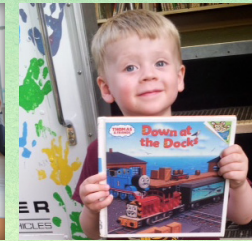


2015 Annual Report

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 **\$740,000 to local nonprofit organizations.**

GIVE TO WINGS

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 children in Northfield. Join WINGS Forever by designating a legacy gift to WINGS. See Frequently Asked Questions about legacy giving 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 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Carlson, President
Jacqui Dorsey, Vice President*
Meleah Follen, Treasurer
Diane Lyman, Secretary
Laura Riehle-Merrill, Grants Chair
June Hiza, Outreach Chair
Patsy Ophaug, Membership Chair
Leah Eby, Communications Chair
Corinne Smith, At-Large
Vicki Stevens, At-Large
Barb Altstaetter, At-Large
Alice Carson, At-Large
Connie DeGrote, At-Large*
Mary Douglass, Ex-Officio*
(* not pictured)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Douglass, Sue DeMalignon, Mary Loven, Vicki Stevens

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Throughout this year as president of WINGS, I have been thinking about and articulating ways to describe what we do and to describe the essence of WINGS. I want to energize our members and attract new members to fulfill the mission of which we are all a part. That mission is to expand philanthropy, build and strengthen community and improve the lives of women and youth.

An image has come to my mind, partially influenced by a speaker that many of our board members and I heard at the Minnesota Community Foundations Conference this fall.

The image is that of a runway.

Every flight involves two runways – one from which to take flight and one to bring us home.

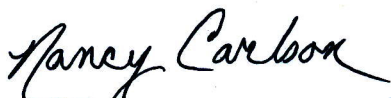
Aren't we at WINGS like a runway? We launch women and youth to take flight into new opportunities, education or experiences. And, we also provide a safe place to land offering shelter, support and security.

We often focus on the dream or the destination (and that is good because it is what drives us) but without the runway, there is no launch, and there is no safe place to return and build strength.

The runway is built and nurtured through the generosity and commitment of the dedicated women of WINGS. When I reflect over the last 15 years since WINGS began, I see a runway that has launched and landed hundreds of women and youth toward better lives. When I look to the future I am energized to be part of a runway whose existence connects me to serving humankind and strong women of service.

Thank you for all you do, and for who you are.

With Gratitude,



Nancy Carlson
WINGS President



Nancy Carlson,
WINGS President



WITH GRATITUDE

GIRL SCOUTS CONNECTZ

Girl Scouts ConnectZ provides girls in diverse and low-income communities with an all-girl, culturally responsive leadership development program that helps them learn, grow, and build skills for a successful future. The Girl Scouts ConnectZ program in Northfield has grown considerably over the past couple of years. This year, with funding from WINGS, the program reached 61 girls in the Northfield area, nearly three times as many girls as in 2013-2014.

Throughout the year, girls explored focus areas like healthy living and relationships, goal setting, leadership and service learning, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

After exceeding their goal for cookie sales this year, the girls were empowered to not only attend an overnight camp and pay for a fun day of their choosing at Valley Fair, but they also researched other local youth-related non-profits and decided to make blankets for the Ronald McDonald House. They delivered 15 blankets and look forward to leveraging cookie sales to continue positively impacting the community.

As a result of participation in Girl Scout ConnectZ, 90% of girls felt empowered to make a difference in their communities. One girl in the program said, "[My favorite thing is] the sense of community and support I get from our troop leader."



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

■ **Partnering with Northfield Promise, WINGS sponsored an Early Literacy Event at Greenvale Park Community School.** CC Linstroth shared with parents a different approach to story time combining Reading Comprehension Best Practices and the latest in brain research on building comprehension.



■ **A Member Sponsorship Fund** was created, to assist women with membership fees.

■ **A record number of grants were given to fund 27 projects at the annual Grants Celebration** and more than 125 members and guests in attendance heard inspiring stories from organizations receiving those grants.



■ **The Membership committee hosted monthly coffee and wine events at Northfield establishments to recruit new members and to provide current members an opportunity to connect. Twenty-four new members joined WINGS in 2015.**

SIBLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION LEVELED LIBRARY

This year WINGS is funding the development of a **leveled library for the special education students at Sibley Elementary School**. The classroom books available for students to take home are often not at the appropriate level for them. This funding is creating a library filled with a variety of 'just right' books. The students are also given a special 'book bag' with their name on it, which has added to their interest in checking out books and showing them off to their friends and family.

In addition, parents are given special information to encourage them to read to their children and to guide them in supporting their children's reading. The program serves about 30 students, two-thirds of which are from families with financial need. In this way, the library is also providing the homes with more reading material for the children and families to enjoy.

Reports are that this program has increased the reading at home—and that the children are quite happy and proud to check out these books.



■ **Give to the Max Day** found members and guests joining the WINGS board and committee members at The Hideaway; enjoying a cup of coffee and fellowship while making donations. **Almost \$12,000 was contributed** that day. Thanks to a generous sponsor, all fees associated with online donations that day were covered.

■ The WINGS board enjoyed serving an evening meal for families at **Greenvale Park Community School, WINGS' inaugural Dare to Dream award recipient**.

■ WINGS continued its representation on the **Council of Champions**, working with other community leaders to support the work of Northfield Promise.

■ WINGS maintained an active presence on Facebook, featuring members and grantees.

■ Board members had the opportunity to attend the **Impact by Design** conference in St. Paul sponsored by the **Minnesota Council on Foundations**. Community affiliates from around Minnesota were able to attend, thanks to a grant to Minnesota Philanthropy Partners from the Bush Foundation. Board members returned with a wealth of information and many ideas to consider implementing in the future.



2015 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Basic Needs: \$15,250

Community Action Center: Housing Assistance for Women and Children—Provide direct rental or utility assistance to low-income households headed by women at risk of homelessness

Community Action Center: Working Mother's Childcare—Conduct feasibility study of expanded child care for mothers who wish to become employed in second and third shift jobs

HOPE Center: Care Service Provision—Support HOPE Center's core services, including basic needs as gas cards, grocery cards, and safe housing for clients from the Northfield community

Ruth's House of Hope, Inc.: Transitional Shelter Program—Partially fund the cost of utilities for shelter for homeless women and their children in Rice County

Education: \$39,638

Northfield Area Learning Center: BWCA Wilderness Experience—Provide outfitting fees for wilderness experience for at-risk youth to build personal and workplace skills

Northfield Public Schools TORCH Program: TORCH Middle School Literacy Initiative—Continue efforts to address middle school students' literacy challenges through tutoring support and activities during the school year and enrichment activities in the summer

TORCH (Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes): TORCH Youth Leadership Development—Support summer PLUS fellows, TORCH Ambassadors, and the TORCH Youth Advisory Board

Northfield Public Schools Community Services: Connected Kids—Support a school-based mentoring program targeting students at risk of academic failure, truancy, dropping out, and/or juvenile delinquency

Dakota Prairie Adult Basic Education: Family School Transportation and Outreach—Provide support for family literacy program consisting of adult English language learning, parenting education, early childhood education, and parent-child interaction

Northfield Booster Club: Athletic Waiver Fees—Assist with athletic waiver fees allowing low-income students to participate in school sports

Northfield Union of Youth: Unlock Your Voice—Support quality programming at The Key, a youth-run, substance free center by supporting daily staffing and contributing to the hosting fee for the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library: Welcome Back to the Library! Bienvenido de Nuevo!—Fund an outreach package to introduce or reintroduce children to the Northfield Public Library post renovation

Northfield Public Schools Community Services: Lunch and Learning—Help fund early childhood education, parent/child interaction time, and special education services at Greenvale Park Community Center

Project Friendship: Learning with Pumpkins—Fund a fall field trip to help foster a mentoring relationship between at-risk children and their college mentors

Northfield Arts Guild: Purple Door Youth Theater—Support an educational theater company for young people grades 2-12

Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative: Collaborative Scholarship Fund—Offer sports scholarships to enable low-income youth to participate in sports sponsored by local sports associations

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: PRIMETIME Summer Academic Initiative—Implement two pilot initiatives, Summer Reading Rockets and Community Connects STEM, targeting reading and STEM experiences for low income youth

Northfield Public Schools: Camp FRIENDS—Provide summer social, recreational, and educational programming for middle school and high school students with disabilities

Northfield Public School: Sibley Special Education Levelled Library—Create a leveled library for special education programs to give students home access to appropriately leveled materials

Physical and Mental Health: \$10,680

Healthfinders Collaborative, Inc.: Community Family Dental Care—Support providing oral health care in Rice County for low-income, uninsured, and under-insured individuals and families

Northfield Area Family YMCA: Y Scholarships for Low-Income Families—Provide membership scholarships for lower income families

Girl Scouts of MN and WI River Valleys: Girl Scouts ConnectZ—Provide girls from diverse and low-income communities the opportunity to develop leadership skills through Scouts

Growing Up Healthy: Martes en el Parque—Support weekly summertime gathering for residents of Viking Terrace and Jefferson Park to promote feelings of connectedness which are important for raising healthy children

Entrepreneurship, Technical Assistance, Networking: \$8,300

Main Street Project: Latina Women Agripreneur Project—Continue training and support for Latina women in implementing poultry production as a sustainable business

Northfield Arts Guild: Autism and the Arts Summer Art Mart—Support summer program with focus on generating art for the marketplace, including making, packaging, marketing, and selling original art work at Riverwalk Market Fair

Dollars and Sense: Northfield Youth IDA Program—Support an individual development account (IDA) program for lower income youth, to start savings accounts for higher education expenses

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: Northfield YouthBank—Support youth-led grant-making initiative which channels money into projects that will improve the quality of life in our community.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Annual	Endowment	WEF	Operating	Totals
Balance 1/1/2015	\$ 49,712	\$ 545,974	\$ 3,541	\$ 1,295	\$ 600,522
Contributions	\$ 21,815	\$ 22,388	\$ 2,196	\$ 10,418	\$ 56,817
Other Income	\$ 5	\$ 6,026		\$ 1	\$ 6,032
Change in Value		\$ 1,216			\$ 1,216
Grants	\$ (49,712)	\$ (20,615)	\$ (3,541)		\$ (73,868)
Fees	\$ (419)	\$ (6,862)	\$ (100)	\$ (232)	\$ (7,613)
Operating Expenses				\$ (6,119)	\$ (6,119)
Balance 11/30/2015	\$ 21,401	\$ 548,127	\$ 2,096	\$ 5,363	\$ 576,987

MN Philanthropy Partners does not update until 6 weeks after the close of the month. December numbers will be available by the end of February.

OPERATING BUDGET

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Administration	250	0	160
Printing & Mailing	2,250	1,944	2,250
Communications	600	353	725
Meetings	900	878	2,050
TOTAL	\$4,000	\$3,175	\$4,685

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

As of September 30, 2015

Multi-Asset	Annualized 5 years	Annualized 3 years	1 year	YTD
Endowment Portfolio(1)	8.2%	7.8%	(1.6%)	(2.4%)



“It’s incredible to be part of an organization of women mobilizing their caring hearts and energies to raise up their community and their world.”

*Kathryn Lozada, WINGS Member and
 Greenvale Park Community School Coordinator*

P.O. Box 845
 Northfield, MN 55057



Minnesota
 Community
 Foundation

WINGS is a fund of the Minnesota Community
 Foundation and an affiliate of Minnesota
 Philanthropy Partners

Phone: (507) 645-4112

Email: president@wings-mn.org

Website: www.wings-mn.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfldwings/

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