



**GIVING WoMn LEADS THE WAY IN WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY IN MINNESOTA**  
*Twin Cities-Based Collective Giving Organization Celebrates 10 Years*  
*and \$1,000,000 in Grants to 43 Local Nonprofits*

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (April 27, 2015)** – GIVING WoMn, a collective giving organization with more than 100 Twin Cities women dedicated to improve our community through supporting non-profit organizations creating social change, will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary – and \$1,000,000 in grants to 43 local nonprofit organizations – in May 2015. On the forefront of local women's philanthropy for over a decade, GIVING WoMn will celebrate this accomplishment at their annual meeting on May 12 at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul, MN.

**Collective Giving: A New Age of Women's Philanthropy**

Collective giving organizations such as GIVING WoMn, also known as “giving circles,” are a significant and growing segment of U.S. philanthropy, according to the Stanford Social Innovation Review. GIVING WoMn is a typical example of how a collective giving organization works—members participate in a collaborative style of community-based philanthropy by pooling their philanthropic resources and then using those funds to award grants to Minnesota nonprofits who are providing services in the areas of education, health and human services.

“We are so proud to be celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first GIVING WoMn grants,” says Mara Milne, GIVING WoMn Vice President. “Since 2006 when our first grants were given, we've provided 56 grants to 43 nonprofits in the Twin Cities who are all working to address a wide variety of needs in our community. As of May 2015, we will have given \$1,000,000 to these incredibly worthy organizations. It is gratifying to see the impact that a few people can make when they join together with a shared goal of making a difference in our community.”

“GIVING WoMN is a collective giving leader ,” said Virginia Mills, incoming president of the national Women’s Collective GIVING Grantmakers Network, an organization that supports the creation, development and expansion of women’s collective giving nationwide. “They are known for their rigorous grantmaking processes, and have served as advisors in this area to many other collective giving networks. They are a great example of the changes that women can make when they work together to make a difference in their community”

In GIVING WoMN’s process, each member contributes \$1,100 annually. Members nominate nonprofits to be considered for grants which then submit a grant application. GIVING WoMN then conducts a rigorous evaluation of the grant request and the organization to ensure funds will be used wisely.

Finally, a slate of potential recipients is presented to all GIVING WoMN members who vote to determine the final grant recipients.

### **Celebrating 10 Years of GIVING WoMN**

On May 12 at 6:30 p.m., GIVING WoMN will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event at Town and Country Club in St. Paul. To date, GIVING WoMN has made 56 grants to 43 local nonprofit organizations, totaling \$963,000. All GIVING WoMN’s grant recipients will attend the anniversary event, where each prior year recipient will receive an additional \$1,000, bringing GIVING WoMN’s total grant donations to \$1,000,000 in 10 years.

For more information about GIVING WoMN, as well as information on becoming a member, please visit our web site at [www.givingwomn.org](http://www.givingwomn.org).

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*GIVING WoMN is a collective giving organization with more than 100 Twin Cities women dedicated to creating social change in our community. We offer women the opportunity to engage in a collaborative style of community-based philanthropy by pooling their resources to award grants to nonprofits in the areas of education, health and human services. As of May 2015, GIVING WoMN will have given \$1,000,000 to 43 nonprofits in the Twin Cities. GIVING WoMN is one of the founders of the national organization Women’s Collective Giving Grantmakers Network.*