



2023

Voter's Pamphlet

Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH) is a women's giving circle sponsored by the Shepherd University Foundation.

WISH inspires, educates, and develops the amazing potential of women's philanthropy. Our high-impact grants to Shepherd University and our tristate giving community affect positive changes, bring new funding resources, and make philanthropy accessible.

Please use this pamphlet to inform how you vote for the 2023 WISH grantees. Your vote is due no later than August 9.

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July 26, 2023

Dear WISH Member,

We are thrilled to present the finalists for the 2023 Women Investing in Shepherd grants. Our voting results will determine the four projects that receive grants this year. Your vote will be included in the final results if it is received by **Wednesday, August 9, 2023**.

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

The ballot represents an opportunity for each of us to leverage our individual contribution into a combined grant pool of \$142,000, creating a significant impact for Shepherd University and our tristate community. Please take time to reflect on the projects under consideration and exercise the privilege of voting. The finalists represent the myriad of needs within our regional community and at the university, and were selected by the 2023 Grant Committee to propose the best solutions to those needs. Receiving a completed ballot from each of you ensures that our grant recipients reflect the preferences of our entire membership for where our funds will have the greatest impact.

HOW THE FINALISTS WERE SELECTED

The Grant Committee, co-chaired by Carol Kable and Harriet Pearson, deserves our thanks for the intelligence, commitment, and rigor they have brought to this process. Eighteen members have collaborated to select the finalists presented here. Their efforts include: reviewing 42 letters of inquiry and analyzing each in depth to narrow down to 25 full proposals, inviting 12 of these (4 Shepherd and 8 nonprofits) to receive on-site visits; and further narrowing this group to three Shepherd projects and four nonprofit projects to appear on the ballot. The full grant committee met three times, and sub-teams conducted site visits to complete this important work on behalf of WISH.

Projects that demonstrated one or more of the following WISH criteria were considered:

- ◆ Responses to urgent and critical needs;
- ◆ Bold new ventures; and/or,
- ◆ New approaches to ongoing problems.

In addition, the Grant Committee members used the following questions to guide their research:

- ◆ What impact will a grant of \$35,500 have?
- ◆ What makes this proposal compelling?



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

This Voter's Pamphlet provides summary information on seven proposals– four from community nonprofits and three from Shepherd University. As described before, members of the Grant Committee met with leaders and champions for each project. It was determined through the site visits that these are the seven best proposals for your consideration.

Please remember that two university projects and two nonprofit projects will receive a grant. Be sure to vote for the full number in each category. For more information on any of these projects, including the opportunity to review the submitted proposals, please contact Meg Patterson at mpeterso@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5021.

Please review each summary carefully, keeping WISH criteria and the guiding questions in mind. Ask yourself, "*Where will a grant of \$35,500 make the most impact?*" The two projects that receive the most votes in each category will be this year's recipients. Please see the ballot for additional information on submitting your vote by **Wednesday, August 9.**

CELEBRATE!

We will announce the WISH grant recipients at a special celebration at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at Erma Ora Byrd Hall on Shepherd's campus in Shepherdstown, WV. Please plan to join us. It promises to be a very exciting occasion! Invitations will be mailed in August. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you there!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Fleenor".

Carolyn Fleenor
Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bev Hughes".

Bev Hughes
Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Oates".

Liz Oates
Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary 'Peachy' Staley".

Peachy Staley
Advisory Committee

Community Nonprofits

GIRLS ON THE RUN SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Girls on the Run Scholarship Fund

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<https://www.girlsontherunsv.org/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based youth development program designed to enhance the social, psychological, and physical skills and behaviors of 3rd through 8th graders. Through a specifically developed curriculum, the program places emphasis on competence, confidence, connection, character, caring, and contribution in young girls. As part of a national organization, the Girls on the Run Shenandoah Valley (GOTRSV) chapter operates in Winchester, VA and serves schools in Virginia and West Virginia.

NEED/SOLUTION

A critical goal for GOTRSV has been to ensure that the program is accessible to any girl who wants to participate. A program fee of \$150 is assessed to each participant and includes: twenty lessons in a 10-week program led by trained coaches, curriculum materials, t-shirt, and 5k event registration. Many students would be unable to participate because of their inability to cover the program fee if not for scholarship aid. The WISH grant would provide scholarships for students unable to pay and would allow the program to achieve its goal. The grant would also cover supplies necessary to operate.

IMPACT

GOTRSV uses running and other physical activities as a platform for teaching life skills and promoting positive social, emotional, and holistic outcomes for girls in grades 3-8. After completing a season of the program, participants made great gains in connection and confidence. The WISH grant would allow the provision of scholarships that are needed now more than ever. Although the registration fee has not increased for over ten years, the number of students requiring financial support is between 40-50%.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

This is a long-established program with excellent participation and national recognition. The demand for programs of this nature has increased as students face challenges in the home, school, and community. In the 2022-23 academic year, GOTRSV served 425 girls in the council area, providing over \$19,000 in scholarship and equipment support. The WISH grant funding will help expand the reach and serve even more girls.

Community Nonprofits

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The Neighbor Project Elevator Installation

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<https://www.jccm.us/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Jefferson County Community Ministries' Neighbor Project is the first step in a long-term strategic response to meet the social service needs of Jefferson County residents. The project includes building the JCCM Community Services Center Complex, which will ultimately be the permanent home of all JCCM's services. The WISH Grant would primarily fund an elevator in this building, allowing it to meet the ADA compliance measures necessary for continued construction.

NEED/SOLUTION

The Neighbor Project seeks to address the extreme shortage of shelter services for individuals and families in the region. With the new building, JCCM would be able to create 34-36 shelter beds for individuals by November 2023. In addition, 6 family shelters would also be provided. The WISH grant, if awarded, would be extremely beneficial for paying for engineering costs and materials that need to be pre-ordered due to supply chain issues. The most important of these steps is the installation and permits of an ADA compliant elevator.

IMPACT

According to the WV Department of Education, Jefferson County has the highest number of homeless children in the state. Through the Neighbor Project, JCCM would be able to provide year-round shelter services for the first time in the county. The \$35,500 award will provide the funding that will make the entire Neighbor Project possible. Larger donors need to see that the community is supporting this initiative, and the funding would help unlock a \$1.2 million HUD grant and possibly millions more in other federal funding.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

JCCM is an impressive organization with seasoned leadership. WISH being able to provide vital funding toward the completion of this much-needed initiative would showcase our group's ability to achieve high-impact change in our community.

Community Nonprofits

SHARPSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE CO CADET PROGRAM

Protecting the Ones that Protect Us: Basic Firefighting PPE

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<https://sharpsburgvfc.org/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) requests assistance in providing critical equipment for the Cadet Program, which attracts and trains young volunteer responders. There are currently eighteen young men and women in the program, but the company lacks the personal protective equipment (PPE) to safely deploy them. The WISH grant of \$35,500 would supplement a \$21,000 investment from the company to purchase equipment for fifteen responders.

NEED/SOLUTION

At both the local and national level, emergency services have seen a dramatic decrease in volunteerism over the past decade. To overcome this obstacle, the SVFC has found success in recruiting and training through the Cadet Program, which takes youths between the ages of 12 and 18 and trains them to be the next generation of responders. Although this program has had tremendous success, it has created an immediate need for additional PPE to allow the responders to safely perform the tasks they have been trained to do. Concurrently, the SVFC is faced with replacing a large volume of active responder PPE due to degradation and compliance issues. With the aid of the WISH grant, the cadet program would be able to outfit ten additional recruits over the next two years with the proper equipment (a full set of PPE costs \$4,721 per firefighter).

IMPACT

The SVFC responds to approximately 400 fire and emergency service calls each year, with about 150 of those in WV. However, the current PPE status of the department endangers responders and presents operational challenges. During 2021 and 2022, two firefighters suffered injuries from PPE failure. With the newly purchased equipment, the PPE will be deployed on firefighters for over 5,000 calls during the next ten years, protecting around 90,000 residents.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

Although the SVFC cadet program is only two years old, it has become an integral part of service delivery. The company cannot train this younger volunteers without appropriate protective equipment, but the WISH grant funding will help serve the community in protecting citizens and responders for another 10 years.

Community Nonprofits

THE MARTINSBURG INITIATIVE

HOME (House on Martin for Everyone)

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<https://themartinsburginitiative.com/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Martinsburg Initiative (TMI) is a community effort to break the cycle of substance abuse and build strong families through a partnership among police, schools, community, health, and education units. TMI desires to create a “community hub” at 509 W. Martin Street in Martinsburg, which will house a food/clothing cupboard, host parenting classes and trauma sensitive training for caregivers, and hold events that provide positive childhood experiences and innovative ways designed to provide materials and supplies to meet people’s basic needs. The WISH grant funding would help with minor repairs and refurbishment of the house, as well as assist with advertising, supplies, and salary/wages.

NEED/SOLUTION

TMI seeks to address the substance abuse epidemic that has plagued the community, but it has operated without a central location to provide its services. Even though the building at 509 W. Martin Street is secured and in operation, it still needs to be developed and improved to serve as a community hub for meeting individual and family needs. A social worker will also be hired to implement and manage programming and trained in the “strengthening families’ framework.

IMPACT

The WISH grant funding can make a significant impact in the Martinsburg community through the investment in TMI’s mission. HOME will help clients diversify their range of support outlets, expression, and natural self-development. The community cupboard will also continue to support several families on a monthly basis with material goods.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

The collaboration of so many community entities to form The Martinsburg Initiative prove that it is an endeavor worthy of investment. TMI’s HOME will be a warm and inviting space for individuals and families in need to receive the services they require.

Shepherd University Projects

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<https://www.shepherd.edu/ieps>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Department of Environmental and Physical Sciences (DEPS) seeks funding for the update of lab equipment and spaces used by students and professors. These improvements will include: replacement of nearly 30 year old chairs, purchase of technologically advanced equipment, and the replacement of outdated lab equipment.

NEED/SOLUTION

This proposal is addressing the critical need of outdated furniture and equipment in the two Physics and Environmental Science classroom/lab spaces. Faculty want to provide a safe and comfortable environment with up-to-date equipment for students in order to best prepare them for careers after graduation. Student lab fees support maintaining existing equipment but often do not stretch to the purchase of new equipment or infrastructure expenses. The WISH grant funding would allow for the purchase of: four lab quest minis, a new Van de Graaf generator, eight new electroscopes, eight teaching sets for studying electrostatic charge, the purchase of water sensors, the purchase of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and the purchase of 48 new chairs for the lab spaces.

IMPACT

This project would vastly enhance the teaching of classes within the DEPS at Shepherd University. Students in many majors, including Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Pre-Med, Math and other non-STEM majors, take courses offered by DEPS, particularly the Environmental Science and Physics courses at the introductory level. The project brings into the classroom new technology and allows the classroom to move beyond the traditional four walls, increasing visibility within the community and heightening the student experience. It also improves the classroom experience through the purchase of new seating. The University as a whole benefits because the space and equipment are used for outreach events like Seeding Your Future workshops and open houses for perspective students.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

The use of grant funds is outlined in detail and will directly impact a large number of students within the University. In order to provide an education for students that will help them be competitive in the job market and in pursuit of post-graduate education, Shepherd must provide students with up to date tools. In addition, as Shepherd continues to recruit new students, these upgrades will show that the University is committed to providing a top-notch education.

Shepherd University Projects

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

CAST Certificate Program

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<https://www.shepherd.edu/social-work>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Shepherd University Department of Social Work seeks funding to establish a Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Certificate program that enables students to prepare themselves to work in child advocacy while earning a recognized credential. The WISH grant would fund CAST faculty training, implementation fees, promotion, a stipend for the certificate program director, and the cost of adjunct instruction for CAST courses in years two and three.

NEED/SOLUTION

Today in the Eastern Panhandle and surrounding region, students interested in child advocacy work lack a way to build foundational knowledge about the field. In addition, they lack self-resilience skills before they experience the stress and intensity of this work on the job. Unfortunately, West Virginia has a great need for child advocacy professionals given the state's very high rates of child abuse and neglect.

The implementation of the CAST program, an evidence-based, interdisciplinary program developed by the Zero Abuse Project, would provide coursework that will prepare undergraduates in social work, health care, psychology, criminal justice and education. Students who complete the certification will better recognize and respond to the complex factors that present as child mistreatment and more successfully advocate for child victims and survivors.

IMPACT

It is anticipated that the CAST certificate program will have a direct impact on the child welfare workforce in the Eastern Panhandle of WV. CAST training will teach undergraduates how to grapple with the complexities of child abuse and neglect, will contribute to professional retention by helping aspiring professionals anticipate emotional challenges, and will enhance job prospects of certificate holders. An examination of participants in the program nation-wide shows a successful frontline collaboration between CAST programs and child welfare agencies.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

At present, there are 92 CAST programs across 30 states. Shepherd University will be the first CAST program to be instituted in the Eastern Panhandle of WV and surrounding areas. This program would address an important societal need in our region while boosting Shepherd's profile and attractiveness to traditional and non-traditional students.

Shepherd University Projects

DEPARTMENTS OF ART AND BIOLOGY

Collaborative Public Art Initiative

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$35,500

<http://sufastenerlab.org/fastenerlab/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Shepherd University's interdisciplinary FASTENeR Lab, alongside the Department of Contemporary Art and Theater and the Department of Biology, seek funding to launch and operate a transformative campus-wide Public Art Initiative.

The Public Art Initiative will support the creation and installation of publicly viewable works of art ("public art") on campus; develop an interdisciplinary course on public art with community workshops with visiting artists; and create a drivable and walkable public art trail starting at the Bell Arboretum that eventually could connect the campus and town.

NEED/SOLUTION

Currently, public art at Shepherd is a hit or miss affair. No organization within the University is responsible for the placement or upkeep of public art, and such projects are approved on a case by case basis with no strategic plan. However, public art unquestionably enhances the campus experience as well as the broader community: an example of current public art work on campus is the mural in the pedestrian underpass, which was initiated by a single professor, implemented by students, and now enjoyed by all visitors.

This project will address the need for public art in its production, display and management as an essential component of engaging a contemporary college campus. The WISH grant would fund the display infrastructure in the Carl Bell Arboretum and other campus locations, as well as fund supplies and materials for visiting artist community workshops.

IMPACT

The WISH grant targeted to enhance the public art on campus can have a great impact on all stakeholders of Shepherd University. The project will bring together students and professors from the arts and sciences with members of various organizations on campus, visiting artists, and the greater community to create a process for establishing public art on the Shepherd Campus. It will beautify the campus with student created art while preparing them to enter professional careers.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING?

This initiative is cost-effective and high-impact, in that WISH would be the main funder of the program (in addition to student and faculty volunteer work). The project would also display how under-recognized locations, such as the Carl Bell Arboretum, can be transformed into a space that provides an array of services for both the student body and the community.

Acknowledgements

2023 Committees

Grant Committee

Carol Kable, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Karen Hensell
Harriet Pearson, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Kim Himes
Betsy Bainbridge	Heidi Johnston
Helen “Hap” Becker	Lois Pierce `73
Errika Best	Sylvia Shurbutt
Bonnie Brannon `63	Annette Van Hilst
Pamela Curtis	Lyn Widmyer
Susan Davis `77	Diana Walch
Dana DeJarnett	Beverly Hughes `71, <i>Advisor</i>
Barbara Gibson	Meg Patterson, <i>Advisor</i>

Member Journey Committee

Mary “Peachy” Staley `70, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Donna Burns
Liz Oates, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Sandy A. Dubay `95
Carolyn Fleenor `78, <i>Subcommittee Chair</i>	Kristie Hadley
Beverly Hughes `71, <i>Subcommittee Chair</i>	Carol Kamensky `68
Cecelia Mason, <i>Subcommittee Chair</i>	Linda Kelso
Sherri Janelle, <i>Subcommittee Co-Chair</i>	Amy Moore-Luettke
Teresa McCabe `79, <i>Subcommittee Co-Chair</i>	Susan Sheehan
Madeline Barney	Anne Small `67
Kathy Bennett	Susan Snowden `82
Kathy Jo Blue `80	Meg Patterson, <i>Advisor</i>
Sherry Brown `73	