36th Annual
Virtual Scholarship
Dream Ball & Silent Auction

honoring
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 2022
Good Evening!

Honored Guests, Sponsors, Students, Donors & Friends!

Welcome to the Women In Focus 36th Annual Dream Ball Celebration, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! We are celebrating thirty-six years of WIF scholarships awarded to 373 students since 1986!

As we struggle through the Covid pandemic, we continue to witness the trauma and the inequities that impact our most vulnerable youth. Living through the pandemic also brings the message that we are all connected and what happens to the vulnerable everywhere affects us all.

We are not able to be together again this year for the safety of all in our community, but we remain resilient and persistent in our commitment to advance the educational success of our youth. Your support last year made a significant impact during a critical time.

Fred Rogers said: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers-so many caring people in this world.” This is what we witnessed right here in our community.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: “The time is always right to do what is right.” WIF believes that facilitating education of our young people through scholarships inspires hope! Those of you who assist us through your donations are beacons of hope! Thank you for partnering with us and supporting our scholarship program and Women In Focus!

Please enjoy our entertaining Virtual Ball program and bid on our auction items. We also encourage you to inspire hope by donating tonight on our event page. Your donation in any amount will fund WIF scholarships this spring!

We’ll end the wonderful evening by dancing the Cupid’s Shuffle and we hope you’ll be dancing along with us in your living room!

Stay safe!

Sincerely yours,

Verona Morgan, WIF President, 2020-2022

Gloria Reyes, WIF Ball Chair, 2022
Women in Focus, Inc. invites you to join us for this inspirational evening benefiting WIF Scholarships.

The 36th Annual Scholarship Program

Dream Ball 2022
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 2022

Happy Hour
6:30-7:00pm
Music provided by DJ Drew Masters

Silent Auction
6:30-8:30pm
Shop and help fund WIF Scholarships for 2022!
Bidding Starts January 8, 2022
Closes 8:30pm January 15, 2022!

REGISTER AT
http://wif.cbo.io

Program
7:00-8pm

• MC Portia Adney, Actor, Teacher, WIF member
• MC Deana Wright, D&I Manager, Voice-over Artist, WIF member
• Dr. Carlton Jenkins, Madison School Superintendent
• Attorney Naman Siad, WIF Scholar 2011
• Terrence Carey, comedian at Second City, WIF Scholar 2011
• Danielle Crim, vocalist, WIF Scholar 2020
• 2022 “Inspiring the Dream” Award Announcement of Winner: UW Health & UnityPoint Health - Meriter Hospital
• Special WIF Longevity in Service Award Announcement of Winner: Edith Hilliard
Scholarship Silent Auction

Join us for the second WIF Scholarship Silent Auction! This year’s auction is virtual, safe, easy to attend and fun for all! The Silent Auction has wonderful, unique donated items. Please visit the auction site often and bid high!

All auction proceeds will benefit the 2022 WIF Scholarship Fund.

BID HIGH! BID OFTEN!
- gift certificates
- gift baskets
- massage
- jewelry
- original artwork and more!

Thank you to the generous donors of wonderful auction items as of January 3, 2022:
- Verona Morgan
- Sally Hestad
- Beth Mastin
- Patti Shabaz
- Kelly Bakken
- Elizabeth Benn
- Donald Smith
- Java Cat
- Dede Morgan
- Carolyn Morgan
- Barb Kyle
- Sue and Chris Lang
- Suzanne Pride
- David Kramer
- Janus Galleries
- Jackie Santana
- Marsann McCants
- Nancy Bauch
- Anna Smith

Women In Focus extends heartfelt thanks to those who have donated money and auction items! We are so gratified that all of you are stepping up to assist us this year, a year when we do need your help more than ever! Because of your generosity, we are on track to continue funding our college scholarship program for students of color despite the Pandemic!

Thank you!
Mistresses of Ceremonies

**Portia Adney** graduated from Hunter College and furthered her education with classes at the School of Visual Arts and Harvard University. She is a teacher, an actor and producer in theater, commercials, films, voice-over and videos, a singer, a dancer, a model, a yoga instructor and a marathon runner. Portia coaches and mentors young athletes through her company called Roots to Rise. Portia is also a member of Women In Focus!

**Deana Wright** is a Radio/TV personality who has graced the airways on stations in Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, New York City and Madison in her decades-long broadcasting career. She is now the Diversity and Inclusion Manager at NewBridge in Madison. Deana recently narrated the new documentary “Leaders of Madison’s Black Renaissance.” Deana is also a member of Women In Focus!

Guest Speakers

**Naman Siad** received her Women In Focus Scholarship in 2011. She is a proud Madison resident and a double graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she pursued her bachelors in Community and Environmental Sociology, graduating in 2015, and further pursued her J.D., graduating in 2019. Naman has worked in the community at the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and has worked in the Chicagoland area for the Chicago News Guild Labor Union and for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Naman is passionate about social justice and human rights and finished her Masters in Law (LLM) at SOAS University in London in 2020, where she studied Human Rights, Conflict, and Justice.

**Dr. Carlton Jenkins** is superintendent of the Madison School District, and he is Madison’s first Black superintendent. Dr. Jenkins earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from UW Madison in 2009 and a master's degree in educational administration from UW in 1993. Dr. Jenkins started his career as a health teacher, and then became associate principal at Madison Memorial High School in 1993-1994. After that he worked in administrative school roles in Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota. Dr. Jenkins was working as superintendent of the Robbinsdale Area Schools in suburban Minneapolis when he got the call to return to Madison. The Madison School Board chose Dr. Jenkins because of his ability to bring diverse groups together and his ability to respond to complex and challenging issues.
Performers

DJ Drew Masters
has 25 years DJ/Emcee experience, working clubs, youth and business events and fundraisers. He also has 4 years experience as a radio personality/mix show host. DJ Drew always says “What time is it? It’s party time!”

Terrence Carey (WIF Scholar 2011)
is an actor, writer and comedian based in Chicago IL. He has performed and written sketch comedy acts for world famous theaters such as The Second City, Chicago, Improv Olympics, the Laugh Factory, and many more. You might have seen him on TV in NBC’s Chicago Med, Showtimes the Chi, BET’s Holiday Heist, HBO Max’ Southside, or that one Bud Light commercial where he pours ice into a cooler and smiles like he’s got a silly secret. Terrence is honored to be part of this year’s Women In Focus Dream Ball.

Danielle Crim (WIF Scholar 2020)
is a sophomore in the Contemporary, Urban, and Popular Music program at Columbia College in Chicago. Danielle plays piano, voice, violin, ukulele and guitar. As of August 2021, Crim has released three self-produced albums: Floating (2021), Exploration of Life (2020), and Illuminate (2018), along with five singles. Danielle’s work has recently been recognized by Madison365.com as well as The Madison Overture Center’s blog, Only Intermission. During her free time, Danielle enjoys performing, writing, producing, and volunteering.

Special Thanks to our 2022 Talented Performers!

Special Recognition for Donations

Two ways to make an impact! Donors can fund a fully paid scholarship. If desired, the scholarship can be awarded to a student entering a certain field of study or in the memory of a loved one. Or donors can contribute directly in any amount to the Women In Focus Scholarship Endowment Fund at the Madison Community Foundation. These contributions will help fund WIF scholarships in perpetuity.

For more info: www.womeninfocusmadison.org
A very bright spot in the pandemic is the creation of the Women In Focus “Inspiring the Dream” Awards!

On our 36th Anniversary, WIF publicly recognizes the contributions of individuals and organizations who have significantly assisted in our mission to fund college scholarships for students of color from Dane County. Our awardees have been instrumental to the success of the WIF Scholarship Program and they deserve to be honored! We thank each awardee with a lovely engraved plaque.

WIF thanks awardee UW Health & UnityPoint Health – Meriter Hospital for generously sponsoring WIF scholarships for over 14 years

UW Health is committed to serving through medical innovation and unparalleled compassion. They provide expertise and quality care to the more than 700,000 patients they serve each year throughout Wisconsin, Northern Illinois and beyond. The integrated health system is staffed with 1,849 physicians and 21,000 employees at seven hospitals and more than 80 clinic locations. UW Health partners with the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to fulfill its patient care, research education and community services missions. UW Health has been ranked the #1 hospital in Wisconsin for 10 consecutive years by the U.S. News & World Report.

UnityPoint Health–Meriter provides convenient, personal care to patients in hospital, clinic and home health settings. As a partner of UW Health, the UnityPoint Health–Meriter team uses shared values to show our people and communities how much they matter. Offering primary and specialty care, including the busiest birthing center in Wisconsin, Meriter is regularly recognized for outstanding quality and patient experience. Their staff of 3,500 employees care for patients at their 448-bed community hospital, providing a complete range of medical and surgical services, as well as seven clinics. UnityPoint Health - Meriter provides high quality of care to residents in Madison, Dane County and the surrounding communities. UnityPoint Health–Meriter established the Gloria Jones-Bey Nursing Assistant Program, named after the longtime Meriter nurse leader and Women in Focus founding member. The program offers scholarships to Meriter employees of color to prepare them for the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Competency Exam to further their nursing careers.

Together UW Health and UnityPoint Health–Meriter are committed to addressing health and racial disparities in our community. Their shared priorities focus on issues identified through their community health needs assessments and dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion. They partner with organizations like Women in Focus to create healthier communities to live, learn, play and work.
WIF Longevity of Service Award

Women In Focus awards the WIF Longevity of Service Award to Emeritus Member Edith Hilliard

Edith’s journey in Women In Focus began the second year of WIF’s existence when she was recruited as a young black woman and mentored by the WIF founding members. Edith’s energies and talents knew no bounds. She loved the WIF mission to further the education beyond high school of students of color in Dane County, through the awarding of college scholarships. In the years of her membership, WIF has raised and awarded over $500,000 in scholarships to 373 scholars. Edith’s work and her positive connections in Madison were instrumental to this success. Within the WIF organization, she served in many capacities. There was at least one committee meeting per week and sometimes more to put on the Women In Focus Literacy program at the YWCA, and to create 36 “I Have a Dream” Balls, to serve multiple times as Vice President, President and other officers of the group and to volunteer for all WIF events! This required much time and effort, but Edith was and is dedicated to the WIF mission and to raising money for scholarships for Dane County students of color. She is passionate about giving students of color support and recognition as they start their post high school educational paths. Education is key!

“Edith truly is the essence of Women In Focus. She is otherwise known as the Purple Lady, very often wearing purple outfits which match the WIF color and logos! Thank you, Edith for all your contributions to our mission over the past 38 years!”

– Sally Hestad, WIF Secretary –
“Edith has been the one constant of WIF. Other members have come and gone for career advancement or family reasons. Some return but Edith has always been here. Unofficially, we have given her the title of “Ms. Women In Focus.”

– Verona Morgan, WIF President –

Edith Hilliard, we honor you and your amazing dedication to Women In Focus!
Since 1983, Women In Focus, Inc. has been an active force in the Madison community working on behalf of children and students of color. Each November the scholarship application is posted on our website at www.womeninfocusmadison.org. After applicants complete and submit their applications, the WIF scholarship Committee selects the recipients, taking into consideration academic achievements, school activities, financial need and community service. Women In Focus, Inc. is pleased to have been able to further the dreams of Dane County students for 36 years. In 2021, Women In Focus, Inc. was able to award 18 high school students scholarships from the proceeds of the 2021 Dream Ball and donations. The amount awarded in 2021 was an awesome $52,500, thanks to the generosity of our WIF family of sponsors and donors!

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Kersy-Angela Abongwa
Rayanna Alexander
Aliyah Brown
Chasity Collins
Copper Daniel
Ebba Harrison
Areeya Her
Nongnah Her
Calise Howard
Julian James
Olivia Krause
Meghna Krishna
Quynh-Anh Le
Tzialh McNair
Isaiah Mielke
Jillian Patton
Itzayana Saucedo Vivar
Jayda Woods

Of these, the following received special 2021 scholarships:

Isaiah Mielke – WIF Inspiring Founders Scholarship (four year award)
Ebba Harrison – Al & Jan Studesville Memorial Scholarship
Aliyah Brown – Dr. Virginia Henderson Memorial Scholarship
Julian James – Rose Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship
Chasity Collins – Gloria Jones-Bey Memorial Scholarship
Olivia Krause – scholarship donated by Dr. William Listwan for a student entering the health field.
Jillian Patton – scholarship donated by PIC Wisconsin Community Trust for a student entering the health field.
Jayda Woods – scholarship donated by Deb and Robert Kurth in loving memory of Deb’s daughter Jasmine Cox

WIF selected the recipient of one independently funded scholarship:
Angela Abongwa – the Julius Morgan Memorial Scholarship
Recipient Biographies

These Women In Focus 2021 scholarships were awarded based on the students’ academic achievement and service to the community while in high school. Each of the awardees is now enrolled in college and continuing the path to success through education. WIF and the community are very proud of what these students have achieved.

RAYANNA ALEXANDER graduated from La Follette HS and now attends UW Milwaukee. She was awarded a WIF Scholarship. Rayanna has a very strong academic record. She participated in AVID/Tops and the La Follette HS Black Student Union. She was a player and team manager for both the girls’ volleyball and basketball teams in freshman and sophomore years. She was on the Honor Roll for three years and also worked part time. Rayanna plans to study social work in college and then become a therapist. As a therapist, she hopes to help many people and she is especially interested in helping young people who are coping with mental illnesses such as depression.

COPPER DANIEL graduated from James Madison Memorial HS. She received a WIF Scholarship. Copper has a passion for learning and a resilience which contributed to her academic success. Her academic record is strong. She participated in AVID and was Vice President of the JMM Black Student Union. Copper was awarded the Martin Luther King Outstanding Young Person Award for three years and was recognized by the Madison Links. She participated in the United Way’s BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH initiative, overseeing and judging youth grants in Madison that were written by teens. Copper has worked part time since June, 2018. She now attends Tennessee State University and plans to study criminal justice in order to help formerly incarcerated people stay out of the prison system.

AREEYA HER graduated from East High School with an outstanding GPA. She was awarded a WIF Scholarship. During high school, she was President of the United Asian Club and Fashion Director of the Fashion Show for Soulful Productions Academy. She formed a dance team called the Indigenous Roots Hmong Dance Team which performed at fundraisers and events. She pursued many interests including graphic design, photography, United Asian Club Consortium, Tennis Team, Volleyball Team, Homework Club, Gaming Club, Kpop Club and Student Leadership Council. Areeya accomplished all this while holding down a part time job since 2016. Areeya is currently attending UW Madison. She would like to explore graphic design, photography, business and Asian Cultural Studies in college.

NONGNAH HER graduated from East High School. She received a WIF Scholarship. Her academic record was outstanding with many Advanced Placement classes. Nongnah participated in Avid/Tops, Tomorrow’s Educators for Equity in Madison (TEEM), United Asian Club, Student Leadership Council, Student Success Team and Student Congress. She played junior varsity girls’ soccer for four years. She also worked and volunteered. Nongnah is bilingual in English and Hmong, and she is a member of the National Honor Society. She has always been interested in science and health and now attends University of Minnesota Twin Cities for her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and thereafter plans to attend pharmacy school.

continued...
**CALISE HOWARD** graduated from La Follette HS with a very strong academic record. She received a WIF Scholarship. Calise was a Mann Scholar and participated in the AVID program. She received the MLK Award. She volunteered at the Goodman Center, the Discovery Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Kid’s Expo and Ronald MacDonald House. Calise is interested in creative writing and film studies. She believes that words are our greatest tool and can be used for positive influence. Calise now attends UW Whitewater where she is the first in her family to attend college.

**OLIVIA KRAUSE** graduated from Sun Prairie HS and now attends UW Eau Claire. Olivia was awarded a WIF Scholarship for a student entering the health field, donated by Dr. William Listwan, MD. Olivia's academic record is excellent, and she successfully completed an ambitious academic program that included multiple Advanced Placement courses. Olivia participated in AVID, Student Council, Yearbook Club, DECA, dance, and was captain of her soccer team. She volunteered for the local food pantry and worked to clean and set up a local preschool. Olivia has never given up on her dream to go to college and to serve others by becoming a nurse.

**MEGHNA KRISHNA** graduated from Verona HS. She is receiving a WIF Scholarship. Meghna is an exemplary scholar with success in high level science and Advanced Placement courses. She led the Engineering Club at Verona High School and its program “Lend a Hand” in which students make prosthetic hand parts through 3-D printing. She created an environment where the six female members in the club felt validated and were able to fully participate. In an extracurricular club called CEOs of Tomorrow, Meghna and her team created a community soccer event celebrating diversity in 2018, and in 2019 Meghna was part of a group which traveled to Gabarone, Botswana where Meghna taught orphaned and impoverished teens how to launch their own businesses for social good. Meghna is determined to increase the number of women in the STEM careers and currently attends UW Madison in Computer Science.

**QUYNH-ANH LE** graduated from East High School and was awarded a WIF Scholarship. Quynh-Anh’s academic record is brilliant while taking multiple Advanced Placement classes. She participated in the AVID/TOPS program. Quynh-Anh took on leadership roles in Student Congress, as a peer tutor and was a founding member of the East HS Student Success Team, an extracurricular club which connects students with career and college ready opportunities. She is in the National Honor Society and the World Language Society. She worked a part time job for the past two years. She is a first-generation college student and plans to enter the field of mechanical engineering with an eventual goal to build space craft that will gather data for scientists around the world. Quynh-Anh currently attends UW Madison.

**TZIAH MCNAIR** graduated from La Follette HS with an excellent academic record. She is receiving a WIF Scholarship. Tziah was the President of the Black Student Union at La Follette. She participated in a three-week summer program in Morocco in 2018. For six weeks in the summer of 2019, she studied “Black Geographies: The Politics of the Race Space and Home” at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 2020-2021, she worked as an intern for Representative Dianne Hesselbien’s office. She was La Follette High School newspaper’s editor-in-chief for two years, and she played the lead in the school spring musical. Tziah joined the NAACP ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) Program where she competed and won two national silver medals: one for a dramatic presentation and the other for an original essay entitled “Black Feminism.” In September of 2020 she participated on a program with Dr. Jill Biden in Madison. Tziah is currently attending Howard University.
JILLIAN PATTON graduated from Sun Prairie High School in June, 2021. She received a WIF Scholarship for a student entering the health field, donated by PIC Wisconsin Community Trust. Jillian participated in AVID, was a Schools of Hope tutor, a board member of the Black Student Union, a member of the Minority Student Achievement Network, a member of the Future Farmers of America, a member of the Sun Prairie School District’s Principal Advisory Committee and the Rituals, Ceremonies and Traditions Committee. Jillian played a major part in designing and executing many of the SPHS fundraisers, community events and diversity panels. Jillian twice received the Martin Luther King Outstanding Young Person Award and was a three-time recipient of the BEAM (Black Excellence Achievement Maker) Award. Jillian has also worked part time since 2019. Jillian is studying nursing at Lincoln University of Missouri (HBCU). She desires to serve and would be honored to increase the ranks of minority nurses employed in Wisconsin.

ITZAYANA SAUCEDO-VIVAR graduated from East HS. She was awarded a WIF Scholarship. Itzayana has an excellent academic record and took several Advanced Placement classes. Itzayana actively participated in the Avid/Tops program, Student Congress, Raza United, and was one of the founders of the East High School Student Success Team. She coached elementary school soccer at the Goodman Center. Itzayana also has worked 25-35 hours a week since 10th grade. Itzayana is bilingual in English and Spanish. She plans to study criminal justice in college and then attend law school to become an immigration lawyer. She currently attends UW Madison.

JAYDA WOODS graduated from La Follette HS with a superb academic record. Jayda took four Advanced Placement classes. Jayda is receiving a WIF Scholarship, donated by Deb and Robert Kurth in loving memory of Deb’s daughter Jasmine Cox, a beautiful, bright Black girl who suddenly died of an undiagnosed medical condition at age 12. Jayda was a member of the girls’ varsity basketball team. She was in the National Honor Society, La Follette Student Council and the Black Student Union. She became an Ambassador in the Health Careers Pathways Program. As a member of the La Follette HS Food Pantry Club, Jayda worked on creating a website that showed people where to get a hot meal and other food-related services during the pandemic. Jayda was one of two students to represent LHS in the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year competition: she spoke on the issue of food insecurity and its relationship to increased anxiety, depression and shame. This has motivated Jayda to choose to major in psychology, a field where currently only 4% of professionals are Black. Jayda currently attends UW Madison.

Congratulations!

WIF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT www.womeninfocusmadison.org

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2022.
**Inspiring Founders Scholarship**

In 2021, Women In Focus, Inc. realized a dream of funding a four-year scholarship for one scholar, to be paid at the start of each academic year of his or her four-year college degree. The funds we received in 2021 allowed us to put aside $10,000 for this special scholarship. We named it the Inspiring Founders Scholarship, because WIF members are inspired every day by the vision and tenacity of our Founding Members as they worked to advance WIF’s mission to encourage students of color to further their education.

**ISAIAH MIELKE** is the inaugural recipient of the special four-year Inspiring Founders Scholarship. Life is made up of many moments. Some have the power to jolt us, elevate us and change us. For ten-year-old Isaiah Mielke, that moment in time happened when his father fell 30 feet from a tree. The accident shattered his father’s spine, leaving the family with six children to struggle financially. It was often very difficult to find qualified home care during his father’s recovery. Now a college freshman at Edgewood College, the inspiring young man is determined to earn a business degree. “My goal is to open a health care business to help those with disabilities, along with the elderly,” Isaiah said. “My business will provide quality care with nurses with top training and certifications.”

“I had hoped to receive $2,500 from Women In Focus. But, when I learned I would receive that amount every year for four years, it was mind-blowing. This scholarship will pay for my textbooks, so I can focus on my studies,” said Isaiah, who graduated with a 3.7 GPA from Sun Prairie High School in 2021. Isaiah also played in the band and lettered in varsity track and field. He received BEAM (Black Excellence Achievement Makers) Awards in grades 9, 10 and 11. Isaiah feels honored to be recognized during the Dr. King holiday weekend. “Hearing Dr. King’s story while I was growing up was inspirational for me,” Isaiah said. “He's a role model for our Black community, proving that Black people can succeed in America, no matter what happens.”

**RoseAnn Brown Memorial Scholarship**

In 1983, Rose Ann was one of the professional Black women who formed Women In Focus, Inc. For 37 years, Rose Ann was an active member in Women in Focus, serving as President and in many other capacities over the years. She secured crucial sponsorships for the Dream Ball. She believed deeply in our mission to encourage students of color to succeed in college through WIF scholarships. We honor Rose Ann with an annual award of the Rose Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship, beginning in 2021.

**JULIAN JAIMES** graduated from East High School with a stellar academic record. He received a WIF Scholarship in honor of WIF Founding Member Rose Ann Brown. As a member of the STEM Academy, he took classes at Madison College in the pandemic year, and he made Madison College Honor Roll. He also earned a place in the National Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa. He participated in debate for four years and took First Place in the Wisconsin State Policy Debate Tournament. In addition, Julian participated in Track and Field and Cross Country. He was co-founder of the MSCR Gaming Club. He participated in the PEOPLE Program. He currently attends UW Madison, and plans to take a dual major in Statistics and Afro-American Studies or Political Science, and then plans on completing a law degree so he can serve others and fight injustice.
The late Dr. Virginia Henderson was a founding member of Women In Focus and a leader in our community. Dr. Henderson worked her entire life to inspire and improve children’s education in Madison. She was the embodiment of our theme "Inspiring the Dream." The first Henderson Memorial Scholarship was awarded in April of 2019 and Women In Focus will continue to award this scholarship to a deserving high school student of color each year.

**Maleah Brown** graduated from Capital HS in June. She received the WIF Scholarship in honor of WIF Founding Member Dr. Virginia Henderson. Maleah had a very good academic record in high school and was successful in four classes with dual credit at Madison College. She participated in the Black Student Union and Cooking Club. Maleah has received multiple Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. awards. She worked in 2020 and she volunteered at Hawthorne Community School. She also served as Academic Coordinator for MSCR. Maleah is attending Madison College.

**Gloria Jones-Bey** earned a BS in Nursing and a Master’s Degree in public administration. She worked as Vice President of Patient Care at Meriter Hospital and came out of retirement to teach at Edgewood College and Madison College. She was truly dedicated to the success of young people in her life and she worked tirelessly to accomplish the mission of Women In Focus right up to the time of her passing on November 12, 2016. Women In Focus, Inc. began awarding this memorial scholarship in 2017.

**Chasity Collins** graduated from Sun Prairie High School. She was awarded the WIF Scholarship in honor of WIF founding member Gloria Jones-Bey. Chasity took rigorous course work in high school and achieved good grades. She completed her certification as a nursing assistant while in high school. She has been a student leader and served on the Sun Prairie Youth and Families Commission, advising on changes to disciplinary procedures for the school system. In high school, she was a voice for equity. She was President of the Black Student Union, volunteered for the Boys and Girls Club, and participated in AVID Gives Back and Minority Student Achievement Network tutoring. Chasity currently attends Edgewood College.

Read more about WIF Founding Member Memorial Scholarships at [www.womeninfocusmadison.org](http://www.womeninfocusmadison.org)
This new memorial scholarship honors the inspiring life and accomplishments of the late Julius Morgan who passed on December 27, 2019. Julius believed that education is the foundation for everything in life. After his death, his wife, WIF Founding Member Verona Morgan, and the Morgan family established a permanent Endowment Fund at the Madison Community Foundation to honor Julius and they requested that Women In Focus select the scholar.

ANGELA ABONGWA graduated from Verona Area High School with an excellent academic record. Angela is the recipient of the Julius Morgan Scholarship Award. She served as president of the Multicultural Leadership Committee, and as delegate to the Minority Student Achievement Network, president of the Black Student Union, secretary and crisis director of Model United Nations and she interned in the MG&E Career Ambassador Virtual Program. Angela was the recipient of two Martin Luther King Jr. Outstanding Young Persons Awards. Angela currently attends the University of Chicago where she is studying computer science and physics.

The late Jan Studesville was a founding member of Women In Focus. She and her late husband Al were active participants in all WIF activities and in the community until their tragic passing in 2013. The Studesville family has generously contributed to the WIF Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of Jan and Al. The first Jan and Al Studesville Scholarship was awarded in 2014 and we will continue to award the Studesville scholarship to a deserving continuing education student each year.

EBBA HARRISON graduated from Waunakee HS in June of 2021. She received the WIF Scholarship in honor of WIF Founding Member Jan Studesville and her husband Al Studesville. In high school, Ebba was on the Superior Honor Roll for four years and took multiple Advanced Placement classes. She is in National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and National Technology Honor Society. She played soccer and basketball on the Waunakee HS teams and she also played through the Waunakee Area Soccer Club. She was the Vice President of Community Relations of the Waunakee Future Business Leaders of America. She was the Purple Sage Sports Editor from 2019 to the present. She qualified for D.E.C.A. in 2020. She volunteered to help at many community events. She received the Martin Luther King Jr. Outstanding Young Person Award in 2020 and 2021. Ebba currently attends UW Madison and plans to major in interior architecture and start her own interior design business where she will create wonderful homes.

Read more about WIF Founding Member Memorial Scholarships at www.womeninfocusmadison.org
Formed in 1983 Women In Focus, Inc. (WIF) is a group of about 30 energetic professional women in Madison, Wisconsin. For over thirty-nine years our members have been dedicated to the mission of creating a community in which dreams are fulfilled through a worldwide partnership where all barriers to education are erased for students of color. Every year we raise funds to provide college scholarships to both high school students and non-traditional students by hosting our annual Scholarship Dream Ball, honoring the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. To date we have granted over 373 scholarships for a total in excess of $500,000.00. Women In Focus, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

In 2011, WIF opened its Scholarship Endowment Fund at the Madison Community Foundation. We are now focused on growing this permanent fund so that we can continue to provide scholarships for students of color into the future.

Through our Literacy Project, WIF members encourage families to read and we distribute books to children in the community. We meet monthly with single mothers and their children at the YWCA’s 3rd Street program. WIF also distributes books to children at Juneteenth and other community events. Our literacy program is supported through donations, grants and partnerships with other community organizations.

2021 Women In Focus, Inc. Members.
2021-2022 Membership

OFFICERS 2020–2022:
President, Verona Morgan
Vice President, Sharyl Kato
Secretary, Sally Hestad
Treasurer, Donna Moreland

MEMBERS 2021-2022:
Nancy Wren Bauch
Zara Chowdhary
Yvette Craig
Heather Crowley
Kendra Gassner
Fabiola Hamdan
Michelle Heitzinger
Sheryl Henderson
Sally Hestad
Edith Hilliard, Emeritus
Sharyl Kato
Marsann McCants
Rhoda McKinney
Annette Miller
Donna Moreland
Carolyn Morgan
Verona Morgan
Teran Peterson
Treater Prestine
Gloria Reyes
Carmen Romero
Jacqueline Santana
Shiva Bidar
Jodie Pope Williams
Michelle Wray
Deana Wright

2022 BALL COMMITTEE
A special thanks to the hardworking 2022 Ball Committee:
Gloria Reyes, Chair
Portia Adney
Nancy Wren Bauch
Yvette Craig
Kendra Gassner
Sally Hestad, WIF Secretary
Sharyl Kato, WIF Vice President
Marsann McCants
Donna Moreland, WIF Treasurer
Carolyn Morgan
Verona Morgan, WIF President
Jackie Santana
Jodie Pope Williams
Michelle Wray
Deana Wright

VERONA MORGAN, 2020-22 President
Member since 1983

SHARYL KATO, 2020-22 Vice-President
Member since 2009

SALLY HESTAD, 2021-22 Secretary
Member since 2005

DONNA MORELAND, 2021-22 Treasurer
Member since 2019

2021-2022 Membership

Women In Focus is a staple in the Dane County community. The organization's work and legacy spans decades and has supported and impacted generations of students of color.

- Makda Fessahaye
2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP

Carolyn Morgan  
Member since 2020

Teran Peterson  
Member since 2020

Treater Prestine  
Member since 2013

Gloria Reyes  
Member since 2019

Carmen Romeo González  
Member since 2021

Jacqueline Santana  
Member since 2021

Shiva Bidar  
Member since 2021

Jodie Pope Williams  
Member since 2019

Michelle Wray  
Member since 2019

Deana Wright  
Member since 2021

AFFILIATE MEMBER  
Ramona Natera  
Member since 2019

AFFILIATE MEMBER  
Portia Adney  
Member since 2018
Pictured from left to right: Edith Hilliard, Lisa Black, the late Connie Smith, Cindy Rolling, Annette Miller, Toya Harrell, Carol Labes, the late Gloria Jones-Bey, Teresita Torrencon, the late Jan Studesville, Rose Mary Jackson, the late Rose Ann Brown, Tina Murray, Audrey Gillham, Sally Hestad, the late Virginia Henderson at the Scholarship Reception, Edgewood College 2009.

WE TREASURE THE MEMORIES OF OUR WOMEN IN FOCUS SISTERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON:

Betty Reneau-Rowe
Barbara Whitmore
Joann Baldwin
Sandra Henderson

Jan Studesville
Gloria Jones-Bey
Connie Smith
Rose Ann Brown
Dr. Virginia Henderson

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.
Women In Focus, Inc. expresses its deepest thanks to our sponsors, donors, friends and supporters who have so generously contributed to the 2022 Dream Ball Scholarship Program. We hope you will let our sponsors know that their support is appreciated!
OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL THE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED TO THE 2022 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!
Women In Focus (WIF) members believe the ability to read is fundamental to future success. Since 2001, WIF has worked to promote reading and early childhood education in the greater Madison community. We have partnered with mothers and their children at the YWCA’s Third Street program. The WIF Literacy program’s purpose is to promote reading as a positive activity and experience for young children; to support and encourage parents and children to read and learn together; support school readiness and to provide age-appropriate and interesting books to families.

COVID added new challenges especially to families with young children and limited resources. WIF adapted and continued to provide books, fun activities, magazine subscriptions to families at the YWCA. It has been especially important when schools, daycares and other family places were closed.

WIF partners with community events and organizations such as Juneteenth, the Madison Children’s Museum, Foster’s Soul Santa Dinner, Kwanzaa and others to share new books with children throughout the community.

The Women in Focus’ Literacy program is made possible by grants from Madison Rotary Foundation, the Capital Times Kids Fund and others.

We thank our grantors! We also would like to thank Cards for a Cause and Books 4 School for supporting us in getting books into the hands of children.

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”
- Margaret Fuller
CUNA Mutual Group and its Foundation are proud to support students of color through the “I Have a Dream” Scholarship Ball.

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The Burish Group is proud to support the Dream Ball and Women in Focus and their mission of promoting educational excellence and healthy development for young students of color.

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Your work to help young people reach their potential builds a stronger future for all of us. Congrats to Women in Focus in celebrating their 36th Annual Scholarship Dream Ball.

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Founded in 1971, Briarpatch Youth Services has a long history in providing services to youth in need. The agency serves adolescent-aged youth and their families throughout Dane County.

Briarpatch remains the only youth shelter in the county. In addition, we offer 24-hour helpline, case management, parent groups and a variety of other programs and services.

For more information, visit our website at www.briarpatch.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
The Wisconsin Alumni Association® would like to congratulate the 2022 scholarship recipients.

We wish you continued success through your educational journey.

Congratualtions to all Scholarship Recipients.

We wish you success as you realize your DREAMS.

Thank you to Women In Focus, Inc. for their commitment to providing opportunities in education.

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Save the Date

January 14, 2023

Women In Focus 37th Annual Scholarship Dream Ball

PLEASE SEND QUESTIONS TO:
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