



Iowa Women's Foundation

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



IMPACT PHOTO

Calling the Shots:

Celebrating Iowa's Unwavering Champions for Women & Girls

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The 26th Annual Iowa Women's Foundation Luncheon



The 26th Annual IWF Luncheon is right around the corner! In honor of the daring, decisive leaders who changed the game for Iowa's female athletes and coaches—and expanded opportunities for ALL of Iowa's women and girls in the process—this year's theme is ***Calling the Shots: Celebrating Iowa's Unwavering Champions for Women and Girls.***

Join your friends as we give updates on our work, announce our 2023 Grantees, celebrate our 25th year of grantmaking, and commemorate the 50th anniversary of Title IX—the landmark civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools and athletic programs.

This year's luncheon is also dedicated to the memory of Dr. Christine Grant, a Title IX task force consultant and longtime IWF supporter who passed away in December 2021. Read more about Dr. Grant on Page 4.

Joining us as the keynote speaker is Dr. Amy Wilson, Managing Director of Inclusion for the NCAA and a friend of Dr. Grant, who worked alongside her to advocate for Title IX and gender equity in sports. Read more about her work and accomplishments on Page 3.

Sponsor a table for 10 or get individual tickets to the 2022 Annual Luncheon at iawf.org/annual-luncheon/



Scan to go to ticket checkout!



Meet the 2022 Keynote: Dr. Amy Wilson

Dr. Amy Wilson is the Managing Director of Inclusion for the National College Athletic Association (NCAA), where she supports its member institutions' commitments to diversity, inclusion, and gender equity. She also serves on the leadership team for the Common Ground Initiative, which builds bridges between LGBTQ individuals and communities of faith through conversation.

An expert on gender equity in collegiate athletics, Dr. Wilson has authored multiple national reports on Title IX. She has also given numerous presentations on Title IX, gender equity, and inclusion with Dr. Christine Grant, whom she had the privilege of studying under while earning her Ph.D. in Health and Sports Studies at the University of Iowa. Dr. Wilson was Dr. Grant's last doctoral student, and she is grateful to have had such a trail-blazing role model as her teacher and mentor.

In 2018, Women Leaders in College Sports honored Dr. Wilson with the Nell Jackson Award for her work as an advocate for gender equity and diversity.

Help us welcome Dr. Wilson back to Iowa at the 2022 Annual Luncheon!



Attend, Sponsor, Host—3 Ways to Increase Your Impact

Want to support Iowa's women and girls year-round? Be a luncheon sponsor, host a table, or buy individual tickets! Proceeds go directly towards grantmaking efforts, which support nonprofit programming for women and girls statewide.

Invite your mother, sister, friend, mentor, or coworker and help us amplify IWF's message. When we come together and work as a team—we give ALL of Iowa's women and girls a fighting chance to lead happy, healthy, independent lives.

Visit iawf.org/annual-luncheon/ to be a luncheon sponsor, host a table, or buy individual tickets.

Remembering Dr. Christine Grant 1936 – 2021

She shined as an individual. But her true contribution was leveling the playing field for all women in sports.



IMAGE VIA HAWKEYESPORTS.COM

In December 2021, the Iowa Women's Foundation lost a dear friend: Dr. Christine Grant.

Christine was a pioneer and true supporter of women's equality. Throughout a career in collegiate athletics that spanned more than five decades, she opened the door for promising women leaders and championed coaches like C. Vivian Stringer and Lisa Bluder, for whom she was a fierce advocate and mentor.

Christine not only looked out for her own "team"—she worked to increase opportunities for women and girls in sports everywhere. As a consultant for the Civil Rights Title IX Task Force, she testified before Congress as an expert in gender equality in athletics. And in addition to becoming the first ever Women's Athletic Director for the University of Iowa in 1973, she was a founding member of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

"If there was a Mount Rushmore of impactful female pioneers in sports, Christine would be on it," says legendary women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer. "Every girl today who participates in sports owes a small debt of gratitude to Dr. Grant."

Dr. Grant will be remembered for her impressive list of "firsts" and her many accomplishments, which include honors from the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (now Women Leaders in College Sports), the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, and the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports; the Billie Jean King Award from the Women's Sports Foundation; the elite NCAA President's Gerald R Ford Award; and inductions to both the University of Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame and the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

Her legacy as an advocate and champion for other women will hold a permanent place in our hearts.

OVATION Unveiling 2022



Eighty-nine amazing individuals were honored in the 9th edition of OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls in June. This year's honorees include a Detective Lieutenant who leads her team as the head of its Investigations Division; a game-changing educator who became the first woman to serve as the President of Iowa State University; and a brilliant 17-year-old who invented a low-cost method for preventing post-surgical infections in developing countries.

These are only a few of the many interesting and inspiring stories you'll find in this year's book. To view a digital version of OVATION, visit iawf.org/ovation.

For the first time in OVATION history, we unveiled books in Clinton, Council Bluffs, and Sioux City. We are thrilled to recognize more women from across the state! Visit facebook.com/iowaWomensFoundation to see photos from each of the six unveilings. You do not need a Facebook account to view them.

Run Like a Mother

Every year in the Cedar Valley, IWF and its supporters celebrate Mother's Day with Run Like a Mother. This 5K run honors mothers by raising funds to support programs that increase access to child care, employment and educational opportunities, housing, transportation, and mentors for Iowa's women.

An extra special shout-out goes to the University of Northern Iowa Women in Business group for organizing the event and helping to make this year's Run Like a Mother fun and successful. Working together, students from Women in Business raised \$3,300 to benefit IWF grant partners!





Celebrating 25 Years of Grantmaking

2022 marks the 25th anniversary of IWF grantmaking. From the beginning, our founders were adamant that funds be awarded to projects and programs expanding opportunities for ALL Iowa's women and girls—a promise we've worked hard to keep.

In 1997, the first year of grantmaking, IWF awarded \$10,025 to six programs supporting women and girls throughout the state. Since then, IWF has given more than \$1.3 million in Core Grants to 274 programs serving women of all ages and backgrounds in all of Iowa's 99 counties. Recently, we've expanded beyond our Core Grants to support organizations fighting for women and girls, where and when they need it most.

Our Building Community Child Care Solutions Fund (BCCCSF) awards funds to child care centers and entrepreneurs focused on increasing women's economic security through better access to quality, affordable child care. Emergency Grants, first known as Micro Grants, were introduced in 2021. These small, one-time-only cash awards are given to nonprofits and other community agencies for immediate emergency needs, allowing organizations access to critical, time-sensitive funding without the guideline or time restrictions of the core grants program.

As the world changes and as women face new challenges, IWF's grantmaking continues to evolve, but our mission remains the same—to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls.

“

“Funding from the Iowa Women's Foundation makes our Supportive Housing Program possible. It allows us to help women reclaim their voices and rediscover who they are and who they were meant to be. That's why the work of IWF is so important.”

– Jennifer Tibbetts,
Catherine McAuley Center,
Cedar Rapids

“

Thanks to funding from the Iowa Women's Foundation, hundreds of girls have discovered that they are capable of far more than they had ever thought possible...that they belong and can succeed in college.”

– Mandy Engel-Cartie,
Girls Inc., Sioux City

“

“Support from IWF has helped our center fill the gap between child care fees collected and the cost of staffing. This is essential to our success because of the percentage of DHS-supported children we serve. We could not provide our services without this sort of help!”

– Marita Theisen Childcare
Center, Dubuque

Advocacy 101

To fulfill its mission, IWF employs five key strategies: research, grantmaking, advocacy, education, and collaboration. As advocates for Iowa's women and girls, it is our task to speak out about the challenges they face and use our voice to promote solutions that bolster economic security for ALL Iowans.

Public policy is a powerful tool for change. By educating policy makers and community leaders about the issues affecting women and girls, we can push for positive changes to public policy that make Iowa a more inclusive and equitable place to call home.

Child Care Advocacy

Public policy and advocacy work can play a key role in alleviating Iowa's child care crisis. IWF's state-wide public policy approach to this crisis is nonpartisan and based on research and collaboration.



Our work includes:

- Producing and sharing research on key issues impacting women, girls, and their families' economic security.
- Highlighting programs and solutions that can be scaled across the state to increase the availability of quality, affordable child care.
- Providing lawmakers and decision-makers with timely, targeted information in order to shape policies supporting innovative, doable solutions to the child care crisis.
- Bringing together partners from local communities across the state to engage and mobilize around priority issues, initiatives, and programs in support of Iowa's families, businesses, and communities.

In this election year—when it is estimated that the state legislature will welcome 50 new members to the House and Senate in January 2023—it is especially important that voices of Iowa's women and girls are heard AND acknowledged.

IWF will be collaborating with communities across the state to host sessions where people can meet with their local candidates, ask questions, share concerns, and get to the heart of the issues facing women and girls in our state.

Be sure to like and follow the Iowa Women's Foundation on Facebook and Twitter for updates on election-related events in your community.

Combating Iowa's Child Care Crisis

The Iowa Child Care Task Force was established to create recommendations that could help the Governor, legislature, communities, and employers reduce barriers to affordable, accessible child care in Iowa. Our President/CEO, Dawn Oliver Wiand, was honored to be a part of this committee and speak on behalf of Iowa's women and girls.

In November of 2021, the Task Force produced a set of 15 recommendations. As of June 2022, many of those recommendations have been enacted or are in the process of being adopted:



In partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, IWF hired an Employer Engagement Director, Sheri Penney, to develop a pilot program that provides a single point of contact for employers, advocates, and communities seeking technical assistance with child care programs and initiatives.



In May 2022, Governor Reynolds launched the Child Care Business Incentive Grant, which will provide \$25 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to businesses looking to expand child care to employees.



\$36.6 million in grants were awarded to 108 programs in 72 communities to create an estimated 5,200 child care slots in Iowa as part of the Child Care Challenge Fund.



Iowa DHS is currently developing an online platform that will allow child care providers across the state to access support for business operations, including payroll, retirement benefits, and group

insurance purchases. A child care management system is expected to launch in January of 2023.



The Child Care WAGE\$ Program, which supplements the salaries of child care professionals up to \$5,250 a year based on their level of education, is being extended until June 30, 2024.



Iowa rolled out a new quality rating system for child care providers called Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K®), which offers providers a chance to earn bonuses and increase their child care assistance reimbursement rates based on their quality rating.



Iowa DHS will implement a \$30 million recruitment and retention bonus program to help attract and retain child care workers in the state.



The Rural Child Care Market Study Grant Program will receive \$100,000 in new funding to help communities across the state assess their child care market environment.

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I was honored to be a part of this task force. IWF’s child care work across the state was a resource and guide for my participation and recommendations. The final report’s recommendations are a start to addressing the child care and workforce crises in Iowa, but we need to continue working together and thinking bigger and bolder if we want a truly affordable, accessible, and sustainable child care industry in Iowa.”

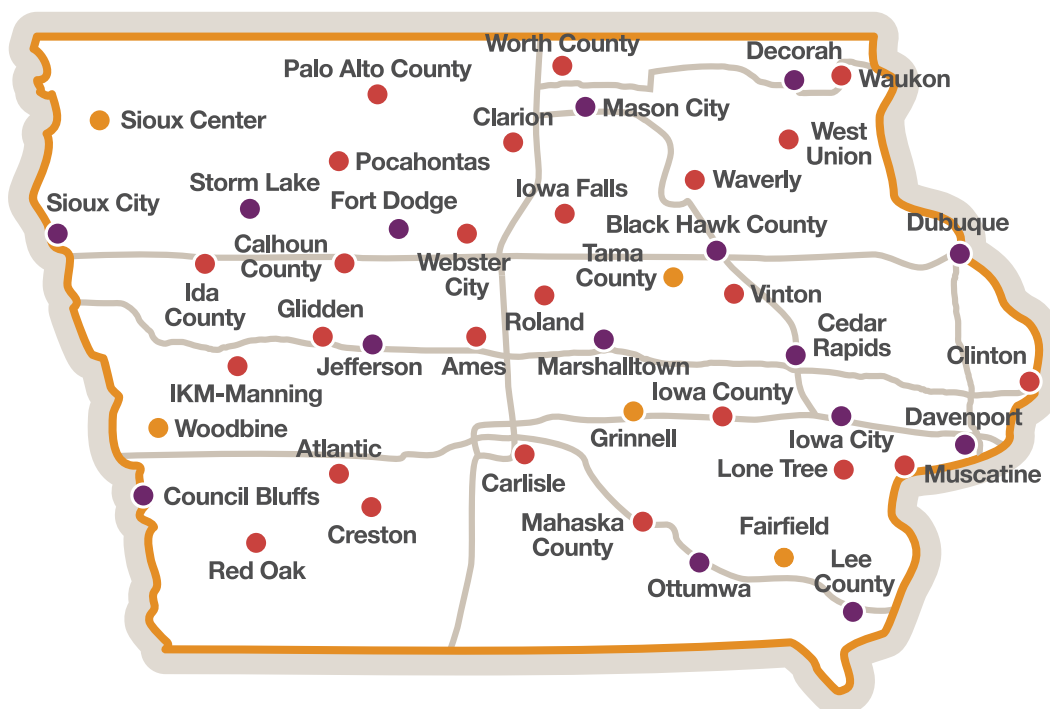
– Dawn Oliver Wiand, President/CEO Iowa Women’s Foundation

Building Community Child Care Solutions

Building Community Child Care Solutions (BCCCS) is a state-wide initiative led by IWF that was created to explore tactics and strategies to increase the availability, affordability, and sustainability of child care in Iowa.

As a part of the initiative, IWF visited different communities across Iowa and talked to child care providers, nonprofits, business leaders, and working parents, discussing the issues and solutions needed to help Iowa families prosper. Each community was presented with a toolkit outlining how different organizations and institutions can partner together to plan and implement these solutions.

To date, IWF has partnered with 50 communities as a part of BCCCS—a number that continues to grow each year.



KEY

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

Other Child Care-Related Successes

- The public now more readily recognizes child care as an economic issue, and businesses are coming together to share solutions for expanding child care benefits for employees.
- Providers are starting and growing their own child care businesses, and partners are working to stabilize and grow existing child care centers and in-home providers through shared services, staffing, and business supports.
- The child care workforce is being supported through community partnerships with bonuses and increased wages.
- Elected officials have made child care a priority and are working to get child care legislation on the books that supports Iowa's working families at the national and state levels.
- Funding is being provided and/or facilitated through our Building Community Child Care Solutions Fund and public-private partnerships.

What's next in the fight for affordable, accessible child care?

IWF and its partners across the state are turning the focus to local community support. Along with our community partners and collaborative network, we will work to stabilize and grow the child care industry.

We are partnering with Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to develop a multi-touch consultative process based on the existing IWF child care awareness campaign and the Iowa Business and Child Care coalition toolkit. We are also partnering with Iowa Child Care Coalition members and its statewide partners to support policy recommendations that create a more accessible, affordable, and quality child care system sustained by a professional, competitively compensated workforce.



We're Growing!

The Iowa Women's Foundation is pleased to introduce two new staff members



Meet Sheri Penney
Employer Engagement Director

Through a partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, IWF was able to hire Sheri Penney as Employer Engagement Director. She will work with companies across the state to assess their employee's child care needs and implement solutions outlined in our Child Care Solutions for Businesses toolkit.

Sheri is a native Iowan raised in Williamsburg who now lives in Osage. She has a BA in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa. Recently, Sheri was the Economic Development Director for Mitchell County. Her background in education combined with her local government experience and enthusiasm are just what we need to take our work in Iowa's child care industry to new heights.



Meet Lori Lane
Development Manager

Lori joins IWF as Development Manager, where she'll help to lead our fundraising initiatives, plan events, and work closely with our corporate partners. She has had a long career as a nonprofit administrator, and has worked with Cedar Rapids Opera, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Florida Easter Seal Society, American Composers Forum, and Minnesota Center for Book Arts.

Lori holds an MSL from Mt. Mercy University and a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Iowa. As a volunteer, she has been a vocal advocate for quality public schools, access to arts education, and environmental causes.

She currently serves on the Board of Harmony School of Music in Cedar Rapids and is a former IWF Board member.

Grow with Us

IWF is seeking a Finance and Information Manager to oversee financial operations and assist with the Foundation's IT needs. Apply online at iawf.org/job-opportunities/



IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

2201 East Grantview Drive
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Be a Part of Our Legacy

IWF has launched a Legacy Campaign to grow its operations and increase annual grantmaking by more than 50 percent.

By giving to our Legacy Campaign, you will help us award larger grants, fund more projects, and provide emergency support to organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls.

Together, we can make a life-changing difference to women and girls from Sioux City to Keokuk, from Decorah to Red Oak, from Davenport to Council Bluffs—and in every one of Iowa's 99 counties!

Visit iawf.org/legacy-campaign
to give to the Legacy Campaign.

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION?

Want to do more? Looking for volunteer opportunities?
Contact Ann at ann@iawf.org.



info@iawf.org



iawf.org



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