

WOMEN'S FUND OF DOOR COUNTY

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jessica Holland

Vice President of Philanthropic Services
Door County Community Foundation

Phone: (920) 746-1786

Email: womensfund@givedoorcounty.org

WOMEN'S FUND OF DOOR COUNTY HOSTS RECORD-SETTING CELEBRATE WOMEN LUNCHEON, RAISING MORE THAN \$100,000

Sturgeon Bay, WIS., Oct. 30, 2024— On Friday, September 13, the Women's Fund of Door County hosted a record-setting Celebrate Women Luncheon, which raised more than \$100,000 to benefit local women and girls.

The Women's Fund of Door County, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary, hosted more than 300 guests for this annual event. The event began with a special toast from Jane Stevenson, Women's Fund of Door County emeritus (read by Sally O'Brien). The toast reflected on the great work accomplished by the Women's Fund of Door County and the evolving challenges facing women and girls today.

Next, guests heard from Kayla Lehman, Children First Development Center, as she described how the Women's Fund of Door County played a critical role in helping the new childcare center open.

Lehman described how the childcare center is so much more than a place for children to go to during the day. She reflected on how staff have helped children overcome developmental delays and feel safe in the new center. She also explained how stable and affordable childcare has given



More than 300 guests gathered for the Women's Fund of Door County's Celebrate Women Luncheon.

mothers a chance to pursue full-time employment, even allowing one mother to leave an abusive relationship.

After enjoying lunch, keynote speaker Amy Schmidt encouraged guests to overcome their fears and have the confidence to reach their fullest potential. Sharing personal stories and experiences, Schmidt identified four pillars to confidence and encouraged guests to reach out of their comfort zone.

The event concluded with emcee Marti Spittell Ziegelbauer challenging guests to donate a total of \$15,000, which she generously agreed to match. Not only did guests reach the \$15,000 for the match, but the total donations and sponsorships from the event far exceeded expectations. In total, the Celebrate Women Luncheon raised more than \$100,000.

"We are so grateful for the financial support of our community, to assist us in our mission of supporting women and girls in Door County," says Michelle Sternard, Women's Fund of Door County treasurer and Celebrate Women Luncheon chair.

The Women's Fund of Door County will use the money raised at the Celebrate Women Luncheon to provide grants to organizations that support local women and girls. The money will also be used to continue to support efforts to improve childcare in Door County.

"To date, the Women's Fund of Door County has granted more than \$1,000,000 to provide local women and girls with the tools and opportunities they need to help them reach their fullest potential," adds Ann Glessner, Women's Fund of Door County board of advisors' chair. "We are grateful for the community's incredible support of this year's Celebrate Women Luncheon and look forward to continuing our mission because when she thrives, we all prosper."

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About the Women's Fund of Door County

The Women's Fund of Door County began in 2009, when a group of visionary Door County residents asked, "How can the Door County community change the lives of women who struggle and offer hope for a better, more secure life?" With a vision of "when she thrives, we all prosper," the Women's Fund builds, enriches, and nurtures the lives of women and girls through collective wisdom and philanthropy. In its 15 years as a component fund of the Door County Community Foundation, the Women's Fund has awarded more than \$1,000,000 in grants and supported more than 100 programs throughout the peninsula. For more



Kayla Lehman, Children First Development Center, describes the importance of childcare and how the Women's Fund of Door County has assisted the new childcare center.

information, visit the Women's Fund website at <https://womensfunddoorcounty.org/> or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Door County Community Foundation, Inc. is a collection of separate charitable funds set up by individuals, families, non-profit organizations, private foundations, and businesses that are managed, invested, and disbursed for the current and future good of Door County. The Community Foundation was launched in 1999, currently administers more than \$54 million in assets, and distributes more than \$5 million to charities in Door County every year. For more information about the Door County Community Foundation, visit us online at www.GiveDoorCounty.org.