

# WOMEN'S FUND

## OF DOOR COUNTY

December 13, 2024

### Board of Advisors

Dear Friends,

**Ann Glessner**  
*Chair*

**Katie Slaby**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ann Harty**  
*Secretary*

**Michelle Sternard**  
*Treasurer*

**Annika Paulsen**  
*Past-Chair*

**Markie Bscherer**

**Cameryn Ehlers-  
Kwaterski**

**Amy Frank**

**Abby Grommet**

**Lisa Harper**

**Gail Harrmann**

**Kristen Jeanquart**

**Karen Peterson**

**Barbara Pfeifer**

**Ashley Schanock**

**Lisa Severson**

**Julia Stoneman**

**Megan Shine**

This was an extra special year for the Women's Fund of Door County. We celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and crossed the \$1,000,000 threshold in cumulative granting to help Door County women and girls reach their fullest potential. We forged a new collaboration with Northern Sky Theater for our Tales of Our Lives event. In September, we hosted our most successful Celebrate Women Luncheon in history, raising over \$100,000 in a single day. We are grateful to every one of you who contributed to our cause, whether through attending one of our events, offering generous gifts, or helping spread awareness of causes that champion women and girls in our community.

While 2024 was full of reasons to celebrate, we can't help but reflect on our beginnings and the challenges that Door County women and girls faced then. Sadly, the statistics show there is still a need to focus on removing barriers. Door County women continue to lag 19% behind male counterparts in wages. Single women with children make up the majority of people living in poverty in Door County; a number that has unfortunately only increased since 2010. Women are more likely to stay out of the workforce, many times because the cost of childcare outpaces their earning potential. Domestic violence and mental health challenges disproportionately impact women and are more prevalent than 15 years ago. Girls entering the workforce represent only 28% of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) careers nationwide. These statistics underscore our mission.

In 2024, over \$130,000 was allocated to grants for vital programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of local women and girls. Yet, philanthropic giving specific to women's and girls' charities continues to be disproportionately small – a staggering 2% nationwide. As Door County's largest charitable fund focused on the needs of local women and girls your contribution to the Women's Fund of Door County helps address this disparity on a local level. The Women's Fund of Door County helps meet the needs of programming for women and girls now and into the future, adapting to our community's ever-changing needs.





Our strategic grants support initiatives that eliminate barriers, educate and enrich lives. Programs funded this year include multiple girls' leadership and mentoring programs, including raising awareness for girls in STEAM professions. Funding spanned from children's mental health programming to new mothers and baby well-being to new initiatives that improve the quality of life for seniors, the vast majority of whom are single women. We supported back-to-school needs for disadvantaged girls and invested in programming that provides opportunities for those experiencing domestic violence. We funded music and arts enrichment programs for women and girls and a program focused on new business start-up training for female-owned businesses. The Women's Fund of Door County is uniquely positioned to support varied initiatives focused on the dynamic needs that women and girls face in Door County.

We are pleased to continue our childcare partnership with United Way of Door County. Thanks to a third \$100,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, the Women's Fund of Door County co-funded a community childcare coordinator; supported Sturgeon Bay childcare centers; assisted in-home childcare providers; helped parents with childcare expenses by partnering with local businesses to offset employees' childcare costs; and sponsored a Childcare Symposium to gather national and regional experts and community influencers to educate, collaborate and help launch new local initiatives. We remain committed to positively impacting childcare throughout the county to help ensure there are accessible, affordable, high-quality options throughout the community.

The ability to continually meet the fluid needs of vital community initiatives directly depends on your ongoing commitment to Door County women and girls. Please help empower women and girls by making an impactful year-end contribution to the Women's Fund of Door County. *When SHE thrives, we all prosper.*

On behalf of the entire Board of Advisors, thank you for your support.

Warm regards,

Ann Glessner  
Chair

*P.S. You can create a legacy of supporting Door County's women and girls through a Named Endowment Fund with the Women's Fund! Contact the Door County Community Foundation to learn more.*