

Welcome to



Power
of the
Purse



Thursday, September 14, 2023

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Sadaquada Golf Club

4985 Henderson Street, Whitesboro

*an event to celebrate the
Empowerment of Women and Girls
with the recognition of 5 women leaders in our community*

Reception sponsored by
Bank of Utica

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*The Women's Fund and Baird
are proud to recognize women leaders
who share in the commitment to
enrich our community.*

Congratulations and thank you for all you do!

AMANDA ABDAGIC

OWNER / CHIROPRACTOR, REALM CHIROPRACTIC, HERKIMER

JANE DOMINGUE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THEA BOWMAN HOUSE

JOAN GRANDE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE ROOT FARM

SANDRA SOROKA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

REV. DR. MARY WEBSTER

PASTOR EMERITUS, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



OF HERKIMER AND ONEIDA COUNTIES

The mission of The Women's Fund is to create economic, educational and personal growth opportunities for women of all ages, and encourage their advancement and full participation in the community. It is a volunteer-driven organization sustained solely by donor contributions and led by women who are committed to creating a movement to change the lives of women and girls in our area.

Nearly \$665,000 has been given since our first grant from five distinct programs to
Empower Women and Girls!

The Women's Fund
1997

The Women's Fund supports vulnerable women and girls through grants to not-for-profit agencies for critical programs that provide opportunities for successful lives.

Annie's Fund
2004

Annie's Fund provides life-changing grants to women in crisis situations to help them overcome obstacles and transform their lives.

Isla's Fund
2018

Isla's Fund provides emergency funding to women students to enable them to continue their education - because education is a powerful tool in helping women escape the confines of poverty.

**Women Investing
in Women**
2022

Established in honor of our 25th Anniversary, Women Investing in Women offers grants to help take women-owned businesses to the next level.

**Ann P. Allen
Memorial Scholarship**
2023

This scholarship program is in memory of our founder, Ann Allen, and in recognition of her career as a guidance counselor at Proctor High School in Utica, NY. Scholarships are presented annually to graduating young women from Proctor who will be continuing their education.



The inspiration for The Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. came from the 75th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, in 1995. After attending the national celebration in Seneca Falls, Ann Allen had the idea of forming a women's organization in Herkimer and Oneida Counties to assist women and girls in a time of crisis. After many long hours and the selfless dedication of Ann and her co-founders, The Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. became a reality in 1997!

All local not-for-profit organizations that provide services and programs for women and girls are eligible to be considered to receive funding. The first grant was made in 1999 to The House of the Good Shepherd for "Smart Start", an early intervention program working with new mothers.



Since 1999, we are proud to have provided

\$417,896



Recent grants for women and girls include:

- Abraham House - self-care workshops for caregivers
- Catholic Charities - Family Programming for mental health support
- The Center - services to assist refugees to become self-sufficient
- Center for Family Life & Recovery - therapy sessions to sustain recovery
- Empowered Pathways - PIVOT (Providing Interactive Virtual Office Training)
- ICAN (Evelyn's House) - mentorship program for current residents
- Legal Aid Society - Domestic Violence Litigation
- OnPoint for College - Financial Literacy Workshops
- Young Scholars LPP - fostering improved mental health among youths
- YWCA Mohawk Valley - Security and Fire Doors for safe houses



As we grew and became better known in the community as a source of help and hope, the late Richard Hanna, an area businessman and former congressman, came to us with a proposal to create a fund to help individual women in temporary but immediate crisis situations. With Mr. Hanna's financial support, Annie's Fund was established in 2004. Our first gift was simple but life changing - \$50 for a woman to renew her nursing license. Without this support, she would not have been able to continue in her career and provide for her family. We currently partner with fifteen local agencies to identify women in need and will add organizations as needs continue to arise.

Since 2004, we are proud to have given

\$201,080



In 2018, Isla's Fund was established with a generous donation from one of our board members to help women in need of financial assistance to further their education and remain in school. Our first partner college was Mohawk Valley Community College, and we work with the staff to identify female students in need. We also provide for female students through Young Scholars, and are pleased to announce that we have just partnered with Herkimer College! The Education Committee of The Women's Fund continually works to consider and add other institutions to further our reach in the community.

Since our first grant in 2019 to repair a broken cellphone - the student's only access to the internet and homework - we are proud to have given

\$18,000



**Women
Investing
in Women**

In honor of our 25th Anniversary in 2022, The Women's Fund focused on the pivotal role that women-owned businesses play in growing our region's economy, while recognizing some of the unique challenges female entrepreneurs face. Five *Women Investing in Women* grants of \$5,000 each were presented to our first recipients, to help take their businesses to the next level. We are currently accepting applications for this year's grants through September 29, 2023!



2022 Grantees pictured l to r:

A-list Salon and Beauty Bar, Alisha Gaines-Porter
New Beginnings Academy, Janel Hearn
TRM Environmental Consultants, Catherine Dare
The Cremeria LLC, Maria Macrina
Hilltop Marketing, Leigh Ann Dillon

ANN P. ALLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our founder Ann Allen led an amazing life of service and her dedication and passion never wavered. We are proud to continue her legacy of empowering women and girls and will forever keep her in our hearts. The Ann P. Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in her memory and in recognition of her career as a guidance counselor at Proctor High School in Utica, NY. This fund provides scholarships to graduating young women from Proctor who will be continuing their education.

*Ann's family with our first
scholarship recipient, far right,
presented June 8, 2023*



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