



Women of Distinction

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

11:00 AM—1:30 PM

BROOKFIELD CONFERENCE CENTER

325 S Moorland Road, Brookfield, WI

Presented by

WGF WOMEN &
GIRLS FUND
OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County Board of Directors

Amy Sebert, Chair
Karie Stupek, Vice Chair
Genevieve Schmidt, Secretary
Karen Loritz, Treasurer
Lesli Boese
Adrienne Bryant
Abigail Carlson
Julia Jaegersberg
Amy Kiiskila
Karen Long
Robyn Ludtke
Monica Nichol
Heather Nino
Lauren Ruff
Jenna Olstad
Kristin Walsh

The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County Staff

Nicole Wagner
Executive Director

Kimberly Runde
Office Administrator

Katherine Dixon
Marketing and Event
Coordinator

Welcome

Welcome to the 42nd Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon. On behalf of the event committee and the Women & Girls Fund staff, we are truly honored to share this celebration with you.

Today, you will hear stories of compassion and the power of women lifting one another up. We gather to recognize the extraordinary women of Waukesha County whose leadership, generosity, and unwavering commitment have transformed lives and strengthened our community. Their stories remind us of what is possible when passion meets purpose and how one person's dedication can spark change for many.

Because of your support, that ripple effect continues to grow. **Through the Women & Girls Fund, more than \$2 million has been invested in over 200 grants, reaching 72 partner agencies and countless women, girls, and families.** Those investments have helped foster opportunity, strengthen well-being, and support women and girls throughout our community.

Today, as we honor our remarkable award recipients and celebrate the organizations receiving grants, we invite you to see how generosity, recognition, and grantmaking can come together to improve the lives of women and girls in Waukesha County. Whether this is your first time attending the Women of Distinction or one of many, your presence matters. It reflects the kind of community Waukesha County has always been: one that shows up, gives generously, and believes in fostering the potential of women and girls.

Thank you for being here, for believing in the WGF's mission, and for helping to carry it forward.



Donna Bembenek
Chair, Women of Distinction Luncheon

Acknowledge. Celebrate. Elevate.

Improving the quality of life for women and girls in Waukesha County.

Luncheon Program

Welcome

Donna Bembenek, Luncheon Chair

Grace, Young Philanthropist

Lunch

Presentation of Women of Distinction Awards

Hayden, Young Philanthropist

Mallory, Young Philanthropist

2026 Grant Partners

Nicole Wagner, Executive Director
Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County

Hannah, Young Philanthropist

Invitation to Support

Purse Raffle Drawing and Luncheon Conclusion

2026 Women of Distinction Planning Committee

Donna Bembenek, Chair
Monica Nichol, Vice Chair
Robyn Ludtke

Julia Jaegersberg
Heather Nino
Kristin Walsh

2026 Women of Distinction Judges

Alicia Anderson
Vice President - Treasury Management
First Business Bank

James P. Pfister
Chief of Police
City of Oconomowoc Police Dept.

Leon Janssen
Community Volunteer

Maria del Pilar Wadina
Chief Growth Officer
La Casa de Esperanza

Sandy McGee
Chief Operating Officer
Vrakas S.C.

Women of Distinction



Kristin Ferge

President & CFO, Capri Communities

Kristin Ferge, CPA, MBA, serves as a visionary leader whose career and community impact exemplify the highest ideals of service, mentorship, and advocacy for women.

At Capri Communities, Kristin serves as its President and Chief Financial Officer of Wisconsin's largest senior living and affordable housing organization. She's also a current board member for NeurAxis Inc, Citizens Bank, Habitat for Humanity Waukesha-Jefferson-Rock County, and the MMAC Leadership Council.

Kristin uses her professional success to inspire and empower others. She personifies what strong, compassionate leadership looks like – the kind of role model young women deserve.



Gina Sanchez Juarez

Director of the Center for Financial Stability, La Casa de Esperanza

A lifelong Waukesha resident, Gina Sanchez Juarez has dedicated her professional career to improving lives throughout Waukesha County. Gina's leadership has directly strengthened families, stabilized neighborhoods, and helped to break cycles of generational poverty.

After 20 years at La Casa de Esperanza, she rose to serve as director of the Center for Financial Stability in 2008. She ensures that families are prepared for home ownership and supported with dignity and practical tools for long-term success.

What makes Gina truly exceptional is her ability to inspire. She leads with warmth, clarity, and purpose – fostering a collaborative spirit to help others accomplish more than they thought possible.



Jackie Pride

Communications and Engagement Manager, Eaton

Eaton's communications and engagement manager, Jackie Pride, offers her skills to lead, organize, and champion efforts that strengthen our community and advance women. She embodies positivity, perseverance, and purpose.

Jackie is quick to credit the grassroots efforts of her Eaton colleagues and their passion to improve the community. Jackie helps coordinate volunteer and philanthropic work with dozens of non-profits, making a profound impact for those in need in the community.

She offers a rare blend of professional excellence, community stewardship, and collaborative vision – making her a force of nature that strengthens the Waukesha County community and beyond.

Honorees



Addyson Probst

Young Woman of Tomorrow

Kristin A senior at Waukesha North High School, Addyson (Addy) Probst's a powerhouse of leadership, academic excellence, and community service. She's served on her Class Board, Student Council, and was nominated for SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team). As a sophomore, Addy founded Female Athletes Stronger Together (FAST) to empower athletes to lead.

Studying in 10 Advanced Placement courses, a scholar in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, and Addy completed Nursing Assistant Certification with plans to study Biomedical sciences.

Addy works tirelessly to pull others up with a rare combination of high-level intelligence and deep empathy. Her favorite quote: "Don't wait for the change. Be the change."



Marilyn Baus

Lifetime Achievement Award

Marilyn Baus has dedicated decades to strengthening Waukesha County through hands-on volunteerism and sustained philanthropic support. She has contributed to ERAS Senior Network, Meals on Wheels, Literacy Services of Wisconsin, the Food Pantry of Waukesha County, and the Hope Center, helping ensure individuals and families have access to essential resources and support. Through years of engagement, she has helped strengthen the network of services that many in Waukesha County rely on.

In 1985, Marilyn co-chaired the first Women of Distinction luncheon, helping establish a tradition that continues to recognize women's leadership today. Thanks to her decades of service and sustained impact, as well as her role in bringing the Women of Distinction to life, we are proud to recognize her with the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Anne Raskopf

Featured Artist

Raised in rural Wisconsin, acrylic painter Anne Raskopf developed an early love of landscapes, wide skies, and agricultural rhythms. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at UW-Madison, where she strengthened her foundation in painting and visual expression.

Each January, Anne completes a remarkable themed quest called "30 Paintings in 30 Days." She celebrates her subjects with a vibrant color palette and expressive brushstrokes, bringing out their structure, energy, and character.

Anne hopes the paintings she creates bring genuine joy, celebrate the recipients' individuality, and remind them of why the work they do for the community matters so deeply.

Health & Well-Being

Community Smiles Dental
Waukesha Free Clinic
Friends with Food
Redeem & Restore
Family Service Agency of Waukesha County
Lake Area Free Clinic
Prevent Blindness
The Women's Center

Self-Sufficiency

La Casa de Esperanza
Revitalize Milwaukee
Habitat for Humanity
Herzing University

Empowerment

Journey21
Thrive Together
Bloom360 Learning Community
Parents Place

Girl-Powered giving

Lotus Legal Clinic
Breakthrough T1D



2026 Grant Partners

A Legacy

The Women of Distinction Awards event began in 1985 through the YWCA. The annual event recognizes the extraordinary accomplishments and leadership of women in Waukesha County who have demonstrated their passion and commitment to improving the quality of life in Waukesha County while inspiring other women and girls to do the same.

*In Memorium

Lifetime Achievement Award

Beverly Chappie - 2004

Women of Distinction

Susan L. Andrews, PhD, 1995

Rev. Kris Androsky, 2018

Betty Arndt, 2002

Mary Baer, 2019

Ann Bartos Merkow, MD, 1995

Katherine Bayliss, MD, 2001

Honorable Marianne Becker*, 1993

Susan Bellehumeur, 2012

Cathy A. Bellovary, 1994

Kathryn C. Bemann, MD*, 1994

Sherry Berg, 2022

Susan Bischmann, 1998

Deanne Blazek, PhD, 2021

Kate Bloomberg, 2009

Lillian Boese*, 2014

Christy L. Brown, 2014

Janet Brown, PhD, 1990

Pamila Brown, 2017

Andrea Bryant, 1997

Maribeth A. Bush, 2019

Linda Caldart-Olson, 2020

Sara Carpenter, 2013

Mary Charles, 2007

Laura Cherone, 2015

Betty Cooper*, 1985

Karen Dalessandro, 2010

Grace Ann Davis, PhD, 1997

Erin DeJarlais, 2024

Carmen de la Paz, 1988

Hanneke Deeken, 2008

Jennifer DeGlopper, 2000

Dr. Patricia Deklotz, 2016

Jo DeMars, 2005

Susan N. Dreyfus, 1994

Jennifer Dunn, 2023

Cynthia Eggleston, 2006

Karen Ellenbecker, 2008

Susan S. Engeleiter, 1986

Beth Erickson Wittmann, MD, 2011

Margaret Farrow*, 2006

Christine Fenske-Eben, 2017

Kristin Ferge, 2026

Joan D. Finley, 1995

Kathryn Foster, 2015

Suzanne Frank, 1992

Sheila Frisinger, 2022

Lynn Gaffey*, 2003

Kathy Gale, 2013

Juanita Gonzales, 2005

Diana Gonzalez, PhD, 1990

Linda M. Graebner, 1987

Jean E. Graf, 1995

Helen Grant, 1988

Sarah Grooms, 2023

Gloria Halverson, MD, 1985

Darlene Hanson, 2001

Dorothy Heale*, 2005

Anita Heimsch*, 1988

Ruth Heinzen*, 1989

Kathryn J. Herman, 1998

Jan Hoeksema, 2003

Karlee Horlacher, 2024

Hilda Houston*, 1990

Senator Joanne Huelsman, 1989

Ildiko Huppertz, 2023

Sarah Jerome, PhD, 1998

Judy Jorgensen, 1987

Louanne Jozwiak*, 1992

Gina Sanchez Juarez, 2026

Bernardine Juno*, 1989

Suzanne Kelley, 2021

Marie F. Kingsbury, 1993
Mary Knudten*, PhD, 1985
Linda Kons, 2010
Louise Koonce Lyon*, 1987
Cathy Kozlowicz, 2017
Georgeian Krabath*, 1996
Karin Kultgen, MD, 2007
Susan Kurtz*, 1999
Catherine Labinski, 1999
Ellen Langill*, PhD, 2019
Donna Lexa*, 1996
Mary Lodes, 2009
Carol Lombardi, 2011
Jane Lurvey, 2021
Marlena Mackie, PhD, 1994
Mary Madden, 2018
Nancy Major, 2012
Angela Mancuso, 2020
Deanna Marincic, 2025
Susan Marriott, 2022
Barbara J. Mathison, 1991
Carol Meissner, 1992
Dee Mellor, 2016
Linda Monk Farina, 2004
Sherri Mowery Perrigo, 2020
Ellen Morris-Gutierrez*, 1987
Lee Morriss, 1997
Brenda Ness, 2010
Barbara Nordberg, 1993
Laraine O'Brien, 1988
Marie O'Brien, 2011
Patricia O'Donoghue, PhD, 2003
Holly Patzer, 2001
Elaine V. Pfeiffer, 1986
Phyllis J. Piano, 1989
Aven P. Polley, 2000
Jackie Pride, 2026
Barbara Prindiville, 2012
Renee Ramirez, 2013
Kristine Rappé, 2004
Lynn Revoy, 1996
Mary Lou Riedy, 1990
Kay Ruekert Lettenberger, 2015
Sister Kieran Sawyer, SSND, 1999
Margaret Schnabl, 1996
Ruth Sells*, 1986
Joan Shafer, 2009
Marilee Shepard, 2024

Rebecca Sherrick, PhD, 1991
Dr. Jeanne Siegenthaler, 2022
Ana Simpson, 2024
Carol Smart, 1987
Dorothy Smith, 2002
Mary Steinke, 2002
Dr. JoAnn Sterneke, 2018
Judie Taylor, 2025
Teri Terrill, 2008
Jayne Thoma, 1999
Barbara Thompson, 1989
Betty Lou Tikalsky*, 2007
Deanna Tillisch, 2014
Karen Tredwell, 2016
Robyn Turtenwald, 2004
Joan Underberg*, 1986
Sister Kathryn Van Hulst, SSND, 2001
Deborah Wallendal, 1985
Maria Watts, 2025
Gertrude Wilkinson, 2000
Lillie Wilson, 2006

Young Women of Tomorrow

Sandra Artega-Hernandez, 1995
Annie Bartosz, 2017
Becky Bauer, 1985
Tracey Bickerstaff Jackson, 1994
Stacey Lynn Bjorgaard, 2010
Gena Cooper, 2001
Lindsey Cunneen, 2002
Tara Dall, MD, 1990
Rebecca Dalum, 2015
Erin L. Donovan, 1994
Shari Franjevic, 1993
Emina Haliovic, 2017
Kelly Hauser, 1997
Wei Ho, 1999
Heidi Hudson-Mairet, 1991
Hortencia Huerta, 2007
Wichnart Ann Imsngjan, 1996
Allyse Jorgensen, 2011
Elizabeth Jorgensen, 2016
Lisa Kieso, 1997
Christina King, 2008
Sharon M. Koller, 1995
Erica Kritzer, 1995
Angela Kuemmel, PhD, 2000
Linda Lardinois, 1998

Callie Laz Recknagel Davis, 2004
Brenna Liburdi Hellenbrand, 1998
Kathy Diane Marsho, 1992
Sarah Martens, 2023
Sophia Martin, 2025
Kari Martinson, 1997
Megan McNulty, 2009
Addison Mulder, 2022
Madison Musselman, 2020
Alyssa O'Farrel, MD, PhD, 1989
Amma Otchere, 2019
Elizabeth Paulus Brown, 1989
Deepa Pawar, MD, 1998
Lily Preamble, 2024
Addyson Probst, 2026
Maria Ramirez, 2006
Kaitlyn Reichl, 2012
Amy Riek, 1997
Kelly Riordan, 2013
Elaina Rodriguez, 2021
Genevieve Rohrer, 2014
Jody Ruppel Lowe, 1986
Rebecca Sanchez Degraffenriedt, 1986
Miranda Spindt, 2018
Rebecca Stevens, 1987
Kaitlin Swanson, 2008
Lisa Talbot, 1996
Abha Thakkar, 1992
Michelle Thaller, PhD, 1988
Leota Thomas-Breitfield, 1996
Trang Truong, MD, 1990
Debra VanDerMey, 1987
Suzanne Walczak, MD, 1993
Karly Wallace, 2007
Kelly Walt Hoesly, 2003
Flora Zeng, 2005
Bianca Zick, 1987

Family of Women of Distinction

The Dalum Family - 2005
Maripat Dalum, Amy (Dalum) Sellman,
Judie Taylor, Marikris (Dalum) Coryell,
Karen Dalum

The Delzer Family - 2003
Mildred Delzer,* Lynn Delzer, Jane
Delzer, Jan Delzer

The Etzel Family - 2010
Marian Etzel, Diane Harley, Janet Kenny,
Kathleen Favour

The Herro Family - 2006
Patricia Herro, Susan Herro, Margaret
Herro, Katherine Herro, Kim Verhein
Herro, Janet Ann Kaldhusdal

The Link Family - 2002
Marion Link,* Betsy (Link) Wolf, Anne Link

The McGlocklin Family - 2011
Pam McGlocklin, Meghan Lodes, Colleen
McGlocklin

The Richards Family - 2004
Carol Richards,* Nancy Richards, Karie
(Richards) Stupek

The Wilson Family - 2008
Kate Wilson, Kathy Wilson Otto, Jennifer
Healy, Kris Wilson

The Wolff Family - 2009
Sandy Wolff, Robin Busalacchi

Our Heartfelt Gratitude

Miranda Weston, Art of Life Photography
Julius Fomotor, Fomotor Media & Consulting
Events by Design
Sentry Albrecht's Delafield Market
Pewaukee High School, Serving Others Insight Class

We want to thank the many committee and community members—too numerous to mention—who have touched this event. Without the generous contribution of your time and talents, this luncheon would not be possible.

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We want to give a special thanks to our generous sponsors whose support helps make this event possible. Your commitment plays a crucial role in fostering a brighter future for women and girls in Waukesha County and beyond.

PRESENTING



EMPOWER



STRENGTHEN

BMO
Capri Communities
Eaton
Fiserv
First Business Bank
Froedtert & the Medical
College of Wisconsin
Johnson Financial Group
Landmark Credit Union
R&R Insurance
Tri City National Bank
VJS
WCTC

CHAMPION

Annex Wealth Foundation
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
ATC
Brewers Community Foundation
Catholic Memorial HS
Crustology
CZ Travel
Ellenbecker
Evans Transportation Services
Godfrey & Kahn
Ixon Bank
Oberlin Filter
SJD Consulting
TEMPO Waukesha
WaterStone Bank
WeEnergies

SUSTAIN

Bank Five Nine
Berghammer Construction
Citizens Bank
City Press
Educators Credit Union
Grumman Butkus
Hausmann Group
InPro
Karen Loritz
Moreland OB-GYN
Remedy Medical
Properties
RJ Schinner
Waukesha State Bank
Waukesha Surgical
Specialists SC
Wintrust

CENTURY
FENCE

CENTURY
COMPANIES

PROUDLY SUPPORTS
THE WOMEN AND GIRLS
FUND OF WAUKESHA
COUNTY

BUILDING FOR
CENTURIES

BUILT TO LAST

CENTURYCOMPANIES.US

...we have
the fence for
your kennel
or enclosure

LAYOUT, DESIGN
AND ESTIMATE OF
YOUR REQUIREMENTS
GLADLY GIVEN
WITHOUT

...we have
the fence for
your kennel
or enclosure

Discover the Difference a Brighter Future Can Make



Private Wealth
Management

I am proud to support the Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County and their work in our community.



Theresa Boyd, CRPC®
414-298-2604
sbsgroup.bairdwealth.com

Discover the *Baird Difference*

©2026 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. Member SIPC.



GE HealthCare

Care that can make humans super

This Care doesn't need a cape to face big challenges. Our groundbreaking technology can help give everyone, from patients to providers, the power we all need to continue to create a world where healthcare has no limits.

gehealthcare.com






GENERAC

**Powering a
smarter world.**

**A proud supporter of the Women
and Girls Fund of Waukesha County.**

www.Generac.com



Enlightening investors.
Empowering families.

LANDAAS

1989

INVESTMENTS

(414) 223-1099

Landaas.com



TREATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS. AND THE HUMAN CONDITION, TOO.

We're proud to support the **Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County** as it enriches the lives of local women and girls, and recognizes extraordinary leaders.



PROHEALTH CARE

The way you should be treated

Summit Credit Union is *proud to sponsor*
the Women of Distinction Luncheon

Congrats to the honorees!

We share their passion
for making the world better.



[SummitCreditUnion.com](https://www.SummitCreditUnion.com) | 800-236-5560 | 608-243-5000

Annex Wealth Management's

Women & Wealth

Empowering **Conversations & Community** For Women Of All Ages



Congratulations to the 2026 Women of Distinction for their support of the Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County.



Congratulations to Kristin Ferge, Capri's President and CFO, on her Women of Distinction Award!

enjoy life with us!
capricommunities.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE



Join our unique culture

- Benefits on day one
- Paid time off for volunteering
- Annual wellness benefit
- Paid parental leave
- Global career opportunities



One of FORTUNE's 2025 Most Admired Companies

www.eaton.com/careers



We *celebrate* the
2026 Women of
Distinction Award
recipients

© 2026 Fiserv, Inc. or its
affiliates. All rights reserved.

fiserv.



Proudly Supporting Women of Distinction

firstbusiness.bank

Member FDIC

Making expert care available for life's journey.

To connect to academic
medicine, visit **froedtert.com**.

Let's push ahead.



Family values. Community commitment.

WE'RE MORE THAN JUST ADVISORS,
WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBORS.

From our family to yours, thank you for
the opportunity to support the Women
& Girls Fund of Waukesha County.



JohnsonFinancialGroup.com

Products and services offered by Johnson Bank,
Member FDIC, a Johnson Financial Group company.



Landmark
CREDIT UNION

Banking Made Easy™

Giving Back in Our Community

Landmark is proud to support the Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County. As a not-for-profit, we know the value of giving back to our members and the surrounding community.

Landmarkcu.com • Over 30 locations • 262-796-4500

Equal Housing Opportunity • NMLS #401043 • Insured by NCUA



TriCity
National
Bank

HOMETOWN SUPPORT

From your hometown bank.

414.874.2489 | tcnb.com



**Strong leaders build
strong communities**



we know

**Largest Independent Family-owned
Agency in the Midwest**

**Commercial Insurance
Employee Benefits
Personal Insurance
Wealth Management**



the knowledge brokers™

MyKnowledgeBroker.com



**YOUR GOALS, OUR
COMMITMENT —**

**BUILDING
WITH
PURPOSE.**

Proud supporter of the
Women and Girls Fund
of Waukesha County.



WWW.VJSCS.COM | 262.542.9000



CAN'T STOP. WON'T STOP.

We keep you moving forward by aligning your ambition with industry demand.

LEARN MORE

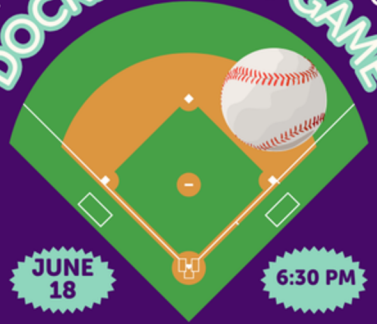
visit wctc.edu



WAUKESHA
COUNTY TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Hands-on
Higher Ed

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS' DOCKHOUNDS GAME



JUNE
18

6:30 PM

WISCONSIN BREWING COMPANY PARK

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



YOUNG
PHILANTHROPY
GROUP



Join Us

Western Lakes Golf Club

August 14, 2026

1:00 - 6:00 PM

Fifth Annual



Participate in New Ways

Golfing • Wine Tasting • Sponsoring

The Nine & Wine Golf Outing is a women-only foursome golf outing, designed for golfers regardless of skill level to enjoy a beautiful summer afternoon on the course.

This year's event will also include a **wine tasting**, giving non-golfers a great way to join in on the camaraderie of this beloved annual event.

Learn More: womensgirlsfund.org/nine-and-wine



**Get Your Tickets
Today!**

Save the date!

5.14.2027

43rd Annual
Women of
Distinction

Luncheon

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Brookfield Conference Center

Tickets Available March 2027

Didn't get the
orchid this year?
Join us next year
for another
chance!



P.O. Box 2142 | Waukesha , WI 53187

womensgirlsfund.org

The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County
fosters the potential of women and girls
through grantmaking and lasting investments
that strengthen our community.



**Your gift will support future grants
and efforts to make a difference in
Waukesha County!**

Scan the QR code to donate or complete
the donation form at your table

All proceeds from the Women of Distinction Luncheon benefit the Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County, 501(c)(3).

THANKS TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS

PRESENTING



EMPOWER

