



Threads

The Women's Fund | Spring 2017

WOMEN STATUS REPORT

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Back in 2011, the Power of 10 Women of the NEW North group funded research to gain perspective on the status of women in Northeast Wisconsin.

Now, six years later, we have conducted another status report to see what has happened during that time.

Lets take a look at some of the Women in Poverty numbers compared to six years ago.

The Facts:

- ◆ Female-headed households in poverty - **NO CHANGE**
59% live in poverty
- ◆ Students eligible for free or reduced-priced school lunches - **INCREASED 43%**
44,000 K-12 students in NE WI are eligible for free or reduced lunch
- ◆ **26%** of NE WI women, **ages 18-24**, live in poverty
- ◆ **Older women** (ages 75 and older) are **2x** as likely as older men to live in poverty



So what does this mean?

This means that the Women's Fund will work harder and smarter to support the organizations and programs that provide services and assistance to these women, children, and families living in poverty. We know we may never end poverty, but if we can help change the patterns of poverty in the younger generations, they will have a better chance of getting out of poverty when they are older.

Watch for more information on the other topics of the Women's Status Report in our upcoming newsletters.

This research is funded by the Power of 10 Women of the NEW North group, an initiative of the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

Research conducted by Women's Council of Wisconsin.

Celebrating 20 years in 2018!



Student Think Tank 2.0

Last May at the 2016 Power of the Pulse luncheon, Shark Tank's Daymond John helped judge the high school and college entrepreneurial competition. Have you wondered what happened to those students and their great ideas? Well, Dylan Parks and Brad Ploch not only launched their business Golf Shots, but also started another one, Upright Kids.

The UW-Oshkosh seniors created their first business Golf Shots - the first shot glass disguised as a golf ball, which is being sold on their website and Amazon. After going through the process of starting a business, it was much easier to start up another.

"You know the process and how to work with distributors, so it's much easier the second time around", says Dylan.

With Golf Shots fully up and running, Dylan and Brad changed their focus to develop a new product: Upright Kids - a cost-effective standing desk for elementary schools. Through research, the pair learned of the consequences of sitting too long and after purchasing their own standing desks, realized first hand the benefits.

Sitting down for as little as two hours increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers, back and neck pain, and other serious health consequences.



Desks for classrooms can range in price from \$150 to \$2,000; but the duo figured out a more affordable solution.

By using sturdy corrugated cardboard, the unit can be folded up for storage and adjusted to fit different heights. The unit stands atop a desk and allows students to be more active throughout the day.

The concept is being tested out at elementary schools in Milwaukee and hopefully will be available to all schools in the near future.

Dylan and Brad were selected as one of 25 finalist teams to participate in e-Fest - an entrepreneurial competition for undergraduates held in Minneapolis. They will compete for over \$250,000 in grants and scholarships for their invention, Upright Kids.

Learn more about these awesome inventions at DrinkGolfShots.com and StandingKids.com



Health information found on StandingKids.com



Seed Money Sprouts Growing Oshkosh: A Look Back

As the Women's Fund approaches its 20th anniversary in 2018, we are taking a look back on our 10th anniversary and the Power of 10.

In 2008, the Power of 10 project kicked off with the goal of \$100,000 being given out to the community. Ten groups of ten women from the community met on a regular basis to discuss what organization they wanted to give their \$10,000 "seed" money.

Each group of women was made up of a different category of women represented in our community - seniors, young women, single mothers, father's of daughters, and women surviving poverty to name a few.

One woman from the surviving poverty group suggested the seed money go to Growing Oshkosh, which at the time had just incorporated and secured the land on the Hooper community building lot. After much deliberation, the \$10,000 grant was awarded to Growing Oshkosh. The woman behind the suggestion was Leisha Taylor.



Leisha Taylor

And ten years later, Leisha Taylor is the newest employee of Growing Oshkosh!

Dani Stolley, Executive Director for Growing Oshkosh, had known Leisha for many years and was thrilled to have her come aboard.

"[The] \$10,000 literally built the farm, and now she's coming back to take care of it! Hiring Leisha is a way of coming full circle with the Women's Fund," says Stolley.



Growing Oshkosh urban farm headquarters

This will be a very exciting year for Growing Oshkosh as they welcome their new staff member, but also for their current staff, Jenn Sattler. Jenn is the Youth Program Manager for Growing Oshkosh and oversees all activities that include children and the area schools. Jenn has been named one of five statewide School Garden Coordinators for the Wisconsin School Garden Network. For anyone interested in school gardens in Central Wisconsin, she is the go-to person for information and assistance.

Growing Oshkosh is hosting many events in 2017, including a plant sale on May 6 and a Fall family day on October 6. Visit their website for upcoming events and more information on Growing Oshkosh.

www.GrowingOshkosh.com

Mother's Day is just around the corner. Honor your Mom or a special woman in your life with a gift to the Women's Fund!

Be sure to check out our Facebook page in May for some wisdom of women - or submit your own to us! Share the wisdom of the women in your life or any "Momism" you have by sending them to Katie@Oshkoshareacf.org. We will post them on our Facebook page.

"Wash behind your ears"
"This too shall pass"



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The Women's Fund of the
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
230 Ohio Street, Suite 100
Oshkosh, WI 54902-5894

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For more information, visit <http://women.oshkosharea.cf.org>

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Grant Winners

The Women's Fund received 11 applications from local non-profit organizations that provide programs benefitting women and girls in our community. Over \$88,000 was requested in funding, with over \$41,000 being granted.

Here are the nine organizations that received funding from the Women's Fund this year.

YMCA - Strong Moms

Winnebago County Literacy Council - Mother Read Early Childhood and Family Literacy Program

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry - Coaching and Food Security

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. - Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh - Mental Health Support Group

AAUW - AAUW Tech Savvy-WI 2017 Conference

UW Oshkosh Division of Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement - Youth Career Exploration Programs

Reach Counseling Services - Protective Behaviors: Sexual Education and Prevention Program

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc. - Standing Strong

Visit our website for detailed information on the programs funded this year. www.women.oshkosharea.cf.org

If you want to help make a difference in the lives of women and girls in our community, consider a donation to the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.