



**WFE**  
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

**THE POWER OF ONE**

2021 Annual Report

**AS WE SET OUR EYES ON A BRIGHTER 2022, WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT & ALLYSHIP.**

## **IMPACT**

Our legislation to improve access to period product donations passed unanimously.

Family Promise was awarded \$10,000 to support their Stabilizing Single Mothers project.

## **ACTION**

Kotex pledged to donate 8 million tampons across Tennessee and Maine.

The first Women's Fund Advocacy Institute began.

## **FINANCIALS**

40 Major Donors  
13 Monthly Donor Circle Members  
41 Nightingale Network Members

**WE CAN AND WILL MAKE LIFE BETTER  
FOR EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL IN  
TENNESSEE.**

The past 12 months have created a unique opportunity for reflection, understanding and reconfiguration. Many of you have joined us in reflecting on our priorities and impact. Your thought partnership, and constructive criticism facilitated our dynamic rebranding reflected even throughout this report. We collectively gained a deeper understanding of the unique challenges women face in light of increased child and family care needs.

As a collective, we have been invited to reconfigure our schedules, priorities and entire lives to center the safety and well-being of our families and communities. We are proud to share how we have weathered the unknown here at the Women's Fund in this Annual Report.

### **WE ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF ISSUES WITH NO CHAMPIONS.**



Over the past year, during the height of the pandemic, we identified a barrier for period product donations and distribution for many of our direct service partners. With a little research and a lot of organizing, we wrote and unanimously passed a piece of legislation extending liability protections for menstrual hygiene product manufacturers and distributors. This alleviated the barrier and facilitated a more efficient pathway for getting these necessities in the hands of those with the greatest need.

### **WE'RE ADVOCATES, NOT POLITICIANS.**



We flex our power through philanthropy and collective action. We encourage individuals to advocate for themselves and each other. This is not a political statement. We know that now, more than ever, issues such as partner violence and the wage gap have compounding impact as the effects of the lingering pandemic continue. We leverage the resources of our Nightingale Network to directly support local organizations disrupting cycles of poverty, trauma and harm for women and girls.

### **WE CHANGE LAWS.**



We empower and equip our growing network to appeal to their representatives at the state legislature to stop the passage of harmful laws and support the progression of bills that move the needle on the status of women and girls across our state. This legislative season we achieved a record number of wins, with 10 of our priority pieces of legislation passing. From Lifetime Orders of Protection in partnership with TN Voices for Victims, to expanding Domestic Violence Awareness Education for Tennessee Licensed Cosmetologists & Barbers in partnership with the YWCA, we are changing laws and making huge strides towards being the TN we can all be proud to call home!

*“The Women’s Fund convened a group of passionate women who were politically diverse, but each of them was committed to continually learning and ... doing whatever it took to make gender equity a reality in our community and our state, regardless of political party.”*

**RACHAEL SAUCEMAN**

*Board Member, 2021 Advocacy Committee Chair*

**By writing and supporting legislation that directly impacts women and girls in our region, we create real change for real people.**

2015

Statewide campaign against trafficking including 5 anti-trafficking bills

Required domestic violence awareness instruction for middle & high school students

Protected victims of domestic abuse from eviction

Eliminated child marriage in Tennessee and created penalties for forced marriages

Post-conviction relief for survivors of human trafficking

Tennessee Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

Increased access to menstrual hygiene products

Domestic violence awareness education for licensed cosmetologists & barbers

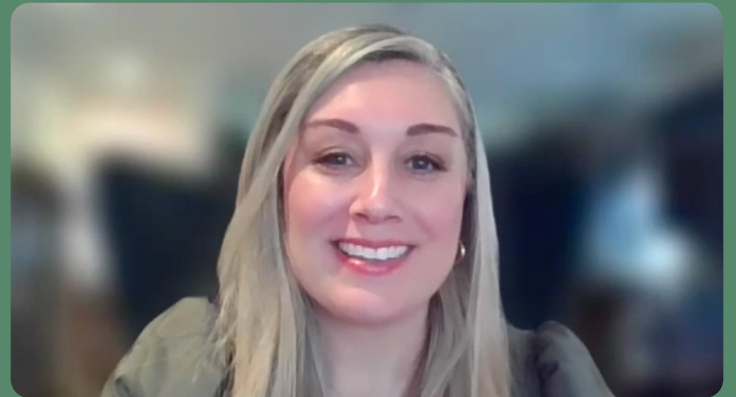
Recognition of doulas as vital health workers

2021

A record TEN bills from our priority list passed in the first year of Tennessee’s 112th General Assembly!

“Last session, the Women’s Fund wrote a bill to protect donors and distributors of menstrual hygiene products from frivolous liability lawsuits — the reason that many manufacturers gave for not making donations to help fight period poverty. This bill (sponsored by Senator Bo Watson and Representative Rebecca Alexander) passed unanimously through the Tennessee General Assembly and became law on July 1st of this year.

The Women’s Fund immediately got to work informing our partners and period product manufacturers. Just two weeks ago, Kotex made a pledge to the National Alliance for Period Supplies, of which we are a member, to donate 8 million tampons (YES - 8 million!) across the states of Tennessee and Maine - the only two states with laws of this kind. We know that 1 in 5 women and girls report missing school or work because they don’t have access to or cannot afford period products. This donation will change lives across Tennessee.”



**NICOLE WATSON**

Senior Policy Advisor, Waller Law Firm  
VOICES Committee Member

**To review the legislative outcomes list with bill descriptions, visit our digital report.**



# VOICES 2021

More than 250 people attended this year's virtual event, themed "The Power of One." Sponsors included BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, EPB Fiber Optics, First Horizon and Truist.

Eleven area organizations applied for the Nightingale Network grant, which was narrowed to three finalists: Beloved Woman, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and Family Promise of Chattanooga. The Women's Fund's Nightingale Network, a collective philanthropy membership group that uses dues to fund annual grants, voted to select the grant recipient. In addition to the \$10,000 grant awarded to Family Promise of Chattanooga, Beloved Woman and the Chattanooga Area Food Bank each received \$2,750 grants thanks to a private donor.

We are proud to continue to partner with phenomenal organizations across our community such as Family Promise. Their Stabilizing Single Mothers initiative is comprehensive and robust; not only are they meeting the immediate needs of women and their families, but they are providing wrap-around services and support to remove systemic and environmental barriers. When we consider the potential impact of addressing the root causes of these disparities, Family Promise is a shining example of a true change agent.



Watch this year's VOICES and videos from our Nightingale Network finalists at our digital report.

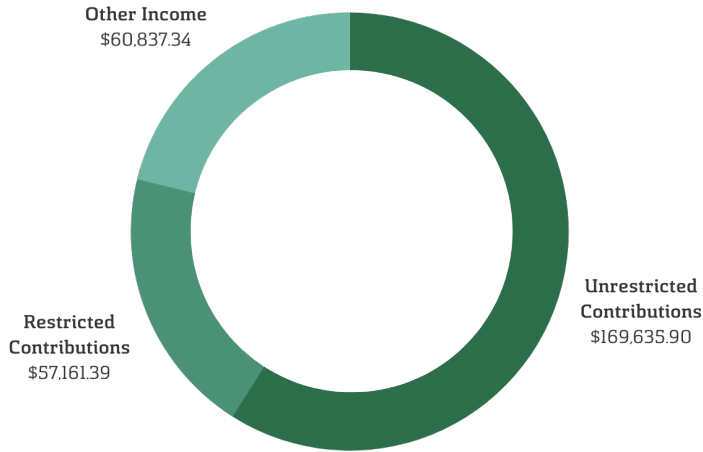
## ADVOCACY INSTITUTE



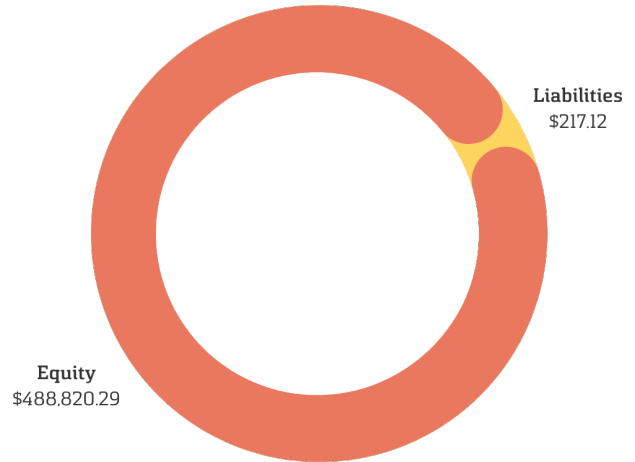
Through a series of both public and private, intentionally curated, interactive learning modules, participants will explore and demystify local and statewide advocacy efforts and opportunities. The Institute launched with the I Am an Advocate series, five sessions to educate area residents in advocacy action and engagement. The Women's Fund is thrilled to bring this comprehensive programmatic offering to the broader public as well as special request cohorts! A special thanks to Unum and the Osborne Foundation for their support!

# FINANCIALS

Thanks to a generous gift from a founding board member, the Women's Fund formally created an endowment fund in 2021 and began investing the gift for future sustainability. This has been a long term goal of ours, to diversify the ways that donors can invest in our work, such as through the gift of stocks, and at the same time help us create a solid financial footing to ensure the work can continue as long as it is needed.



**Total Income**    \$287,634.63  
**Total Expenses**    \$297,487.12  
 (November 2020 - October 2021)



**Total Assets**    \$489,037.41  
 (As of October 2021)

The generosity of our donors ensures our advocacy efforts move forward year round. Thank you for donating to the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga!

## Champions

Anonymous  
 Karen Elliott  
 Vicky Gregg  
 Sarah Lorberbaum  
 BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee  
 UNUM Social Justice Fund  
 Weldon F. Osborne Foundation

## Sustainers

Anonymous  
 Chuck and Sandy Chitty  
 Deb Hulse  
 Lorie Runge  
 Bobby Stone Foundation  
 EPB  
 First Horizon Bank  
 Truist Bank

## Changemakers

Ann and Bill Aiken

Kelly Allen  
 Cory Allison  
 Danna Bailey  
 Charlie Brock  
 Nina & Pat Brock  
 Robert Corker, Jr.  
 Ann Coulter  
 Joseph Davenport  
 Marcia Eason  
 DeDe Engsborg  
 Kelly Fitzgerald  
 Marj Flemming  
 Leah Gerbitz  
 Jennifer Harper  
 Mary Kilbride  
 Norma & Olan Mills  
 Kristina Montague  
 Carla Morgan  
 Marcy Porter  
 Rachael Sauceman  
 Beth Simon  
 Marian Steffner

Rebecca Stimson and Tom Jenkins  
 Julie and Patrick Stowe  
 Julie Taylor  
 Emily and Teo Valdes  
 Edna Varner  
 Sue Anne Wells  
 Harriett Whitaker  
 Dakasha Winton  
 Jo Ann Yates  
 Bridge Financial Planning, LLC  
 Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga  
 Girls Preparatory School  
 Hamico, Inc.  
 Husch Blackwell LLP  
 K: A Boutique by Katherine Roberts  
 Miller and Martin's  
 Women's Network  
 Q Strategies

Southeastern Salvage  
 UTC Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

## Collaborators

Gail Barille  
 Monique Berke  
 Cathy Boettner  
 Susu & Paul Brock  
 Andrea Crouch  
 Jenny Hill  
 Nancy Jolley  
 Daisy and Matt Ballard  
 Virginia Anne Sharber  
 Alice Smith  
 Mary Wagnon

## Advocates

Cara Alday  
 Sharon Alexander  
 Debby Alper  
 Amy Andrews  
 Dana Banks

Rowena Belcher  
Mattie Bono  
Dominique Brandt  
Anne Bright  
Beverly Brockman  
Rig Burger  
Kitty Caldwell  
Connie Cavett  
Paul Chapman  
Jacqueline Clay  
Stefanie Crowe  
Kevin Cuning  
Shelly Elliott  
Aricia Gallaher  
Sandy Graham  
Liz Grant  
Autumn Graves  
Dawn Hjelseth  
Michelle Hunter  
Maeghan Jones  
Shawanna Kendrick  
Ann Keown  
Rebecca Klein  
Katie Larue  
Alison & Alan Lebovitz  
Monica Maples Kinsey  
Diana McElveen  
Michelle Michaud  
Sophie Moore  
Sarah Morgan  
McCall Morgan DeVaney  
Linda Murray Bullard  
Kathleen Nolte  
Lori Ochel  
Cory Phillips  
Ellen Phillips  
Helen Pregulman  
Rachael Sauceman  
Meghan Scanlon Roach  
Virginia Anne Sharber  
Kim Shumpert  
BettyLynn Smith  
Miriam Thompson  
Liz Thompson  
Ann Weeks  
Kim White  
Lea Anne Wiles  
Lillie Wills  
Autumn Witt Boyd

Chattanooga Building Co.  
H. Diane Dixon, Attorney  
at Law  
Emily O'Donnell Law  
Inspire Chiropractic  
Wiser Consultants LLC

### Friends

Terran Anderson  
Maxine Bailey  
Helen Barrett  
Jaclyn Bishop  
Julie Brandao  
Blair Brown  
Susan Day  
Heather DeGaetano  
Shannon Edmondson  
Cynthia Fagan  
Heather Fallecker  
Emily Ferretti  
Pamela Fleenor  
Laura Fonseca  
Alexandra Foote  
Edwina Freeman  
Jennifer Fritts  
Jennifer Fuller  
Erin Goddard  
Jill Guess  
Toni Jo Hanretta  
Katie Hendrix  
Lacey Lapham  
Dardenelle Long  
Sharon Love  
Jocelyn Loza  
Tonya Lytle  
Stacy Martin  
Lisa Moore  
Jenni Moscardelli  
Sarah Nels  
Benjamin Nelson  
Kelli Nowers  
Elaine Patterson  
Fawn Pattison  
Kristen Pavlik McCallie  
Lori Quillen  
Jeanne Rybolt  
Holly Schwartz  
Lynn Seeger  
Kim Shumpert  
LaDonna Smith



Katie Spurlock  
Emily Straussberger  
Phil Trammell  
Therese Tuley  
Carolyn Worsley  
Pinky Young  
The Athens Chattanooga  
Group, LLC  
Kendra Scott LLC

### Nightingale Network

Kelly Allen  
Cory Allison  
Melissa Blevins  
Dominique Brandt  
Rachel Broughton  
Blair Brown  
Sherry Campbell  
Ann Coulter  
Alysse Echard  
Karen Elliott  
Evelyn Estes  
Hope Flammer  
Alexandra Foote  
Meghan Greene  
Jennifer Harper

Deborah Hulse  
Michelle Hunter  
Mary Kilbride  
Trish King  
Colleen Kirk  
Maria Krysa  
Francesca Leasi  
Amanda Leming  
Samantha Lunn  
Ana Mancebo  
Stacy Martin  
Katie McCallie  
Jennifer McIntyre  
Michelle Michaud  
Sophie Moore  
Sheena Murray  
Kathleen Nolte  
Rebecca Palmer  
Marcy Porter  
Sarah Russell  
Jeanne Rybolt  
Beth Simon  
Katherine Spurlock  
Sarah Trumler  
Lea Anne Wiles  
Pinky Young

***"When I first discovered the Women's Fund, I realized that it supported so much of what I valued and hoped for, [and] I was able to see there was a concrete need for, not just all the generous time others give to the efforts, but funding their efforts."***

**DEB HULSE**  
**Monthly Donor Circle Member**

# THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR

## STAFF

Erika R. Burnett, Executive Director  
Jeannine Carpenter, Director of Research & Policy  
Katie McCallie, Programs & Operations Manager

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kelly Allen, Board Chair  
Jennifer Harper, Immediate Past Chair  
Leah Gerbitz, Vice-Chair  
Helen Jackson, Treasurer  
Dakasha Winton, Secretary

Cory Allison	Sophie Moore
Danna Bailey	Carla Morgan
Daisy Maurya Ballard	Marcy Porter
Dominique Brandt	Lucrecia Ramsey
Linda Murray Bullard	Rachael Sauceman
Ann Coulter	Honorable Christie Sell
Vicky Gregg	Beth Simon
Jocelyn Loza	Edna Varner
Angel Moore	



The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga improves the lives of women and girls in our region by driving social change, providing opportunity and promoting economic self-sufficiency through education and advocacy, empowered philanthropy, collective partnerships and strategic grantmaking.

View our digital report and learn more at [www.chattanoogawomensfund.org](http://www.chattanoogawomensfund.org).