



2025 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 tri-state community affect positive changes, bring new funding resources, and make philanthropy accessible.

Please use this pamphlet to inform how you vote for the 2025 WISH grantees. Your vote is due no later than August 6, 2025.

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July 23, 2025

Dear WISH Member,

We are thrilled to present the finalists for the 2025 Women Investing in Shepherd grants. Our voting results will determine the four projects that receive funding this year. Your vote will be included if it is received by **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**.

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

The ballot represents an opportunity for each of us to leverage our individual contribution into a combined grant pool of \$145,000, creating a significant impact for Shepherd University and our tri-state 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. They were selected by the 2025 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, deserve our thanks for the intelligence, commitment, and rigor they have brought to this process. Twenty-one voting members have collaborated to select the finalists presented here. Their efforts include: reviewing 39 letters of inquiry and analyzing each in depth to narrow down to 21 full proposal invitations; inviting 15 of these (5 Shepherd and 10 nonprofits) to receive on-site visits; and further narrowing this group to 3 Shepherd projects and 4 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 \$36,250 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. You are encouraged 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, or visit:

shepherduniversityfoundation.org/wishgrantvotingportal

Please see the ballot for additional information on submitting your vote by **Wednesday, August 6.**

CELEBRATE!

We will announce the WISH grant recipients at a special celebration at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 2025 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,

Carolyn Fleenor
Advisory Committee

Bev Hughes
Advisory Committee

Liz Oates
Advisory Committee

Peachy Staley
Advisory Committee

Community Nonprofits

BOLIVAR/HARPERS FERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Covered Porch and Outdoor Program Area

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250

bolivarharpersferrylibrary.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Bolivar Harpers Ferry Public Library (BHFLF) has an immediate demand for additional space to accommodate expanded programming and community needs. Because the building is limited to a one-acre parcel, the WISH grant would be used to construct a 15x60 covered porch with railing along the front of the building that includes an extended patio to create a 3-season space. The WISH Grant, combined with an accrued \$20,000 in the library's capital fund account, would be used for construction and materials to complete the project. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

Currently, the BHFPL provides approximately 700 square feet for over 200 programs conducted annually. The additional porch space will afford the opportunity to involve more participants in many of the offerings and will offer a safer space for activities that are currently operated in the parking lot. For a recent art activity, 100 people registered but not all of them were able to be accommodated.

Given the proximity of the library to Harpers Ferry Middle School, the space will also offer a safe and welcoming spot for students to wait after school for parental pick-up, even if they choose not to enter the library itself.

Finally, many hikers on the Appalachian Trail stop at the library to utilize WIFI and phone/device charging services. This new space will allow for that amenity without taking over the inside area.

The grant committee highly favored this finalist in 2024 and once again feel like this project meets WISH's goal to have high-impact on our community.

Community Nonprofits

CAMP FRAME

Heating and Air Conditioning in the Dining Hall

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Camp Frame 4-H, celebrating 98 years of tradition, is seeking to install heating and air conditioning in its dining hall. This upgrade will enhance the camp's ability to serve as a community relief center for the American Red Cross, especially during emergencies. It will also allow the camp to host events earlier and later in the year, expanding its impact. Most importantly, it will improve the overall quality of the camping experience, ensuring comfort and safety for generations of campers and guests. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

Although the Camp Frame dining hall has continued to serve the community for nearly 100 years, the building could be better utilized with appropriate heating and air conditioning. For generations, Camp Frame has provided youth with a place to connect with nature, develop life skills, and form lasting memories. However, the lack of climate control has sometimes posed significant challenges, especially during extreme heat or cold. In the past two years alone, there was a real possibility of canceling a week of 4-H camp or a band camp due to dangerously high temperatures.

In addition to the hundreds of youth the camp serves over the summer, the grant will allow for the expansion of Camp Frame's role as a community relief center for the American Red Cross. The large facility, acreage and outbuildings, make it the perfect place for the Red Cross to designate as an emergency shelter. The American Red Cross representative noted that often people choose not to leave their homes because they don't want to leave their pets, but Camp Frame would be equipped to handle both.

The WISH Grant Committee agrees that this project will enhance the camp's ability to provide essential services, create lasting memories, and continue its legacy of service to the community.

Community Nonprofits

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF WV

Parenting with Confidence Initiative

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250

childhswv.org

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Children's Home Society in downtown Martinsburg serves the needs of children in the foster care system. According to the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Dashboard as of March 2025, WV had 5,955 children in out-of-home placements. During the court process of the resulting cases of these out-of-home placements, families are often given supervised family time once or twice a week through the Parenting with Confidence project. The WISH grant funds would be used to redesign three visitation rooms to include new flooring, paint, furniture, decor, and play equipment. The rooms will be designed to provide an appropriate setting for visitation, shared meals, and supervision. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

Creating a safe, comfortable atmosphere for these children and their biological families is a necessary part of the reunification process. In addition to the WISH grant covering the full costs of renovations, it will also enable the Children's Home Society of WV to expand the services offered. These rooms will host a 9-week parenting workshop session using the Nurturing Parenting Program, which equips parents with essential skills.

The WISH grant committee feels like this project meets the criteria of "community and family," as we support the strengthening and reunification of biological families. It supports our local community as we help to build more competent and confident parents, keeping children in their biological homes and giving local parents a community of support for them to lean on in times of need and stress.

Community Nonprofits

GOOD SAMARITAN FREE CLINIC

Phase II Renovation

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250

goodsamaritanfreeclinic.org

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Good Samaritan Free Clinic (GSFC) provides free healthcare to members of the community who otherwise lack the resources to access medical treatment. GSFC recently added on 1000 square feet of space that expanded the number of clinical exam rooms for patient safety and use. However, the original space needs renovation to accommodate more patients in the waiting room, as well as providing a multipurpose room for programming that supports public health, disease prevention, and health promotion for patient and community needs. Twenty-five percent of the needed funds to renovate this space has currently been raised, so the WISH grant would fill in the remaining funds. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

This project gives GSFC the ability to receive more patients that are uninsured in a more efficient space. It will allow for the implementation and hosting of patient education training for served demographics in areas of diabetes, healthy nutrition, meal preparation, and other chronic diseases. Finally, it will allow for the hosting of vaccine clinic opportunities that the current clientele does not have access to.

As mentioned before, the WISH grant funding would provide the final “push” needed to begin and complete the renovation. This “one year” grant will be expended and will allow for community impact to begin immediately.

Shepherd University Projects

DEPARTMENT OF CONTEMPORARY ART, COMMUNICATIONS, AND THEATER

Shepherd TV Initiative

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250

shepherd.edu/communcation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Shepherd TV Initiative will establish a student-run access television station focused on hands-on broadcasting, production, and leadership training. Supported by a Comcast Public, Educational, and Government channel, as well as fiber-optic infrastructure, “HerdTV” will produce educational and community content. It will also provide leadership roles for students in the areas of station management, programming, technical, and media marketing directors. The WISH grant will be used to purchase the equipment and licensing for the project, as well as fund stipends for the student leaders and advisor. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

HerdTV will expand the learning opportunities for students in the communication and new media departments. Each year the station will give 40-60 students, many of them women or members of underrepresented populations, a portfolio of work they can use when applying for jobs. This initiative aims to close that gap with industry-aligned skill development in production, management, and live broadcasting.

In addition to providing educational benefits, HerdTV will foster stronger connections by offering programming that reflects our community. Unlike commercial media models prioritizing national audiences, this station will focus on hyperlocal storytelling including: broadcasts of lectures, sports, and music performances; student-led documentaries; classic TV and films; and thematic blocks.

Shepherd University Projects

RUTH SCARBOROUGH LIBRARY

PodQuest: Expanding Horizons in Academic Study Spaces

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250

shepherd.edu/library

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Three years of monitoring library usage has highlighted a significant student preference for quiet, private study spaces. Last year, the library could not accommodate 230 requests for study rooms due to full occupancy. With no options for physical expansion or renovations, obtaining a grant to purchase four state-of-the-art study pods is essential. The WISH grant would purchase these four pods to be placed in an open area on the 3rd floor. The pods would provide a soundproof space for student to study quietly or interact during virtual classroom sessions. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

One grant member, who is a recent graduate, said that this would be the Shepherd project she would be most impacted by. The four study pods will accommodate 1,756 more bookings annually, which should meet the demand for student study space. This project not only responds to urgent need for study space, but also reflects a forward-thinking approach to evolving academic demands. With the rise of hybrid learning and digital tools, students increasingly require quiet, tech-enabled spaces on campus that support both independent and virtual academic work.

The WISH grant funding will cover the cost of the four pods minus \$13,500. The President's Club has promised to designate the remaining funds needed for purchase should this project be chosen.

Shepherd University Projects

SERC/TABLER FARM

Compost Project

REQUESTED WISH FUNDING: \$36,250 shepherd.edu/sustainable-agriculture

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Shepherd University Agricultural Innovation Center (SUAIC) at Tabler Farm is located just one mile from main campus and boasts a variety of activities including: vegetable, fruit, flower, and herb production; an aquaponics lab, a bee apiary, and outdoor classroom space. Overseen by the Shepherd Entrepreneurial Research Center (SERC), the farm seeks to establish a new composting venture that will provide learning opportunities for students while reducing approximately \$2,000 in annual operation costs at the Farm and generating revenue. The WISH grant funding would purchase the necessary equipment for efficient composting that both rotates and grinds the material. **A full proposal is available for review in the WISH Grant Portal.**

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT COMPELLING:

The purchase of this composting equipment will allow SUAIC to process tree branches, wood, pallets, and other yard waste that the farm and University generates. The resulting compost would be used at the farm and on university grounds, as well as in the farm incubator area with the University teaches farming skills to participants. It would also be available for sale to local residents, businesses, gardeners, and more. Shepherdstown Mayor James Gatz has already expressed an interest in partnering with SUAIC to promote this initiative.

The Tabler Farm team is organized and has a successful track record of implementation. Not only that, Shepherd students will be involved in the business development, marketing, internships, and management positions for this new endeavor.

Acknowledgements

2025 Grant Committee

Carol Kable, Co-Chair

Harriet Pearson, Co-Chair

Helen “Hap” Becker

Catherine Buchanan- Lowe ’89

Pamela Curtis

Susan Davis ’77

Dana DeJarnett

Erin DeLullo ’01

Allison Freswick

Karen Greenawalt

Karen Hensell

Kim Himes

Annoica Ingram

Heidi Johnston

Gillian McPhee

Lynn Pechuekonis

Susan Pellish

Mary Jane Rinard ’76

Lillian Robbins (honorary)

Carolyn Thomas

Sheila Vertino

Beverly Hughes ’71, Advisor

Meg Patterson, Advisor

2025 Member Journey Committee

Mary Elizabeth “Liz” Oates, Co-Chair

Mary “Peachy” Staley ’70, Co-Chair and Subcommittee Chair

Carolyn G. Fleenor ’78, Subcommittee Chair

Beverly Hughes ’71, Subcommittee Chair

Madeline Barney

Kathy Jo Blue ’80

Judy Hockman ’80

Linda Kelso

Teresa McCabe ’79

Susan Sheehan

Anne Stewart Small ’67

Sherri Janelle, Advisor

Meg Patterson, Advisor