

# 2022 Annual Report



## Women in Northfield **WINGS** 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! WINGS, which began in 2000, has grown to be one of the largest local grantors, giving over \$1.3 million to local nonprofit organizations to date. In 2022, \$100,000 was awarded to sixteen organizations serving women and youth in the Northfield area.

# GIVE TO WINGS

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

*Voting membership begins at \$120*

## 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 youth 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](http://www.wings-mn.org/legacy-giving).

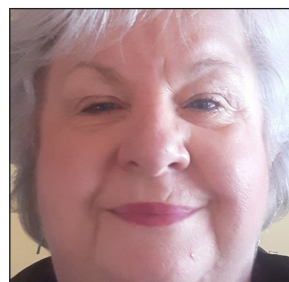
## STAY CONNECTED

Are you receiving emails from WINGS?  
If not, please contact us at [Communications@wings-mn.org](mailto:Communications@wings-mn.org)

# WINGS 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**PRESIDENT:**  
**Kim Decker**



**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
**Vicki Dilley**



**SECRETARY:**  
**Jan Ensrud**



**NOMINATIONS:**  
**Patsy Ophaug**



**COMMUNICATIONS:**  
**Diane Kuhlmann**



**OUTREACH:**  
**Leah Rich**



**AT LARGE:**  
**Gretchen Ehresmann**



**AT LARGE:**  
**Rebecca Otten**



**AT LARGE:**  
**Kathy Olson**



**TREASURER:**  
**Liz Ciner**



**GRANTS:**  
**Sarah Swan McDonald**

NOT PICTURED:

**AT LARGE:**  
**Vicki Stevens**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the 2021 Annual Report, Patsy Ophaug posed the question “Do you think it’s feasible for WINGS to grant \$100,000 in 2022?” As you know, we met that goal, and our community has already been benefiting from your generosity and the creativity of our grantees.

This year continued to operate a little differently than past years. The board and many committee meetings were held remotely. Our Annual Meeting and Grants Celebration were held virtually. While we were able to connect more in-person, especially over the summer months, things haven’t fully returned to what we once knew – robust, in-person events where we shook hands, shared hugs, and broke bread together.

That said, much has remained steady and strong. The generosity and partnership of our donors has been consistent and impactful. I cannot emphasize how much the board values your donations and trust. We know that the state of the economy has made each dollar more precious, and we are grateful that you have continued to believe in our collective impact. When I consider the time and energy that our all volunteer board and committee members put in, I am in awe. What a joy it has been to lead this steadfast and compassionate team of women! And, of course, the creativity of our grantees continues to inspire us.

The board has approved a data compilation and analysis project that started this fall. Two St. Olaf students are reviewing and compiling grant data, which eventually will serve to enhance and inform our decision making and conversations. We are eager to see what the analysis reveals about trends in granting since WINGS’ inception. Stay tuned for more on that!

We hope that you join the board and our members at the virtual Annual Meeting on January 10! Among other things, we will share an update on our strategic planning.

Thank you for continuing to support WINGS, for your trust as we navigate a changing and challenging world, and for being among the steady and strong aspects of our community!

Best,  
Kim Decker  
WINGS President



Kim Decker  
WINGS President



WITH GRATITUDE

# WINGS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

Many WINGS activities were still virtual in 2022, but we tiptoed into the “real world.” While we have missed in-person events, we have discovered that sometimes virtual is better. For example, we had recording-breaking attendance at our two virtual annual meetings in 2021 and 2022. However, in 2023, we look forward to more in-person WINGS events!

- ◆ Annual Meeting – January 11, 2022. Speaker, Carleton President Alison R. Byerly (virtual)
- ◆ WINGS on KYMN – January 24, 2022. Kim Decker and Sarah Swan were interviewed on KYMN.
- ◆ Grants Celebration – June 14, 2022. We awarded \$100,000 in grants. While the celebration was virtual, recipient organizations received hand-delivered CakeWalk cookies.
- ◆ Riverwalk Market Fair Booth – July 24, 2022. WINGS board members staffed an informational table for WINGS at Riverwalk Market Fair in Bridge Square. We had an opportunity to reconnect with current members and speak with prospective members.
- ◆ Strategic planning – Various 2022 board meetings. The board engaged in the strategic planning process throughout 2022. Results of the strategic plan addressed in the Annual Meeting on January 10, 2023.
- ◆ Data compilation project – Late fall 2022. As part of the strategic planning process, the Board identified a need to understand the trends in our 22 years of providing grants. We have engaged two St. Olaf students to compile data from our archives. We look forward to sharing their findings.



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## WINGS Starts New Grant Cycle, Northfield Shares “Evening of Entertainment”, RSWD Tree Sale

January 25, 2022

News 1-25-22

### Wings Grants

Women In Northfield Giving Support, aka WINGS, is beginning their grant cycle for local non-profits. Sara Swan McDonald is in charge of the grant program for WINGS. She explains what the group focus's on when awarding grants:

*“The first is basic needs, so addressing things like housing stability and food stability. Education, things like out-of-school programs or special needs or at-risk youth or adults. And also physical and mental health focusing on healthcare and healthy behaviors for women and children in our community.”*

Listen to KYMN News Updates on 95.1 FM and 1080 AM, reported by Rich Larson, at 6, 7, 8, Noon, 3 and 5.



### KYMN RADIO

200 Division St. So., Suite 260  
Northfield, MN 55057-2079  
Phone: 507-645-5695  
Fax: 507-645-9768  
Office Hours: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.  
On the air 24/7



## FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT

### OPERATION JOY

The holiday season can be especially difficult for low-income families. Even though their budgets are tight, parents want to give their children presents, gifts that let each child know how much he or she matters.

For more than 50 years the Community Action Center (CAC) and its partners have ensured that every Northfield family has gifts to share. This year on December 7th, Operation Joy reached around 400 families, with almost 1,000 children.

At this year's Operation Joy each family received a hand-made quilt and hand-made pajamas for every child. Families also received wrapping paper, a children's book of their choice, gas and/or grocery cards, and a \$40 gift card from Target for each child. The gift card ensures that parents can buy presents that they know their children will love.

Operation Joy depends on the generosity of volunteers. All year long more than 30 community groups sew pajamas and stitch quilts, donating thousands of hours of their time. On the day of the event more than 50 volunteers, half of whom speak Spanish, guided participating families through the process of selecting pajamas, quilts, and books. Six musical groups played throughout the day.

Operation Joy also depends on financial support from the community. This year's Operation Joy cost more than \$50,000, an amount that CAC could never afford on its own. But thanks to 33 sponsoring organizations and gifts from 300+ households, Operation Joy was a success.

WINGS is Operation Joy's single largest institutional supporter. Thanks to WINGS' generosity, hundreds of Northfield parents will be able to lift their children's spirits on what might otherwise be some of the darkest evenings of the year.



# WINGS FAMILY FUNDS SUMMARY

January 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

| Fund Name                     | January 1, 2022<br>balances | January 1, 2023<br>balances |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WINGS: Women's Endowment Fund | \$993,961                   | \$925,834.87*               |
| WINGS: Women's Annual Fund    | \$74,593                    | \$59,325.32                 |
| WINGS Operating Fund          | \$4,384                     | \$3,223.38                  |

\* as of November 30, 2022

## WINGS OPERATING BUDGET

| WINGS              | 2022 Budget  | 2022 Actual  | 2023 Budget |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Administration     | \$70.00      | \$218.50     | \$1,200.00  |
| Printing & Mailing | \$2,255.00   | \$1,549.09   | \$1,750.00  |
| Communications     | \$455.00     | \$615.22     | \$700.00    |
| Meetings           | \$1,200.00   | \$117.04     | \$2,500.00  |
| TOTAL              | \$3,980.00   | \$2,499.85   | \$6,150.00  |
|                    |              |              |             |
| Grants             | \$100,000.00 | \$100,000.00 | TBD         |



## WINGS Membership

*the sky's the limit!*

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

## 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

# 2022 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS



WINGS awarded \$100,000 in this year's grant cycle.

WINGS has granted \$1,329,887 to date.

## 2022 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

- ◆ Northfield Union of Youth: Connected Community
- ◆ Healthy Community Initiative: Reading Corps Internal Coach for Pre-K
- ◆ Ruth's House of Hope: Emergency and Transitional Shelter Program
- ◆ Growing up Healthy/HCI: Mobile Home Rehabilitation Initiative
- ◆ Healthy Community Initiative: Northfield YouthBank
- ◆ HCI: Northfield Community College Collaborative Childcare Program
- ◆ Northfield Public Schools: Youth-Designed TORCH Space
- ◆ Community Action Center: Diaper and Hygiene Bank
- ◆ Community Action Center: Farm to Food Shelf
- ◆ Community Action Center: Housing Stability
- ◆ Community Action Center: Operation Joy
- ◆ Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative: Emerging from the Storm
- ◆ SE MN Private Industry Council: Northfield Youthbuild
- ◆ Northfield Public Schools: Minnesota Children's Museum 2022
- ◆ HealthFinders Collaborative: Healthy Minds Collective - HFC Youth and Family Mental Health and Substance Use Programs
- ◆ Sharing Our Roots: Building an Efficient Irrigation System in the Greenvale Community Garden