



WOMEN'S PARTNERSHIP FUNDS

HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

WHO WE ARE

An affiliate of the Springfield Foundation, the Women's Partnership Funds addresses ongoing barriers that women face as they try to achieve their full potential in the Springfield community. It is our desire to build a permanent source of funds for existing Clark County programs that address some of the biggest challenges women face today. These challenges include:

Domestic Violence	Transportation
Training and Education	Health Care
Employment with Living Wage	Family Planning
Housing	Self-Sufficiency

MISSION

To transform the lives of women and girls in the Clark County area by mobilizing the collective power and passion of women working together through philanthropy.

VISION

All Clark County women and girls are self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

In lieu of trying to hold a women's issues summit around "Issues Impacting Self-Sufficiency of Women in Clark County" that was originally slated for 2020, the Grants and Research Committee has decided to redirect its focus to the area of mental health for the next few years. The Grants and Research Committee is working with potential community partners to develop the details of this effort, which will focus on women. Stay tuned for more details to come in 2021.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I am thrilled to continue the important work of the Women's Partnership Funds as this year's Board Chair, with the support of fellow dedicated Board members. This past year has been a challenging one for everyone in our community, including the women and girls of Clark County. We all have truly felt the impact of the pandemic and pushed to help others in ways, large and small. None more so than our Extraordinary Women of Clark County honorees, celebrated in this newsletter. These women, in the past and presently, have stood up for our community, touched many lives with their service and work, and made our community better. We honor them for their achievements, all done with strength, compassion, and courage.

The Women's Partnership Funds' work to transform the lives of women and girls in the Clark County area is important now more than ever, as we all peek our heads out from under the weight of the pandemic. We are excited to share our mission, vision, and grantee information with you this year through our newsletters. As we expand our reach into the community, we are working to expand our perspectives as well, prioritizing diverse voices on our Board and committees. We strive to help others in an inclusive and productive way, so ALL Clark County women and girls become self-sufficient while achieving their full potential. "Help Us To Help Others" in 2021 by donating or getting involved in the Women's Partnership Funds. Here's to our brighter future together!

Sarah McPherson

Sarah McPherson, WPF Board Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Suzie Carey	Andrea O'Connor
Leslie Crew	Sarah McPherson
Kristin Davis	Daragh Porter-Wobbe
Cheryl Dover	Jagdish Singh
Jeanne Lampe	Amy Sues

The Women's Partnership Funds annually celebrates the amazing women living in our community at the Extraordinary Women of Clark County Luncheon. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our luncheon last year but would like to celebrate the honorees in this publication. They all have made a huge impact in our community, making a difference through their dedication to service, both personally and professionally.



Marilyn Demma

(POSTHUMOUS)

Marilyn Demma, a lifelong Springfield resident, was deeply dedicated to the betterment of the lives of children and families in Clark County. Through her life's work in the social sector, Marilyn was a gracious leader and collaborator. According to a recent Springfield News-Sun article, Marilyn firmly believed 'more can be accomplished together than apart.' It was this thinking that allowed her to excel as the Executive Director of the Clark County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) which brings together representatives of the mental health, developmental disabilities, juvenile court, children's services and schools to provide wrap-around services.



Prior to her time with FCFC, Marilyn worked at the Clark County Health Department where she helped establish a grant-seeking program that raised \$3 million. Her leadership in the community left a permanent impact on the lives of everyone she touched. She was soft-spoken and encouraging while also displaying tenacity and determination.

The Springfield News-Sun article quoted several of her colleagues, including 2018 Extraordinary Woman, Diane Van Auker, who said, "Marilyn was an unwavering support to me demonstrating every day what grace looks like. She was humble and never let her ego get in the way of a productive collaboration."

Not only was Marilyn a leader through her life's work, but was a leading light as a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter and friend. Marilyn and her husband, Frank, were married for more than 50 years. Together they raised three children Mark (Danielle), Andy and Chris (Brittney) and are grandparents to Miles, Lenny and Cohen.

Marilyn lost her 3 year battle to cancer in December of 2020 before we had the opportunity to celebrate her Extraordinary Woman of Clark County award.

Rita Lane

Raised on a dairy farm in northern Ohio, Rita Lane developed her leadership and service skills beginning at age 10 through 4-H. A national 4-H award and related scholarships helped pay her way through college at Ohio State University, where she was named an Outstanding Senior for academics, leadership and service. She met her husband Pete of 45 years while working in the 4-H program at the Ohio State Fair.

Clark County became Rita's home when she began her 43-year career with Springfield City Schools in 1975. She taught home economics at South and North High Schools, plus Roosevelt and Clark Middle Schools. In 1989, she moved into an administrative role supervising home economics programs. Her career as a principal began in 1995 when she



was assistant at Roosevelt before becoming principal at Lincoln Elementary and then at Snowhill Elementary in 1998. After retirement in 2010, she worked both part and full-time as an administrative substitute, including a year's return to Snowhill as principal. Her favorite role in education has been supporting teachers so students can "strive for success."

Rita enjoys giving back to the Clark County community through active volunteering. She has been a docent and gardener at the Westcott House since 2005 and has served as chair of its Board of Directors since 2016. She is also involved in the OSUE Master Gardener Program, co-chairing the annual Snyder Park Garden & Arboretum Jubilee every August and helping to maintain the gardens.

Rita has been a charter member of the Tecumseh Education Foundation since 1993, serving as secretary and liaison to the Springfield Foundation. She is a member of Young Woman's Mission working in the Nearly New thrift store. A member of the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren since 1985, she has had several leadership roles there.

Rita and Pete often travel to visit their son in Texas and their daughter in California. After all, that is where their five grandchildren live! They also enjoy attending Ohio State Buckeye football games each fall.

A special thanks to these organizations for sponsoring this celebration:

- Wilson Sheehan Foundation
- The Westcott House
- Clark State College
- Community Health Foundation
- Breast Center at Ohio Valley
- Physicians & Surgeons for Women
- The Hagen Center
- Wittenberg University
- Speedway
- Mel Marsh
- Park National Bank
- The Springfield Foundation
- Zonta of Springfield

Shannon Meadows



Shannon Meadows is the Community Development Director for the city of Springfield. She manages daily operations of the department, including oversight of Housing and Urban Development entitlement funds and other grant dollars. The Community Development Department works daily to ensure that services and programs are available to all members of the city.

By maintaining a socially-conscious focus combined with talents of varied experts in the department, Shannon and her team carry out the community development mission to progress forward, strengthening the community and raising cultural awareness. With her team, Shannon

manages millions of dollars of federal and state and local program funding related to redevelopment and reinvestment in Springfield. She has extensive experience in coordinating housing investments and redeveloping former industrial facilities with complex site contamination and development concerns. She joined the City of Springfield as a full-time member of the city manager's office staff in 2000.

Shannon is an Executive Board Member of the United Way of Clark, Champaign, and Madison Counties. She also serves as the Impact Chairperson for the United Way Board of Directors. Shannon, along with her daughter, and a troop of girls from various Springfield City Schools is a vested member of Girl Scouts of the USA. She is the Shawnee OakWind Service Unit Chair for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, where she is honored to work with hundreds of Girl Scouts from Springfield and eastern Clark County building girls of courage, confidence, and character. Shannon also serves as a National Delegate Representative for Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, shaping policy and programming for GSUSA.

Shannon is married to Jared Meadows. Together they have two children, Sophia and Isaac. As a family, they enjoy participating in Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities, soccer and camping.

Dr. Shirley Schneider (POSTHUMOUS)



Dr. Shirley Schneider was a trailblazer, deciding to become a dentist before women were accepted in that profession. She was the first female student at the Northwestern University Dental School, and they were not sure what to do with her. She served the citizens of Springfield as a dentist for 42 years. During her dental career, she also mentored many dentists starting their careers.

As a member of Zonta International, Shirley advocated for women on a global stage. She served as International President of Zonta in 1980-1982. This is a prestigious position requiring multiple years of service at the

local, district, and international level before achieving the presidency. Each international president chooses a theme. Shirley's theme was, "Share with Others and Serve with Love." This theme embodies her approach to everything. She was always giving and giving back. After the completion of her presidential term she remained a valuable resource and advisor to Zonta International, and she continued to be active at the local and district level of Zonta. Shirley is remembered today through the Shirley Schneider scholarship at Clark State to support two non-traditional female students each year.

Shirley was an active member of Grace Baptist Church and the Cedarville University community. For over 40 years, she was the official scorekeeper for the men's and women's basketball teams at Cedarville University. Shirley was asked to be commissioner of the women's Western Buckeye Collegiate Conference in 1982 and represented Cedarville College as the NAIA District 22 Sec/Treasurer for three years. Shirley gave often and from the heart and positively impacted the lives of those around her.

Every one of us who knew Shirley benefited from her love, generosity and sense of humor.



HELP US HELP OTHERS!

To support the Women's Partnership Funds,

visit springfieldfoundation.org

and click on **DONATE NOW**.

Please identify WPF as your purpose for donating.

You can also mail checks payable to:

Springfield Foundation/WPF

333 N. Limestone, Suite 201 • Springfield, OH, 45503



With your help, we can support the women in our community,
building stronger families and a stronger future!