



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
FOR A GREATER MEMPHIS

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Report

Vision.
Collaboration.
Impact.

**Stronger Investments
for Stronger Communities**



Since 1995, the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis (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.

Since its inception, WFGM has awarded **\$39 million** to more than **668 programs** involving more than **185 local non-profits**, including investments in advocacy and research.

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Letter from Leadership

Dear Friends,

This year marks an important milestone for the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis as we celebrate the culmination of our Vision 2025 Strategic Plan. Over the past five years, we have seen firsthand what is possible when vision, collaboration, and strategic investment come together to strengthen communities and expand opportunities for women and families.

Throughout fiscal year 2026, the Foundation invested \$1.9 million in programs and initiatives that supported education, workforce development, financial stability, youth leadership, and neighborhood-based solutions. These investments—and the progress they represent—were made possible through the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the commitment of our grantee and community partners.

This report reflects more than a year of accomplishments. It celebrates the collective impact of Vision 2025 while looking ahead to Vision 2030, our next chapter of strategic investment, partnership, and innovation. Building on the momentum of the past five years, we remain committed to making stronger investments for stronger communities and creating opportunities that help women and families thrive.

We know the work is far from finished, but we are confident that, together, we can continue creating opportunities that strengthen Memphis for generations to come.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for investing your time, resources, and leadership alongside us. Because of your partnership, the Women's Foundation continues to move forward with purpose, building a future where every woman, child, and family has the opportunity to succeed.

With gratitude,



Shante K. Avant
President and CEO



Joanna Crangle
Co-Chair of the
Board of Directors



Ann Marie Wallace Peoples, MSPH, Co-Chair of the
Board of Directors

WFGM Staff

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President and CEO

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Chief Operating Officer

Anne-Carolyn Bird
Director of Development

Brittany Bright
Development Associate

Kim Caldwell
Development Consultant

April Golatt
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President/CEO and COO

Patria Johnson
Senior Director of Grants and
Programs

Rhonda Langston
Director of Communications
and External Affairs

Amber Moore
Program Manager

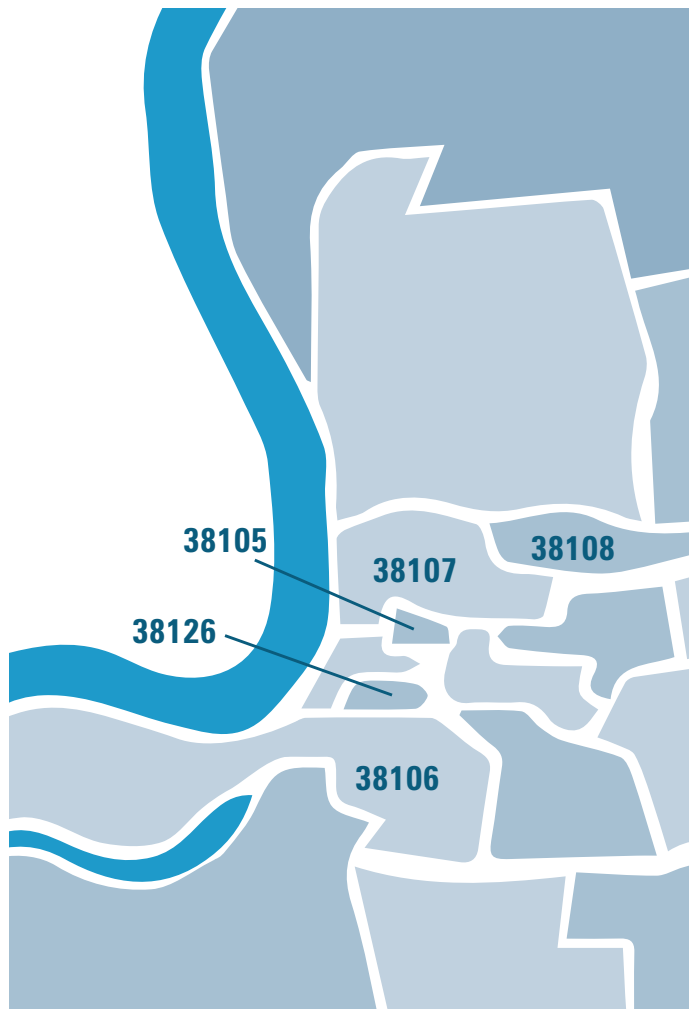
Val Morris
Finance and Business
Operations Associate

Marlon Peace
Development Associate

Leslie Shaw
Getting Ahead and
Community Liaison

Loie Watkins
Director of Finance and
Business Operations

Vision: A Look Back at Vision 2025



VISION2025

A Five-Year Commitment to Stronger Communities

Vision 2025 built on the momentum of Vision 2020, WFGM's first five-year strategic plan, which demonstrated the value of sustained, place-based investment in South City, zip code 38126.

Building on that foundation, Vision 2025 expanded WFGM's reach into additional Memphis neighborhoods, increased strategic investments, and strengthened the partnerships needed to create greater opportunity for women, children, and families.

Today, we celebrate the completion of that five-year journey—and the progress made through a shared vision, stronger collaboration, and a deeper commitment to investing in the conditions that help communities thrive.

Vision 2025 Launch and Expansion

Building on the Vision 2020 model and growing the investment beyond 38126

2021-2022



Deepening Partnerships

New collaborations strengthen place-based work

2022-2023



Scaling Opportunity

Expanded investments in workforce, youth and families

2023-2024



Celebrating 30 years

Three decades of philanthropy, leadership, and collaboration

2024-2025



Vision 2025 Concludes

Five years of investment, collaboration and learning

2025-2026



Vision 2025 Goals



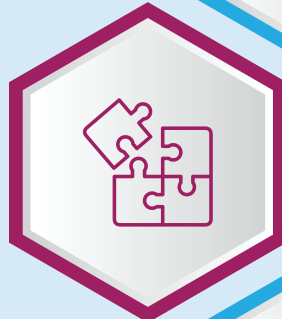
Sustain

Continue investing in 38126 and strengthening economic and social outcomes for women and families.



Build Systems

Connect employers, training providers and community partners to expand pathways to employment.



Strengthen the Foundation

Build the organizational capacity, technology and infrastructure needed to support growth.



Amplify Our Story

Strengthen communications and elevate WFGM's voice and leadership in the community.



Replicate the Model

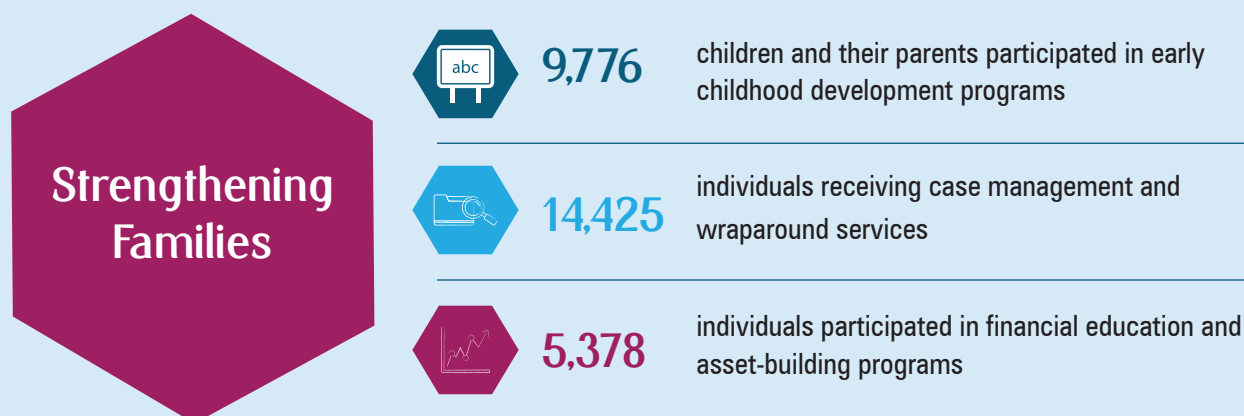
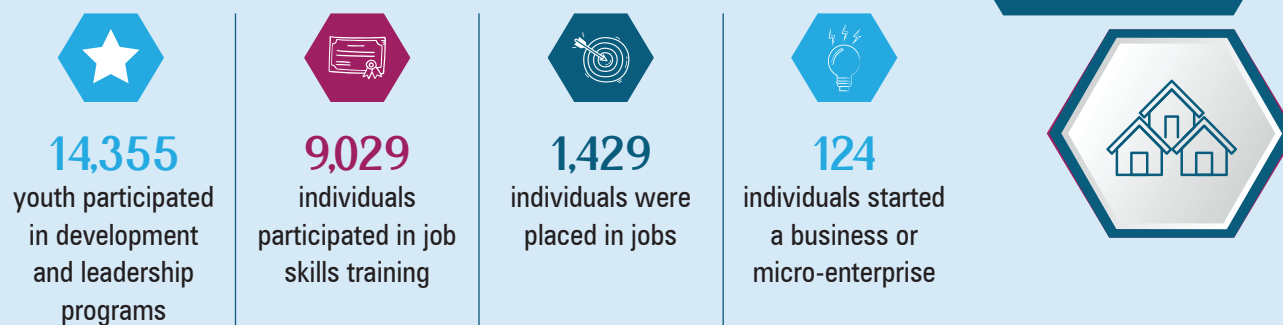
Apply lessons from place-based work to additional Memphis neighborhoods through strategic partnerships.



Vision 2025 by the Numbers



Creating Opportunity



Five years of Vision 2025 reinforced what the Women's Foundation has seen throughout its history: stronger communities require sustained investment, strong partnerships and solutions rooted in the neighborhoods they serve.

2025-2026 Year at a Glance

111

Community Partners

36

Grantee Partners

230

Volunteers

\$1.9
Million

Invested in the
Community

18,902

People Served

2,175.5

Volunteer Hours



Collaboration



Stronger Together. Greater Possibilities.

Progress is never the work of one organization alone. It happens when nonprofits, businesses, schools, government agencies, and philanthropic partners come together around a shared vision. At WFGM, collaboration isn't simply how we work—it is how we create opportunities, strengthen neighborhoods, and help women and families thrive.

Building Stronger Families

Since 2018, WFGM has partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement Evidence2Success Memphis, positioning Memphis as one of only seven communities nationwide using this evidence-based framework to improve outcomes for children and families. This year, the Foundation expanded the Strong African American Families (SAAF) program by training new community partners, broadening access to a proven family-strengthening model that has now reached 15 cohorts across South City.

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Through the Young Women's Initiative, in partnership with the YWCA of Greater Memphis, 23 young women strengthened their leadership skills through advocacy, philanthropy, and civic engagement. Their work culminated in awarding \$15,000 in participatory grant funding to Angel Street Memphis—demonstrating that young women are not only tomorrow's leaders, but are creating change today.





Expanding Opportunity

Throughout the year, WFGM collaborated with FedEx, Feed the Children, and community partners to host two Food and Supply Resource Rallies, connecting 800 families experiencing hunger and hardship with food, hygiene products, household essentials, books, toys, and other critical resources. The rallies served families in Orange Mound and Frayser, bringing essential resources directly into the communities where they were needed most.

WFGM also partnered with the Memphis Grizzlies and Nike to host the 2026 Title IX Girls Summit, where nearly 200 middle school girls explored sports, leadership, and wellness through hands-on experiences and conversations with accomplished women in athletics.

Collaboration in Action

Each April, WFGM brings together donors, nonprofit leaders, volunteers, and community partners to connect, learn, and celebrate the power of working together. More than 250 attendees participated in the 2026 Leadership Symposium and Grants Showcase, where Grantee Partners shared the programs and solutions made possible through the Women's Foundation investment. The half-day conference also featured panel discussions centered on Vision. Collaboration. and Impact., bringing professionals from across sectors together to educate, empower, and amplify the impact of women in the workplace and beyond.



National Philanthropic Collaborative of Young Women's Initiatives

WFGM was honored alongside members of the National Philanthropic Collaborative of Young Women's Initiatives at The New York Women's Foundation's 2026 Celebrating Women Breakfast in New York City. Among more than 1,500 leaders and advocates, WFGM proudly represented the young women of Memphis and Tennessee who are leading through philanthropy, advocacy and systems change.

We remain committed to investing in young women, cultivating leadership and creating opportunities for girls to shape the future of their communities.

Impact

Creating Opportunities. Changing Lives.

Behind every investment is a person, a family, or a community with greater opportunity because someone believed in their potential. Throughout FY26, WFGM's investments helped remove barriers, expand access, and open doors for women, children, and families across Memphis.



Determination Has No Limits

For women pursuing new careers through WFGM's Vocational Scholarship Program, the path to a credential is not always easy. One participant began her Certified Clinical Medical Assistant program after being diagnosed with lupus.

Another, a mother of two, was diagnosed with frontal temporal lobe epilepsy during her first week of class and later experienced homelessness. A third, a single mother of seven children, balanced raising children with special needs while preparing for a new career.

Their experiences demonstrate why removing barriers to education matters. A scholarship can help cover tuition, books, childcare, transportation, housing, and other essential expenses—but it can also provide the support that helps a woman stay on track when life becomes difficult.





A Degree. A Future.

Crystal Johnson is a graduate of the Kroger Next Generation Scholarship Program, a partnership launched by WFGM, the Kroger Foundation, and LeMoyne-Owen College in 2022. Through Kroger Foundation's \$500,000 investment, the program has supported four Booker T. Washington High School graduates as they pursue degrees at Memphis' only HBCU, while gaining leadership skills, professional experience, and connections to help prepare for life after college.

Crystal earned her bachelor's degree in Business Management from LeMoyne-Owen College in May 2026 and is now exploring career opportunities. Her journey is a powerful example of what can happen when education, investment, and opportunity come together.

Opening Pathways to Opportunity

Through WFGM's Vocational Scholarship Program, 248 women received support to pursue degrees and industry-recognized certifications in healthcare, skilled trades, technology, business, hospitality, funeral services, and other professional fields. In partnership with Southwest Tennessee Community College, Moore Tech, Memphis Welding School, LeMoyne-Owen College, and Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT), the program is helping women prepare for careers with greater earning potential.

Since August 2024, 58 participants have graduated, while 190 women remain enrolled and on track to complete their programs.



"Balancing full-time work while attending night classes can be very difficult at times. I work hard and do my best every day, so receiving this support has taken a huge weight off my shoulders."

— Moore Tech Scholarship Recipient



Stronger Investments for Stronger Communities

Strategic Philanthropy Creates Stronger Communities



2025-26 Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis Grantee Partners

Why Strategic Investment Matters

Every grant represents more than funding. It represents confidence in organizations that know their communities best, trust in local leaders, and a commitment to creating opportunities that extend far beyond a single program or project. From workforce development and early childhood education to youth leadership, financial stability, and wraparound services, every investment was intentionally aligned with the Foundation's vision for stronger communities.

\$1.9 Million

Invested in Women, Families and
Communities in 2025-2026



Case Management and Wraparound Services

Helping women and families
overcome barriers through
coordinated support and
essential services.

GRANTEE PARTNERS

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

\$220,000
6 Programs



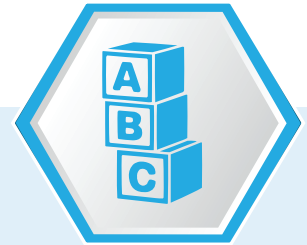
Job Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship

Preparing women for careers
through workforce training,
education, and employment
opportunities.

GRANTEE PARTNERS

Advance Memphis
Boys and Girls Club
of Greater Memphis
DeNeuille Learning Center
Dress for Success Memphis
HopeWorks, Inc.
Southwest Tennessee Community
College Foundation
YWCA of Greater Memphis

\$220,000
7 Programs



Early Childhood Development

Supporting young children and
families during the most critical
years of development.

GRANTEE PARTNERS

ALLMemphis
Early Success Coalition
Families Matter
Porter-Leath

\$135,000
4 Programs



Youth Development and Employment

Investing in leadership, education, career readiness, and positive youth development.

GRANTEE PARTNERS

A Step Ahead Foundation
Booker T. Washington Middle and High School
Emmanuel Center, Inc.
Girl Scouts Heart of the South
Girls Inc. of Memphis
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

\$399,000
15 Programs



Financial Education and Asset Building

Helping families build financial stability and long-term economic security.

GRANTEE PARTNERS

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

\$135,000
4 Programs

National Partnerships and Local Initiatives

\$250,000

Evidence2Success

Young Women's Initiative

South City Digital Inclusion

Responsive Funding and Special Projects

\$350,000

Program Assessment, Research and Evaluation

\$100,000

Technical Assistance

\$91,000

Investing Through Philanthropy

Every investment begins with generosity. Thanks to the unwavering support of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners, the Women's Foundation continues to transform charitable giving into meaningful opportunities for women, children, and families across Memphis.



2026 Annual Tribute Luncheon

WFGM's largest fundraising event of the year welcomed more than 1,400 guests for an inspiring celebration featuring award-winning journalist and philanthropist Soledad O'Brien and raised a total of \$564,423.



Power of the Purse

Our signature Fall fundraiser brought together philanthropy, fashion, art, and community, raising \$111,538 to support the Foundation's mission.



Giving Tuesday and Holiday Supply Drive

The generosity of our community continued through Giving Tuesday and the annual Holiday Supply Drive, raising \$17,671 to provide food, household essentials, and holiday cheer for 400 families in South City.



Investing in Places

Building Stronger Communities

For more than a decade, WFGM has invested in South City alongside residents, nonprofits, funders, and community leaders—supporting the people, programs, and places that help a neighborhood thrive.

That commitment helped WFGM leverage a \$30 million federal grant that launched the redevelopment of the former Foote Homes site. Today, the Foote Park at South City redevelopment is complete, marking nearly a decade of investment and bringing 712 new housing units to the neighborhood for more than 1,000 residents. What began with the demolition of Foote Homes in 2016–17 has grown into a new chapter for South City, with housing and community investments creating a stronger foundation for the families who call the neighborhood home.



Investing in Early Childhood

Alongside housing, investments in education and family support are creating opportunities for children and families to thrive. The Porter-Leath Early Childhood Academy at South City provides high-quality early learning for children ages 2 to 4, helping prepare them for kindergarten academically, socially, and emotionally.



Investing in the Whole Family

At Booker T. Washington Middle and High School, investment extends beyond the classroom. WFGM helped establish a Community School that connects students and families with tutoring, mentoring, wellness resources, trauma-informed care, and college and career pathways.

At the same location, the Food and Essentials Hub, a partnership with WFGM, FedEx and Feed the Children provides critical resources to students, families, and schools across Memphis. Together, these investments create a place where families can access not only educational opportunities, but also the practical support that helps children arrive ready to learn and succeed.



The Power of Giving Time

Behind the Foundation's work are people who give more than financial support—they give their time. During FY26, 230 volunteers contributed more than 2,175 hours through community events, grant site visits, food distributions, and other WFGM initiatives.



More than
\$75,700
in estimated volunteer value

Investing in Children and Community

At the Vance Avenue Youth Development Center (VAYDC), a new playground provides children with a safe and welcoming place to play, learn, and build friendships. The project began with an initial investment from NBA star Jaren Jackson Jr.'s Much Required Initiative, joined by the Women's Foundation and other generous funders and community supporters who came together to make the vision a reality.

More than a playground, the new space represents a shared investment in children, families, and the future of the Vance Avenue community—another example of what is possible when philanthropy and partnership come together around a common purpose.



"Our children deserve a safe and welcoming space where they can play, build friendships and be active. We are grateful to everyone who recognized that need and came together to make this playground a reality."

— Barbara Nesbit, Founder & Executive Director, VAYDC

From housing and early childhood education to schools, essential resources, and recreation, these investments reflect a shared belief: stronger communities are built by investing in the places and people that make them home.

Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	June 30, 2025	Liabilities and Net Assets	June 30, 2025
CURRENT ASSETS		CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Cash	\$9,786,562	Accounts payable	\$18,295
Investments, operating	\$1,000,566	Grants payable	\$1,188,902
Contributions receivable	\$1,076,843	Accrued vacation	\$13,996
Prepaid expenses	\$18,523	Operating lease liability, current	\$74,695
Total current assets	\$11,882,494	Accrued expenses	\$259
		Total current liabilities	\$1,296,147
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		Operating lease liability, net of current	\$120,037
Contributions receivable, net of current portion and discount	\$469,789	Total liabilities	\$1,416,184
Deposits	\$7,935	NET ASSETS	
Investments, endowment	\$1,192,860	Without donor restrictions	
Property and equipment, net	\$58,549	Undesignated	\$4,908,434
Operating right of use asset	\$212,900	Board designated	\$1,000,566
Total non-current assets	\$1,942,033	Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$5,909,000
Total assets	\$13,824,527	With donor restrictions	\$6,499,343
		Total net assets	\$12,408,343
		Total liabilities and net assets	\$13,824,527

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025			
	Unrestricted	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Contributions and grants	\$2,345,035	\$5,482,000	\$7,827,035
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	\$83,900	\$-	\$83,900
Special events	\$585,284	\$-	\$585,284
Interest income	\$207,551	\$-	\$207,551
Net investment return	\$101,064	\$120,488	\$221,552
Net assets released from restriction	\$995,302	\$(995,302)	\$-
Total revenues and other support	\$4,318,136	\$4,607,186	\$8,925,322
EXPENSES AND LOSSES			
Program services	\$3,392,527	\$-	\$3,392,527
Management and general	\$357,638	\$-	\$357,638
Fundraising	\$493,685	\$-	\$493,685
Total expenses	\$4,243,850	\$-	\$4,243,850
Change in net assets	\$74,286	\$4,607,186	\$4,681,472
Net assets, beginning of year, as originally reported	\$6,070,388	\$1,999,813	\$8,070,201
Prior period correction as an error (note 14)	\$(235,678)	\$(107,656)	\$(343,334)
Net assets, beginning of year, as restated	\$5,834,710	\$1,892,157	\$7,726,867
Net assets at end of year	\$5,908,996	\$6,499,343	\$12,408,339

Community and Strategic Partners

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated - Phi Lambda Omega Chapter Angel Street Annie E. Casey Foundation Association of Black Fundraising Executives (ABFE) AutoZone, Inc. Ballet Memphis Bank of America Baptist Memorial Health Care Bare Needs Diaper Bank BlueCross Healthy Place at Foote Park Booker T. Washington Middle and High School Bowden Internal Medicine Caesars Entertainment Christ Community Health Services City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development City of Memphis Summer Youth Employment Program Clean Memphis CodeCrew Comcast Cummings K-8 Optional School Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter Early Success Coalition Emmanuel Center, Inc. FedEx Feed The Children First Baptist Church, Lauderdale Girl Scouts Heart of the South Goodwill Excel Center Mid-South, Inc. Greater Memphis Alliance for a Competitive Workforce Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center Heart to Heart International	High Ground News Independent Bank International Medical Corps International Paper Junior League of Memphis Knowledge Quest The Kresge Foundation Kroger - Delta Marketing Area The Kroger Co. Foundation LaRose Elementary School LeMoyne-Owen College The Links, Incorporated, Bluff City Cluster (Memphis, River City and Shelby County (TN) Chapters) Literacy Mid-South Memphis Area Women's Council Memphis Business Journal Memphis Challenge Memphis Grizzlies Memphis Health Center Memphis Housing Authority Memphis Inner City Rugby Memphis Public Library Branches: Cornelia Crenshaw and Gaston Park Memphis-Shelby County Schools Memphis Welding School Meritan Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Mid-South Food Bank Momentum Nonprofit Partners Moore Tech NAACP New Memphis Institute Nike, Inc. Operation HOPE Progressive Missionary Baptist Church RISE Memphis School Seed SCORE CDC	Seedco Seeding Success Setting the Standard Enterprise (STS) Shelby County Early Childhood Education Plan Shelby County Government, Division of Community Services Shelby County Health Department Shelby County Juvenile Court Shelectricity Soulsville USA South City Community Resource Center South Memphis Alliance Southeast Transportation Workforce Center Southwest Tennessee Community College Springdale Elementary School Start Co. STREETS Ministries Tennessee College of Applied Technology Tennessee Department of Human Services Tennessee Valley Authority Thistle and Bee The Tri-State Defender United Way of the Mid-South University of Tennessee Health Science Center The Urban Child Institute Urban Strategies, Inc. W.K. Kellogg Foundation Women of Color Collaborative Women on the Move Workforce Investment Network (WIN) and American Jobs Center Youth Build Program YWCA Greater Memphis
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As of August 2026

Advocacy and Research Partners

National Philanthropic Collaborative of Young Women's Initiatives (NPCYWI) Tennessee Women's Fund Alliance (TWFA) University of Memphis Center for Community Research and Evaluation (CCRE) University of Memphis Center for Research in Education Policy (CREP)	University of Memphis Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (IPNL) University of Memphis School of Social Work Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga Women's Funding Network (WFN) Young Women Philanthropists (YWP)
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Donors | Annual Fund

WFGM gratefully acknowledges the following donors who contributed between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

ESTATES

Estates of Lila Beth Burke
Estates of Jeanne Varnell
Estates of Sylvia Marks
Charitable Trust

INDIVIDUALS

\$10,000 +

Rebecca W. Ballou
Ruth Thompson Bernabe
Barbara R. Hyde
Sharon Ryan
David C. Scruggs
Susan Stephenson
Dr. Indurani A. Tejwani

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Chris Claude
Dr. Tommie Smith Dunavant
Dr. Nathan Essex
Kathy and J.W. Gibson
Holly and Mike Goughnour
Sherrie K. Hollis
Shaila M. Karkera
Ellen Cooper Klyce
Snowden Morgan
Martha Pitts
Jenny Robertson
Rebecca Webb Wilson

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Tricia E. Adrian
Suzanne and J. Walter Allen
Cecilia Althoff
Anonymous
Stewart and Ellen Austin
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Linda Barnes
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Brenda McClyde-Webb
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Robert Buckman
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Carol Wasielewski
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Cassandra Webster
Becky Jones West

Monica Wharton
Sandra Zehntner

\$500 - \$999

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Denise R. Benham
Joy R. Bowen
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Cynthia Cash
Jeniffer Church
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Loie Watkins
Jennifer Watts
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Andrea Wiley

Anne Wulff and Brian Bendersky
Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg
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\$250 - \$499

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Pamela and Esmond Arrindell
Kelinda Batiste
Anne-Carolyn Bird
Jozelle Luster Booker
Jennifer Prudhome Booker
Ritche Manley Bowden
Cynthia and Timothy Bowers
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Radha R. Kumar
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WFGM 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.

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