



WOMEN'S PARTNERSHIP FUNDS

NOVEMBER 2024

EMPOWERING WORDS: A YEAR OF IMPACT

Springfield's women and girls are the key to our prosperity!

Change is a given in our individual lives as well as in our society. As women step up to the plate again and again to mother children, work to provide for themselves, and to advocate for positive change across the country, we still need each other in many ways. And the Women's Partnership Funds has helped to fulfill those needs by providing support for programming for girls, mental health services for women who have suffered trauma, and by celebrating those who mentor area girls and women.

As a child of a woman who was widowed early in her life, I witnessed her strength first-hand, in the face of daily challenges. I observed my mother somehow carrying on as a loving parent of three, despite the sudden death of her young husband. Thankfully, together they had already purchased a home, the home where I now reside. Mom went on to put us through college, serving as the minister of music at our church for 40 years, while holding down a full-time supervisory government job until retirement.

Though we weathered ups and downs, she was steadfast and showed us how perseverance, intelligence, faith, hope, and community service can truly improve one's life.

All of the this, coupled with her parents and siblings who loved us all, made our changed lives not only livable, but beautiful.

Like my mother, many women are born-leaders. They serve as company presidents, entrepreneurs, governmental officials, non-profit chairs, pastors, nurses, physicians, mothers, daughters, teachers, etc. And as my Board chairmanship comes to an end, the thought of women in our very own community who continue to step up to the plate to fill these roles, as Mom did, comes to mind. Let me tell you that our Board members are all that and even more. Together, we bounce ideas off each other and transform them into real-life actions. Your support makes this possible. Because a dream, no matter how wonderful, is just a dream without real financial backing and genuine interest in the Board's service.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Board Chair. And as a long-time Springfield resident, I will forever be concerned with the health and well-being of fellow community members, especially women and girls. The WPF is truly a gift to our community and together, we have made profound differences in many lives. May we all continue to change for the better.

Cheryl DeGroat Ayers

Cheryl DeGroat Ayers
Chair, Women's Partnership
Funds Board



FROM WORDS TO ACTION: EMPOWERING OTHERS

Women's Partnership Fund continues to support trauma recovery for local women with **\$10,000 GRANT TO CITILOOKOUT** FOR 2024

CitiLookout is a place where “Pain Meets Purpose.” Partnering with individuals and families, CitiLookout counsels them toward emotional, relational and spiritual healing, and networks them with effective community resources.

Since their original grant award in 2022, CitiLookout staff has treated and supported 43 local women with their recovery curriculum. This 20-week course meets weekly and offers therapy, community resources, peer networking, and stability leading to graduation. The goal is to hold participants accountable and encourage them to rise above their former life patterns and start living with a fresh, healthier perspective. Many women appreciate this program so much that they return to serve as peer supporters, a testament to their personal growth and the positive impact of the program.

In addition, CitiLookout staff has been able to treat and support 29 women with 10 to 12 individual counseling sessions (~284.5 hours of counseling) through the grant CitiLookout received from the Women's Partnership Funds.

WPF feels it is critical to financially support a program that helps mitigate any generational vulnerabilities that may have led to poor physical and emotional health for our Clark County women. Investing in resources and services for these women promotes healthier choices, enabling them to create healthier lives for themselves and their families.

The Women's Partnership Funds also supported ROX, Ruling Our Experiences, with a grant in 2024. This evidence-based school program focuses on creating generations of confident girls who control their own relationships, experiences, decisions and futures.



YOU'RE INVITED!



Our next event is Grants & Gratitude
December 5th at 5:30pm
CoHatch - the Market

101 S Fountain Ave in downtown Springfield

Join us for a holiday party with refreshments and our grant announcements for 2025!

A MESSAGE OF UNITY AND COMPASSION

On May 7, 2024, Clark County celebrated three Extraordinary Women in our community at the Extraordinary Women of Clark County luncheon; Wendy Dolittle, Peggy Johnson, and Jackie Mounts. These incredible women have made huge contributions to Springfield and continue to touch the lives of everyone around them.

We were honored to have Rev. Charmaine Webster from Wittenberg University as our Mistress of Ceremonies and Sarah Hider as our keynote speaker. Rev. Charmaine is an ordained minister, preacher, teacher, and founder of Womanish Projects, a faith-based women's rights 501c3 non-profit organization focused on black women and girls. Sarah is currently the Executive Director of Girls on the Run of Central Ohio, a Non-profit afterschool program that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident. Both women led our afternoon with inspiring words about the power we hold as women and how important it is to take control of that power and use it to do amazing things, while continuing to lift up the other women around us.

Empowerment starts with action, and in Clark County, the Women's Partnership Funds (WPF) is leading the charge. As an affiliate of the Springfield Foundation, the WPF addresses women's critical challenges, from domestic violence to economic independence. Our mission isn't just about providing immediate assistance; it's about fostering long-term self-sufficiency and growth. We were thrilled to spend an afternoon celebrating the accomplishments of three women that we firmly believe uphold the mission of WPF.



Event Keynote Speaker, Chair, and MC



2024 Extraordinary Women of Clark County with their Project Jericho photographers.

But the empowerment doesn't stop with women. The ripple effect of supporting women extends to the entire community, fostering an environment where everyone can benefit from a more equitable society. Our hope is that the 280 luncheon attendees left this event inspired to use their talents to make our community a better place!

**Nominate the
Extraordinary
Woman of Clark
County in your life!**

Our nomination form will soon be on our website at www.springfieldfoundation.org/partnerships/womens-partnership-fund.html



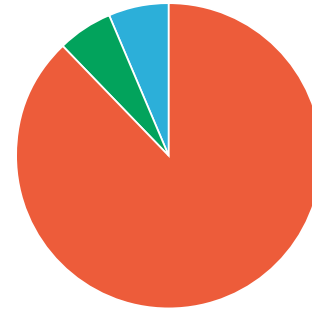
SUSTAINING OUR MISSION

Continue to Empower: Join Us in Making a Difference

Your donations go directly to the WPF Endowment, invested and managed by the Springfield Foundation. The endowment earnings fund local initiatives and programs, such as CitiLookout and ROX, that benefit women and girls of Clark County. Over the next three years, we hope to grow our endowment to \$250,000! Help us help more women and girls with your donation today!

Women's Partnership Funds wants to see all women and girls in Clark County be self-sufficient and reach their full potential. Get involved with WPF today by making a donation, volunteering on our Board or a committee, or by attending our upcoming Grants & Gratitude event on December 5th at 5:30pm in the Exchange Room at CoHatch!

**Help Us To Help Others.
Give Support, Give Strength, Give Now.**



2023 Endowment	
Principal	\$166,000
2024 Growth	\$12,000
2024 Grants	\$11,000

