



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
FOR A GREATER MEMPHIS

CONNECT. INVEST. EMPOWER.

Creating Change Through Community

**ANNUAL
REPORT
FISCAL YEAR
2023-2024**

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Development Associate

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to the President/CEO and COO

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Rhonda Langston
Director of Communications
and External Affairs

Amber Moore
Program Manager

Val Morris
Finance and Business
Operations Associate

Marlon Peace
Development Associate

Leslie Shaw
Getting Ahead and
Community Ambassador

Loie Watkins
Director of Finance and
Business Operations

Since WFGM's inception in 1995,
we have invested more than

\$36 million

in
**594 local
programs,**
serving more than

8,000 individuals
annually.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are delighted to share the 2023-2024 Annual Report for the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM). As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and inspiration for the incredible progress we've made together with you – our community.

On behalf of WFGM's Board of Directors, Trustees, and staff, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your support. Our theme, "Connect. Invest. Empower. Creating Change Through Community," encapsulates our mission to collaborate and foster an environment where women and families can thrive.

This year, WFGM has played a pivotal role as a backbone organization, convening, facilitating, and collaborating with various stakeholders to drive social and economic mobility for women and families in Memphis. Our grantmaking – reaching more than \$1.6 million to 38 local partners in FY 2023-24 – is our highest amount to date.

Through community partnerships, WFGM provides a holistic approach to support families through our place-based strategy. This is a vital part of our Vision 2025 Strategic Plan, to increase investment and reduce poverty in five low-income neighborhoods. Our efforts are yielding results: poverty rates and unemployment rates are decreasing.

The power of our collective philanthropy enables us to make positive changes in our community. While there is still much to be done, with your continued support, we can fund programs that make a real difference in the lives of women and families.

As we look ahead, we invite you to join us and imagine a future where every child has access to quality education, every woman has the opportunity to secure a high-wage job, and every family can rise above the challenges of poverty.

Together, we can Create Change Through Community, and build a stronger, more vibrant Memphis for all.

Sincerely,



Shante K. Avant
President and CEO



Joanna Crangle
*Co-Chair
Board of Directors*



Ann Marie Wallace, MSPH
*Co-Chair
Board of Directors*



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Ann Marie Wallace, MSPH

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Foundation Leadership

Year in Review

Key Achievements

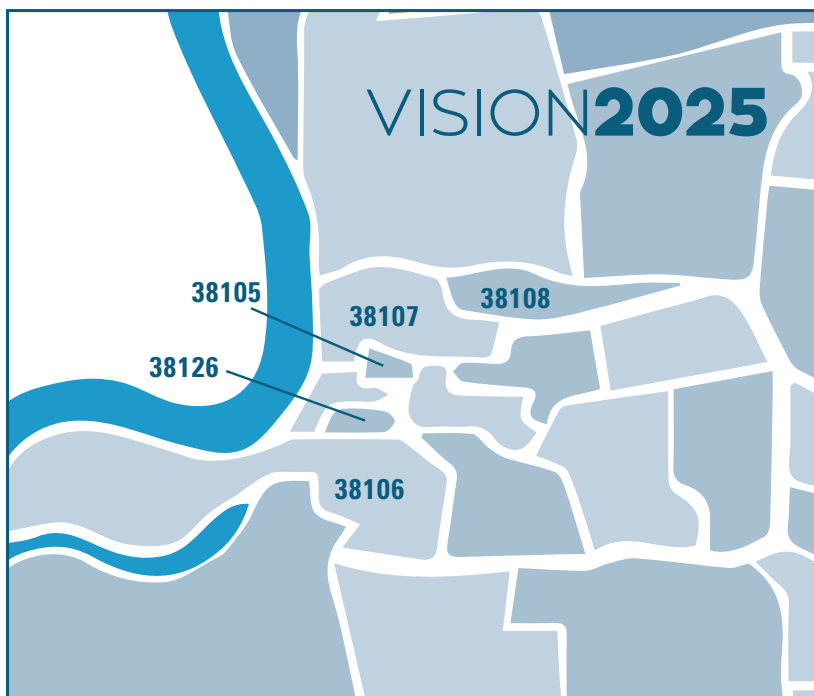
Vision 2025

WFGM's Vision 2025 Strategic Plan is to increase investment and reduce poverty in five Memphis zip codes by 2025. The plan focuses on increasing social and economic mobility, expanding partnerships, leveraging impact, and replicating place-based models in additional neighborhoods.

WFGM's place-based work in South City, zip code 38126, is the driving force behind our Vision 2025 strategic plan. WFGM has begun expanding our funding to grantee partners who serve the community in four additional zip codes – 38106, 38108, 38107 and 38109.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, WFGM distributed \$1.6 million through grantmaking in support of 38 organizations in the community that are providing programs and services focused on the following areas:

- ☐ case management and wraparound services;
- ☐ early childhood development;
- ☐ youth development and employment;
- ☐ adult education, training and entrepreneurship;
- ☐ financial education and asset-building



During the first three years of implementing our Vision 2025 Strategic Plan, WFGM—together with our grantees, community partners and stakeholders—served more than 37,000 individuals with the following outcomes:



7,228 individuals received case management and wraparound services



1,932 children and their parents participated in early childhood development programs



5,387 youth participated in development and leadership programs



4,839 individuals participated in job skills training



86 individuals started a business or micro-enterprise



491 individuals participated in financial education and asset-building programs



890 individuals were placed in jobs

↓ **Overall poverty rates decreased**
from 63.6% to 52%

↓ **Child poverty rates decreased**
from 84.3% to 72%

↓ **Unemployment rates fell**
from 9.1% to 3.8%



Connect

United for a Stronger Memphis

Food and Essentials Hub

Recognizing the critical needs of our community, we launched the Food and Essentials Hub on February 28, 2024, at Booker T. Washington Community School in collaboration with FedEx, Feed the Children, and Memphis-Shelby County Schools. This initiative provides vital support to students and their families as they can receive food staples, household products, hygiene care, and educational items right in their community school — at no cost. Meeting the basic needs for our families helps to improve academic and social outcomes for children in and out of the classroom.



From its launch in February to the end of May, the Hub provided essential food, household, and educational items at no cost to **400 students** and **200 households** in the 38126 area.

Digital Inclusion Initiative

WFGM successfully collaborated with corporations, foundations, and local government to launch the South City Digital Inclusion Initiative. Partners included The Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Caesars Entertainment, the City of Memphis, Comcast, the Hyde Family Foundation, and The Lichterman Loewenberg Foundation. Over three years, this project has been instrumental in closing the digital divide by providing internet connections and digital literacy training to **1,000 families** in zip codes 38126 and 38106.



WFGM has allocated over **\$10.2 million** in grants to provide direct services in zip codes **38126** and **38106**.



800 families received food and basic resources. Since 2020, WFGM has helped **more than 5,000 families**.

Evidence2Success

Since 2018, WFGM has partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, positioning Memphis as one of only seven cities nationwide to implement the Evidence2Success program. This framework directs our investments in evidence-based initiatives to enhance health outcomes for children and youth in the 38126 and 38106 zip codes.

South City Collaborative

Stakeholders from various community-based organizations and institutions along with community residents meet regularly to discuss and plan the implementation of programs to benefit the community.

Mobile Food and Supply Drives

Our food and supply drives support low-income families by helping them meet their basic needs. This year, we partnered with FedEx for two food drives, assisting 800 families. Additionally, Feed the Children collaborated with WFGM for the second mobile food drive and resource rally. This mobile food drive provided area residents with pantry items, meat and produce, community resource packets, internet essentials and modems for eligible households, and essential items including COVID-19 test kits.

Holiday Supply Drive

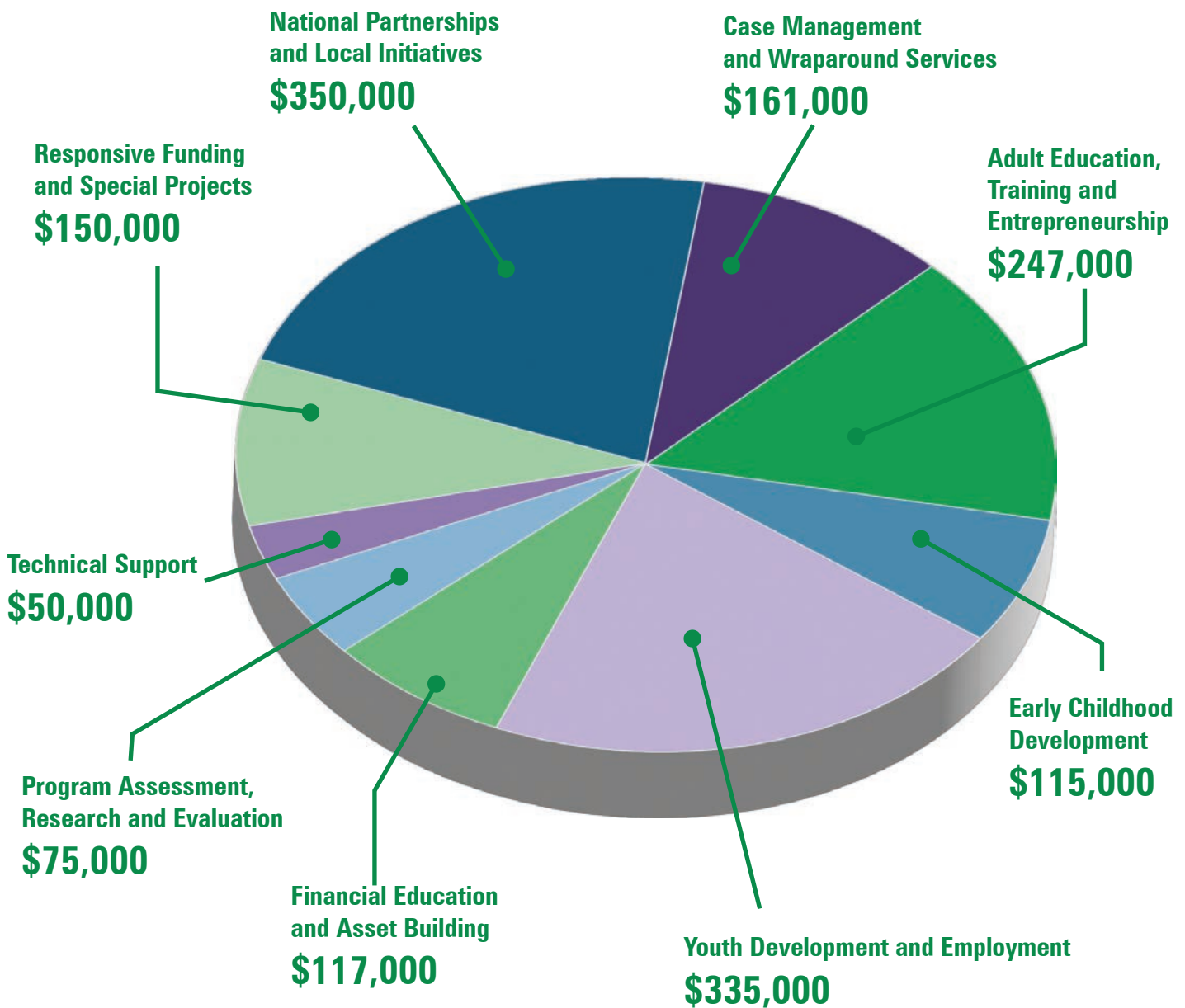
Each year, WFGM hosts a holiday supply drive for 300 residents from zip code 38126, with a special focus on former Foote Homes residents. The event includes food, fun, fellowship, gifts, and resources. Community members receive baskets filled with household and hygiene items, including dish and bar soap, laundry detergent, towels, cleaning solutions, paper goods, and clothing.



Invest

Strategic Philanthropy

Grantmaking is a key way WFGM invests in our community. Our 38 grantee partners were carefully selected based on their ability to effectively serve the community in one of five focus areas, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of historically underserved populations. Beyond grants, we connect grantees and strategic partners with resources to enhance the economic mobility of these communities. As WFGM expands into additional zip codes, we will increase our grantmaking annually, aligning with the Vision 2025 strategic plan and our targeted investment areas.



Total Investment—\$1,600,000

2023-2024 Grantmaking

Case Management and Wraparound Services

Hope House Day Care
MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association)
Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc.
Room in the Inn
Salvation Army of Memphis and the Mid-South
Urban Strategies, Inc.

Job Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship

Advance Memphis
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis
DeNeuville Learning Center
Dress for Success Memphis
HopeWorks
Karat Place, Inc.
Memphis Urban League, Inc.
Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation
YWCA of Greater Memphis

Early Childhood Development

ALLMemphis
Early Success Coalition
Families Matter
Porter-Leath

Youth Development and Employment

A Step Ahead Foundation
Booker T. Washington Middle and High School

Emmanuel Center, Inc.
Girls Scouts Heart of the South
Girls Inc. of Memphis
JIFF Juvenile Intervention & Faith-based Follow-up
Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South
Kids in Technology
Memphis Black Arts Alliance
Memphis Inner City Rugby
Mustard Seed Inc.
New Ballet Ensemble and School
STREETS Ministries
University of Memphis Research Foundation-Herff-GEE
Vance Avenue Youth Development Center

Financial Education and Asset Building

Community Legal Center
Knowledge Quest
RISE Memphis
South City a Community of Opportunity Revitalization
Empowerment (SCORE CDC)

Designated Grant Docket Allocations

National Partnerships and Local Initiatives: AECF E2S
Programs, YWI, and South City Digital Inclusion
Responsive Funding and Special Projects
in zip codes 38126 and 38106
Program Assessment, Research, and Evaluation
Technical Assistance



"The Women's Foundation and the generosity of your giving continues to inspire us in our work with those experiencing homelessness. The lives of families are changing each day as housing goals and sustainability are achieved. Thank you."

— Lisa Anderson, Executive Director, Room in the Inn



Fundraising

2024 Annual Tribute Luncheon and Leadership Symposium

Held every April, the Annual Tribute Luncheon is WFGM's largest fundraiser.

This year, 1,400 guests gathered at the Renasant Convention Center to CONNECT with each other and our communities, INVEST in local passions, and EMPOWER themselves and others to make a positive impact on families' lives.

The keynote speaker, Princess Sarah Culberson, delivered an inspiring message about community on a global scale.

The Leadership Symposium featured engaging panel discussions during a virtual conference, highlighting women's leadership in our community. With 12 expert panelists and moderators, attendees gained valuable insights to connect with their best selves and find inspiration within the community.



We raised **\$440,000** to support WFGM's mission of aiding the social and economic mobility of women and families in Memphis.



Over 250 guests attended Power of the Purse™ in October, helping to raise **more than \$80,000**.

Power of the Purse™

Our 2023 Power of the Purse™ event at the Grand Carousel Pavilion at the Children's Museum of Memphis was a spectacular evening filled with food, fun, and fashion. The event featured both silent and live auctions, offering attendees the chance to bid on luxury jewelry, handbags, vacation packages, and more.

Scholarship Program

WFGM launched a pilot program aimed to increase access to vocational schools and raise graduation rates for women, enhancing their economic well-being. Thanks to our generous donors, we are providing scholarships at Southwest Tennessee Community College and Moore Tech, helping women gain the necessary skills for higher-paying jobs. These scholarships help alleviate barriers to education, covering expenses such as tuition, books, childcare, rent, utilities, and transportation.



Young Women's Initiative

Launched in 2016, WFGM's Young Women's Initiative (YWI-Memphis) increases equal access to opportunity, economic security, safety, and leadership for and with young women of color.

Partnering with the YWCA of Greater Memphis, the 2023-24 YWI-Memphis cohort supported 15 young women, focusing on nurturing the next generation of leaders. A standout achievement of this cohort was the work of the Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC). This year, YWAC awarded \$15,000 in participatory grant funds to Beautiful Spirited Women, a youth program that offers leadership and mentoring to girls in the community.

YWI-Memphis expanded to a statewide partnership this year with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee in collaboration with the Women of Color Collaborative.



"The program was life-changing for me."

— Ciara S.,
Clinical Medical Assistant Graduate



Girls' Summit

Empowering girls to become leaders in their communities through sports is a key part of our mission to help all children thrive socially, emotionally, and physically. In partnership with the Memphis Grizzlies, WFGM sponsored the 6th Annual Girls' Summit, presented by Nike. Held in March during Women's History Month, the summit celebrated the incredible achievements of girls. Two hundred middle school students from four Memphis-Shelby County Schools participated in volleyball, softball, dance, and basketball activities, guided by professional female athletes.

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders **BTW Lady Warriors**



One of WFGM's grantee partners, the BTW Lady Warriors, facilitates an Exposure Program to provide teenage girls with opportunities to attend athletic camps, tournaments, and universities outside of the Memphis region. Weekly test-prep sessions, partnerships with local professionals, and career mentoring improve test scores to maintain a 100 percent graduation rate within the program. The program uses athletics to increase participants' awareness of careers and post-secondary education opportunities.

Recent Achievements:

- 30 Lady Warriors participated in a tournament in Gatlinburg, TN, and a visit to the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball program and campus tour.
- Three BTW Lady Warriors were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- For the fourth year in a row, the valedictorian and salutatorian of BTW's graduating class were Lady Warriors. Zoey Townes, (second photo, right) the 2024 valedictorian, and Cassidy Mays (left), salutatorian, are pictured alongside WFGM President and CEO, Shante K. Avant.

Not only are these young women academically gifted, but they're also passionate about serving their community and consistently giving back through various volunteer opportunities.

Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	June 30, 2023
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	\$5,503,830
Investments	\$803,879
Contributions receivable	\$1,189,620
Other receivables	\$89,100
Prepaid expenses	\$18,839
Total current assets	\$7,605,268
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Investments, endowment	\$958,373
Property and equipment, net	\$30,346
Contributions receivable, net	\$27,774
Deposits	\$7,935
Operating right of use asset	\$405,285
Total non-current assets	\$1,429,713
Total assets	\$9,034,981

Liabilities and Net Assets	June 30, 2023
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$38,955
Grants payable	\$1,246,135
Accrued vacation	\$10,926
Operating lease liability, current	\$93,667
Accrued expenses	\$259
Total current liabilities	\$1,389,942
Operating lease liability, net of current	\$323,734
Total liabilities	\$1,713,676
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	
Undesignated	\$4,803,943
Board designated	\$1,153,989
Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$5,957,932
With donor restrictions	\$1,363,373
Total net assets	\$7,321,305
Total liabilities and net assets	\$9,034,981

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023			
	Unrestricted	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Contributions and grants	\$2,051,268	\$1,061,919	\$3,113,187
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	\$115,763	\$-	\$115,763
Special events/Fundraising	\$499,358	\$-	\$499,358
Miscellaneous income	\$42,500	\$-	\$42,500
Interest income	\$44,275	\$-	\$44,275
Investment income	\$75,918	\$90,511	\$166,429
Net assets released from restriction	\$941,919	\$(941,919)	\$-
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$-	\$-	\$-
Administrative Income	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total revenues and other support	\$3,771,001	\$210,511	\$3,981,512
EXPENSES AND LOSSES			
Program services	\$2,903,947	\$-	\$2,903,947
Management and general	\$335,477	\$-	\$335,477
Fundraising	\$377,501	\$-	\$377,501
Total expenses	\$3,616,925	\$-	\$3,616,925
Loss on uncollectible promises to give	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total Expenses and Losses	\$3,616,925	\$-	\$3,616,925
Change in net assets	\$154,076	\$210,511	\$364,587
Net assets at beginning of year	\$5,803,856	\$1,152,862	\$6,956,718
Net assets at end of year	\$5,957,932	\$1,363,373	\$7,321,305

Donors | Annual Fund

WFGM gratefully acknowledges the following donors who contributed between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

ESTATES

Estate of Lia Beth Burke
Estate of Sylvia G. Marks
Estate of Jeanne T. Varnell

INDIVIDUALS

\$10,000 +

Rebecca W. Ballou
Jo D. Croner
Barbara R. Hyde
Sharon Ryan
Phyllis R. Scruggs
Susan Stephenson
Dr. Indurani A. Tejwani

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Marcia Bowden Marché, M.D.
Tosha Downey
Dr. Tommie Smith Dunavant
Kathy and J.W. Gibson
Aimee Gregg
Ellen Cooper Klyce
Joyce A. Mollerup and Robert Buckman
Snowden Morgan
Cathy D. Ross
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Gale Jones Carson
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Ann Marie Wallace

Nicole Marie Walthour
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Cassandra H. Webster
Becky Jones West
Monica N. Wharton

\$500 - \$999

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Pamela and Esmond Arrindell
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Alicia T. Willis

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Stacy Alexander
Sandra Allen
Margaret Anderson
Belinda Anderson
Anonymous
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Melany Auricchio
Elsie Lewis Bailey
Beverly Baker
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Kimberley Barringer
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Rebecca M. Halvorson
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Andrea C. Hill
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Pamela Holub
Alberta Hope
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Randy Horton
Carrie Hough
Tangua Houston
Jakki Hudson
Penelope Huston
Karen Jackson
Leo and Peggy Jalenak
Lauren Jarrell
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Billie Anne Williams
Linda L. Williams
Cynthia G. Wilson Lewis
Emily R. Woodside
Jasmine Worles
Tanika Yancy

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Mairi Albertson
Jeanne Alpert
Shelia Anderson
Barbara Arnett
Susan Scheidt Arney
Diana Baker
Monroe Ballard
Gortria Banks
Aparna Basu
Olivia Batts
Kim Bennett
Catherine and Stephen Berger
Joyce Bond
Jennifer Prudhome Booker
Jennifer Bosley
Ritche Manley Bowden
Brittany Bright
April Britt
Bridgette Bulloch
Kinah Burks
Erika Cain
Kerri Campbell
Sharon Campbell
Lisa Carton
Vanessa Caswell
Mariqua Chans
Patrice Christopher
Deborah Marlene Clubb
Sarah Colley
Christy A. Cornell
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Cherryl Pignes Crite
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Mission

The mission of the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis is to encourage philanthropy and foster leadership among women and support programs that enable women and children to reach their full potential.

Vision

The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis is an agent for change committed to a community of well-being and prosperity, where women live in sufficiency, strength, and safety, sharing their leadership and empowering their children.

What we do

Since 1995, WFGM has served as a backbone organization, aligning people, securing resources, and coordinating community-based services through a Two-Generation Approach to reduce poverty and improve the economic and social mobility of women and their families.



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