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**Women and Girls Fund Offers New Hope - *One Woman at a Time***

WAUKESHA, September 14, 2017 – Recognizing the impact her family had on Waukesha County, Karie Stupek, daughter of the late Dick and Carol Richards, owners of Country Springs Hotel and prominent Waukesha business leaders, recently returned to Waukesha County to make a difference. Although Karie and her husband Tom, moved to Arizona thirteen years ago, Karie recognized her strong connection to her Wisconsin roots.

Following the death of her mother last September and the death of her dad late in 2014, she searched for ways to honor their memory. Missing them immensely, thoughts returned to Wisconsin where Karie continued to monitor all the local happenings throughout Waukesha County. In addition, her sister Nancy still lives in Waukesha, and still is aligned with Country Springs Hotel. Although Arizona is now home, their interest in supporting non-profit organizations helping un-wed mothers, victims of domestic abuse, and those needing financial assistance became part of their personal strategy to give back to Waukesha County. Karie and Tom returned to Waukesha to finalize the sale of her parents' home. Building on their number one priority - impacting women and children in need - they reached out to the Women & Girls Fund to discuss options to help pay it forward. The result, the **Women and Girls New Hope Scholarship Fund** was established to help women achieve their educational goals. The Women and Girls New Hope Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund created to give non-traditional women a second chance at pursuing secondary education. The purpose of the endowed scholarship is to provide an annual \$5,000 grant to encourage and support women seeking a second chance at a better life through education by assisting in the elimination of the financial barrier of tuition.

This significant announcement was part of the Women and Girls Fund fundraising event held at the estate of

Wendy Ackley in Hartland on Thursday, September 14. Nancy Richards, Karie's sister served as the representative of the Women and Girls Fund New Hope Scholarship at the event.

"This is truly an inspirational gift. This scholarship will change the community one woman at a time while also inspiring other donors to join the movement to impact more women and girls in Waukesha County," Michelle DuBord, executive director.

The Women and Girls New Hope Scholarship Fund application process will open at the end of the year and the first recipient will be announced at the annual Women of Distinction luncheon on May 8, 2018, at Country Springs Hotel.

#### Scholarship Fund Award Criteria

- Must be a female non-traditional\* student living in Waukesha County.
- Must have applied or been accepted to a post-secondary educational institution.
- Is considered financially independent for purposes of determining eligibility for financial aid.
- Has dependents other than a spouse

\*past high school age entering college for first time or re-entering school.

In addition to the Women and Girls New Hope Scholarship, others have developed endowed funds:

- **Kay Lettenberger Endowed Fund for Alzheimer's**, benefitting women and girls in Waukesha County who are affected by Alzheimer's or other dementia.
- **Women and Girls Betty Lou Tikalsky Women of Distinction Fund** provides the Honorees of the Women of Distinction Awards program financial support for programs and services that aid women or girls in Waukesha County.

To learn more about how to direct in partnership with the Women and Girls Fund contact Michelle DuBord at 262-955-1765.

The Women and Girls Fund seeks to aid and enrich the lives of women and girls so they become thriving residents of their communities. Each year, the WGF awards grants to local nonprofit agencies to support projects and programs that promote the welfare, independence and self-sufficiency of women and girls of all ages. Areas of interest include leadership, education, health and wellness, family and relationships, and arts and culture. Established in 2004, the Women and Girls fund is a permanent endowment within the Waukesha County Community Foundation. In 2017, the WGF awarded nearly \$89,000 to local nonprofit agencies including ten grants and five Women of Distinction awards.

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