

Contact:

Nicole Wagner, Executive Director
262-955-1765 or nicole@wgfwaushacounty.org

Four to be honored during Women of Distinction Luncheon May 12

WAUKESHA, WI (March 15, 2023) – Three women and a Muskego High School student will be honored at the 39th annual Women of Distinction (WOD) luncheon on May 12.

The luncheon, the signature annual event of the Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County, will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Brookfield Conference Center, 325 S. Moorland Road, Brookfield.

Honorees are:

- Jennifer Dunn of Hartland, Director of the Victim Witness Assistant Program at the Waukesha County District Attorney's office. After the 2021 Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, she helped more than 65 victims serving as an invaluable resource to all impacted – connecting them to funding, counseling, law enforcement and preparing them for court proceedings. Jennifer provided clarity and care for victims during a very dark time along with her service dog Pepper – easing stress on their worst days.
- Ildiko Huppertz of Delafield, Vice President, Talent and Organizational Effectiveness at ProHealth Care. She leads by example in both her professional and volunteer roles – inspiring those around her. At ProHealth Care, she's created programs, scholarships and opportunities for education, training and career advancement – particularly among women. She's served on boards of several nonprofits helping the most vulnerable.
- Sarah Grooms of Sussex, Senior Vice President at Wintrust Financial Corporation (Town Bank). She is a champion for women in business and mentors the younger generation as a positive role model. She embodies the quote "lift as we climb." She is the policy board chairperson for the Waukesha County Business Alliance, strengthening economic vitality. Sarah also served on the Richmond School District school board and as past president of the Women's Center of Waukesha, helping people seek support to break the cycle of violence.
- Sarah Mertens of Muskego, Senior at Muskego High School. She's a National Merit Scholarship finalist and a member of numerous national honor societies. As captain of her cross country team, she led her teammates to become Division 1 State Champions. In the community, she has organized students to make 200 Christmas cookies for women in a local shelter and participates in the Civil Air Patrol, the Cadet Advisory Council, and volunteers with Soldier's Angels.

Sarah plans to attend a military academy to continue her servant leadership as an officer. In her own words, she "wants to protect the freedom and democracy of America that so many have sacrificed for."

For information about the WOD event, visit www.wgfwaushacounty.org, or contact Sue Juntunen at 262.875.3126 or contact@wgfwaushacounty.org.

The WGF, established in 2004, 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.

###