



Iowa Women's Foundation

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF IOWA'S WOMEN & GIRLS FOR 25 YEARS

JOIN US AT THE 2019 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for the 2019 IWF Annual Luncheon happening Thursday, October 3 at the Coralville Marriott and Convention Center. Celebrate 25 years of improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls, and help us meet our \$1 million grantmaking goal during this special anniversary year.

The Annual Luncheon is IWF's signature event, where we celebrate the year's accomplishments, announce our Grant Partners for the coming year, and hear from renowned speakers who embody the spirit of our work. This year we are thrilled to announce that award-winning filmmaker and educator Dr. Angela Sadler Williamson will be giving the keynote address!

Dr. Williamson is the cousin of Rosa Parks and the creator of the documentary, "My Life with Rosie," which showcases Parks' legacy. Her strength and tenacity driven by the support she received from her family and friends have served as an inspiration to the Iowa Women's Foundation and our work to empower women and girls.

TABLES & TICKETS

Sponsorships are available for the 2019 Annual Luncheon. Table Hosts are invited to purchase a table of 10 now. Individual tickets go on sale Monday, August 19th. Don't miss out on this 25th anniversary event!

Read more about Dr. Williamson on page 3.

A Letter From the **PRESIDENT**

On July 2, we will celebrate Iowa being the 10th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution giving women the right to vote. Iowa has a long legacy of recognizing the equality of its citizens, modifying the Constitution as early as 1868 to enfranchise Black and Native American men. The concept of the inclusion of women was believed to be passed shortly thereafter, but a number of occurrences sidetracked the passage.

The story of women's suffrage in our country and state is a colorful one, lest you think our current political situation is an aberration. The road to the vote was rife with pragmatic strategies, scandals, and powerful business opposition. There was the

"free love" scandal of 1871, which had women's groups in Polk County taking a "purist pledge," and the suffragist movement aligning itself with WWI, staging protests in front of the White House to sway public opinion AND President Wilson. Given that women were perceived as the moral conscience, the 19th Amendment was opposed by big liquor producers. Cultural and economic concerns were raised by some labor organizations and the southern states. Tennessee ratified the amendment in 1920 creating the 2/3 state majority needed for ratification. (Mississippi finally ratified the amendment in 1984.)

Today, the Iowa Women's Foundation continues the challenge of making lives better for women and girls. Through public advocacy, research, and partnerships with community stakeholders and businesses, we are making progress toward providing quality and affordable child care for the 361,000 vacancies for children in our state, which in turn empowers their mothers with economic opportunity to support their families.

In closing, I'd like to juxtapose two very different quotes. First, we celebrate (as the cigarette brand Virginia Slims campaign put it) that "[We've] come a long way, baby." But to paraphrase Robert Frost's final lines in *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*, "[We] have miles to go before [we] sleep."

"The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty."

— CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT



A stylized purple cursive signature of Jill Olsen.

JILL OLSEN

Board President, IWF

PRESENTING THE 2019 ANNUAL LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Angela Sadler Williamson



Angela Sadler Williamson, Ph.D., is an independent filmmaker, speaker, and adjunct instructor in the Communication Studies Department at Concordia University Irvine. A former producer and copywriter for the Orange County NewsChannel, Fox 11 Television, Fox Sports West, and Prime Ticket, Dr. Williamson has over 25 years

of experience in the broadcast television, cable advertising, healthcare, financial, municipal government, and higher education industries.

A multiple Telly Award recipient, Dr. Williamson has a doctorate in Human Services with a specialization in Management of Nonprofit Agencies from Capella University in Minnesota. She is also the 2019 recipient of the *Belle Babb Mansfield Award* and has been featured in *Women Who Rock with Success* and *Black Girls Allowed* magazines, and *Civil Women* on PBS.

Dr. Williamson is currently a member of P.E.O. Sisterhood, serving as the Publicity Chairperson for the Inland Empire and the Writers Guild of America West. In December 2018, she released her award-winning documentary about her cousin Rosa Parks, *My Life with Rosie*, on Amazon Prime. In August 2019, she will release her first book, *Women Who Illuminate*. ■



Women Who Illuminate

is a collection of stories designed to motivate and inspire women. My story talks about my journey to bring the story Rosa Parks to a mass audience.

HERE'S AN EXCERPT FROM MY CHAPTER:

"Our life's many moments are designed to help us change our thinking as we fulfill our goals. In my case, I had to change my thinking to climb out of the emotional pit that I dug for myself. When I did, I created a tribute to one of America's most beloved heroines that will forever change how she is viewed by national and international audiences."



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WOMEN & GIRLS

For 25 Years

As we celebrate the Iowa Women's Foundation's 25th Anniversary, we are grateful to the women who had the foresight to create the Foundation and to everyone who has supported our efforts over the past 25 years.

In 1994, the Foundation's mission was fourfold: 1) to serve Iowa women through training and consultation, 2) to develop women's philanthropy, 3) to act as an umbrella agency for funding women's projects, and 4) to provide direct grants for endeavors shown to improve the lives of women and girls.

These projects have promoted social change, economic development, leadership development, self-employment initiatives, management training, housing equity, and so much more.

Today, we continue our mission with ever growing support from our community partners, local businesses, volunteers, and allies. Together, we've been able to accomplish a lot since our founding:

- 1** We have researched issues and conducted state-wide tours to help communities self-identify the struggles that women and girls continue to face.
- 2** Through fact sheets, information sessions, and research reports, we have educated ourselves and others on the issues at hand to better understand the obstacles and how to tackle them.
- 3** We continue the work to shatter the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency: Employment, Child Care, Housing, Education/Training, Transportation, and Mentoring.
- 4** To date, we have awarded more than \$870,000 in grants to over 200 programs benefiting thousands of women and girls in all 99 Iowa counties.

5 Through the Building Community Child Care Solutions Tour, we've helped (and continue to help) 25 communities increase the accessibility and affordability of quality child care—our biggest initiative to date!

6 We've rallied our communities to work together. The IWF Board of Directors, Advisory Council, advisory teams in Des Moines and the Cedar Valley—along with hundreds of statewide volunteers—are collaborating to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls from Council Bluffs to the Quad Cities and everywhere in between.

We've had much to celebrate over the years. As we look to the future, we will continue working to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls—the very mission set forth by our founders. With our supporters standing by our side, together we are stronger!

A WIN FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

Recently passed legislation will increase funding to Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), a state-run organization and IWF partner that has played an instrumental role in our Building Community Child Care Solutions work.

The measure, House File 758, was signed into effect on May 13, marking the first funding increase to ECI

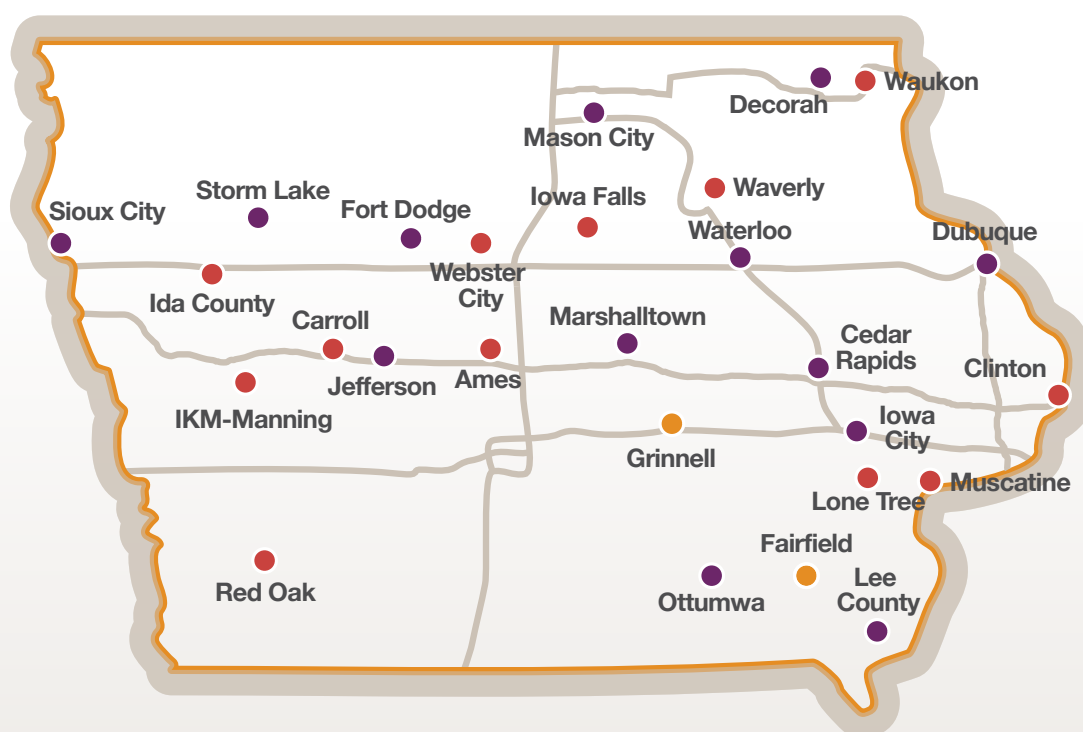
since 2008. Funds will be allocated to ECI in order to improve the quality of early care, health, and education programs; support the professional development of early care professionals; and expand access to home visiting programs and quality preschool and child care programs.

For the past year, IWF and our many nonprofit partners have been calling on state legislators to address Iowa's child care crisis, starting with an increase in funding to Early Childhood Iowa. While this measure is by no means an end-all solution to the many issues facing Iowa's working parents, House File 758 is a step in the right direction. We applaud state lawmakers for their bipartisan support and will continue to work to make sure this is just one part of a multi-faceted approach to tackling this complex issue.

SOLUTIONS TOUR

The Building Community Child Care Solutions initiative continues across the state as awareness for the child care crisis grows. Businesses, community leaders, government officials, families, and providers are all coming to the table to work together to increase the availability and affordability of quality child care. *Who will we add to the map next?* ■

 Follow this story at iawf.org/child-care-solutions.



KEY

 Original tour community  Community who asked to join the work  Community using IWF materials

Help Us MAKE A DIFFERENCE

\$25 FOR 25 YEARS

Since our organization's founding, we've awarded more than \$870,000 in grants to more than 200 projects benefiting woman and girls in all of Iowa's 99 counties. *We're so close to reaching \$1 million.* Help us reach our goal by pledging to give \$25 or more. Every donation brings us one step closer to this important milestone!

\$870,000 granted to date

 Give today at iawf.org/donate-iwf25.

CHANGE A LIFE – BECOME A MENTOR



The University of Iowa Tippie College of Business Women in Business chapter is looking for mentors for their student members. If you are interested in being paired with

a student for the 2019-2020 academic year, please contact Britany Mathison, Women in Business VP of Mentoring at Britany-mathison@uiowa.edu by August 1, 2019.

HONOR A REMARKABLE WOMAN OR GIRL IN YOUR LIFE

The sixth edition of *Ovation: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls*, IWF's signature publication, was unveiled at three receptions this spring immediately following Mother's Day. Over 800 individuals paid tribute to this year's honorees with celebrations in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Waterloo.

 See pictures from each event on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/iowawomensfoundation.

In the past 6 years, more than 600 Iowa women and girls have been honored in Ovation.



While this may seem like a large number, there are even more women who deserve to be recognized for the impact they've had on their families, friends, colleagues, and communities. By honoring that special someone, you inspire other women and girls across the state to reach their full potential.


 *Who will you honor in 2020? For a commitment form and details, see iawf.org/ovation.*

NOW ACCEPTING – COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS FUND LETTERS OF INTEREST

The Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) is currently accepting Letters of Interest for the Community Child Care Solutions Fund (CCCSF). This fund is in its 3rd year and is designated to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls through efforts directly related to creating solutions to the state's child care crisis. The funds in the CCCSF are invested in organizations and institutions focused on innovative and sustainable strategies ensuring access to affordable, quality child care that decreases the work force gap and, ultimately, increases women's economic security across Iowa.

Interested applicants may submit Letters of Interest (LOI) on letterhead detailing the project they wish to be considered for funding. Letters must be submitted no later than Thursday, August 1, 2019, 5:00 p.m. CST via email: grants@iawf.org.

All LOIs will be reviewed and each applicant will be notified by September 1, 2019 of their status. Those moving to the next round will be asked to complete a more detailed application. Final selections will be made in November. Recipients will be invited to a check presentation in January 2020. Funding is to be used in the 2020 calendar year.

 *For more information and Letters of Interest Instructions, see iawf.org/child-care-solutions-fund.*

IWF RECEIVES MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY INC. AWARD

Each year, Mid-Sioux Opportunity Inc. recognizes the community partners that have made their work successful. Employees nominate an individual or company that has been important in their work, and the management team selects three to five of these partners to be recognized at their annual meeting in May. IWF was honored to be a recipient of the Outstanding Partnership award this year.



The Iowa Women's Foundation and Mid-Sioux have been working together to tackle child care issues in Iowa, and IWF has worked with the greater Sioux City area, Ida County, Storm Lake, Ft. Dodge, and IKM Manning in order to expand the quantity and quality of child care. Successes have ranged from increasing understanding of the issues surrounding child care to the creation of a nonprofit center.

Mid-Sioux's mission is "Helping People – Changing Lives," and IWF is proud to have helped further this mission. We are truly stronger together! ■



IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

2201 East Grantview Drive
Suite 200
Coralville, Iowa 52241

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 1, 2019
CCCSF LOIs due 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 3, 2019
23rd Annual Luncheon

NOVEMBER 21, 2019
Grapes & Gratitude

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dawn Oliver Wiand

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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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