



WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

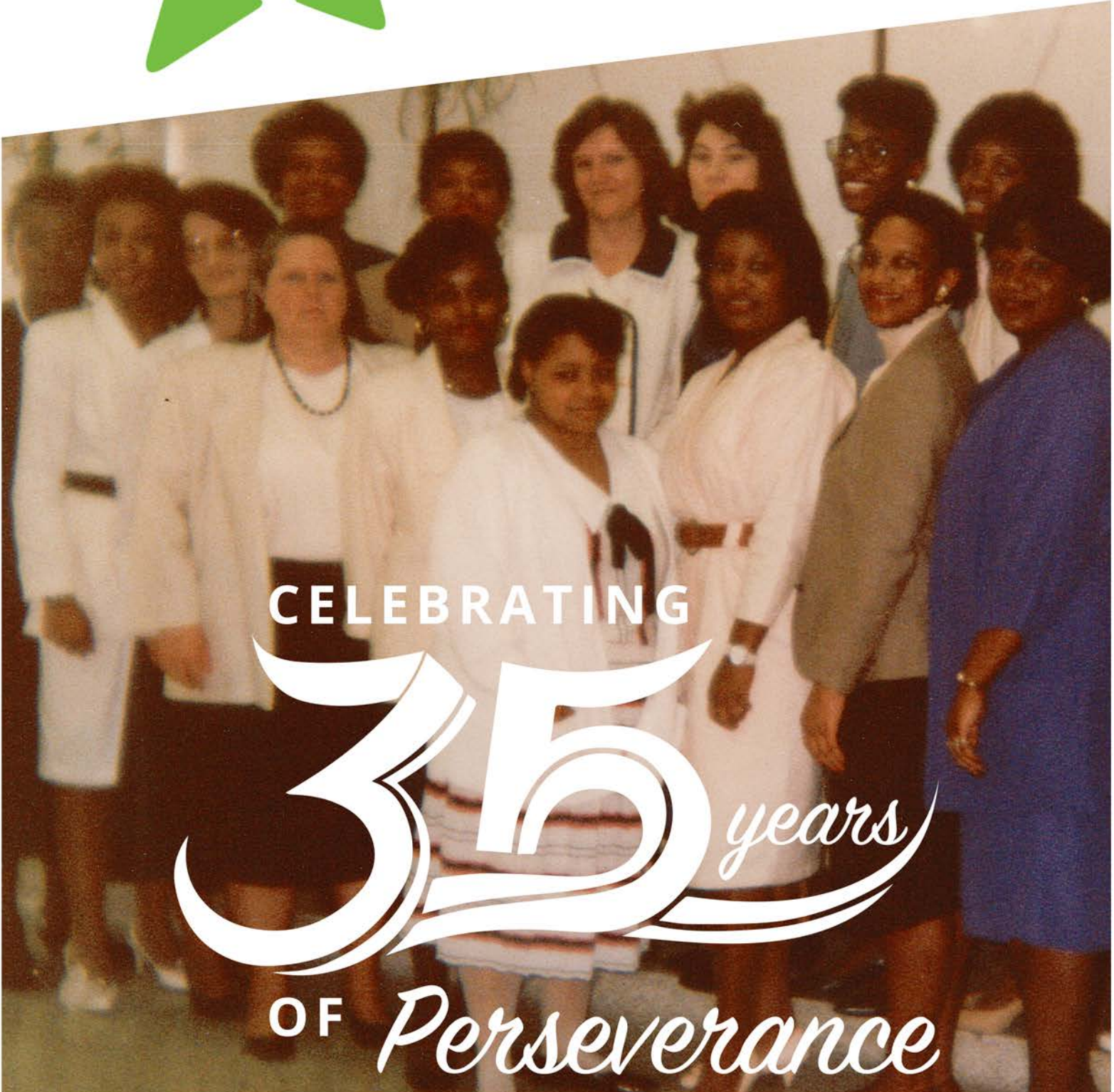
# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

CELEBRATING

35 years

OF *Perseverance*



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# PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

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Expansion and accessibility are two words that come to mind as I reflect on the last fiscal year. The pandemic continued to unfold in the summer and fall of 2020, it was obvious we needed to expand all programming to encapsulate our local and growing regional requests for training and workshops.

We launched more than just our WEN offerings and recruited our workshop volunteers to rework their in-person workshops to online courses to continue to provide much needed services during a time when so many were uncertain of their employment futures.

Efforts to embrace our virtual offerings over Zoom quickly expanded to online Job Fairs – due to overwhelming response from employers seeking qualified candidates. It's a testament to area employers' commitment to the women in our Kansas City community and the impact WEN has on the families who depend on these women. Our success was made possible in large part due to the tremendous support and compassion from our community partners and our volunteers.



As we look ahead to the upcoming year and beyond there is much excitement around the accessibility of our training, online workshops, virtual job fairs from our local, regional, national and international communities. As uncertain as we may be as to what the future holds, one thing is clear...WEN continues to make a difference in Kansas City – one woman at a time.

**sherry turner**

WEN PRESIDENT AND  
ONEKC FOR WOMEN FOUNDER

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# mission

To help women raise their self-esteem and achieve economic independence through sustained employment.

# vision

To advance positive change in the lives of women, their families and the community, one woman at a time.



# alliance

WEN is a proud partner of the OneKC for Women alliance with the Women’s Business Center, Women’s Capital Connection, and Women Lead Initiative. By working together as OneKC for Women, these partner organizations are able to better achieve a common goal: empowering women to achieve financial independence.



# our history



WEN CO-FOUNDERS BETH K. SMITH AND MARJORIE POWELL ALLEN



WEN CLASS #1

In 1986, two Kansas City philanthropists and visionaries, Beth K. Smith and Marjorie Powell Allen, had a profound idea of how to "help women help themselves" and they worked to form the Women's Employment Network. With the involvement and support of hundreds of volunteers, donors, and dedicated staff, WEN has grown from a single classroom at Pioneer College to where we are today.

WEN has continued to work toward the mission and vision of its founders and has played an important role in the professional growth of women in Kansas City for over three decades – at no cost to the women WEN serves. See 35th Anniversary Celebration for more on WEN's history (pages 7-9).

## the board

### 2020-2021 Directors:

Kim Jones, <i>Chair</i>	Nicole Miller
Stacey Paine, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Arlene Mockapetris
Janice Blansit, <i>Secretary</i>	Julie Pine
Jen Regas, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jahna Riley
Anab Abdulahi	Rachel Smith
Aviva Ajmera	Cyndi Swall
Cathy Baier	Toni Walsh
Kelly Eschweiler	Megan Whitman
Sonia Garapaty	Angela Hurt, <i>Past Chair</i>
Shanee Kimber	



Kim Jones



Stacey Paine

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# about our program

For over three decades, WEN has provided high-quality, much-needed programming in Kansas City. WEN believes that when you give women the support to build a foundation for their futures, potential, and well-being, you also strengthen the foundation for the entire community. WEN's holistic approach helps women reach their full potential – beyond unemployment, and underemployment, not only by helping them find work but also by developing



their personal strengths, assisting them in understanding and realizing attainable goals, guiding them through the debt reduction process, and building personal finance skills and wealth over time.



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## 1240

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED CLIENTS

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## 825

NEW CLIENTS

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## 189

FINANCIAL COACHING CLIENTS

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## 426

HOURS IN JOB SEARCH LAB

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# program statistics

**73%** wen clients  
below federal  
poverty level

BASED ON HOUSEHOLDS OF FOUR

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**\$16.36**

AVERAGE FULL-TIME WAGE

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**73%** wen clients  
making very low  
income

BASED ON KC METRO MEDIAN INCOME

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**70% / 30%**

MISSOURI / KANSAS CLIENTS

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**72%** wen clients  
single or  
divorced

RELATIONSHIP STATUS

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**50%** wen clients  
identifying as a  
person of color

RACE AND ETHNICITY

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**\$37.43**

AVERAGE MONTHLY NET INCOME REPORTED AT INTAKE

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# 35th Anniversary CELEBRATION

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**PERSEVERANCE:** we could not have imagined the significance our theme would take on as our community faced the challenges of 2020. Each of us has been impacted, yet we persist, still driving toward success. Even with its 35-year legacy of success, WEN faces new challenges ahead. Women lost their jobs in record numbers in 2020 and WEN plans to be with these women as they regain their confidence, find their footing and get back in the workforce.



Beth K. Smith (1921-2017) consistently worked to help women in Kansas City reach their full personal and professional potential. Smith created organizations that aim to promote equity, inspire confidence and foster economic independence for women. She was instrumental in founding the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership. After receiving her M.P.A. from the UMKC Bloch School in '76, Beth served as an adjunct professor at the school and established the Edward Smith internships to encourage students to pursue careers at nonprofits in Kansas City.

Marjorie Powell Allen (1929-1992) had the heart of a social reformer and the talent for attracting other women to her ideas for making Kansas City better. Her special interest was philanthropic groups that could bring together indigent women with the well-to-do women who could provide opportunities and services. She was the first woman to chair the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and the University of Kansas City Trustees, and she was voted Philanthropist of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy in 1988. She also provided funds for Powell Gardens.

Together, Beth and Marjorie co-founded the Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City, (now United WE), the Central Exchange, and, in 1986, the Women's Employment Network (WEN). Six years later, Marjorie died, but her work continued with Beth to lead WEN into the future. In 2017, we lost Beth. The legacy of these two women bring us to our 35th Anniversary celebration and beyond.



**1986**

WEN is modeled after a program in San Antonio, TX  
The average age of a WEN client is 26 and her average income is \$277 a month

**1987**

WEN moves into 1006 Grand location (MG&E, now Evergy, donates rent-free space on the second floor to WEN)

**1988**

Sue Pearlmutter is Executive Director of WEN  
To be eligible for WEN programs and services, a client's income must fall below the poverty line

**1989**

500th woman enrolls in WEN program  
81% of WEN graduates find employment

**1990**

Nina Jones is Executive Director of WEN

**1991**

5th Anniversary of WEN  
1,000th woman enrolls in WEN program  
Lynnette Williams joins the WEN staff

**1992**

WEN's 1st Annual Heart to Heart Luncheon  
WEN Co-founder Marjorie Powell Allen dies

**1993**

WEN holds 2nd Annual Heart to Heart Luncheon (in honor of Marjorie Powell Allen)

**1994**

WEN moves to 3515 Broadway  
Karen Daniel is WEN Board President  
Leigh Klein is Executive Director of WEN

**1995**

100th class graduates  
President Clinton and Governor Callahan visit WEN (WEN is a model social welfare reform program)

**1996**

10th Anniversary of WEN  
WEN's 5th Annual Heart to Heart Luncheon

**1997**

3,000th woman enrolls in WEN program

**1998**

WEN moves to 1734 E 63rd Street  
WEN unveils its first computer lab

**1999**

Average hourly wage for a WEN graduate is \$7.60

**2000**

Average hourly wage for a WEN graduate is \$8.65

**2001**

15th Anniversary of WEN  
WEN's 10th Annual Luncheon

**2002**

Lisa Boone is Executive Director of WEN

**2003**

Tonia Bomar joins the WEN staff

**2004**

WEN moves to 720 Oak Street

**2005**

Pam Mann is Executive Director of WEN

**2006**

20th Anniversary of WEN  
WEN's 15th Annual Luncheon  
200th class graduates

**2007**

Mary Saulque is Executive Director of WEN

**2008**

WEN moves to 920 Main Street  
WEN starts Legacy Circle

**2009**

Sherry Turner is Executive Director of WEN  
OneKC for Women Alliance is formed  
1st Annual KC Job Fair

**2010**

Erin Cole joins the WEN staff  
Beth K. Smith receives the first Founder's Award  
*(Renamed to the Beth K. Smith Award)*

**2013**

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill visits WEN  
*(Roundtable on economic opportunity and job growth)*

WEN launches new website as part of the  
OneKC for Women Alliance

WEN becomes the second of two Kansas City  
LISC Financial Opportunity Centers

**2014**

Phyllis Collins joins the WEN board  
Lynnette Williams teaches her 200th class

**2015**

Latoya Woods joins the WEN staff  
WEN wins Nonprofit Connect Philly Award  
*(Outstanding Special Event Campaign)*

**2016**

30th Anniversary of WEN  
WEN's 25th Annual Luncheon  
Marjorie Powell Allen Special Assistance Fund created  
Audrey Williams joins the WEN staff

**2017**

WEN Co-founder Beth K. Smith dies  
WEN wins Nonprofit Connect Philly Award  
*(Long Video, STRONGER)*

**2018**

Jen Regas joins the WEN Board

**2019**

300th class graduates in January  
WEN moves to 4328 Madison Street in December  
Kim Barnes joins the WEN staff

**2020**

WEN finishes last in-person class remotely in March  
WEN begins delivering remote services only  
*(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home order)*  
WEN's 29th Annual Luncheon is virtual  
*(All in-person events in Kansas City are cancelled)*  
WEN wins Nonprofit Connect Philly Award  
*(Outstanding Special Event Campaign)*

**2021**

35th Anniversary of WEN  
WEN re-imagines 30th Annual Luncheon as a kickoff to  
a year-long campaign to celebrate WEN's successes  
and supporters: WEN's 35th Anniversary Celebration  
*(Pam Breuckmann and Jen Regas are Co-Chairs)*

# KC JOB FAIRS



KC Job Fairs are held annually in May and in October, but were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. WEN quickly adopted a virtual method of conducting the KC Job Fairs and held five online job fairs in 2020-2021 to assist 45 employers seeking to hire new talent.

Employers from Healthcare, Financial Services/Banking, Education, Transportation and Logistics, Catering and Food Service, Insurance, Energy/Utilities, Technology, Non-Profit, Accounting/Tax Preparation, Government, Hospitality, Human Resources and more.

# 5

# 45

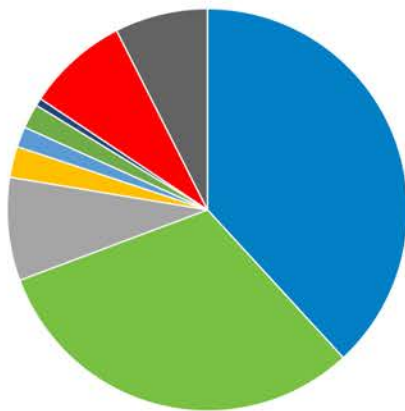
**VIRTUAL  
KC JOB FAIRS**

**EMPLOYERS  
HIRING**

# 2020-2021 FINANCIALS

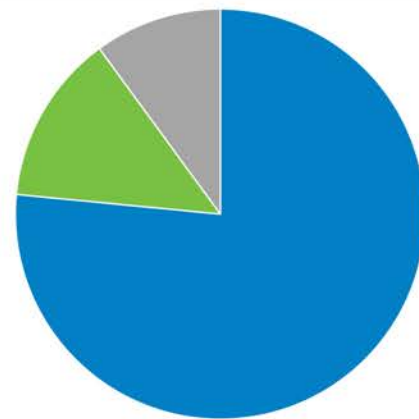
Since 2009, WEN has balanced its budget and increased cash reserves, resulting in strong financial sustainability for the organization. The Finance Committee remains diligent in monitoring our cash flow and sources of revenue in concert with our Board of Directors.

## revenue



■ Foundations/Trusts	\$580,828
■ Annual Luncheon/Special Events	\$474,319
■ Legacy Circle	\$126,279
■ Individuals	\$37,976
■ In-kind	\$25,000
■ Contract Services	\$30,024
■ United Way	\$9,328
■ Investment gain (loss), net	\$124,702
■ Forgiveness of debt - PPP	\$114,191

## expenses



■ Program	\$795,381
■ Development/Fundraising	\$139,461
■ Administration	\$104,470

**TOTAL REVENUE - \$1,522,647**

**TOTAL EXPENSES - \$1,039,312**

# LEGACY CIRCLE



The Beth K. Smith & Marjorie Powell Allen

## LEGACY CIRCLE

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

### LEGEND

Ann & Kenneth Baum Karen  
Daniel Janice Blansit &  
Terrence Kolich Elizabeth  
"Zibbie" Ferrell Angela Hurt  
Kim Jones & Shelly Freeman  
Catherine J. Kelly Nicole  
Miller Megan Noland Marta  
Padula Debbie Sinopali  
Debbie Smith Jeannine  
Strandjord

### FOUNDER

Dana Abraham  
Teri Ackerson  
Cathy Baier  
Adrienne Byand Banks  
Kate Ferrell Banks  
Rita Blitt  
Pam Breuckmann  
Tonia Bomar  
Kay Callison  
Mindy Corporon  
Kathy Dodd  
Amy Fauss  
Cheryl Flood  
Aaron Fulk  
Lisa Gioia  
Amber Goering  
J. Brett Gordon  
Debra Grunst  
Jenny Haile  
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg  
Karen M. Herman  
Celia Huneycutt  
Christine Kemper  
Nancy Kenner  
Julie Nelson Meers  
Lily Hayes Maxwell  
Melissa Meadows  
Mark Melchior  
Sheila McCarrick  
Madeleine McDonough  
Lori McGroder  
Arlene Mockapetris

### FOUNDER (CONT)

Jacquelynn Neat  
Mary O'Connor  
Megan O'Rear  
Christy Paoli  
Maureen Purcell  
& Dr. David Hustead  
Joan Redhair  
Jen Regas  
Cindy Richey  
Sue and Cliff Rippe  
Dr. Michelle Robin  
Kimberly Robinett  
Joshua Rowland  
Kelly Scanlon  
Amy Slattery  
Deborah Starke  
Susan Stanton  
Shannon Swift  
Cynthia Weber Scherb  
Diana Toman  
Kristin Tyson  
Valerie Vaughn  
Paul Weber  
Cheryl Lockton Williams  
Lynnette Williams

### VISIONARY

Anab Abdulahi  
Aviva Ajmera  
Terry Anderson  
& Michael Henry  
Carol & Tom Barnett  
Sarah Baum  
Monica Beeler  
Karen Bisset  
Dyanna Black  
Tracy Bornman  
Julie Bowen  
Katie Briscoe  
Charlene Buenger  
Carla Chavarria  
Julie Anderson Clark  
& Vince Clark

### VISIONARY (CONT)

Erin & Shannon Cole  
Phyllis Collins  
Darlene Dunn  
Jeanetta Ellis  
Alice Ellison  
Seth & Kelly Eschweiler  
Julie Farrell  
Hannah Fenley  
Katie Dunn Fitzgerald  
Terry Garberg  
Sonia Garapaty  
Courtney Goddard  
Amy Grothaus  
Jen Gulvik  
Donald J. Hall  
Deborah Hays  
Chris Jackson  
Gail James  
Jeanette Jayne  
Shelby Jones  
Victoria Kandt  
Jasmine Kaplan  
Melissa Kendrick  
Katie & Andrew Killen  
Shannon King  
& Kate Nielsen  
Courtney Kounkel  
Melanie Mann  
Ellen Martin  
Marian McClellan  
Megan McCurdy  
& Meredith Moser  
Kate Migneron  
Denise Mills  
Tamra Moran  
Barbara Koval Nelson  
Gayle Packer  
Stacey Paine  
Lenora Payne  
Julie Pine  
Cheryl & Ryan Poage  
Wendy Powell  
Nicolle & Harley Ratliff  
Leslie Reardon

### VISIONARY (CONT)

Kimberly Robinett  
Martha Salinas  
Angie Salmon  
Barbara & Larry Schulte  
Audrie Seeley  
Laura Snow  
Margo Shepard  
Renee Sheppard  
S. Sloane Simmons  
& Harl A. Van Deursen  
Rachel Smith  
& Chris Vickers  
Charlie & Jeanne Sosland  
Hillary Stamper  
Jessica Best Stewart  
Kelly Summers  
Cyndi Swall  
Lisa Terry  
Polly Thomas  
Deborah Throckmorton  
Angela Tower  
Sherry Turner  
Nan Vail & Keith Bottorff  
Nicole Van Denabeele  
Shanelle Varone  
Kristy Vetter  
Toni Walsh  
Martha Warren  
Tanya Rodecker Wendt  
Megan Whitman  
Nancy Whitworth  
Ashley Williamson  
Marie Woodbury





WEN'S OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WESTPORT IN KANSAS CITY

[kcwen.org](http://kcwen.org)

4328 MADISON AVE | KANSAS CITY, MO 64111  
(816) 822-8083



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@ONEKCFORWOMEN | [YOUTUBE.COM/WOMENSEMPLOYMENTNETWORK](https://www.youtube.com/womensemploymentnetwork)