The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) is one of eight women’s foundations of The National Philanthropic Collaborative of Young Women’s Initiatives (The National Collaborative/NPCYWI). As the first collaborative of its kind, The National Collaborative works to address the core, structural issues that have kept too many of our nation’s low-income young women — particularly young women of color, American Indian young women, and LGBTQ youth — from reaching their full potential. The National Collaborative focuses on galvanizing resources and creating cross-sector partnerships to advance gender and racial equity.

WFGM’s Young Women’s Initiative (YWI-Memphis) seeks to increase equal access to opportunity, economic security, safety, and leadership for and with young women of color. The initiative aligns with Goal 4 of our Vision 2020 Strategic Plan by determining the needs, best practices, and policies necessary to build the next generation of leadership. The overarching goal of Vision 2020 is to reduce poverty by five percent over five years in zip code 38126.

YWI-Memphis is focused on young women and girls of color ages 12-24. Since January 2017, WFGM has conducted Listen and Learn Tours with 500 young women and girls in Memphis to learn more about the critical barriers and other challenges that young girls are faced with impeding their success. YWI is focused on building leadership and advocacy for positive change. YWI is designed to be girl-led, from start to finish.

**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®–Phi Lambda Omega Chapter  
Bluff City Cluster–The Links, Incorporated | Booker T. Washington High School  
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis | Emmanuel Center  
Girls Inc. of Memphis | Girls Scouts Heart of the South  
Knowledge Quest | Latino Memphis | Shelby County Schools  
Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Soulsville Charter School | Step Ahead Foundation | STREETS Ministries  
University of Memphis | Urban Strategies Memphis HOPE  
W. E. B. Du Bois Consortium of Charter Schools
MEMPHIS YOUNG WOMEN’S ADVISORY COUNCIL (YWAC)

The Young Women’s Advisory Council is a key component of the initiative. The purpose of YWAC is to establish a shared learning environment to engage YWAC members in an 18-month pilot leadership development program to create a city-wide action plan to address identified needs of young women and girls in Memphis. YWAC is comprised of 12 to 15 young women of color in high school, who reside in Memphis, with a special emphasis on girls residing in the 38126 zip code area. It will be co-created and led by Girls, Inc. of Memphis.

 Combat Bullying, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Violence
 Promote Access to Education & Economic Independence
 Support Girls’ Mental Health
 Advance Reproductive Health

The mission of Girls Inc. of Memphis is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

Girls Inc. of Memphis will be the lead organizer for the YWAC. In their role they will help guide the formation of the YWAC action plan. They will use their expertise in leadership development, education, mentoring, and hands-on learning to guide the YWAC cohort to develop an action plan that addresses key issues that impact young women and girls of color. Girls Inc. Policy and Advocacy priorities are: