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**20th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff of Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha County
November 15, 2023 – The Legend at Merrill Hills**

The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2024. What began as a small fund in 2004 has transformed into so much more. Since that time the Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County has become its own 501c3 organization and has provided more than 1.6 million dollars to over 100 nonprofit organizations serving women and girls in Waukesha County.

The celebration of the 20th anniversary is being kicked off with an event on November 15, 2023, which is National Philanthropy Day. The event features two inspiring women leaders, Judie Taylor, President and CEO of DUECO Safecurity LLC, and Angela Adams, a Strategic Communications and Leadership Consultant. It will be an evening of fellowship, inspiration, and philanthropy.

“The women connected to the Women and Girls Fund are true philanthropists. They have made an indelible impact to our community through their tireless work of improving the quality of life for women and girls in Waukesha County.” The planning committee set a goal to raise \$80,000 leading up to the 20th Anniversary event, which has been achieved, and they still hope to raise more money. These funds will be given to programs focused on mental health, particularly in school aged girls in Waukesha County, which has been identified as a major need of programming and funding. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southeast Wisconsin, 1-in-5 youth are living with a mental health condition. The CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed about 52% of Wisconsin high school students surveyed in Fall 2021 said that in the past year they had significant problems with feeling very anxious, nervous, tense, scared or like something bad was going to happen.

The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County believes that empowering women and girls builds strong families and communities. Our organization prides itself on making decisions with integrity and stewarding resources in a transparent manner. Donations for this important initiative are encouraged, <https://wgf-waukesha.org/make-a-donation-2/>

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