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The Women's Fund | Fall 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:
Women's Build
Grant Feature
Hear Her "Why"
GOK Update
Power of the Purse
2024

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POWER OF THE PURSE
Coming Spring 2024!



Watch for
more details.

Girls Can Do Anything

Read Elementary's Playground Platoon: The Women's Build

A burst of unity and enthusiasm brightened the scene during the "Read Elementary's Playground Platoon: Women's Build" event on August 15, 2023. The Women's Fund was honored to sponsor the event to benefit the school's new "destination playground" project. This new playground serves as more than just a play area; it's a dynamic space where children's physical, educational, and emotional needs are met.

The "Women's Build" was part of a nearly year-long campaign to bring a new playground and outdoor activity space to this neighborhood school. The event was a unique opportunity for our volunteers and donors to take a physically active role in the meaningful work we do in the community. Projects like this don't come around often so when project leader, Jennifer Skolaski, approached us to participate we were fully on board. Clad in matching shirts proudly proclaiming, "girls can do anything," over 100 spirited women and girls showcased the power of community. Every corner of the school became a testament to their dedication. Freshly painted bike racks sparkled. The parking lot transformed into a wonderland of games, with the giant Candy Land board taking center stage. A playful natural obstacle course stood as a demonstration of creativity, marrying fun with nature. The school bathrooms received a touch of inspiration with decals radiating uplifting messages for a daily dose of positivity. The volunteers rejuvenated classrooms, restored blinds, organized learning spaces, and made the school more welcoming for students and staff alike. And to further elevate school spirit, the backstop of the softball diamond now boldly bears the "Read Rockets" insignia. All these heartwarming endeavors are just the prelude to the larger playground and space improvements set for unveiling in October. Now, more than ever, every space in Read Elementary resonates with the vibrant message of their shirts; truly, girls can do anything.

The impact of this gift, and the volunteer time to make it possible, not only makes Read Elementary School more welcoming for staff and students but sends a powerful message to the students that they matter. It demonstrates that our community values them and their well-being, ultimately boosting the students' self-esteem and self-worth. The positivity and sense of value generated by this playground will ripple through the lives of many, leaving a lasting and transformative impact.



Making A Difference: The Impact of A Grant

Over the past decade, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has documented approximately 175 homeless children in the Oshkosh Area School District annually. The Tiny House Village offers a short term, safe, and stable house for children and their families currently experiencing homelessness. Life, finance, employability, and home management skills are provided in a community environment. There are 32 homes on the Tiny House Village property, managed by ACC Management Group and jointly owned by the Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development (WPHD) and the Oshkosh Kids Foundation (OKF). Families can live in the house for up to two years while they rebuild and stabilize. The Tiny House Village will help them develop the necessary resources to move to permanent housing, whether that is subsidized or market rate housing.

The Women's Fund Board of Directors proudly awarded \$15,000 to the Tiny House Village in our continued effort to support single moms. These dollars will be used for emergency needs for the families living in the village, as well as extracurricular items for the children such as football cleats or bicycles. The goal of the Women's Fund is to support the families living in the homes and help eliminate as many financial barriers as possible.



Tiny Homes. Big Impact.

“Investing in women means investing in the people who invest in everyone else.”

~Melinda Gates

“The power of women is amazing, and I loved the idea of women coming together to help other women and children.”

Hear Her “Why” — Vicki Krueger

Women's Fund Board President | 2023-2024 and 15+ Year Supporter



What motivated you to join the Women's Fund and contribute to its mission of empowering women?

I attended a luncheon as a guest and was blown away by the energy in the room. The power of women is amazing, and I loved the idea of women coming together to help other women and children.

What work of the Women's Fund are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the RISE 2.0 Project. I liked the personal and direct work done with these women to help them become self-sustaining.

Tell us about yourself!

Family, hobbies, or any other personal details you wish to share. My husband, Mike, and I live near Winneconne. Our son and daughter are grown and we try to spend as much time with them as we are able. We also have a cabin and enjoy hunting. I work for Hawkins Ash CPAs in Neenah and look forward to retirement. I hope to do more volunteer work at that time.



Thank you, Vicki, for all you do for our communities.

For more information and to learn about ways you can support the Tiny House Village, please visit OshkoshKids.org.

UPDATE

The Women's Fund partnership with Go Oshkosh Kids is **two years old** - here's what we've been up to!



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10 PODCAST EPISODES