

# ZONTA FOUNDATION, INC <u>Mission</u>

Zonta Foundation, Inc. was established on January 25, 1957, to serve the mission of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee by raising and distributing charitable funds. Decisions regarding charitable gifts to Zonta Foundation, Inc. are made by the Foundation Board of Directors. Zonta Foundation, Inc. has been granted 501(c)3 status by the Internal Revenue Service<sup>1</sup>.

## **History**

In the 1950s, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee was concerned about affordable housing for Seniors and worked to build Zonta Manor -- a \$1.3 million passive solar apartment building on East Cambridge Avenue in Milwaukee, WI. The building was designed by a female engineer who was a member of the Club. Due to the hurdles experienced by the Club while raising funds for Zonta Manor, the Club established Zonta Foundation, Inc. on January 25, 1957, to be the charitable arm of the Club. All members of the Club are members of Zonta Foundation, Inc. The building was sold in 1967.

## **Practices**

Zonta Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, exists to raise and disburse funds. Funds are raised from three sources: net proceeds from annual fund-raising events, donor gifts, and interest/dividends on investments.

Consistently over time, and in accord with Zonta International guidelines, one-third of non-institutional unrestricted funds raised are used to support Zonta International programs, including but not limited to international service projects, violence prevention initiatives, and scholarships. The remaining funds are used locally by the Club to fund grants, scholarships, and service and advocacy projects designed to empower women and girls.

Funding decisions regarding grants to local non-profit agencies are made based on non-profit status, alignment with the goals and objectives of Zonta, and the nature of the program's impact on the lives of women and girls in the greater Milwaukee area.

Grants generally have ranged from \$1000 to \$5000, in single or multi-year commitments. Through 2019, the Foundation Board solicited and reviewed agency applications in the fall/winter and presented grants at the annual spring fashion show fundraiser. In 2020, due to the coronavirus, we did not hold our fashion show fundraiser in spring, but we did disburse the funds raised the previous year to the chosen agencies. Beginning in 2021, applications were solicited in the spring, and grants were made at the fashion show fundraiser now held in the fall. Grantees are asked to provide year-end reviews of the program or project being funded.

The Foundation Board approves funding for local scholarships in advance of the scholarship year. The Club's Scholarship Committee manages the application and selection process. Funding for local service and advocacy projects are approved on an ad hoc basis, as opportunities and needs arise.

The Zonta Foundation, Inc. Board has been guided in its activities and decisions by documents currently in place regarding its mission, by laws, and investment and disbursement policies. There are no paid staff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Meaning gifts of the Foundation are tax-deductible

April 23, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of Zonta.

As we embark on another year of service in 2025, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee celebrates 98 years of dedicated service to women and girls in the Greater Milwaukee area. We remain committed to our mission of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls.

We disbursed \$44,120.25 to support local agencies, local scholarships, and the Zonta International Foundation for Women. These funds were raised at our Fall Fashion Show event and other donations from various sources. Nine local agencies were selected and awarded \$32,000 in grant money in 2024. We awarded one local \$2000 scholarship and donated \$10,120.25 to the Zonta International Foundation for Women.

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee continued its partnership with Neu-Life Community Development, donating to the Back-to-School Service Project with school supplies and 50 backpacks. Also noteworthy is our support of the Neu-Life and Our Next Generation partnership of their Neu-STEPP healthy relationships and sex trafficking education and awareness program. Over 60 youth attended their Summer of Healing Celebration.

Allies for Teens in Foster Care provides support for older children living in foster care in Milwaukee County. The Zonta Club of Milwaukee members donated \$460 to the Zonta Foundation for support of the Allies for Teen's Art Program in May of 2024; female health care products for the teens in September; and holiday gifts, including blankets, Nike socks, and \$25 Target gift certificates in November.

The Women's Center of Waukesha received towels, diapers, personal care items, and non-perishable food items donated by the Club in October of 2024. The donated food aligns with the Zonta District 6 2024-25 focus on food insecurity.

We provided funding to the following 9 agencies that align with our mission and vision:

- Cathedral Center: Provides employment and work readiness training to help women achieve financial stability and break the cycle of poverty.
- CORE El Centro: Offers culturally sensitive health, wellness, and therapy services to the Latinx community
  experiencing trauma, crisis, and poverty.
- Franciscan Peacemakers: Provides employment training, living wages, and support to women who are survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.
- La Causa: Offers a lifeline to families in crisis, enabling mothers to focus on their needs and plan for a better future while ensuring their children are safe.
- Milwaukee Diaper Mission: Provides diapers and other essential products to low-income families, empowering mothers and improving the well-being of children.
- Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition: Uses basketball to teach leadership, strategic thinking, confidence, self-esteem, and teamwork to young women.
- Milwaukee Women's Center: Provides services and support to women and children affected by domestic violence, offering a safe place and resources for planning a better future.
- Sojourner Family Peace Center: Offers holistic services and support to survivors of domestic violence, helping them gain confidence and move towards long-term recovery and stability.
- The Women's Center Inc. Waukesha: Provides holistic services and support to survivors of abuse, violence, and trafficking, helping them find stability, healing, and long-term recovery.

On behalf of the members of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Zonta Foundation, Inc., we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support. Your contributions enable us to continue our mission of building a better world for women and girls in the Greater Milwaukee area and throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Caxol Mangold

Zonta Club of Milwaukee, President

Chergl Nowak
Zonta Foundation, Inc., President

## 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Grants:** The Foundation Board reviewed applications for grants from local non-profit agencies. After careful review and consideration, the Board awarded \$32,000 in grants to nine worthy agencies to fund specific programs and services consistent with Zonta's mission to empower women and girls.

**Local Scholarships:** The scholarship committee solicited applications for three scholarships and awarded one \$2000 scholarship for the Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship.

**Donations to Zonta International Foundation:** Consistent with past practices, the Foundation Board voted to contribute 1/3 of the funds raised at the 2023 Fall Fashion Show Fundraiser, \$10,120.25, to the Zonta Foundation for Women.

**Service Projects:** Applicants for Zonta Foundation grants were asked to suggest ways in which we could also support their program/project/service with hands-on service, advocacy, in-kind donations, or other involvement. This past year our members supported these grant recipients through our service projects:

#### Allies for Teens in Foster Care:

- Raised funds for the Allies' Art Program in which they provided many of the group homes in the Milwaukee area with art supplies and sponsored an art contest in May.
- Collected and donated feminine hygiene products, which can be a significant expense for teens, especially those who face financial challenges.
- Donated holiday gifts: 20 blankets, 21 pair of Nike socks, sixteen \$25 Target gift cards, one \$20 Target gift card, and \$250 in donations.

## Cathedral Center:

 Club volunteers prepared, delivered, and served a meal for approximately 40 people at their main shelter and provided 50 sandwiches, fruit, and snacks for the next day's lunch.

#### Milwaukee Women's Center:

 Members brought & donated gently used or new business casual clothing, jewelry, and purses to our summer social.

#### The Women's Center in Waukesha:

 Members donated items on their Donation Wish List, including culturally inclusive haircare products, bath towels & bath sheets, diapers, and various food products.

The Zonta Foundation financially supplemented Club members' service project donations for both Neu-Life Community Center and Allies for Teens in Foster Care.

The Foundation also financially supported the Neu-Life and Our Next Generation partnership of their Neu-STEPP healthy relationships and sex trafficking education and awareness program with celebrations gifts for the over 60 youth participants, adding to the Club members' donations.

## **2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS**

**Total Local Grants: \$32,000** 

## La Causa \$2000



La Causa's Crisis Nursery & Respite Center provides a safe and nurturing environment for children during family crises, preventing child abuse and neglect. The center offers 24/7 care, including meals, clothing, and activities, for children up to 12 years old. This allows mothers facing challenges like homelessness, domestic violence, or medical emergencies to address their situations while ensuring their children's well-being. The center's comprehensive services empower

mothers and promote family stability, ultimately strengthening the community.

#### Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition \$4000



Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition (MMWC) is continuing their "Girls Hoops Club" as part of their Youth Leadership Program. The program aims to empower young Muslim women in Milwaukee's immigrant and refugee communities by using basketball as a tool to improve self-esteem, confidence, leadership skills, and strategic thinking. The program creates a safe and culturally affirming space for these girls to develop physically and emotionally, fostering achievement-

oriented behaviors and teamwork.

## Sojourner Family Peace Center \$4000



**Sojourner Family Peace Center** aims to empower women and children affected by domestic violence through their Healing Services program. The program offers support groups, healing programs, and specialized children's programming to help survivors regain their dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency. The support groups provide a safe space for survivors to learn about the dynamics of abuse and connect with others who understand their experiences. The healing programs

focus on empowerment, goal setting, leadership development, and wellness education, equipping survivors with the tools they need to rebuild their lives. The children's programming addresses the unique needs of children and teens who have witnessed family violence, teaching them healthy conflict resolution skills and providing them with therapeutic support. By providing these comprehensive services, Sojourner's Healing Services program helps women and children heal from the trauma of domestic violence and create a path towards a brighter future.

#### The Franciscan Peacemakers \$3000



The Franciscan Peacemakers has a Social Enterprise program, which provides employment training and living wages to women survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. The program empowers these women by equipping them with marketable skills and enabling them to achieve financial independence through safe and dignified employment. The Social Enterprise manufactures bath and body products, offering participants hands-on experience in production, packaging, marketing, and sales. By participating in

the program, women gain valuable skills, build self-esteem, and create a pathway towards a sustainable and healthy life, free from exploitation.

## Milwaukee Diaper Mission \$3000



The Milwaukee Diaper Mission (MDM) is dedicated to empowering families in need by providing them with essential baby supplies and feminine hygiene products. The organization recognizes that diapers diaper mission and period supplies are necessities, not luxuries, and works to ensure

that all people in Milwaukee have access to these basic needs. By providing these essential items, MDM helps to alleviate some of the financial burden on families, allowing them to allocate their resources to other critical needs such as food and housing. The organization also promotes the use of reusable hygiene products, offering families a choice and promoting sustainability. In essence, MDM's project helps women and children by addressing their basic needs, reducing stress, and promoting overall health and well-being.

#### The Women's Center \$4000



The Women's Center of Waukesha has comprehensive programs and services that empower women and girls impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse, and trafficking. The center provides a safe haven and critical services such as emergency shelter, transitional living, a 24-hour hotline, advocacy, support groups, and onsite childcare. These services help women and girls heal from trauma, gain independence, and build a future free from violence. The center also focuses on prevention

through community education and violence prevention programs, addressing the root causes of violence and promoting healthy relationships.

#### The Cathedral Center \$4000



The Cathedral Center program provides job training, placement support, and retention services, addressing barriers like lack of resources and skills. The goal is to increase participants' income and self-sufficiency, serving 125 individuals in 2024. The program's success is evident in its

2023 outcomes, with 74% of participants securing employment. The grant will fund essential resources like workshop supplies and transportation, furthering the Center's mission to combat homelessness through sustainable employment.

#### Core El Centro \$4000



**The CORE El Centro** program offers holistic natural therapies like massage and acupuncture, which help women and children cope with trauma, anxiety, and depression. Additionally, bilingual health navigation assists clients in understanding and accessing these services, breaking down language and cultural barriers. The program also provides health

and wellness education and fitness classes, empowering women and children to take control of their health and well-being. By addressing the physical and emotional effects of trauma, CORE El Centro's program fosters healing and resilience in women and children, promoting healthier and safer lives.

## Milwaukee Women's Center \$4000



The Milwaukee Women's Center has a Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter, which provides a safe haven and comprehensive support services to women and children affected by domestic violence. The shelter offers emergency housing, food, clothing, and 24-hour crisis support. Additionally, it provides critical services such as case management, counseling, support groups, and legal advocacy to empower women and help them rebuild their lives. The program also offers specialized services for children, recognizing the unique trauma they experience in abusive households. By providing

these essential services, the shelter helps women and children break free from the cycle of violence and create a path towards a safe and independent future.



## **2024 SCHOLARSHIPS**

To encourage and support women in pursuing careers and leadership roles in public affairs, business, and the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee offered three scholarships in 2024:

**Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship** of \$2000 for young women between the ages of 16 and 19 who demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism, evidence of leadership, and a dedication to empowering women – with the opportunity for international awards as well.

**Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship** of \$2000 for women pursuing an undergraduate or master's degree in business who show outstanding potential in their chosen field – with the opportunity for district and international scholarships as well.

**Women in STEM Scholarship** of \$2000 for college juniors and seniors majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics who show great promise in their field of study.

Zonta Club of Milwaukee scholarships are open and promoted to students in the six-county greater Milwaukee metro area (Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties).

## 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) - \$2000

The scholarship committee selected **Portia Pavelchik** as the 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs award recipient.

Portia attended Greendale High School. In high school, Portia held leadership roles in several organizations such as being an officer in the Student Government and a participant in Model United Nations conferences. Additionally, Portia was inducted into the National Honor Society in her sophomore year and reached over 200 volunteer hours in her senior school year.

Outside of school Portia volunteered at her church as a camp counselor for weekly summer camps for the past six years. She has also volunteered with the Salvation Army's Feed the Kids Program since 2019.

Portia believes the potential to support women and girls lies with all of us by committing to advance gender equality. Mental health, emotional support, and mentoring are extremely important and sorely needed. She believes girls and women will feel supported, inspired, and heard if

we address their needs and vulnerabilities. The outcome will be women with increased confidence, courage, and compassion.



There were no applications submitted for the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's JMK scholarship, so a scholarship was not awarded in 2024.

#### 2024 Zonta Club of Milwaukee Women in STEM

There were no applications submitted for the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's STEM scholarship, so a scholarship was not awarded in 2024.



## 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS ZONTA FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN

The Milwaukee Club's Zonta Foundation donates 1/3 of unrestricted funds raised by Club fundraisers to the Zonta Foundation for Women. In 2024, all Milwaukee Zonta Foundation, Inc. donations from 2023 were designated to the Rose Fund.

## Rose Fund

\$10,120.25

The Rose Fund provides additional support to Zonta Foundation for Women programs not fully supported by fund-specific contributions and enables the Foundation to support new program development, like the Women in STEM pilot program.

## **Zonta International Service Projects**

Zonta International is passionate about providing life-changing opportunities for women and girls through international service. By partnering with agencies of the United Nations and other recognized non-governmental organizations, Zonta has improved women's health, provided better economic opportunities, and prevented gender-based violence in 71 countries. Since our first service project, Zonta has contributed more than US\$35.9 million to our international service projects.

Four projects are currently supported by Zonta Foundation for Women:

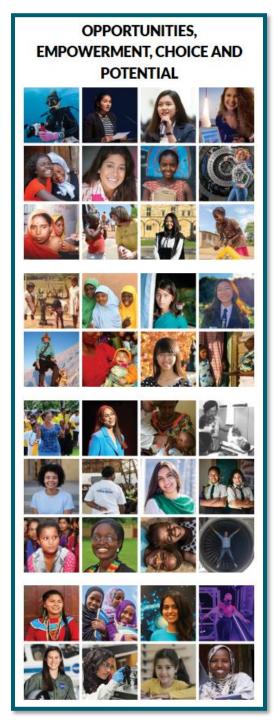
## **Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar**

Zonta's continued support of this project will allow more than 20,000 girls to realize their right to an education in a secure and protected environment. Zonta contributed \$2,000,000 through UNICEF in 2016-2020 and made an additional commitment to support Phase III with \$500,000 in 2022-2024.

#### Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru

This project's goal is to improve the capacity of services responding to the health needs of indigenous and rural adolescents, approximately 24,829 girls. Zonta is funding US\$750,000 to UNICEF USA.

Delivering Survivor-Centered Response to Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste The objective is for all women and girls to live life free from intimate partner violence. Zonta is funding US\$750,000 to UNFPA.



## Ending Child Marriage - A Program to Accelerate Global Action: Phase II

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage was designed to address the issue over 15 years, 2015 through 2030. During this time, the priority remains to engage adolescent girls as key agents of change in 12 countries. The goals of Phase II are to elevate the voice of adolescent girls, increase resources and opportunities for adolescent girls and their families, and enhance legal and political action to prevent child marriage and to support married, divorced, or widowed adolescent girls. Zonta has promised US\$1,200,000 to UNFPA-UNICEF via UNICEF USA.

## **ZONTA International Scholarships/Fellowships**

Gender Equality in Education is among the primary focuses of Zonta International. It is through education that women and girls are empowered with the necessary tools and resources to make good decisions about their lives and the future of their families. Zonta International sponsors scholarship, fellowship, and award programs to encourage women to pursue careers in the traditionally maledominated fields of public affairs, business, aerospace, and technology.

## Amelia Earhart Fellowship

While the number of women in the aerospace industry is increasing, progress is slow. Zonta International established the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1938 in honor of legendary pilot and Zontian, Amelia Earhart. Today, the Fellowship of US\$10,000 is awarded annually to up to 30 talented women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences or aerospace-related engineering around the globe. Women of any nationality pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree who demonstrate a superior academic record in the field of aerospace-related sciences or engineering are eligible and encouraged to apply. The Amelia Earhart Fellowship has helped 1,305



women from 77 countries, with scholarships totaling more than \$11.6 million, to conduct cutting-edge research and pursue their Ph.D./doctoral degrees.

#### Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship was established in 1998 from a generous bequest by Jane M. Klausman, a member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, New York, USA. The program operates at the Zonta club, district/region, and international levels, offering 37 international scholarships of US\$5000 annually. Since the program's inception, Zonta has awarded 750 scholarships, totaling more than US\$2 million, to 596 women from 74 countries.

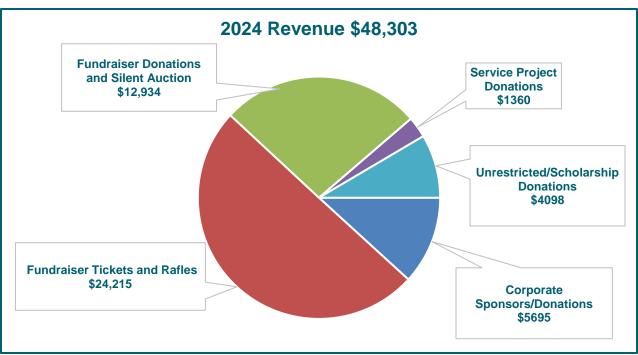
## Young Women in Public Affairs Award

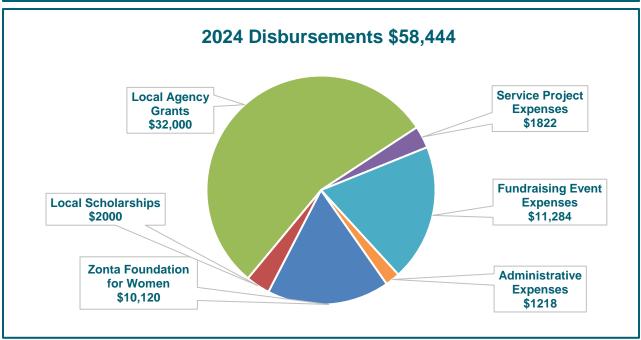
Zonta International established the Young Women in Public Affairs Award in 1990. The award recognizes young women ages 16-19 who demonstrate superior leadership skills as well as a commitment to public service and civic causes. The award encourages recipients to continue their participation in public and political life. 37 international scholarships of US\$5,000 each are awarded each year. Since the program's inception, Zonta has given 1091 awards totaling US\$1,488,750 to 919 young women representing 61 countries.

## 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

Zonta Foundation, Inc. began its fiscal year on January 1, 2024, with \$242,128.88 in its checking and brokerage (endowment) accounts. It ended the fiscal year on December 31, 2024, with \$253,973.27 in those same accounts, a gain of \$11,843.39. The change largely reflects investment gains which more than compensated for increased local giving.

Money raised at fundraising events support the following-year grants to local service providers and our annual gift to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Our endowment supports local scholarships and supplements our local giving, with a prudent 3.5% of the rolling 5-year year-end investment account balance. Unrestricted and scholarship-designated donations are deposited in or transferred to the brokerage/endowment account.





## **ZONTA FOUNDATION DONORS 2024**

#### \$1000 or more

Kim Brinsko Diane Lindsley \* Donna Neal \* Pam Knackert \*

## \$500-\$999

Joni Reese \* Christine Todd \* Margaret Aboaqve \* Jackie Beaudry ' Carol Mangold \*

#### \$250-\$499

Joann Harris-Comodore \* Donna Conant \* Karen Smith \* Marge Holzbog \* Deb Koller \* Viola Rembert \* Laureen Ward \* Susan Richter Mary Llanas Cheryl Lucas-Deberry \* Felicia Miller

### \$100-\$249

Judith Lehman ' Gloria Jones \* Mary Ochowicz Ruth Robertson \* Diana Barnett \* Helen Ludwia 3 Nakisha Adams Dawn Zehren \* Janet Kloser \* Shari Januszewski \* Laurie Brachman JoAnn Gruber-Hagen \*\* Barbara Sannes Cindy Bauer Susan Bruzan \*\* Barbara Jacob Janan Najeeb Isabel Vidal \*\* Wendy Anderson Meg Ciurlik Lisa Mardak Sandra Miller \*\* Jerry Watkins Dawn McCarthy Lisa Johnston

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#### \$1-\$99

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Diane Woeckener Tanae Wolfman Christina Yearian Gail Zalewski \*\* Diane Zarse Clara Bramlett Edith Brown

**Eunice Hoppe** Sue Imhoff Julia Muzenski Julie Hanus

Michelle Crockett

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson \*

\*Member, Zonta Club of Milwaukee \*\*Member, other Zonta Club

## **ZONTA FOUNDATION IN-KIND DONORS 2024**

Jacqueline Beaudry R. C. Bigelow **Body Kneads** Care-a-lotta The Bartolotta Restaurants' Charitable Fund Charles Allis/Villa Terrace Art Museum Chick-fil-A ComedySportz **Donna Conant** Nicole Conrad Coopers Hawk Restaurant **DeRosa Corporation** East Shore Specialty Foods Florence Eiseman, LLC Festival Foods Florentine Opera Company Fred Astaire Dance Studio Brookfield From Olives to Oil N. Garmon Photography, LLC **Green Bay Packers** John Gurda Hair Formations Salon & Spa Nan Henrichs Nola Hitchcock Cross Honeyagers Mudjack Service Shari Januszewski Gloria Jones Pam Knackert Debra Koller **Koss Corporation** Elaine Kraus Kwik Trip Judith Lehman Helen Ludwig **LJO Creations** Lynden Sculpture Garden Mainstream Boutique Carol Mangold Marriott Milwaukee West Milwaukee Admirals Milwaukee Downtown, BID #21 Milwaukee Film

Milwaukee Magazine

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra MKE Wave (ROC Foundation) Mimosa Breakfast & Brunch **Next Act Theatre** Nothing Bundt Cakes Cheryl Nowak Pop's Pantry Positive Pressure Massage Therapy PRP Wine International Joni Reese Viola Rembert Donna Rongholt-Migan St. Mark's Quilters Saz's Hospitality Group Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Shadow Abby Legacy Karen Smith Soirée Wine Bar The District Row Third Coast Provisions Christine Todd Trader Joe's Tres Locos A.J. Ugent Furs & Fashions, Inc. Usinger's Famous Sausage Vera Bradley - Mayfair Laureen Ward Waukesha Civic Theatre Weiss Meats Wines for Humanity Woodman's Food Markets Write Now Coach Wy'east Pizza

## **ZONTA FOUNDATION CORPORATE SPONSORS/DONORS 2024**

Summit Credit Union
R1 RCM Helping Hands
Bank Five Nine
Waterstone Bank Fund
O'Leary & Anick
Spectrum Investment Advisors, Inc.
Florence Eiseman
Capital Financial Group, S.C.
The Filla Latzke Group
PNC Bank
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Nolan Accounting Center
Central States Insurance Agency, Inc.

## ZONTA FOUNDATION, INC 2024 BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

## Officers:

Cheryl Nowak, President, term expiring 2027

Joni Reese, Vice President, term expiring 2027

Donna Neal, Treasurer, term expiring 2026

Donna Conant, Recording Secretary, term expiring 2026

Janet Kloser, Corresponding Secretary, term expiring 2025

## **Directors:**

Joann Harris-Comodore, term expiring 2027

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, term expiring 2025

Debra Koller, term expiring 2026

La Toya Sykes, term expiring 2025

Foundation Board terms of office are aligned with Club Board terms, beginning on June 1 and ending on May 31. The Foundation fiscal year, however, is the calendar year, beginning January 1 and ending on December 31. Listed above are all officers and directors whose terms include service from June 2024 – May 31, 2025.

Contact the Foundation Board at zfoundation@zontamilwaukee.org

**ZONTA FOUNDATION, INC.** 

www.zontamilwaukee.org