

**For immediate release**

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## **Women and Girls Fund Scholarship Goes to Hartland Student**

WAUKESHA – A Hartland woman has been chosen to receive the \$5,000 New Hope Scholarship for 2020 from the Women and Girls Fund (WGF) of Waukesha County.

Michelle Leaman, a single mother of two who graduated this year from Waukesha County Technical College's Human Service Associate Degree Program, will use the funds to pursue a bachelor's degree at Ottawa University.

The New Hope Scholarship was created by Tom and Karie Stupek to ease the financial barrier of tuition for women returning to school seeking a chance at a better life through education. The Stupeks established the scholarship to support women who have faced obstacles in realizing their dreams, and to celebrate the strength and resilience of the proud women of Waukesha County.

Leaman, who holds down a full-time position as an assistant manager at a Hartland café in addition to attending school full time, also volunteers at the Hartland Food Pantry. She completed an internship at Lad Lake, a juvenile detention center.

The Women and Girls Fund seeks to aid and enrich the lives of women and girls, so they become thriving residents of their communities. The WGF annually awards grants to non-profit organizations that support projects and programs that promote the health, education, well-being and empowerment of women and girls of all ages. Established in 2004, the Women and Girls Fund is a permanent endowment within the Waukesha County Community Foundation.

In 2020, the WGF awarded \$103,650 to 12 local nonprofit agencies, plus \$25,000 in emerging needs grants to six agencies to help meet specific needs created by the COVID 19 pandemic.