

2023 Annual Report



WINGS is a 100% volunteer-led grassroots network of women who pool their resources to improve the lives of women and youth in the Northfield area. Since its founding in 2000, WINGS has contributed over \$1,400,000 to local nonprofits—making it one of the largest local grantors to local nonprofit organizations.

Joining WINGS brings you into a community of local women who are making a difference. In 2023, WINGS awarded \$100,000 to nineteen organizations serving women and youth in greater Northfield.

Women in Northfield
WINGS 
Giving Support

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

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.

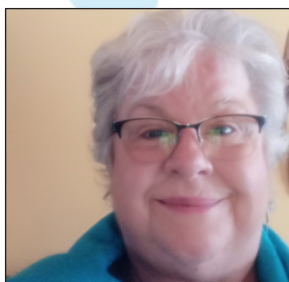


Leave a legacy that empowers women and youth in Northfield. Join WINGS Forever by designating a legacy gift to WINGS. Click on the Legacy Giving tab on our website at www.wings-mn.org/legacy-giving.

STAY CONNECTED

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

WINGS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT:
Vicki Dilley



VICE PRESIDENT & NOMINATIONS:
Kathy Olson



SECRETARY:
Jan Ensrud



TREASURER:
Liz Ciner



COMMUNICATIONS:
Diane Kuhlmann



OUTREACH:
Leah Rich



MEMBERSHIP:
Kim Decker



AT LARGE:
Rebecca Otten



GRANTS:
Emily Blumhoefer



AT LARGE:
Gretchen Ehresmann



AT LARGE:
Vicki Stevens

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A year has swiftly passed since our last WINGS annual report and since our 2023 annual meeting, where Anika Rychner shared with us ideas for building a healthy culture of community solidarity. You may remember that she invited us to see our community through four lenses, urging us to come to our work from a framework of abundance rather than scarcity, to be trauma informed, to practice empathy, and to think about WINGS' grants not as acts of charity but as acts of solidarity.

This framework is so important and one which we believe WINGS embodies, as do the organizations we are fortunate enough to be able to support.

The goal of WINGS is to pool our resources to support women and youth in the greater Northfield area. For the second year in a row, your gifts of time and treasure enabled WINGS to provide \$100,000 in grants to nineteen organizations. From the dollars you gave, to our grantees who go to work every day meeting the needs of our community, to those who volunteer on our various WINGS committees and board, we are having an impact.

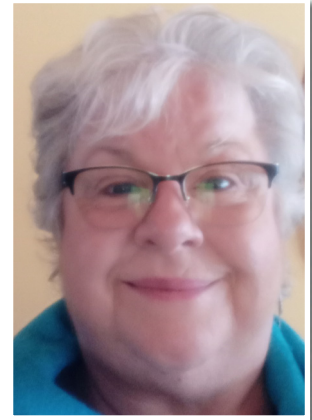
Speaking of which, if you have time and inclination to volunteer, please contact me. We would love to have your help. Another way you could contribute is to invite someone to join WINGS. If each of us brought one new person into the organization, oh my, the places we could go!

Please consider inviting a friend, a colleague, or a neighbor to become a member of our amazing organization.

This past year the board was fortunate to be able to re-establish in-person board meetings. This helped us regain some of our knowledge of each other which was harder to have via Zoom. We also welcomed two youth representatives from the high school, Paige Raleigh and Thea Hanson. We appreciate their voices at our meetings and hope their involvement will help us engage more youth in philanthropy.

Our new database system, Little Green Light (LGL), is up and running and we look forward to deploying it more effectively this coming year. We still need a bit of grace as we learn to push the right buttons to get the output intended. Please let us know if you receive a communication from us which seems off. We are looking for some volunteers to help with our IT, including LGL. If you have an interest in helping, please let me know.

We were so pleased that Susan Singer, President of St. Olaf College, agreed to address us at the 2024 annual meeting. You'll recall that she entitled her remarks "Coming Home." WINGS is in the business of helping everyone in our community call Northfield home, with all that means in terms of comfort and a sense of belonging. Let's work together to make 2024 a year in which we have even greater impact!



Vicki Dilley
WINGS President



WITH GRATITUDE

WINGS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- ◆ The annual meeting, held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, had over 60 members attending virtually via Zoom. The guest speaker was Anika Rychner, senior director of the Community Action Center in Northfield, who shared her insights on philanthropy.
- ◆ WINGS moved from using a large excel spreadsheet to a customer relations management system, Little Green Light (LGL). LGL is a database that will help streamline internal systems/ processes and improve communications with members.
- ◆ The Grants celebration was held June 13 at the Northfield Community Education Center. This was the first in-person event since Covid. Over 90 members attended, enjoying a tour of this facility.
- ◆ WINGS awarded \$100,000 of grants to nineteen organizations.
- ◆ The Membership committee hosted a Friends of the Market table at the Riverwalk Market Fair in August.
- ◆ More than 30 members attended our in-person member event at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Organizations who were recipients of WINGS' grants welcomed members to their newly refurbished spaces and shared information about their programming.



FEATURED GRANT RECIPIENT

SHOWING UP FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR YOUTH

WINGS has supported the work of HealthFinders Collaborative in a number of ways over the last 10+ years. This year, through WINGS' visionary investment, HealthFinders Collaborative has leveraged WINGS funding to secure additional dollars from the Medica Foundation to address an extensive need for mental health services in Rice County, an area with half the mental health providers per capita compared to the rest of Minnesota.

With WINGS funding in hand, HealthFinders Collaborative's Healthy Minds Collective project is building an innovative health care model that ensures no woman or child in our community will go without mental health care. The project is expected to serve at least 150 women and youth, regardless of their insurance status, with mental health and wellness services during the 2023-24 grant cycle and reach thousands more with wellness messages and health promotion.

HealthFinders Collaborative shares one story of the project in action:

MEET DAMON

We met Damon when providing a Recovery Support Group at the Northfield Union of Youth/The Key. His attendance was sporadic, but he developed a positive relationship with our Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Director Lee Zuniga. Lee is someone youth gravitate to. He has an incredible ability to relate to nearly anyone he meets, and once youth meet him, they intentionally seek him out for conversations, check-ins, or just to share jokes.

In conversations with school personnel, Lee began to learn more about Damon's family situation and the challenges they were facing. Damon often got into trouble at school, and sometimes part of the consequence was having to meet with Lee. But meeting with Lee is rarely viewed as a punishment, and Damon continued to engage with Lee on matters related to substance use, his family, and the ways in which they were struggling to meet their needs.

Through robust, school-linked behavioral health services, Damon had opportunities to meet and build relationships with more of our team. He also became more familiar with one of our mental health providers in the school, even though he was not necessarily interested in typical therapy.

Unfortunately, Damon continued to find himself in situations where disciplinary action was implemented, leading to him being suspended and sent out of school, a building that was filled with safe, supportive adults. His school was looking for opportunities to try new approaches and was eager to identify additional ways that they could better support Damon and other students like him. Our team collaborated to brainstorm different strategies to approaching typical violations that often led to suspension, with a focus on education, in-school interventions, and working to keep these students in the building, as opposed to sending them home.

In addition to our work with Damon, we know that his family is also working with the Community Action Center. Together, we are working to provide a more holistic approach to what it means to be well.

While we wish we could tell you that all this collaboration has "solved" the problems that Damon is facing, the circumstances that impact youth like Damon are complicated and many are those that youth have no control over.

Damon continues to find himself in situations at school that result in disciplinary action, but he's started talking about being willing to see a mental health provider. He regularly meets with other members of our substance use team, and he pops by the HealthFinders Collaborative space in his school nearly every day we're there: sometimes to grab a snack, sometimes to poke fun at the staff or crack jokes, and sometimes to have a conversation about what he's going through. Our hope is that continued contact with us, the CAC, and other supportive adults will lead to more positive changes for Damon, because he deserves that. He deserves adults to show up for him. All youth do.

WINGS FINANCIALS

Gift History	Endowment	Annual	Operating	Total
12 months ending 12/31/2022	\$39,822	\$62,500	\$1,670	\$103,991
12 months ending 12/31/2023	\$44,431	\$75,121	\$3,710	\$123,262
Increase from 2023	\$4,609	\$12,622	\$2,040	\$19,271
Percentage change	11.6%	20.2%	122.2%	18.5%

RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL FUND BALANCE (endowment, annual, operating)			
1/1/2023 Balance (total for all funds)			\$970,059.25
Gifts (1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023)		\$123,262.31	
2023 grants distributed	\$(100,100.00)		
2023 operating expenses	\$(4,502.55)		
Total cash outflow	\$(104,602.55)	\$(104,602.55)	
Excess of gifts over expenses*	\$18,659.76	\$18,659.76	
Investment income/loss			\$38,830.00
12/31/2023 (total for all funds)			\$1,027,549.01
*Earmarked for future Dare to Dream grant and to reinvest			
Total Gift Received		\$123,262.31	
Portion of gift retained to increase fund		\$18,659.76	
Percentage		15.1%	

2023 WINGS EXPENSES

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2023 Budget	2023 Expenses	2024 Proposed Budget
Administration	\$1,200.00	\$1,029.00	\$1,200.00
Printing & Mailing	\$1,750.00	\$2,204.62	\$2,450.00
Communication	\$700.00	\$172.44	\$250.00
Meetings	\$2,500.00	\$1,096.49	\$1,200.00
Total (minus grants)	\$6,150.00	\$4,502.55	\$5,100.00
Grants		\$100,100.00	\$100,000.00

2023 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS



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

WINGS has granted
\$1,429,887 to date.

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

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

2023 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

- ◆ Youthbuild
- ◆ Project Friendship
- ◆ Promise Fellows for Student Support (TORCH)
- ◆ Summer Adventures (TORCH)
- ◆ Give a Book, Ensure a Future
- ◆ Summer Strings: Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra
- ◆ Youthbank — HCI
- ◆ Northfield Youth Choir Concert Chicago Tour
- ◆ Reading Corps Internal Coach for PreK — HCI
- ◆ LETRS Training for K to 3 Teachers — HCI
- ◆ Housing Stability — CAC
- ◆ Diaper and Hygiene Bank — CAC
- ◆ Back on Your Feet Fund — CAC
- ◆ NCCC Increased Student Support — HCI
- ◆ Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support —Northfield Public Schools
- ◆ Youth & Family Mental Health & Substance Use —Health Finders
- ◆ Northfield Arts Guild Youth Council — Northfield Arts Guild
- ◆ Youth Sports Scholarships — CAC
- ◆ Navigating Early Childhood — HCI