



WINGSPAN

WOMEN IN NORTHFIELD GIVING SUPPORT | WWW.WINGS-MN.ORG | DECEMBER 2025

A Letter From Your President



Greetings!
This time of year carries a rhythmic shift from colorful, warm autumn weeks to the inevitable shorter, darker days. How do you prepare yourself for the cold

winter ahead? There are a variety of ways to adjust to the changing seasons and starting with gratitude is always a good practice. I have so much to be thankful for and one of them is this powerful organization we are all a part of, WINGS! After being invited to join a “giving circle” 20+ years ago, I had no idea how much I would learn and grow. I am so thankful for being asked to join, for the variety of ways I’ve been able to belong, and for the opportunities to come alongside the efforts of other caring women in Northfield who want to make our community better for all of us.

We have over 40 women who currently volunteer on committees, assist with special

projects, and serve on the board. These women bring their professional skills, their passions and their gifts to further the mission of WINGS. I am grateful for the plethora of ways these women shape our efforts, create strategies for change and provide the pathway for WINGS to continue for the next 25 years and beyond.

WINGS has over 250 members who believe in making a tangible difference in Northfield. I am thankful for your commitment, your trust and your belief that by working together we can understand and support the needs of women and youth in our community. Your ongoing membership has a direct impact on our neighbors – from the mom who needs diapers, to the family who has safe housing, to the youth getting help with mental health challenges, and so many others. And the needs continue to grow.

We’re closing in on another amazing year for WINGS. We just celebrated a wonderful milestone together – WINGS’ 25th Anniversary! It was so great to

reflect on some historic moments, to remember how we began, to honor the wisdom, hard work and tenacity of our founding members and to be inspired by the impact that’s been made by our incredible grantees. We have so much to celebrate and celebrating brings us together and motivates us to look ahead.

Join me in finding ways to increase our ability to fund more grant requests. Invite a friend to join WINGS, volunteer on a committee or the board, or respond to the nudge in your heart urging you to increase your financial gift. The needs in Northfield are many. Our time to act is now.

Thank you for the ways you care about the well-being of women and youth in Northfield. Together we are WINGS!

With a grateful heart,

Kathy Olson
WINGS President

SAVE THE DATE!

The WINGS annual meeting will be held on
Tuesday January 27, 2026 • 6:30-7:30pm
at Community Resource Bank



WINGS Membership

Anyone can join WINGS by donating. Members who donate \$120 or more can vote on grant distribution. Go to wings-mn.org to keep your membership current.

Donate online to the WINGS Annual Fund to make a difference in the lives of women and youth over the next year.

Donate online to the WINGS Endowment Fund to help build an endowment so women and youth can be supported far into the future.

Or mail a check to:

WINGS
P.O. Box 845
Northfield, MN 55057



WINGS VOTING MEMBERS (\$120+ January 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)

Connie Albers	Ruth Hanold Crane	Candace M.R. Godfrey	Virginia Lorang	Zsolnay Peterson	Ann Sullivan
Barbara Allstaetter	Barbara Crouter	Paula Goode	Mary Loven	Janet Petri-Zorn	Julie Sullivan
Cynthia J Anderson	Gwen Daniels	Ann Gosack	Diane M Lyman	Claire Pfau	Sarah E Swan
Mari T Aylin	Linda Davis	Mary Lewis D Grow	Joyce Mace	Patricia A Pflaum	McDonald
Maren Bahler	Chris Daymont	Helene Haapala	Carol B Marshall	Pasha Quaas	Alice A Thomas
Erin Bailey	Kim Decker	Jayne Hager Dee	Judith F Mason	Susan Quinnell	Merrell Thornton
Lois Bakko	Connie L DeGrote	Mary Hahn	Rachel Matney	Jennifer R Sawyer	Linda Tickle
Anndora Barvir	Sharon Detert	Cheryl Hall	Amy McBroom	Paige Raleigh	Pam Tidona
Theresa Bauman	Vicki Dilley	Marilyn Hanson	Elizabeth McKinsey	Lana Reich	Marian L Tise
Elizabeth J Behrens	Kathleen Doran-Norton	Jeanette D Hartley	Lin McLaughlin Bruce	Leah Rich	Linda Tollefson
Joan Koerber Berg	Jacqueline A Dorsey	Nancy J Hegland	Abigail L Meierbachtol	Laura Riehle-Merrill	Laura Turek
Katy Berglund	Mary K Douglass	Laura Heiman	Rhonda Meyer	Beverly Ann Roberts	Pam Vig
Elizabeth Berry	Norma J Driver	Lou A Heng	Sue Middleton	Patricia A Robertson	Colleen K Vitek
Mary Bleckwehl	Mary L Dunnewold	Alyssa Melby	Kathy Wiertsema-Miller	Janice R Roetzel	Roberta Jean Wakely
Emily Blumhoefer	Martha Easter-Wells	Joan Higinbotham	Nancy Moe	Kimberly L Rohr	Virginia Walsh
Valerie Bollinger	Jennifer Edwins	June Marie Hiza	Jane Turpin Moore	Jane Runzheimer	Frank Weaver
Kim Briske	Gay Eggers	Brianne Hoffert	Sandra Morisette	Connie Ryberg	Eve H Webster
Martha G Brown	Gretchen D Ehresmann	Carolyn Hogan	Lynn Naeckel	Viola Ryder	Doris Welke
Evelyn M Burry	Mary Emery	Patricia A Hohertz	Connie Nelson	Mary E Savina	Ramona Weselmann
Jan Ellen Burry	Margaret Enders	Kristi Holden	Kari E Nelson	Linda A Sawyer	Elizabeth Wicks
Mary S Carlsen	Diane M Enebak	Susan M Hollinger	Elaine Nesbit	Juliana Sayner	Karen N Wingate
Sarah R Carlsen	Jan Ensrud	Kelly Irvine	Jeannie Ness	Donna Rae Scheffert	Margaret Witt
Charlotte Carlson	Kristine M Estenson	Margit Johnson	Debra D Nitz	Lori Schmidt	Lynne Young
Mary B Carlson	Ann Etter	Pat Johnson	Jean M Noack	Sara Schodt	Julie Zaruba Fountaine
Nancy C Carlson	Shirley A Evans	Elizabeth Kallestad	Katherine M Norrie	Cora Scholz	Barbara M Zaveruha
Susan Carlson	Susan C Evans	Judith Khanna	Sue Norstad	Grace H Schroeder	Litao Zhang
Alice Carson	Jill Ewald	Becky Koenigs	Alan J Norton	Scott	Kathryn Graham
Natalie Chell	Regina B Fineran	Carolyn M Koziolk	Mary Lynn Oglesbee	Nancy Shaw	Becky Zrimsek
Elizabeth Child	Bonnie Jean Flom	Cynthia H Kreis	Meg Ojala	Janet R Shoger	Karen Zwolenski
Patrice Ciernia	Meleah Follen	Diane O Kuhlmann	Elizabeth K Olson	Susan Singer	
Elizabeth Ciner	Catherine Fortin	Kari Kust	Karen Olson Mader	Corinne Smith	
Christie Clarke	Pamela Franz	Hope Langston	Kathleen L Olson	Kay Smith	
Judith D Code	Jodine K Friedow	Leone M Larson	Patricia G Ophaug	Margaret Glynn Stary	
Carol L Cole	Gasho Family Revocable	Michelle M Lasswell	Rebecca M Otten	Margaret Steen	
Ellen Connolly-Eckhoff	Trust Agreement	Sally LeGrand	Pat Lamb and Elle	Mary Steen	
Carol Cowles	Marie Gery	Janet E Muth	Hansen Charitable	Lois M Stratmoen	
Jennifer Cox Johnson	Cynthia F Gilbertson	Lois A Lindbloom	Fund	Shelley Strobel	

Together, We Lift: *Reflections on 25 Years of WINGS*

Members of the 25th Anniversary Committee



As I reflect on our 25th anniversary celebration, I'm filled with pride and gratitude—for the remarkable women who have shaped WINGS and for the deep sense of connection that comes from being part of something larger than ourselves. Gathering among 140 women at Reunion, I was reminded that WINGS isn't just a grassroots organization; it's a community bound by care, generosity, passion, and shared purpose.

In preparing for the event, I saw again how naturally women make things happen. We often are the ones who see the needs of others firsthand and that is what makes WINGS so special. We don't just give—we belong. We belong to a community of women who see the needs around them, who care deeply, and who act with intention. And when we work together, we are powerful beyond measure.

Since our founding in 2000, WINGS has granted more than \$1.7 million to local organizations supporting women, youth and families in Northfield and has built an endowment that just recently exceeded \$1 million. Behind each of those dollars is a story—a child who found opportunity, a woman who found stability, a family who found hope. That same spirit has carried WINGS for a quarter of a century.

Attendees at the 25th Anniversary Celebration



Our committee produced a new and inspiring video with the generous financial support of our fiduciary agent, the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation. This video captures the heart of

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WINGS—our story, our mission, and the women who make it all possible. Check it out on our website wings-mn.org.

As we celebrate 25 years of giving and growth, I hope others will be inspired to join us—to experience the belonging, share the purpose, and witness the difference women make together. While many find us through our website, a personal invitation often makes all the difference. This is how we grow best and how we'll carry WINGS into the next 25 years and beyond.

2025 Board of Directors



Special thanks to our committee members, Gretchen Ehresmann, Beth Berry, Julie Nikolai Sullivan, Kim Briske, Kris Estenson, and Nancy Carlson who put together a wonderful and memorable 25th anniversary event.

Together, we are WINGS and together we lift our community.

Nancy Carlson
Anniversary Committee Chair

Founding members of WINGS



WINGS (Women in Northfield Giving Support) 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.

Please mail your check (P.O. Box 845, Northfield, MN 55057) or donate online (wings-mn.org/donate) by Nov. 30. Send your tax-deductible gift soon. Thank you!

Stay informed about WINGS! E-news is sent to WINGS members and friends monthly. If you are not receiving e-news, please check your email spam folder. If you have questions, contact communications@wings-mn.org.

WINGS Forever
Leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Thank you for considering making your legacy gift to WINGS. For more information, contact Kathy Olson; president@wings-mn.org.

WINGS is an affiliate of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation



2025 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

WINGS awarded \$125,000 in this year's grant cycle.
WINGS has granted \$1,554,887 to date.

- ◆ Healthy Community Initiative – Northfield YouthBank
 - ◆ Northfield Area Learning Center – Backpack Food Program
 - ◆ Project Friendship – Guiding the Way: College Mentors for Youth Empowerment
 - ◆ Dakota Prairie Basic Adult Education – ABE Classroom Cupboard
 - ◆ Ruth's House of Hope – Strengthening Recovery: Funding a Dedicated Case Manager for Lasting Impact
 - ◆ Northfield Union of Youth – Mental Health Outreach, Planned Activities
 - ◆ Community Action Center – Diaper and Hygiene Bank
 - ◆ Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative – Youth Sports Scholarships
 - ◆ Community Action Center – Housing Stability Fund
 - ◆ Hope Center – Continuing HOPE
 - ◆ TORCH at Healthy Community Initiative – Youth Mental Health and Community Building
 - ◆ Healthy Community Initiative – Higher Education Empowerment in Recovery
 - ◆ Northfield Public Schools – Camp FRIENDS (Fun, Recreational and Inclusive Experience Necessary During the Summer)
 - ◆ Healthy Community Initiative – Supporting Early Learning Efforts in Northfield
- 2025 Dare to Dream Grant**
- ◆ Community Action Center – Domestic Violence Prevention Partnership