

Milkweed

Northfield Poet Laureate, Rob Hardy, wrote the poem Milkweed to honor WINGS at the 2019 annual meeting.

To begin with the milkweed pod,
pursed with seeds, opening
to give each seed feathered to the wind—
I've begun other poems with milkweed
because the seed
stands for generosity, for faith, for possibility,
each seed a small investment in butterflies.
To be fair, milkweed propagates
primarily at the root, the network of rhizomes
sending up new life from the soil,
forming entire communities connected
underground.

But even this began with a seed—
the promise of connection.

And here's another metaphor:
when the monarch caterpillar ingests
the milkweed leaf,
it sequesters chemicals from the sap
that become part of the butterfly itself—
a kind of transubstantiation,
the substance of one life becoming

the substance of another.

This is metaphor.

Metaphor is how a poem connects and transforms—
the metamorphosis, the chrysalis
that holds both caterpillar and butterfly,
and in them both, the milkweed.

We live by metaphors.

The money you give is only a metaphor
for the work it can do—
for the promise of health or shelter,
the book in a child's hand,
real seeds planted in the real earth.

This is how your good becomes the good of others,
how you connect and transform.

This is how you do the work of poetry.

You begin with a seed and turn it into wings. ■



Women in Northfield
WINGS
Giving Support

SAINT PAUL
& MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION

WINGS is an affiliate of the
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

WHY JOIN WINGS? YOU WILL ...

- Simply donate or choose your time commitment - join a committee, if you'd like
- Pool your money with others to have a greater impact
- Focus your giving locally
- Expand your network of contacts in the community
- Connect with a thriving, active group of women
- Help this dynamic organization grow

WINGS Membership *the sky's the limit!*

\$1 - \$119	\$120 - \$299	\$300 - \$599	\$600 - \$1,199	\$1,200 +
\$10 + month	\$25 + month	\$50 + month	\$100 + month	
Friend/Student	Bronze Wings	Silver Wings	Gold Wings	Blue Wings

Women in Northfield
WINGS
Giving Support

2019 Annual Report

WOMEN IN NORTHFIELD GIVING SUPPORT



WINGS is a 100% volunteer-led grassroots network of women who pool together resources to improve the lives of women and youth in the Northfield area. Joining WINGS brings you into a community of local women who are making a difference!

Since 2000, WINGS has grown to be the second-largest local grantor, giving over \$1,056,962 to local nonprofit organizations.



GIVE TO WINGS

WINGS
P.O. Box 845
Northfield, MN 55057
Phone: (507) 301-6610
Email: president@wings-mn.org
www.wings-mn.org
www.facebook.com/nfldwings/

Please join this dynamic organization!
Simply send a check to:
P.O. Box 845, Northfield, MN 55057 or donate online at: www.wings-mn.org/donate

Voting membership begins at \$120



2019 WINGS BOARD

Front Row L-R:

Nancy Moe, Jacqui Dorsey, Gay Eggers

Back Row L-R:

Thyme Thornton, Patsy Ophaug, Maelynn Rosas, Bonnie Jean Flom, Margit Johnson, Sarah Swan McDonald, Kathy Olson, Grace McDonald

Not Pictured: Katy Berglund, Katyana Cardenas, Mary Lynn Oglesbee, Rebecca Otten, Leah Rich, Vicki Stevens

WINGS MISSION

WINGS educates and expands the number of women in philanthropy, builds and strengthens community through pooled investments, and improves the lives of women and youth in the Northfield area through focused giving.



Leave a legacy that empowers women and children in Northfield. Join WINGS Forever by designating a legacy gift to WINGS. Click on the Legacy Giving tab on our website at www.wings-mn.org/legacy-giving.

STAY CONNECTED

Are you receiving emails from WINGS? If not, please contact us at Communications@wings-mn.org

WINGS 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Margit Johnson
Past Chair: Kathy Olson
Vice President: Leah Rich
Treasurer: Mary Lynn Oglesbee
Secretary: Vicki Stevens
Grants: Sarah Swan McDonald
Membership: Patsy Ophaug
Outreach: Nancy Moe
Communications: Gay Eggers
At Large: Bonnie Jean Flom
At Large: Jacqui Dorsey
At Large: Maelynn Rosas
At Large: Katy Berglund
At Large: Rebecca Otten
Student Member: Grace McDonald
Student Member: Katyana Cardenas

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Kathy Olson
Committee: Beth Berry, Meleah Follen, Rachel Matney



January 1, 2019 - October 31, 2019
Wings Funds

Fund	Beginning Balance	Contributions	Investment Activity	Dis-bursements	Grants	Other Income (Expense)	Uncommitted Balance
WINGS Entrepreneurial Grant Making Fund							
	783	-	6	(12)	(783)	-	(5)
WINGS Operating Fund							
	2,179	2,920	23	(151)	(250)	(4,322)	398
WINGS: Women's Endowment Fund							
	659,024	11,573	80,830	(9,597)	(24,677)	-	717,153
WINGS: Women's Annual Fund							
	54,426	24,063	631	(360)	(56,417)	-	22,343
Sub-Total:	716,412	38,556	81,490	(10,120)	(82,127)	(4,322)	739,889
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November financials will be available in January. December financials will be available in February.

OPERATING BUDGET

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual YTD	2020 Budget
Administration stationery reprint (3 y. supply)	165	62	845
Printing & Mailing	2,030	1,445	1,920
Communications	605	430	655
Meetings	1,150	977	1,040
TOTAL	\$4,030	\$2,914	\$4,460

2019 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

In 2019 WINGS awarded \$81,877 in grants. WINGS has now surpassed the million dollar mark in grants awarded since its inception with a grant total of \$1,056,962.

2019 Grant Recipients:

- Camp FRIENDS: Summer Programming for Students with Disabilities
- Community Action Center Food Stability: Increasing Food Access for Families with Children
- Community Action Center Housing Assistance: Taking Action for Housing
- Community Action Center Northfield Works: Empowering Women through Education
- Community Action Center Transportation: Community Engaged Transportation
- Community Action Center Youth Summer Camp: Scholarships
- Greenvale Park Community School: Bridge Funding
- Hand in Hand Preschool: English Learner Section
- HCI Growing Up Healthy: Evenings in the Park
- HCI NHS Reading Mentors: Mentor Training
- HealthFinders Clinic: Building Comprehensive Care
- HOPE Center: Lifeline
- Infants Remembered in Silence: Bereavement Support Packets
- NHS Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: Emotional, Academic and Physical Well-Being
- Northfield ALC: Backpack Food Program
- Northfield Area Family YMCA: Transportation Co-op
- Northfield Arts Guild: Read Together Create Together
- Northfield Union of Youth: Gaining Opportunity, Access, and Local Stability (GOALS) Education
- Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative: Scholarships
- Northfield YouthBank: Team Training
- Project Friendship: Northfield Community Mentor Training
- Ruth's House of Hope: Transitional Shelter Program
- TORCH Northfield High School: PSEO and College Planning
- TORCH Northfield High School: Revolving Loan Fund
- TORCH Northfield Middle School: Service Learning and Leadership



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Million Bucks ...

"A million bucks" is a measure of something great or wonderful, as in "she feels like a million bucks." WINGS achieved something wonderful in 2019 – over a million dollars in grants given to support Northfield area women and youth during our first two decades.

Those grants have had a profound impact on the community. I remember when Tattered Pages received a \$750 award to establish the "bookstore" in the Middle School media center where students could exchange earned tokens for free books as holiday gifts. That program continues to this day, much expanded to include Mother's Day, birthdays, and other celebrations where gift-wrapped books are much appreciated. Our first Dare to Dream grant of \$10,000 served as the springboard for the Greenvale Park Community School, which has grown exponentially with additional funding to support students and their families in the Greenvale neighborhood. By the fall of 2020 the community school will be housed in a new building that really will look like a million bucks.

A million is a large number, sometimes too big to really comprehend. Writer Anne Lamott tells a story about her older brother as a youngster. He didn't start his assignment to write about birds until the night before it was due. "He was at the kitchen table close to tears...immobilized by the hugeness of the task ahead. Then my father sat down beside him, put his arm around my brother's shoulder, and said, 'Bird by bird, buddy Just take it bird by bird.'"

That's what WINGS has done and will continue to do with our pooled investments and annual grants. Bird by bird, member by member, donation by donation, and grant by grant, WINGS will continue to support women and youth in the Northfield area.

With deep gratitude to every member who makes it happen,
Margit Johnson, WINGS President



Margit Johnson,
WINGS President



WITH GRATITUDE

WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

NORTHFIELD UNION OF YOUTH



Northfield Union of Youth was the recipient of a \$25,000 Dare to Dream Bigger grant from WINGS in 2018. This funding has enabled NUY to collaborate fully with the Northfield Area Learning Center to bring planning for the future and current support to youth. From cradle to career, NUY is strengthening its community with holistic approaches to learning, supporting and intentionally reaching out to all youth through the WINGS funding. NUY currently has a staff member at the Alternative Learning Center eight hours a week connecting with students outside the four walls of the youth center. The staff member is a friendly face and supportive adult who both meets youth in a place they are safe, comfortable and already accessing help, and gives all students an opportunity to learn about another community resource available to them - The Key.

An additional grant in 2019 helped to implement the Gaining Opportunity, Access, and Local Stability (GOALS) Education program. NUY worked with eight young people to help them gain valuable credits toward graduation and encouraged multiple youth to learn more about earning their GED throughout the summer. Northfield Union of Youth continues to provide consistency and safety in youth conversations about reaching personal and academic goals.



Through the partnership with the Area Learning Center, NUY provides occasional meals that encourage youth to come to school early, connect with teachers and staff, and find a community that supports them in all life challenges, not just academic endeavors. The last Union of Youth breakfast at the ALC served over 60 youth.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS



Blue WINGS members were honored at the Blue WINGS Brunch.



WINGS surpassed \$1 million in total grants awarded!

The Grants Celebration was an extra special event with record attendance, a poster display and a performance by the Justice Choir.



The membership committee hosted events at Froggy Bottoms, Main Street Project, River Walk Market Fair, Reunion Restaurant and Tanzenwald Brewing.



WINGS participated in the Y's Healthy Kids Day.

