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Women for Women Breaks Giving Record

Giving circle awards \$50,000 to three local charities at its tenth annual grant reception

Springfield, IL – In their mission to engage women of all generations in the power of community philanthropy, **Women for Women** members announced their largest total grant amount ever at their tenth annual grant awards reception held May 3rd at INB Conference Center in Springfield.

The 2018 grant awards, totaling \$50,000, were presented to Compass for Kids, Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living and Wooden It Be Lovely:

- **Compass for Kids - \$20,000**
To hire reading teachers, cover costs for classroom teachers, and help pay for transportation to and from Camp Compass, which is a free six-week summer program for low-income, at-risk elementary students in Springfield.
- **Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living - \$20,000**
To begin Deaf Wings, a service that benefits deaf, hard of hearing or deaf blind individuals who experience domestic violence and abuse. The project will provide training in trauma-informed interpreting for ASL interpreters.
- **Wooden It Be Lovely - \$10,000**
To implement a Comprehensive Enhancement Program, which will provide 1) increased supervisory training opportunities and employee work hours, 2) educational resources, including children's nutrition and 3) personal mentoring. Wooden It Be Lovely provides instructive employment in a supportive mentoring environment to mothers living in poverty and/or recovering from addiction.

This year's awards bring cumulative grantmaking by the group to over \$275,000 since its inception in 2006.

Women for Women Founding Member Peggy Ryder served as this year's grant committee chair and reflected on the growth of the giving circle since its first grant award a decade ago.

“It is truly special to be able to award \$50,000 in our tenth year,” Ryder said. “Being able to unite with fellow Women for Women members and serving on the grant committee is an extremely rewarding and humbling experience. We look forward to our next decade and continuing to impact the lives of women and children in central Illinois.”

Community Foundation President and CEO John Stremsterfer congratulated this year’s grant recipients and the donors who made the awards possible.

“*Women for Women* continues to forge ahead and provide organizations opportunities to better the lives of those in our community,” Stremsterfer said. “What *Women for Women* has been able to accomplish this last decade is remarkable, and that they continue to grow shows how dedicated the members are, as well as how the critical the issues are that they are addressing.”

Women for Women is a special initiative at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln and aims to help members “build a legacy together” by pooling their annual contributions and creating a permanent resource for local programs that support women and girls. *Women for Women* Steering Committee members are Susan White (chair), Terri Benson, Deborah Berman, Sarah Beuning, Julie Krehbiel, Necole Powell, Peggy Ryder, and Karen Witter.

The Community Foundations encourages local charities to watch its website – www.CFLL.org – and sign up to receive alerts when other funding opportunities are available throughout the year.

Through philanthropic services, strategic grantmaking and community leadership, the [Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln](http://www.CFLL.org) “connects people who care with causes that matter.”

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