they learn to work together, while learning cooking and budgeting skills. They also socialize with others from their community, including those from backgrounds different from themselves.



Grin and Grow Ltd., Waterloo Removing Childcare As A Barrier To Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Through Gap Scholarships

Black Hawk county has lost five child care providers in the past five years, the latest closure of which removed 101 enrollment slots alone. This, along with the capped reimbursement rate of 80% of 2008 market rates, has made it difficult to find slots for low-income families needing child care.



IWF funding will provide childcare scholarship assistance to bridge the gap. This guarantees slots will be reserved for low-income women seeking affordable, quality childcare for their children in order to work or obtain training.

House of Hope, Waterloo Transitional Housing for Single Homeless Mothers

The majority of the homeless in Black Hawk County are part of a single parent family unit. The House of Hope is a two-year transitional house for homeless single mothers and their children. Each family has their own apartment and lives independently. The women are required to either work or go to school full time, meet with the case manager weekly, and attend life skills classes. They are assigned a mentor for relational support and inspiration. Their children will be in a safe and stable environment.



Latinas Latinos Al Éxito, Inc., Des Moines Latinas Al Éxito Exito: Latino Girls Toward Success

The Latinas Al Éxito (AÉ) pilot program for 8th grade Marshalltown Latinas has expanded across the state of Iowa, now serving 6th-12th grade girls, boys, and parents. The AÉ curriculum builds a foundation for educational success including Cultural Celebration, Academic Achievement, Leadership Skills, Civic Engagement, and Healthy Relationships. IWF funding will support the hire of a local Latina leader to manage and facilitate weekly After School programs, provide academic support and enhancement opportunities, and serve/develop as a community leader specifically for the girls in Tama and Belmond.



Lutheran Services in Iowa, Des Moines Refugee Child Care Training and Expansion

While refugee caregivers in Polk County now have a path to Department of Human Services registration, those outside of the area must wait to apply until they are more English-proficient and equipped to understand the registration process. To address this need, LSI will explore the provision of similar customized training programs with up to six other interested Iowa communities with significant refugee populations to increase the availability of quality, culturally, and linguistically appropriate child care. After funding the program in Des Moines for two years, IWF is proud and excited to assist in expanding this best-practices program.



Nisaa African Family Services, Iowa City Friendship Sewing Cooperative

Iowa City is home to over 600 African refugee families of which many speak English, most do not. The Friendship Sewing Cooperative (FSC) offers a means of gaining economic self-sufficiency, supportive social networks, and self-confidence. Instruction in sewing will be supplemented with literacy training and education in business fundamentals. Classes provide translation services as needed and free childcare. This is NSC's second year of IWF funding.



St. Mark Youth Enrichment, Dubuque Teaching, Mentoring, and Equipping St. Mark Families for Success

St. Mark starts to address the child care issue with before and after school and all day summer program options at four of Dubuque's at-risk, Title 1 elementary schools, and a rural after school program at Peosta Elementary. The overall goal of this project is to teach single mothers and girls social emotional skills, surround them with trusting mentors to practice and hone those skills, and equip them with tools needed to effectively implement what they learn.



Tanager Place, Cedar Rapids The PINQ Project

With a second year of IWF funding, The PINQ project will continue to deliver cultural and financial education, individual as well as team leadership development, and character-building activities for at-risk African American girls. The project takes place bi-monthly at Tanager Place, facilitated by a licensed marriage and family therapist, with additional support from community mentors. Each month will include a field trip or service project, concluding with a weekend retreat with mentors at Camp Tanager.



University of Northern Iowa, Community Producers Program (CPP), Cedar Falls Economic Development for Refugee Women Agriculturalists

The CPP is an initiative of The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Local Food Program, partnering with AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA), and Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC) to provide economic empowerment opportunities for refugee women in Waterloo.



To learn more, please visit our website at www.iawf.org