



Her Power

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



I think we all just need someone who sees a light in ourselves that we may have not been able to see without them.”

View From Our Leadership

For WWIN, 2025 was all about elevating the Scholar and alumnae experience, bringing our community closer together, and lifting our voices for the transformational power of education. In a year marked by existential challenges to higher education, it is incredibly gratifying to reflect upon the deep and ongoing impact of what we have accomplished through our shared vision, clarity of purpose, and of course, your support.

“When you bring people into a supportive community, they commit to bringing the next generation of women along—and up—with them.”

We celebrated as Program Director Lindie Gardner won national recognition for her work (see page 9 for more!). We joined the College Promise Coalition for Higher Ed Advocacy Day in Olympia to encourage legislators to maintain Washington’s commitment to post-secondary affordability. And we gathered deeper insights into the lasting impact of the WWIN experience through robust new surveying of our current graduates and alumnae.

You’ll see some of the data we gathered throughout this report, but one figure that stands out to us is the 45 alumnae who volunteered as WWIN application reviewers this year. Their desire to give back not only reflects their individual character but also shows that when you bring people into a supportive community, they commit to bringing the next generation of women along—and up—with them.

WWIN invests in *people*: in all their brilliance, complexity, and changeability. In these pages, you’ll meet women whose goals evolved as their worlds widened. Through college, work experience, and on their path with WWIN, they learned more about themselves and the careers that would give them the opportunity to follow their interests and use their talents.

Isis, Clare, and Perla all call Yakima County home, and each is making an extraordinary impact on that part of our Washington state community. We celebrate them for what they have accomplished, for who they have become, and we can’t wait to see where their power takes them next.

WWIN Scholars are unique individuals, but when we consider them as a community, they show us what’s possible when we support extraordinary women: when we see her, *believe* her, and *position* her to realize **her power**. Thank you for your investment not just in their futures, but in a better future for all of us.



Deb Frockt
Executive Director

Bindu Sutaria
President,
Board of Directors



The Power of Trust Isis, Class of 2026

My generation is trying to **save the world, and for me, that starts with my own community.”**

In our lives, everything we do that is powerful, meaningful, and change-making begins with trust. And trust begins with the willingness to be open, honest, and vulnerable.

Isis brought this mindset to her WWIN application. A devastating knee injury ended her promising basketball career and had an equally devastating impact on her mental health, resulting in a nine-month hiatus from school.

“When I started applying for college and the scholarships I would need to be able to go, I was concerned how that would look,” Isis remembers. “I decided to be totally transparent: look, there’s a reason I was out of school for the better part of a year; there’s a reason I have a 1.5 GPA. When you apply to college, there’s all this pressure to either smooth over the roughest parts of yourself or exploit them. But the best results happen when you just ask for the help you need, with confidence and without shame. And that isn’t possible if you aren’t willing to be vulnerable.”

In WWIN, Isis found a community ready, willing, and eager to walk with her on a path that took some unexpected turns. “I don’t think I could have finished college without WWIN,” she says. “My daughter was born during my sophomore year after a very challenging pregnancy. I had to take a quarter off school during my final trimester, for my health and for hers.”

“I think most organizations would have let me go at that point, assuming I would drop out of college for good once my baby was born,” she says. “But not WWIN.” And for good reason. Isis resumed classes once her daughter was three months old. She completed an entire year of college with her baby beside her, juggling the demands of being a full-time student and a full-time mom.

“I didn’t realize how many women had babies during college until I did, too,” she says. “Having the WWIN community helped so much. And of the many times I’ve been thankful for Lindie [Gardner, WWIN’s Program Director] over the past several years, I’ve never been more grateful to have her in my corner than when my daughter was a baby.

She became my confidant and helped me stay afloat—completing paperwork, reminding me of deadlines, securing extensions when necessary.”

“Everyone knows **becoming a parent changes your life, but we don’t always show it with our actions. WWIN did.”**

“And most importantly,” she adds, “I never felt judged or shamed for being a student and a mom. WWIN was creative, flexible, and understanding. They knew my daughter came first, and that I had a life beyond school that demanded a lot of my time and energy. They showed up for me; they gave me grace and cut me slack. Everyone knows becoming a parent changes your life, but we don’t always show it with our actions. WWIN did.”

We grow with our Scholars and celebrate every milestone they reach. For Isis, that means celebrating her thriving two-year-old daughter—and, later this year, her graduation with a bachelor’s degree in pre-law and criminal justice.

“My sights are set on law school, but first I plan to work with the tribal police at the Yakima County Juvenile Justice Center. They’ve been counting the days until I get my diploma,” she laughs.

“My generation is trying to save the world, and for me, that starts with my own community. Heritage University, the Yakama Reservation, and Yakima are my home. This is the place I want to grow my family and where I want to put my talent to work.”



In 2025

99%

of our 151 Scholars completed their degree or continued their education.

61

Scholars earned their degrees.

46

Washington state colleges and universities had WWIN Scholars.

81%

of our graduates had less than \$15K in student loan debt, and 40% had no student debt.

139

alumnae engaged with WWIN events, volunteering, and networking.

“

WWIN’s mission resonated with me as I thought about how my goals of achieving an education will break intergenerational educational disadvantages.”

Graduates say WWIN means more than just money.

97%

say WWIN helped them exceed their academic goals.

95%

say they feel valued as a whole person, not only as a student.

95%

say being a WWIN Scholar increased their confidence and belief in themselves.

86%

say their degree inspired someone close to them to enroll in higher education.

WWIN Scholars reflect the diversity of our state.

65%

are women of color.

65%

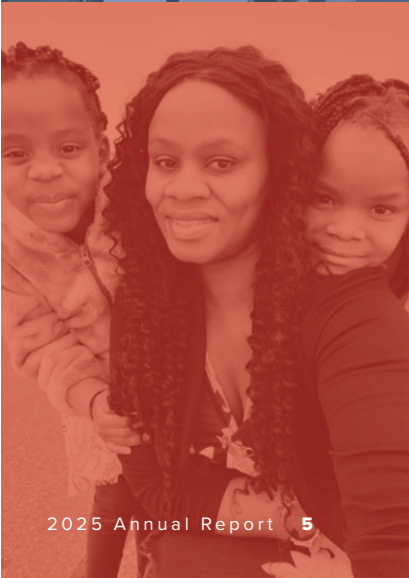
are age 25 years and older.

49%

are parents, and 37% are single mothers.

72%

are first-generation college students.



The Power of Purpose

Clare, Class of 2022

Only you can determine your path. And know that WWIN will walk it with you, wherever it leads.”

When our Scholars see a need, they step up. Wherever they go, they put their skills to work not just for themselves or for their families, but also for their communities.

Clare’s talent for connecting with people and for building connections has helped her bring much-needed resources to her neighbors. She’ll use these same talents to help people improve their quality of life when she becomes a dietician.

Clare is well on her way to earning a master’s degree in applied nutrition and dietetics from Logan University (St. Louis) through the Council of Independent Colleges Tuition Exchange Program at Heritage University. She’s looking forward to a year-long internship and rotations in Missouri before beginning her career as a registered dietician. But this clarity of purpose was years in the making.

“My whole life, I had my sights set on medical school,” Clare remembers. As a WWIN Scholar and undergraduate at Gonzaga University, Clare was pre-med. “Then, during my senior year I did a few rotations in the hospital and...I really didn’t like it. I finished college unsure of what I wanted to do but sure that medical school was not the right next step.”

After graduation, Clare moved back to her hometown while she figured things out. “Yakima is an agricultural community, and I was interested in organic farming. I took a few jobs in that sector,” she says, “and that experience taught me that what I was most passionate about was figuring out how to mobilize healthy food and healthy food systems to support our own health.”

Prior to starting graduate school, Clare took a nutrition science class at Yakima Valley College to test her theory. And she took a job running Heritage University’s on-campus food pantry. She says the pantry, “has given me an opportunity to apply what I am learning in the classroom to help and support my community.”

Clare develops recipes for patrons that aim to inspire healthy cooking on a budget with pantry ingredients. She has even taught cooking classes open to the community. “People now come to me for nutrition advice or cooking tips,” she says. “It makes me feel like I am making a difference.”

“I want to be the source of support that others—especially WWIN—have been for me.”

Running the pantry has deepened Clare’s connection to her hometown. She established relationships with nearby farms to source produce and is plugged into the community’s systems of support. “Food pantries are often the critical first point of contact for people in need of other social services, so I connect my neighbors with those organizations,” she says.

After her internship rotations, Clare will come back to Yakima to begin her practice. “This is home. I want to give back to the place that has given me so much,” she says. “I want to be the source of support that others—especially WWIN—have been for me. I felt seen, understood, and unconditionally supported by WWIN: from their notes of encouragement, to the many, many opportunities to connect with alumni and other Scholars. I want to carry that spirit into my career. I want to show up for my community the way they showed up for me.”

“The thing that makes the difference is **one person who understands your problem.**”

Program Director Lindie Gardner Honored with National Award

Isis, featured in this year’s report, shared an insight that beautifully encapsulates the essence of what WWIN offers: “The thing that makes the difference is one person who understands your problem.”

Over the past decade, Program Director Lindie Gardner has been that one person who understands—to more than 600 WWIN Scholars. It was wonderful to see Lindie’s work celebrated in the field of our 800+ peer organizations when she won the National Scholarship Provider Association’s Ann Radcliffe Award. The award recognizes the invaluable, exceptional contributions made by an individual to their organization and to the scholarship profession. We congratulate Lindie on having her talent, expertise, and abiding commitment to WWIN Scholars uplifted as a model for others to follow.



WWIN Offers Each Woman the Freedom to Pursue Her Self-Determined Goals



Star Scholarship and Resiliency Fund

WWIN removes financial barriers for women pursuing their first undergraduate degrees. Renewable until graduation, WWIN Star Scholarships provide up to \$5,000 annually in scholarship aid toward the total cost of attendance (up to \$20,000 lifetime). In addition, Scholars receive personalized support from WWIN, including access to Resiliency Funds to help manage unexpected financial hardships.



Career Coaching

WWIN women have lifetime access to resources that enhance their skills, from networking to negotiating and self-confidence to self-advocacy. Our Career Coaching programs provide Scholars and alumnae individualized support to achieve their self-determined goals by working one-on-one with a certified coach.



WWIN Connect

Bringing together our statewide community of alumnae, current Scholars, mentors and supporters, WWIN Connect helps women build a personal and professional network that fosters opportunity and success.



Perla is changing lives—and communities—thorough her work at the Washington Student Achievement Council. Throughout Eastern Washington, she works one-on-one with traditional age and mature students to navigate postsecondary education and workforce development programs, including applying for scholarships and loan repayment programs.

“It’s not lost on me that I am now doing for today’s students what WWIN and my family once did for me,” she laughs.

Perla’s earliest dream was to become a teacher. “My whole life, my family emphasized the importance of education,” she remembers. “My parents had to leave school after elementary school to go to work—and because money was tight when they were young, my oldest sisters also had to work to help the family and didn’t get to finish high school.”

When Perla was eight, her family emigrated from Mexico to the United States. “My sisters were busy when we got here, but they always made time to pour their love of learning into me. They showed me that there is nothing more important than helping someone grow and guiding them as they realize their potential.”

Perla initially majored in education, but student teaching helped her realize she preferred working as an educator in a one-on-one setting. “Even before student teaching, I’d gone to a series to hear upperclassmen talking about their majors. The Business school speakers were most intriguing—and felt the most like me,” she remembers.

“I talked about that with WWIN and said, ‘I think I see myself more with this group, and I don’t know what to do about that.’ They really reinforced the idea that you don’t have to force yourself to like your major or make yourself do what you thought you wanted to do—you can always change course. That was huge,” Perla recalls.

Most importantly, “Those conversations helped me realize the way I *actually* wanted to work in education was to help people—students, families, parents—get an education and support them throughout that process. I say, ‘Tell me what you want to do, and I’ll help you find a way to get there.’”

Perla plans to pursue an MBA in the near future, and meanwhile, she is seeking more volunteer opportunities. “The support I received from my family and from WWIN—from my whole community—has shaped my mindset. I succeed because of my community, and I want to be that community for others. I would love to go back in time to tell little Perla coming to the United States where she ended up. I think she’d be proud.”

“**Everything I learned about applying for jobs, putting together a resume, preparing for interviews—that came from WWIN.**”

Perla’s love of learning came from her family—and the support she received from WWIN helped her activate it. “The resources and meetings for first-generation college students were both helpful and affirming,” she recalls. “I am actually the first in my family to graduate high school, let alone college. No one had ever had the career I was hoping to have. Everything I learned about applying for jobs, putting together a resume, preparing for interviews—that came from WWIN.”



The Power of Helping Others to Realize Theirs
Perla, Class of 2023

“**I’m so grateful for the strong women who helped me grow, and for the strong women I continue to meet and learn from.**”

Thank you for your partnership with WWIN
and investment in Washington women.

STAR PARTNERS

Adobe Employee
Community Fund
BECU
Charlie’s Produce
Chateau Retirement
Communities
Conner Homes
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
The Bellevue Collection
Umpqua Bank
Washington Trust Bank

SPONSORS

Leadership Level
Charlie’s Produce
Chateau Retirement
Communities
Champion Level
SSA Marine
Umpqua Bank
Washington Trust Bank
Advocate Level
Kitsap Bank

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Anker
Julia Atalla
Britni Babington, *Vice President*
Amy Barnes, *Treasurer*
Audrey Ford, *Secretary*
Shea Hamilton
Maneesha Lall
Scott Poepping
Sally Revell
Elizabeth Sholander, *Past President*
Katie Sluss
Kirsten Smith
Bindu Sutaria, *President*

Financial Summary

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

OPERATING SUPPORT & REVENUE

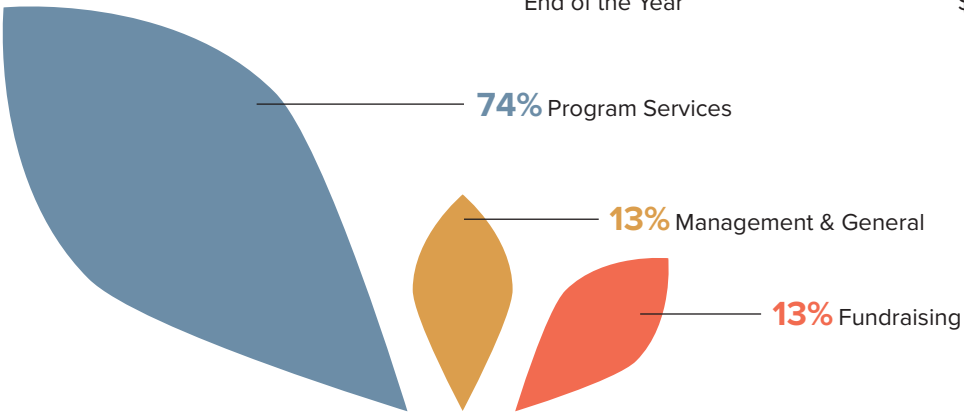
Contributions & Grants	\$ 1,009,712
Special Events (net)	\$ 259,250
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 16,613
Investment Return (net of fees)	\$ 313,077
Total Operating Support & Revenue	\$ 1,598,652

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 1,186,250
Management & General	\$ 209,394
Fundraising	\$ 208,549
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 1,604,193
Change in Net Assets	\$ (5,541)

NET ASSETS

Beginning of the Year	\$ 4,899,897
End of the Year	\$ 4,894,356



We thank these members of the
WWIN Champion Circle for their
leadership support.

WWIN Champions share a commitment to the life changing power of education and accelerating opportunity for women in Washington state. We thank these Champions for their investment in the collective power of leaders who will drive change—for women, for Washington, for our world.

- Anonymous (11)
Janette and Bill Adamucci
Katharine Allison
Angie Anderson
Amy Barnes and Noel Anderson
Jennifer and Steve Anker
Julia and Michael Atalla
Angel and Craig Averman
Bamford Foundation
DeFalco Family Foundation
Donald P. Delisi
Sylvia and Oris Dunham
Julie Elkington
The Foster Foundation

The James and Geraldine Godfrey Foundation
Lucy Helm
Judy Jacobson
Paul and Lucy Lange
Sally Revell and Damon LaPoint
Sharon Lee
Shari Leid
Rory Leid
Byron and Alice Lockwood Foundation
Christian Manley
Penny and John Meisel
Wendy Gelbart and John Meyer
Nehemiah Ventures
The Norcliffe Foundation

Ingrid Rasch
Satya & Rao Remala Foundation
Kathi and Ross Rosen
Debra and Skip Rowley
A.J. and Wally Saubert
The Mary See Foundation
Jon and Mary Shirley Foundation
Elizabeth Sholander
Saloni Singh
Kathleen Kemper and Gary Smith
Sheila Swenson
Andy and Megan Tay
Gail and William Weyerhaeuser
Julie Zirkle

Gifts made July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

We invite you to join the WWIN Champion Circle with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more. Contact development@wwin.org to learn more.

“WWIN provides me with the support I need to reach my goals. Being a Star Scholar means hope, motivation, and a reminder that people believe in my potential.”



Her Promise. Her Path. Her Power.

Vision

Every woman has a clear path to achieve her full potential.

Mission

WWIN provides scholarships and supports to help Washington women facing barriers to opportunity succeed in college and careers so they, their families and our communities can thrive.



**Make your gift
of support for
Washington women**

WWIN.org

17404 Meridian East
Suite F PMB #193
Puyallup, WA 98375

wwininfo@wwin.org | 425-451-8838

Washington Women In Need 501(c)(3) EIN #91-1559848

