



WOMEN'S FUND
OF CENTRAL INDIANA

✦ A CICF FUND

2023
Annual Report





The United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women warned earlier this year that women's and girls' rights were under unprecedented attack all over the globe. And women and girls right here in our community continue to navigate disparities in health, economic mobility, career development, and personal safety.

At Women's Fund of Central Indiana, we envision a world where everyone who identifies as a woman or girl can thrive. In my first message to Women's Fund stakeholders, when I stepped into the role of president in January 2023, I said that our organization belongs to the rich community of people who identify as women and girls in Central Indiana. This is *your* Women's Fund. We are powered by your voice, your needs, your passion, and your joy. And you help make our vision for an equitable community for women a reality.

Read this annual report not as a record of Women's Fund's work over the last year, but a celebration of how *you* are making a world where women and girls—in all their diversity and complexity—can be safe, happy, healthy, and free—where they can reach their full potential unhindered.

Last year we undertook the most robust community listening, landscape analysis, and organizational assessment effort in our history. You helped us set a fresh vision for Women's Fund through a bold new strategic plan. And while we forged a roadmap for the future, you helped us continue the work we have done faithfully for nearly 30 years. What follows is a brief overview of the work you made possible last year.

Feminist Rebecca Solnit wrote, "Every minute of every hour of every day you are making the world, just as you are making yourself, and you might as well do it with generosity and kindness and style."

Whether you contributed your work, wealth, or wisdom to Women's Fund of Central Indiana last year, you have our gratitude.

Thank you for your generosity, kindness and style. It is invaluable.

Thank you,

Tamara Winfrey-Harris
President
Women's Fund of Central Indiana



In 2023 we remained deeply committed to our mission by awarding grants that totaled more than \$466,000. We launched a new signature program, Executive Women of Color Leadership Program, and hosted an internationally known icon, Allyson Felix, at our annual Power of Women where we highlighted the importance of women's maternal health. Our year was spent listening to women's voices more than ever before, expanding our commitment to women and girls by investing in new grantees, and strengthening our governance to ensure our foundation continues to be strong. Join me as we celebrate our 2023 accomplishments in this annual report and learn more about how you can continue to support Women's Fund.

Tavonna Harris Askew
Board Chair 2022-2023

2023



Tamara Winfrey-Harris

Tamara Winfrey-Harris Leads as New President

Women's Fund of Central Indiana hired a new president, Tamara Winfrey-Harris, who stepped into her role in January 2023.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to use my abilities to make this community a better place for women and girls," said Winfrey-Harris. "I promise to listen, to learn, and be guided by the needs, experiences, and voices of women and girls in all their intersections and complexities."

Victoria Petersen Elia, CFRE joined Women's Fund in March 2023 as Director of Development.



Strategic Planning Committee

Our Bold New Strategic Plan

In 2023, Women's Fund of Central Indiana devoted hundreds of hours to research, analysis, and community listening. The result was a strategic plan like no other in our history to meet an unprecedented moment for people who identify as women and girls in our community — a time of tremendous triumph, but also frightening vulnerability.

The strategic plan was launched in December and will be used as the guiding tool for the work of Women's Fund over the next three years.

Learn more: www.womensfund.org/strategic-plan



2023

2023 Grantmaking Initiatives

In 2023, Women's Fund's endowment provided more than \$560,000 for investment into Central Indiana's women's and girls and the organizations that serve them. During our annual responsive process, we awarded \$466,500 in grants to 23 not-for-profits.

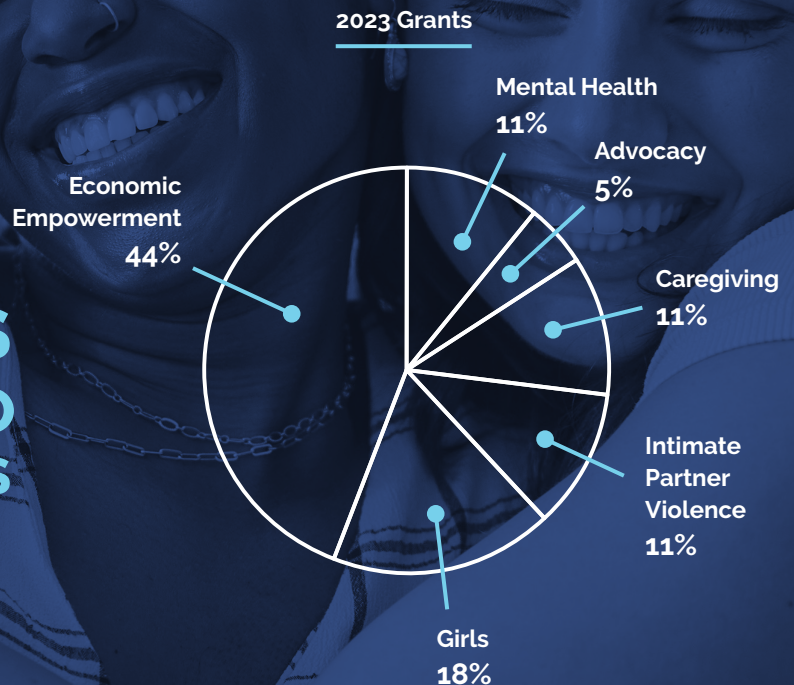
Women's Fund is committed to building new relationships with not-for-profits doing good work and increasing funding to historically under-supported grassroots organizations and not-for-profits led by Black, Indigenous and other people of color. Of 2023 responsive grants, 78 percent were made to organizations that had never received Women's Fund support before; 35 percent went to small organizations and 30 percent to organizations led by people of color.

Women's Fund proactively invested another \$100,000 in initiatives and work related to our community-driven strategic goals.

Learn more and donate: www.womensfund.org/grants

IN 2023 WOMEN'S
FUND AWARDED
23 GRANTS
TOTALING
\$466,500

**78% OF GRANTS
WERE AWARDED TO
FIRST-TIME RECIPIENTS**



The Power of Women

Women's Fund continued its long tradition of introducing inspiring women to the Central Indiana community at our annual **Power of Women** event featuring Allyson Felix, the most decorated Olympian in track and field. The event, made possible through the generosity of event champion audiochuck, as well as Pacers Sports & Entertainment, USA Track & Field, Ivy Tech Foundation, and others raised more than \$450,000 to support Women's Fund programs, grantmaking and community leadership.

Felix spoke with Olympian and retired WNBA star Tamika Catchings about her athletic success, entrepreneurship, advocacy for working mothers, and efforts to improve infant and maternal mortality rates.

See a video highlighting the event: www.womensfund.org/2023-pow

Reserve your sponsorship for 2024 Power of Women, featuring Ruby Bridges: www.womensfund.org/2024-power-of-women-sponsorship-commitment-form/





Night of 100 Women Uplifts Women's Voices

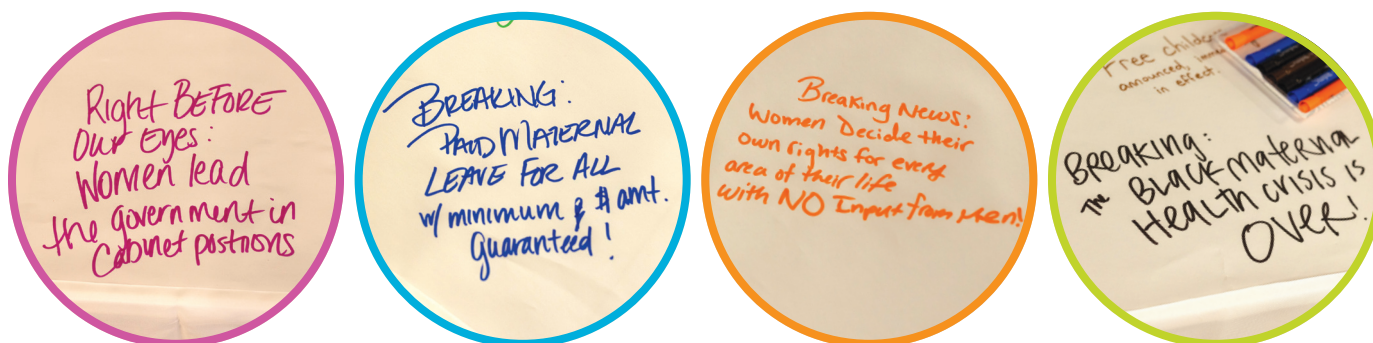
In August, Women's Fund hosted its very first **Night of 100 Women** designed to amplify women's voices and experiences to make a better community. Attendees shared what they need to live well in their communities and described times when they received life-changing help. Information gathered from Night of 100 Women was incorporated into Women's Fund's new strategic plan and shared with other partners to help them deepen their work through community voice.

Based on the overwhelming community response to this event, Women's Fund is already planning a 2024 Night of 100 Women event.



Gabrielle Patterson,
Spoken Word Artist

At activity stations, women wrote headlines imagining a future for women and girls. Here are some of our favorites:



2023

Dedicating Time to Help Our Neighbors

Philanthropy involves giving time, talent, and treasure. This year, Women's Fund staff, Advisory Board and OPTIONS alumnae worked alongside community partners to improve the lives of women and girls.

During National Volunteer Month in April, we partnered with our friends at Central Indiana Community Foundation to package diapers and supplies at the Indiana Diaper Bank. The Bank is working to eliminate diaper needs in our community by providing a reliable and adequate source of basic baby diapering essentials.

Later in the year, Women's Fund marked the holiday season by volunteering with Indiana Women's Prison, packing more than 600 holiday gift bags for incarcerated individuals.



Indiana Women's Prison



Indiana Diaper Bank

2023

THE WOMEN'S FUND
OPTIONS
PROGRAM
HAS HELPED
NEARLY **500**
WOMEN
DEVELOP THEIR OWN
PHILANTHROPIC
PRACTICES



Eleven Women Participate in OPTIONS Class 22

In 2023, Women's Fund's 10-month OPTIONS program featured monthly two-hour sessions, including guest speakers, field trips, community exploration, and leadership development. The group explored complex issues such as:

- Poverty and the climb to economic security
- The immigration and refugee process and its impact on women
- Women's health
- Economic empowerment
- Personal philanthropy plans
- Women, incarceration, and re-entry
- Domestic violence and healthy relationships

The year ended with a collaborative grantmaking exercise that resulted in four grants totaling \$5,000 to four organizations: Coburn Place, Exodus Refugee, Indiana Women's Prison, and Silent No More.

The OPTIONS program was designed to help participants get smart about critical issues impacting women and girls. Participants also learn to use their work, wealth, and wisdom on behalf of women and girls.

There are now nearly 500 OPTIONS alumnae united in dedication to making ours a community where women and girls can thrive.

Learn more: www.womensfund.org/options



OPTIONS alumnae events



Executive Women of Color

Executive Women of Color Leadership Program Debuts

Last year, Women's Fund brought together the first cohort of the Executive Women of Color Leadership Program. This program is a partnership between Women's Fund of Central Indiana and Black Leadership + Legacies, Inc., founded by Carolene Mays. The program's mission is to develop, coach, and empower women of color to move into higher-level leadership roles, including the C-suite.

Thirteen woman of color leaders completed the program. Over nine sessions, Black Leadership + Legacies provided participants with development in leadership, board governance, legacy wealth building, civic engagement, and purpose. The program also addressed critical issues that specifically affect women of color in the workplace.

Learn more: www.womensfund.org/executive-leadership-program



Women of color represent just 1-in-16 C-suite leaders. And, there is a crisis of Black women's not-for-profit leadership. [A report by the Washington Area Women's Foundation](#) revealed,

“We have observed a disconcerting pattern where Black women leaders are vacating their roles, with some leaving the non-profit sector altogether, citing hostility toward their leadership, strain on their health and well-being, unfair job expectations, and limited opportunities for career progression.”



2023

GO: Give Back Program Reimagined

In 2023, Women's Fund formed a partnership with Pacers Sports & Entertainment and the Indiana Fever to reimagine its GO: Give Back Program designed to guide young people to become philanthropists who support women and girls. The new initiative will form a diverse cohort of Central Indiana middle and high school youth and current Women's Fund GO donor-advised fundholders to engage in four half-day sessions held at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, featuring experiences including: age-appropriate lessons about basic philanthropy and issues and opportunities facing girls in Central Indiana; an opportunity to work as a group to develop a philanthropic mission; a chance to hear from select Central Indiana not-for-profits serving girls and the power to make grants to girl-serving not-for-profits or programs.

Learn more: www.womensfund.org/go-give-back

Women's Fund Joins Young Women's Initiative Cohort

Last year, Women's Fund of Central Indiana became a member of the National Philanthropic Collaborative of Young Women's Initiatives — a cohort of 13 women's funds and foundations that work to address the core, structural issues that have kept too many of our nation's low-income young women — particularly young women of color — from reaching their full potential. The goal of the effort is to advance systems changes and impact marginalized young women and gender-expansive youth and communities of color.

In 2024 and beyond, Women's Fund will work with a local partner to create and support a Young Women's Advisory Council and empower members to make change in their community.

Learn more: www.npcywi.org



Bellfound Farm Celebrating Women's Ingenuity

**Bellfound Board
Through mid December
2019**

Women's Fund of Central Indiana believes in women's courage, commitment and ability to meet challenges and seize opportunities in their communities. We support women's big ideas.

From 2016–2019, through The Next Initiative, we were honored to incubate and help fund a big idea to use urban farming as a therapeutic modality to help women transition back into the community after incarceration.

Bellfound Farm, located on 17+ acres on Indianapolis' south side, planned to provide holistic supports anchored in mental wellness to equip young, justice-involved women to achieve a lifetime of economic security. It was an ambitious undertaking. And a tribe of donors, mentors, volunteers, community members, and other folks passionate about this work sprung up to support the mighty effort.



Indoor gardening through Kheprw Institute's urban agriculture program

After facing a series of challenges, the Bellfound Farm project ended and in 2022, the land was sold to Kheprw Institute, an organization devoted to community empowerment through self-mastery. The farm now hosts urban agriculture programs and other initiatives that empower young people and others from marginalized communities.

Continued on page 12

Nekoma Burcham
Co-Founder & CEO,
Bellfound Farm

Alena Jones
Co-Founder & COO,
Bellfound Farm

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Restaurant Owner,
Cunningham Restaurant Group

Mat Davis
Founder, Axiom Collective

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Elcira Villarreal
Community Volunteer

Bellfound Farm Celebrating Women's Ingenuity

**NEXT Farm Board
December 2019 –
December 2022**

Continued from page 11

Bellfound Farm is gone, but women's ingenuity and the commitment of their allies will always remain. Smart and brave women know to fear regret more than failure.

Women's Fund of Central Indiana extends its gratitude to the founders of Bellfound Farm, the boards who helped steward the project, and the donors and volunteers who contributed their time, talent, and treasure. Their passion is and was inspiring, their work tireless, their commitment true, and their contributions will not be forgotten.



A mural on the Kheprw Institute farm

Brenda S. Horn
Community Volunteer

Rebecca Jacklin
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Nonprofit Strategy, PNC

Broch Martindale
Crop Focal Point & Corteva Grows
GreenSpace Leader,
Corteva Agriscience

Lily Pai (Treasurer)
Architect/CEO,
Lily Pai Designs, LLC

Ali Sylvia
Partner, Plews Shadley Racher &
Braun

Sally Winter (Secretary)
Owner & Freelance Writer,
Winter Communications

Susan Williams (Chair)
Community Volunteer

2023 Grantees



Women's Fund awarded \$466,500 in responsive grants to 23 organizations in 2023.

Women's Fund provides operating support to organizations with a mission to serve women and girls and programmatic grants to organizations with gender-specific initiatives.

Organization	Program	Grant Amount
A Seat at the Table	The Safe Space 2.0 – Teen Girl Programming	\$25,000
Arthentic Arts	Women in ARTs	\$10,000
Beacon of Hope Center for Women	Serving Women/Girls of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	\$25,000
Castleton United Methodist Church/ Still Waters Adult Day Center	Ladies Care Programs	\$25,000
Destiny Steps	Child Development Associate (CDA) Training Program	\$25,000
Family Promise of Hamilton County	Future Begins at Home – Ending Homelessness	\$25,000
Family Promise of Hendricks County	Immigrant Trauma Response Project	\$25,000
Fletcher Place Community Center	REACH Early Learning	\$25,000
IN Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Economic Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors	\$25,000
Indiana Community Action Association	Know Your (New) Rights: Pregnant and Postpartum Workers	\$15,000
Ivy Endowment	Mental Wellness for Girls	\$10,000
Milk Bank	Supporting Nursing in the Workplace	\$15,000
Overdose Lifeline	Recovery Housing for Pregnant/Parenting Women	\$25,000
Pretty Passionate Hands Child Care	Operating Support	\$25,000
SHE Event Indy	Operating Support	\$12,500
Sheridan Youth Assistance	EmpowHer Hawks	\$12,000
Six Sigma Racial Equity Institute	Operating Support	\$25,000
Talitha Koum Women's Recovery House	Operating Support	\$25,000
ThriveFunds	Scaling Economic Mobility Supports for Women	\$15,000
Unconditional	Operating Support	\$20,000
Warren Arts & Education Foundation	Help a Mother Out	\$20,000
Why Aren't You Smiling	Back to the Basics: Let's Learn to Sew!	\$12,000
Women4Change Indiana	Operating Support	\$25,000

2023 Grantee Highlights



A Seat at the Table was awarded \$25,000 for The Safe Space 2.0 – Teen Girls Programming. The program is focused on addressing mental trauma, healthy relationships, self-advocacy, and positive body image by creating a safe space for low-to-moderate income high school girls with the support of a facilitator and therapist. It provides weekly two-hour sessions with 20-25 girls at various program sites.



Six Sigma Racial Equity Institute was awarded \$25,000 for Professional and Economic Equity for Black Women. The organization is a leadership program designed to upskill Black women to be expert complex problem solvers, improve their career prospects, and increase their earning potential. This upskilling initiative is increasing the talent pipeline of Black women who are certified Six Sigma Green Belts and ready to move forward in their respective organizations.



Talitha Koum Women's Recovery House was awarded \$25,000 for operating support. The name, Talitha Koum, is from Syriac language meaning "Little Girl Rise Up." The house is located in Greenfield (Hancock County) and has been remodeled into a four-bedroom, single family residence that is home for up to nine women in recovery. Staff are on-site 24/7 at this Level III Certified Recovery House. It serves women ages 18+ who are struggling with substance abuse and poor mental health. Almost all residents are survivors of violence or other trauma.



Women4Change Indiana was awarded \$25,000 in operating support. Women4Change Indiana provides civic learning and equips Hoosiers to engage in democracy to achieve better outcomes in health, economic stability, and personal safety for women in Indiana. It does this through hosting conferences and expert panels on issues impacting Hoosier families such as: women's health, pay equity, human trafficking, and sexual assault; civics education; and an annual GoTV effort, which educates and empowers voters.

Thank YOU

Thank you to the individuals and organizations who have shared their time, treasure, and talent to make the work of the Women's Fund possible.

Sage Society Donors (\$500+)

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Waseema Ali-Ansari and
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We need
YOU!

Your financial gift allows Women's Fund to convene, invest, and advocate so all who identify as women or girls living in Central Indiana have an equitable opportunity to reach their full potential no matter their race, place, or identity.




Visit www.womensfund.org/donate to make a gift.
Questions? Contact Victoria Petersen Elia, CFRE,
Director of Development at victoriapae@cicf.org or
(317) 634-2423 ext. 163.



WOMEN'S FUND
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