



WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK
APRIL 21, 2021



CELEBRATING

35 years

OF *Perseverance*



“ I will take my new
friends from WEN and
the knowledge that I AM
WORTH IT. I will find a
job that I deserve and
that deserves me. ”

Teri, Class #297



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Perseverance

Forward

WEN is celebrating its 35th year of helping women in Kansas City achieve success, despite the difficulties they may face on their journey to get there. We're also celebrating the women that despite facing a pandemic, multitasked their way through a year that put additional burdens on women including online school, classroom monitors, daycare and all other duties associated with a household of one or more adults and their children being home 24/7.

As you know, WEN's services are needed now more than ever to assist women reaching out for our help. Usually we'd be hosting one of the largest in-person annual fundraisers in our community, critical to supporting WEN's mission of helping women achieve economic self-sufficiency. Despite not gathering for the second year in a row, supporters continue to show us WEN's work is important to our community.

This year's theme is PERSEVERANCE. We could not have imagined the significance our theme would take on as our community faced the challenges of 2020. Each of us has been impacted, yet we persist, still driving toward success. Even with its 35-year legacy of success, WEN faces new challenges ahead. Women lost their jobs in record numbers in 2020 and WEN plans to be with these women as they regain their confidence, find their footing and get back in the workforce.

It won't be easy. It never is, but after 35 years, we know this to be true: if a woman reaches out for help, WEN will provide the tools, resources and network to ensure her success. WEN is with her every step of the way, and through your generous support, so are each and every one of you. Without you, WEN would be unable to help so many women who need us now more than ever.

We are so thankful to each of you who have joined us today for our 35th Anniversary Celebration. Your commitment to this organization is truly amazing.



Pam Breuckmann and Jen Regas
35th Anniversary Celebration Co-chairs

About WEN



Proud partner of **One** for WOMEN

**Women's Employment
NETWORK**

35 years

For 35 years, Women's Employment Network has helped thousands of women create positive changes in their lives through job-search training, financial coaching, and professional case management.

WEN is also a proud partner of the OneKC for Women alliance with the Women's Business Center, Women's Capital Connection, and Women Lead Initiative. By working together as OneKC for Women, these partner organizations are able to better reach a common goal: empowering women to achieve financial independence.

One for WOMEN



WEN



WBC



WCC



WLI

“Truly, WEN has been
the most amazing and
rewarding journey
since I became
unemployed.”

Laura, Class #298





ESTABLISHED

1986

WEN CO-FOUNDERS

**BETH K. SMITH AND
MARJORIE POWELL ALLEN**

Our Co-Founders

Beth K. Smith (1921-2017) consistently worked to help women in Kansas City reach their full personal and professional potential. Smith created organizations that aim to promote equity, inspire confidence and foster economic independence for women. She was instrumental in founding the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership. After receiving her M.P.A. from the UMKC Bloch School in '76, Beth served as an adjunct professor at the school and established the Edward Smith internships to encourage students to pursue careers at nonprofits in Kansas City.

Marjorie Powell Allen (1929-1992) had the heart of a social reformer and the talent for attracting other women to her ideas for making Kansas City better. Her special interest was philanthropic groups that could bring together indigent women with the well-to-do women who could provide opportunities and services. She was the first woman to chair the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and the University of Kansas City Trustees, and she was voted Philanthropist of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy in 1988. She also provided funds for Powell Gardens.

Together, Beth and Marjorie co-founded the Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City, (now United WE), the Central Exchange, and, in 1986, the Women's Employment Network (WEN). Six years later, Marjorie died, but her work continued with Beth to lead WEN into the future. In 2017, we lost Beth. The legacy of these two women bring us to our 35th Anniversary celebration and beyond.



CLASS #1 - 1986

1986-1989

NINA JONES, WEN PROGRAM DIRECTOR
MARCH 12, 1986 (ST. LOUIS DISPATCH)



**WOMEN'S
EMPLOYMENT
NETWORK**

"WE PREACH THE PHILOSOPHY OF
'EMPOWERMENT' — THAT A WOMAN
HAS CONTROL OF HER FUTURE AND
THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO
WELFARE DEPENDENCY."

1986-1989

1986

WEN is modeled after a program in San Antonio, TX

The average age of a WEN client is 26
and her average income is \$277 a month

1987

WEN moves into 1006 Grand location

*(MG&E, now Evergy, donates rent-free
space on the second floor to WEN)*

1988

Sue Pearlmutter is Executive Director of WEN

To be eligible for WEN programs and services,
a client's income must fall below the poverty line

1989

500th woman enrolls in WEN program

81% of WEN graduates find employment

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999





WOMEN'S
EMPLOYMENT
NETWORK

HELPING WOMEN HELP THEMSELVES

35 years

A NEW TYPE OF PROGRAM

1990-1999

FIRST LADY, HILLARY CLINTON
ON WEN'S WELFARE TO WORK PROGRAM

“...A MODEL OF WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN
IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY...”

1990-1994

1990

Nina Jones is Executive Director of WEN

1991

5th Anniversary of WEN

1,000th woman enrolls in WEN program

Lynnette Williams joins the WEN staff

1992

WEN's 1st Annual Heart to Heart Luncheon

WEN Co-founder Marjorie Powell Allen dies

1993

WEN holds 2nd Annual Heart to Heart Luncheon

(in honor of Marjorie Powell Allen)

1994

WEN moves to 3515 Broadway

Karen Daniel is WEN Board President

Leigh Klein is Executive Director of WEN

1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2000 2001 2002





1995 -1999

1995

100th class graduates

President Clinton and Governor Callahan visit WEN

(WEN is a model social welfare reform program)

1996

10th Anniversary of WEN

WEN's 5th Annual Heart to Heart Luncheon

1997

3,000th woman enrolls in WEN program

1998

WEN moves to 1734 E 63rd Street

WEN unveils its first computer lab

1999

Average hourly wage for a WEN graduate is \$7.60

1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2000 2000 2001 2002



ALLIANCE IS A THREE-WAY CALLING

OneKC for Women helps its clients across the metropolitan area make vital connections.

By SU BACON
Special to The Star

It's less than a year old, but the OneKC for Women alliance is making a big difference in the lives of hundreds of area women.

They are women seeking jobs. Women starting their own businesses. And women eager to invest in women-led companies.

"The alliance brings the region together and gives women more options to find their financial sustainability," said Sherry Turner, who leads the alliance efforts.

She's also a key driver of the three partners that make up OneKC for Women:

Women's Employment Network: A Kansas City nonprofit, WEN is designed to help women succeed in the workplace by building a personal and professional foundation for

KCone for WOMEN
Resources • Opportunities • Connections



35 years

FINANCIAL SUCCESS FOR WOMEN

2000-2009

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEN'S CLIENTS

**ONEKC FOR WOMEN ALLIANCE HELPS
ITS PARTNERS MAKE CONNECTIONS**

2000-2005

2000

Average hourly wage for a WEN graduate is \$8.65

2001

15th Anniversary of WEN

WEN's 10th Annual Luncheon

2002

Lisa Boone is Executive Director of WEN

2003

Tonia Bomar joins the WEN staff

2004

WEN moves to 720 Oak Street

2005

Pam Mann is Executive Director of WEN





2005-2009

2006

20th Anniversary of WEN

WEN's 15th Annual Luncheon

200th class graduates

2007

Mary Saulque is Executive Director of WEN

2008

WEN moves to 920 Main Street

WEN starts Legacy Circle

2009

Sherry Turner is Executive Director of WEN

OneKC for Women Alliance is formed

1st Annual KC Job Fair

2000 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013





NEW LOOK FOR WEN

2010-2019

KCone for **WOMEN**



better job, with the help of the
Women's Em
LEARN MORE

**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**

FIND A JOB | START OR GROW A BUSINESS

2010-2012

2010

Erin Cole joins the WEN staff

Beth K. Smith receives the first Founder's Award

(Renamed to the Beth K. Smith Award – it is given annually to recognize individuals or organizations who advance WEN's mission)

Phyllis Collins first volunteers as a workshop facilitator

2011

25th Anniversary of WEN

WEN's 20th Annual Luncheon

1st KC's Got Talent: A Corporate Talent Show

2012

Pam Breuckmann joins WEN Board

WEN launches blended learning modules





2013-2015

2013

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill visits WEN

(Roundtable on economic opportunity and job growth)

WEN launches new website as part of the
OneKC for Women Alliance

WEN becomes the second of two Kansas City
LISC Financial Opportunity Centers

2014

Phyllis Collins joins the WEN board

Lynnette Williams teaches her 200th class

2015

Latoya Woods joins the WEN staff

WEN wins Nonprofit Connect Philly Award

(Outstanding Special Event Campaign)

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021





2016-2019

2016

30th Anniversary of WEN

WEN's 25th Annual Luncheon

Marjorie Powell Allen Special Assistance Fund announced

Audrey Williams joins the WEN staff

2017

WEN Co-founder Beth K. Smith dies

WEN wins Nonprofit Connect Philly Award

(Long Video, *STRONGER*)

2018

Jen Regas joins the WEN Board

2019

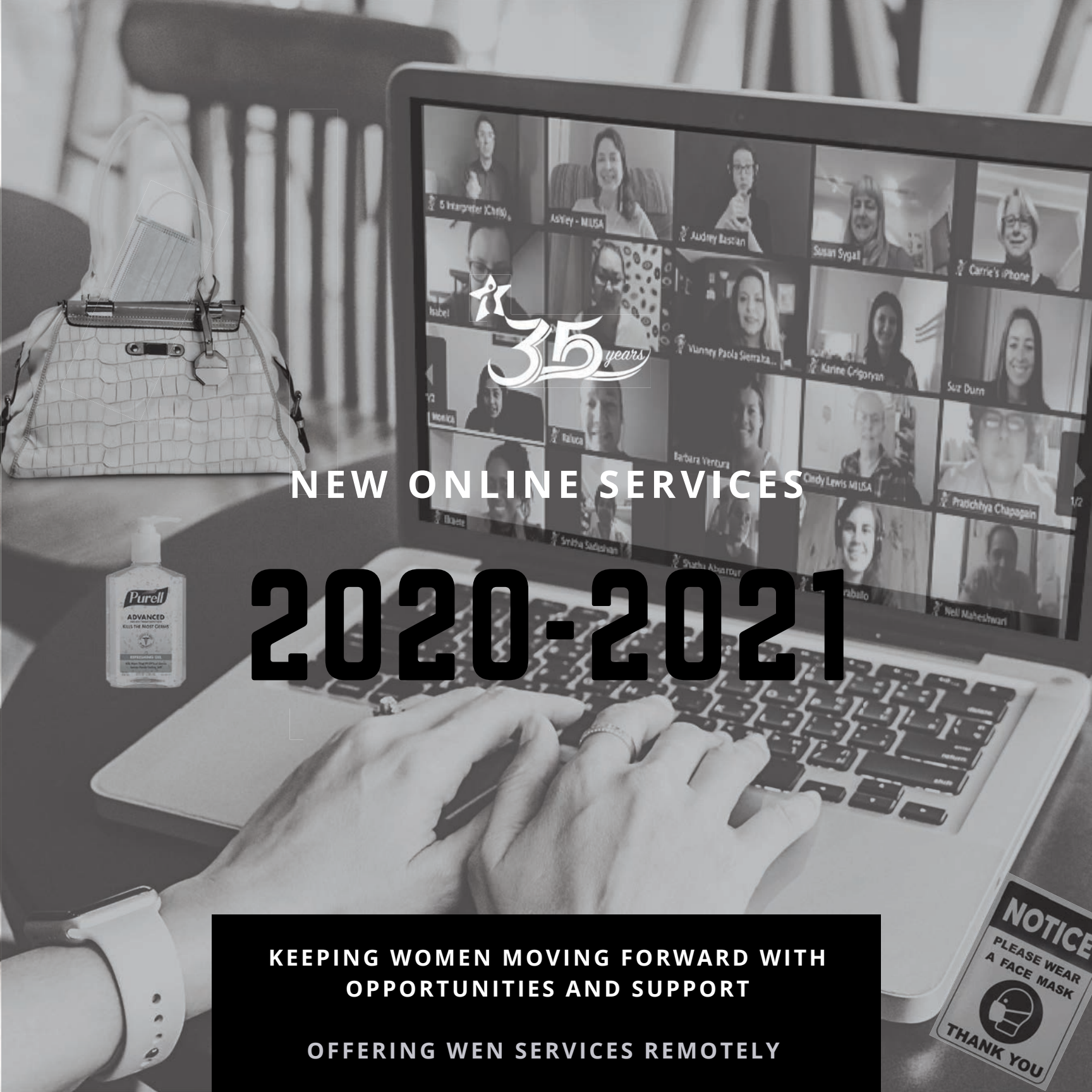
300th class graduates in January

WEN moves to 4328 Madison Street in December

Kim Barnes joins the WEN staff

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021





NEW ONLINE SERVICES

2020-2021

KEEPING WOMEN MOVING FORWARD WITH
OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT

OFFERING WEN SERVICES REMOTELY



2020-2021

2020

WEN finishes last in-person class remotely in March

WEN begins delivering remote services only
(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home order)

WEN's 29th Annual Luncheon is virtual
(All in-person events in Kansas City are cancelled)

WEN wins Nonprofit Connect Philly Award
(Outstanding Special Event Campaign)

2021

35th Anniversary of WEN

WEN re-imagines 30th Annual Luncheon as a kickoff to a year-long campaign to celebrate WEN's successes and supporters: WEN's 35th Anniversary Celebration
(Pam Breuckmann and Jen Regas are Co-Chairs)

WEN establishes Women Lead Initiative



“ With the help of
everybody at WEN, I
know I can reach my
goals. ”

Allie, Class #299





CELEBRATING



OF *Perseverance*

35th Anniversary

WEN's 35th Anniversary Celebration Co-Chairs



Pam Breuckmann



Jen Regas



We are grateful to our 35th Anniversary Co-hosts.
The individuals and teams listed below have
committed to garnering support of at least
\$35,000 in honor of WEN's 35 years.

Pam Breuckmann and Jen Regas
Karen Daniel and Christine Kemper
Kim Jones and Shelly Freeman
Julie Pine
Kelly Scanlon

Thank You 2021 Supporters

Our 2021 giving levels are named with words women often use to describe their experience with WEN. We are extremely grateful to all of our 35th Anniversary Celebration Supporters.





Ten Ten Foundation



Karen Daniel

Elizabeth J. and James E. Ferrell



HOWERTON + WHITE

Kim Jones and Shelly Freeman





Kathy and Mike Dodd



Enid and Crosby
Kemper Foundation





Kansas City



Country Club Bank





Rick & Cathy Baier Foundation

Janice Blansit and Terrence Kolich



Cindy Richey

John and Marny Sherman







ANB

Bank Midwest

Bank of Blue Valley

Sarah Baum

BKD

Black and Veatch

BRR Architecture

Chapman and Cutler LLP

Clockwork Architecture + Design

Commerce Bank

COUNTRY Financial

CPC, LLC

EAG Advertising and Marketing

Garmin

Lisa A. Gioia, CPA

Great Range Capital

David Hall

Henderson Engineering

IBC

Kansas City Life Insurance Company

KPMG

Longitude Inc.

McCownGordon

Marta Padula

Pendleton Jewelry

Laura and Reuben Perin

Peruvian Connection

Cynthia Scherb

Sporting KC

Susan Stanton

Superior Bowen

Tension Envelope Foundation

UMB Financial Corporation

Nan Vail and Keith Bottoroff

VanTrust

Emily Voth





AdventHealth
Susan and Scott Asner
Rita Blitt Fund
Centric
Ecco Select
Edgar Law Firm
FSC, Inc.
Hays Companies of Kansas City
Hunt Midwest
Kenton Brothers

Denise Mills
M. Gayle Packer Foundation
New Horizons LLC
Kelly and Mike Scanlon
Tiffany and Kyle Siner
Technology Group Solutions
Truman Medical Centers
Tanya Rodecker Wendt
Steve and Marta Williamson
Your Wellness Connection



“WEN empowers women
to become a better version
of their best selves.”

Staci, Class #290





The Beth K. Smith & Marjorie Powell Allen

LEGACY CIRCLE

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Become a part of WEN's legacy of changing lives.

Legacy Circle donors make a three year commitment by joining at the Visionary, Founder, or Legend level. This commitment supports WEN's mission of helping women in Kansas City raise their self-esteem and achieve economic independence through sustained employment.

VISIONARY - \$500 (\$42/mo)

FOUNDER - \$1,000 (\$84/mo)

LEGEND - \$3,000 (\$250/mo)

Legacy Circle donors will be featured on our website, in our annual report and in our annual luncheon programs. Additionally, each member of the Legacy Circle is cordially invited to attend our exclusive Legacy Circle events.



LEGEND - \$3,000 (\$250/mo)

Ann & Kenneth Baum

Karen Daniel

Janice Blansit & Terrence Kolich

Elizabeth “Zibbie” Ferrell

Angela Hurt

Kim Jones & Shelly Freeman

Catherine J. Kelly

Nicole Miller

Marta Padula

Debbie Smith

Jeannine Strandjord



FOUNDER - \$1,000 (\$84/mo)

Teri Ackerson
Cathy Baier
Kate Ferrell Banks
Rita Blitt
Pam Breuckmann
Tonia Bomar
Kay Callison
Mindy Corporon
Kathy Dodd
Amy Fauss
Cheryl Flood
Aaron Fulk
Lisa Gioia
Amber Goering
Debra Grunst
Jenny Haile
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg
Karen M. Herman
Celia Huneycutt
Christine Kemper
Nancy Kenner
Julie Nelson Meers
Lily Hayes Maxwell
Melissa Meadows

Mark Melchior
Sheila McCarrick
Madeleine McDonough
Lori McGroder
Arlene Mockapetris
Jacquelynn Neat
Megan O'Rear
Maureen Purcell & Dr. David Hustead
Joan Redhair
Jen Regas
Cindy Richey
Dr. Michelle Robin
Joshua Rowland
Kelly Scanlon
Amy Slattery
Deborah Starke
Susan Stanton
Shannon Swift
Cynthia Weber Scherb
Diana Toman
Kristin Tyson
Paul Weber
Cheryl Lockton Williams
Lynnette Williams



VISIONARY - \$500 (\$42/mo)

Anab Abdulahi
Terry Anderson & Michael Henry
Carol & Tom Barnett
Sarah Baum
Karen Bisset
Tracy Bornman
Erica Brune
Charlene Buenger
Carla Chavarria
Julie Anderson Clark & Vince Clark
Brittany Coale
Erin & Shannon Cole
Phyllis Collins
Darlene Dunn
Jeanetta Ellis
Alice Ellison
Seth & Kelly Eschweiler
Hannah Fenley
Katie Dunn Fitzgerald
Terry Garberg
Sonia Garapaty
Courtney Goddard
Stephanie Greenwood
Jen Gulvik
Donald J. Hall

Deborah Hays
Sara Holmes
Chris Jackson
Gail James
Jeanette Jayne
Victoria Kandt
Jasmine Kaplan
Ashley & Sarah Kendrick
Melissa Kendrick
Katie and Andrew Killen
Shannon King
Courtney Kounkel
Franny Knight
Ashley Mahoney
Melanie Mann
Marian McClellan
Megan McCurdy & Meredith Moser
Norma McKelvy
Kate Migneron
Denise Mills
Barbara Koval Nelson
Gayle Packer
Stacey Paine
Lenora Payne
Julie Pine



VISIONARY - \$500 (\$42/mo)

Cheryl & Ryan Poage
Wendy Powell
Leslie Reardon
Yvette Richards
Kimberly Robinett
Martha Salinas
Barbara & Larry Schulte
Audrie Seeley
Laura Snow
Margo Shepard
Renee Sheppard
S. Sloane Simmons & Harl A. Van Deursen
Rachel Smith & Chris Vickers
Charlie & Jeanne Sosland
Hillary Stamper
Jessica Best Stewart

Kelly Summers
Cyndi Swall
Lisa Terry
Polly Thomas
Deborah Throckmorton
Angela Tower
Sherry Turner
Nan Vail & Keith Bottorff
Shanelle Varone
Kristy Vetter
Toni Walsh
Martha Warren
Tanya Rodecker Wendt
Megan Whitman
Nancy Whitworth
Marie Woodbury



*If you are interested in joining, please visit
our website at kcwen.org/legacycircle.
Simply select the level that is right for you.
Thank you for joining today.*

“At my very first visit
at WEN, I felt very
welcomed and
accepted of who I am.”

Suba, Class #297



Perseverance

Special Thanks

Pam Breuckmann

Phyllis Collins

Country Club Bank

Karen Daniel

Frost Media Group

Fulfillment Plus

Jen Regas

Lynnette Williams

WEN Board, 35th Anniversary Development Committee, Marketing Committee, Staff, Volunteers and all the women who, through perseverance, are creating brighter futures for themselves, their children, and our Kansas City community.

Thanks also to our founders, former board members and staff, and past volunteers who shaped WEN over the past 35 years and made it the thriving organization it is today.

Connect with WEN

 @OneKCforWomen

 @WomensEmploymentNetwork

 @WomensEmploymentNetwork

 @women's-employment-network

#WEN35th

#35years #Perseverance

“ I truly believe WEN
has helped to get my
life back after
struggling for so long.”

Patricia, Class #291



Perseverance

The Future

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

Text **kcwen** to 243725
and follow the link to
donate

Make a donation
online at
kcwen.org/donate

Send checks to WEN
4328 Madison Ave
Kansas City, MO 64111



OR



OR



Women's Employment Network appreciates your support.

kcwen.org/35years

KCne *for* **WOMEN**



4328 Madison Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 822-8083



CELEBRATING

35 *years*

OF *Perseverance*