

Annual Report 2023



RHONDA WALKER
FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING HER SUCCESS



A Toast to 20 Years of Empowering Teen Girls!



2023 RWF ANNUAL REPORT

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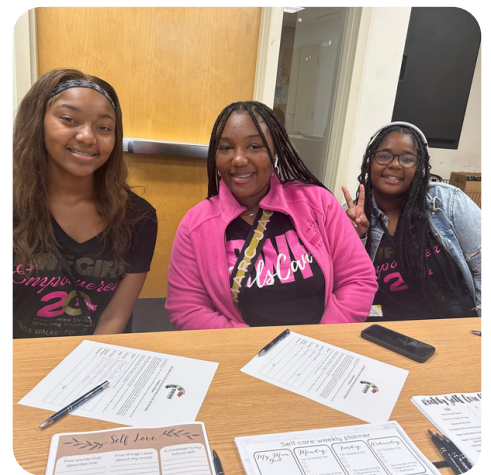
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A Message from Our Leadership

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the journey of our organization over the past two decades, we are filled with gratitude and pride in the milestones we've achieved and the lives we've impacted. Celebrating our 20th anniversary year is not just a moment to look back but an opportunity to envision the future with renewed passion and commitment.

Since our inception, our mission to empower inner-city teen girls has remained steadfast at the core of all our endeavors. We have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education, mentorship, and community support in unlocking the potential of young women who face unique challenges and barriers.

Throughout this year, amidst the trials and tribulations faced by communities worldwide, we have continued to stand strong in our dedication to serving and uplifting the next generation of leaders. From virtual mentoring sessions to innovative educational programs, we have adapted to the evolving needs of our girls while staying true to our mission.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, staff, and board members. Your generosity, dedication, and belief in our cause have fueled our impact and inspired us to reach new heights. Together, we have created a legacy of empowerment, resilience, and hope for generations to come.

As we look ahead to the future, we are filled with optimism and determination to build upon the foundation we have laid in the past 20 years. We envision a world where every girl has the opportunity to thrive, where barriers are replaced with bridges, and where dreams are within reach for all.

In the spirit of celebration and gratitude, we invite you to join us in commemorating this significant milestone and rededicating ourselves to the work that lies ahead. Together, we can continue to empower, uplift, and inspire the incredible young women who are the heart and soul of our organization.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Here's to the next 20 years of making a difference, one girl at a time. We are EMPOWERING HER SUCCESS!

With heartfelt gratitude,



Ruselda M. Johnson

Ruselda Villanueva Johnson,
Chief Executive Officer
Rhonda Walker Foundation



Lloyd H. Banks III
Lloyd Banks III,

Chair, Board of Directors
Rhonda Walker Foundation
CEO and Principal
Banks & Company

Celebrating 20 Year of Empowering Teen Girls

Dear Donors, Supporters, and Friends,

As we reflect on the close of our 20th Anniversary year, I am filled with gratitude and pride as the founder of the Rhonda Walker Foundation. Two decades ago, we embarked on a mission to empower inner-city teen girls, and today, we stand firm in our commitment to creating lasting impact and positive change in their lives. The journey has been nothing short of remarkable, and it is with immense joy that I share our achievements with you.

Your two decades of dedication, compassion, and community spirit have brought RWF to this remarkable milestone. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our cherished legacy donors, whose enduring contributions have been the cornerstone of our success. To our generous honorary chairs who have invested in our mission to empower Detroit youth. Your faith in me and this organization is unmatched. I am forever grateful. Our 20th year marks not only a celebration of our past achievements but also a pledge to the future. We envision a tomorrow where every inner-city teen girl has the opportunity to rise above adversity and realize her full potential. Here is our roadmap for the way forward:

- **Expanded Programming:** We are committed to broadening our program offerings to reach even more girls in need. Our goal is to provide comprehensive support that addresses their unique challenges, empowering them to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.
- **Enhanced Mentorship:** We will continue to foster a strong network of mentors who will guide and inspire these girls on their journey to success. Mentorship remains at the heart of our mission.
- **Innovation and Empowerment:** We will stay at the forefront of innovative approaches to education, leadership development, and career readiness, ensuring that our girls are well-prepared for the opportunities of the future.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** We will amplify our voices to advocate for policies and initiatives that uplift inner-city teen girls and address the systemic barriers they face. We aim to create lasting change that propels them to be the empowered future leaders we need for a brighter future.

We celebrate our shared accomplishments:

- 100% high school graduation and college enrollment rates
- \$600K in Scholarships Awarded
- Award-winning health and wellness programming
- Mentors for every teen
- Access to Year-round academic support and SAT Prep
- College coaching and cross-country tours of HBCUs

We also make a commitment to the future and invite you to join us on this transformative journey. Your continued support and partnership will be the driving force behind our efforts to empower inner-city teen girls to become resilient, confident, and unstoppable.

Thank you for being part of our extended Rhonda Walker Foundation family. Together, we will light the way for countless young girls, helping them break barriers, dream big, and achieve greatness. With gratitude and excitement for the future,



Rhonda Walker
Rhonda Walker
President and Founder
Rhonda Walker Foundation

Our mission is to empower inner-city teen girls towards becoming strong, confident, successful and moral future leaders.

Who Are We

We are the **Rhonda Walker Foundation**.

The ambitious five-year mentoring and leadership program that sets the standard for ushering teenaged girls towards becoming successful in their lives and their communities.

Our uncompromising dedication to each young person's potential brings exclusive opportunities, mentoring in social and professional spaces, and connections to leaders in every field. Participants acquire confidence and poise, develop relationships, embrace responsibility, and envision their own successful futures.



RWF
EMPOWERING
HER SUCCESS

65

teens in
program
annually

3,550

annual
program
hours

17

classes of
grads
since 2003

\$600,000

scholarship dollars awarded

2,120

mentor
volunteer
hours

7

partner
schools in
Detroit

60

corporate
donors

The RWF Scholarship Fund

Educational Excellence; RWF College Preparation Program

The Rhonda Walker Foundation understands that education is one of the most important investments a person or organization can make to help reduce many inequities in our society today. This is why we are dedicated to empowering tomorrow's leaders. The RWF scholarships provide financial assistance to students pursuing their college education. Scholarship awardees are selected based on their academic achievement, community service, character, participation in our five-year Girls into Women Program, and senior essay and capstone project. **The RWF Alumnae Scholarship Fund awarded \$20,000 for the second year to RWF graduates attending college.**

Scholar Power 2023 - Celebrating Excellence RWF Board Awards \$55,000



The 17th Annual Scholar Power Breakfast, sponsored by Brose North America, brought the RWF Family together to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2023 and to recognize our amazing volunteers and mentors. The morning was highlighted by moving testimonies from our graduates, inspiring remarks from RWF Alumna, Anaya O'Neal, a pre-med student at Western Michigan University, and awarded the 3rd Annual Dr. Ronald Gillum Scholarship for Academic Excellence and Resilience. Scholarships were also awarded by Lear for Academic Excellence; for Community Service from the Rizik Family in memory of Brian Rizik, the Lori Werner Scholarship for School and Community Involvement.

#RWFEMPOWERS

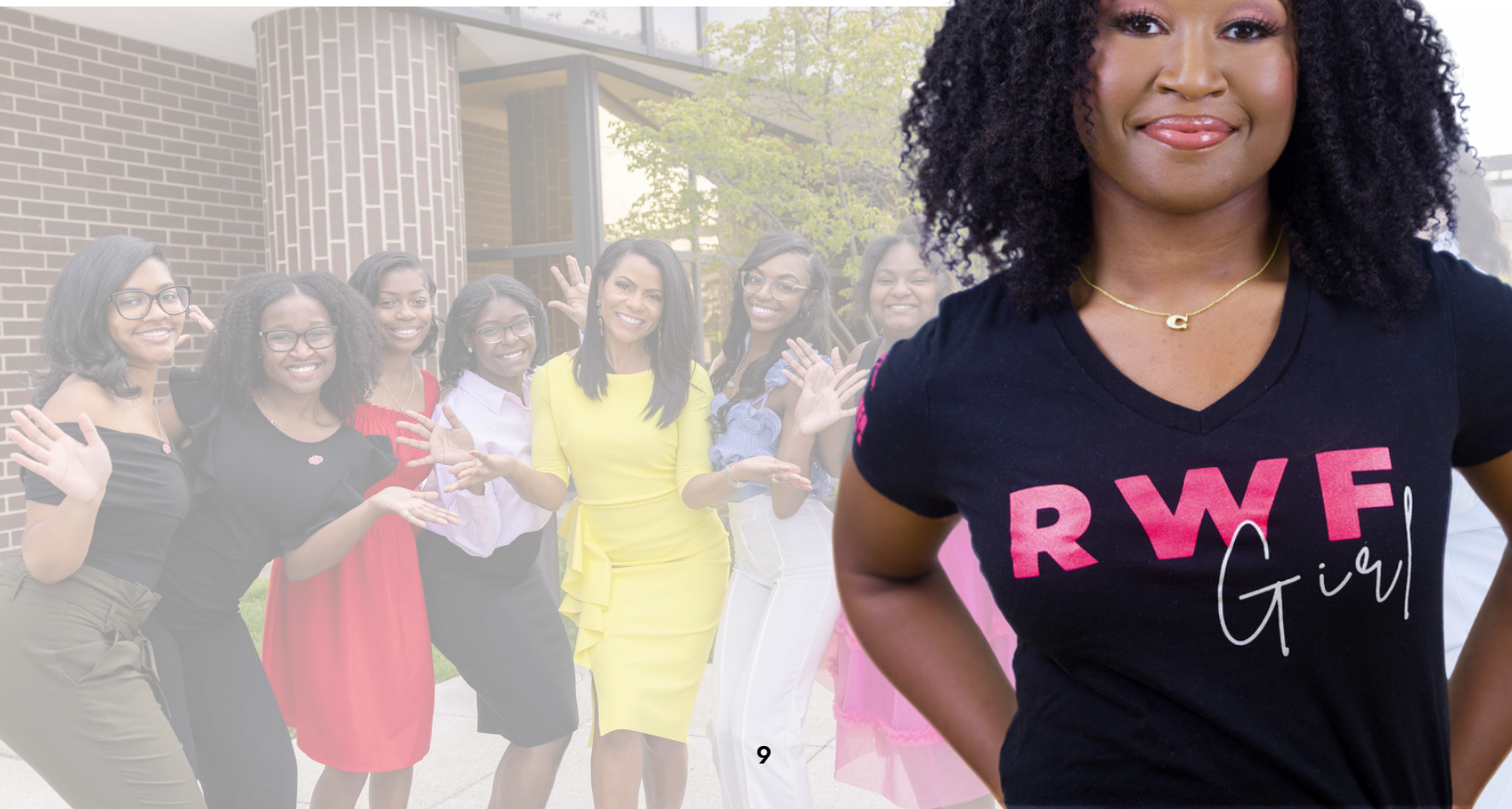
Empowering Courtney's Success

Courtney Wright. is a 2003 graduate of the Rhonda Walker Foundation's Girls into Women Program and Detroit's Cass Technical High School where she was graduate as Class Salutatorian. She was an active member of the National Honor Society, the College Board's National African American Recognition Program for Academic Achievement, and has been Cass Tech's Student of the Month. She received the Principal's Honor Roll Award and was named Most Likely to be an Engineer by GEA.

Courtney also participated in TRIO Cranbrook Horizons Upward Bound, Engineering Society of Detroit's Girls in Engineering Academy, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Robotics Club. She also founded the International Baccalaureate Mentorship Program at her school.

Courtney was accepted to 14 top colleges and universities for Engineering and offered over \$350,000 in scholarships. She currently attends Columbia University in New York majoring in Engineering.

Courtney says, "RWF has taught me to take risks and to consistently take care of my mental health. I believe the Rhonda Walker Foundation brings out confidence in young black women, that they will accomplish whatever they put their minds to. Although we may face adversities in life, we all can excel, but we must believe that we will excel. I've learned to open up to individuals because there are potential experiences I might otherwise miss out on. Through RWF, I have created an amazing, everlasting sisterhood and built connections with successful women of color."





Our Annual Investment \$7000 per teen

RWF Program Pillars & Impact

MENTORING

One-to-one Mentoring for each teen;
Empowerment Mentoring Dinners; Peer-
to-Peer Mentoring

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship; Career Planning;
Resume Writing; Interviewing Skills;
Job Shadowing; Internships and Summer
Jobs Program; Dress for Success

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Etiquette; Financial Literacy; Public Speaking;
Goal Setting; 24-Hour Girl Talk Teen
Conference; Camp I Can: Confidence, Team
Building and Leadership Summer Retreat

HEALTH & WELLNESS

RWF Zone Fitness Program; Nutrition Classes;
Mental Health Workshops; Give and Get Fit
5K/10K Run and Community Health Fair

COLLEGE PREP

Year-round tutoring in all subjects and SAT
Prep courses; Cross-country college tours;
Scholarships; College Application Support
(college interview and essay writing
seminars)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & CULTURAL AWARENESS

Community Service Projects through the RWF
Cares Initiative; Race for the Cure; the Annual RWF
Cares Christmas Party benefiting the Detroit
Rescue Missions Ministries Genesis House II
Shelter; Fields trips to local museums and theaters



100% High School Graduation Rate

Celebrating 20 years, the Rhonda Walker Foundation has impacted the lives of hundreds of inner-city teen girls, maintaining an average of 65 at-risk teens enrolled in its Girls into Women Program. The impact of its five-year core program is profound having graduated 17 classes of empowered, future leaders since its founding in 2003.

RWF is closing the opportunity gap for teen girls in Detroit. Our robust college prep program provides year-round tutoring, SAT prep courses and college coaching through variety of digital platforms and in-person workshops. Teens without access have requested chrome books and/or laptops to assist in digital learning to help close the homework gap. In addition, workshops with teens and their parents will be provided to share resources regarding access to broadband services that will enhance our teens' ability to complete digital assignments and stay on track for graduation and enrollment in college.

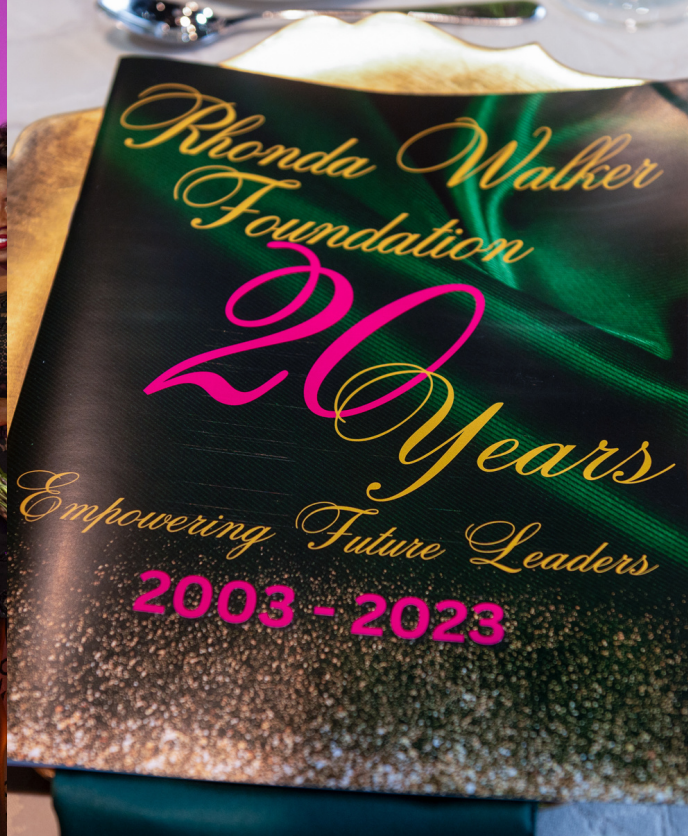
100% College Enrollment Rate 95% College Graduation Rate





Celebrating 20 Years





Empowering Her Success



Grateful



STAAND
2023 Ovation Award



Spirit of Detroit Award



The Soul of Philanthropy

What A Year!



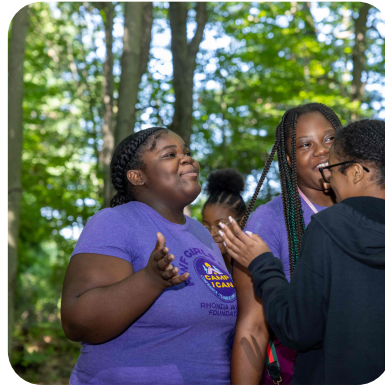


Camp I Can 2023

Confidence, Leadership, Sisterhood

The three-day Camp I Can is our annual empowerment, personal development and leadership retreat where teens are challenged to find their voice, inner strength and overcome fears through a series of activities and engagement with adult facilitators and fellow teens. Each challenge is faced with encouragement and determination. Teens are pushed out of their comfort zone in a rural environment free from the distractions of urban living.

Echo Grove Camp ~ Leonard, MI



24-Hour Girl Talk Weekend Retreat



The Annual RWF 24-Hour Girl Talk Spring Retreat focuses on Personal Development and Health and Wellness. RWF Teens are engaged in various workshops that provide teens with tools for effective communication, self-advocacy, and self-care. The weekend retreat also includes dialogue with RWF Alumnae about their college experiences and more.



Empowerment Dinner

women of
STELLANTIS



RWF Celebrates Juneteenth 2023 by Supporting Black- Owned Businesses



Each year, RWF celebrates Juneteenth with a series of workshops for RWF Teens on financial literacy, mental wellness, and history. The day also includes a special presentation from Jamon Jordan, the Official Historian for the City of Detroit. The event ends with an exciting Juneteenth marketplace featuring local Black-owned businesses.

RWF Teens are each provided \$75 to shop in the marketplace thanks to the generous sponsorship from Raymond James



Dress for Success

RWF Teens Step Out in Style with New Business Outfits



Building a Healthy Community

13th Annual Give and Get Fit Movement Weekend Two-Days of Health and Wellness



RWF Cares! Giving Back to Our Community

21st Annual RWF Cares Christmas for the Homeless

Toys, Clothing and Personal Care Package Drive for Nearly 100 Children and Women at Genesis House II Shelter

The Rhonda Walker Foundation (RWF) Family came together in a big way to benefit deserving families of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries' Genesis House II Homeless Shelter for our annual RWF Cares Christmas Celebration. Our volunteer Secret Santas showed up once again to provide gifts for the men, women, and children living in the shelter.





\$800K Raised for Detroit Youth!!



11th Annual Automotive Industry Golf Challenge

13th Annual Give and Get Fit Movement Weekend



Audited Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 426,809
Other Assets	\$ 325,660
Investments	\$ 292,863

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,045,332
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LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 30,029
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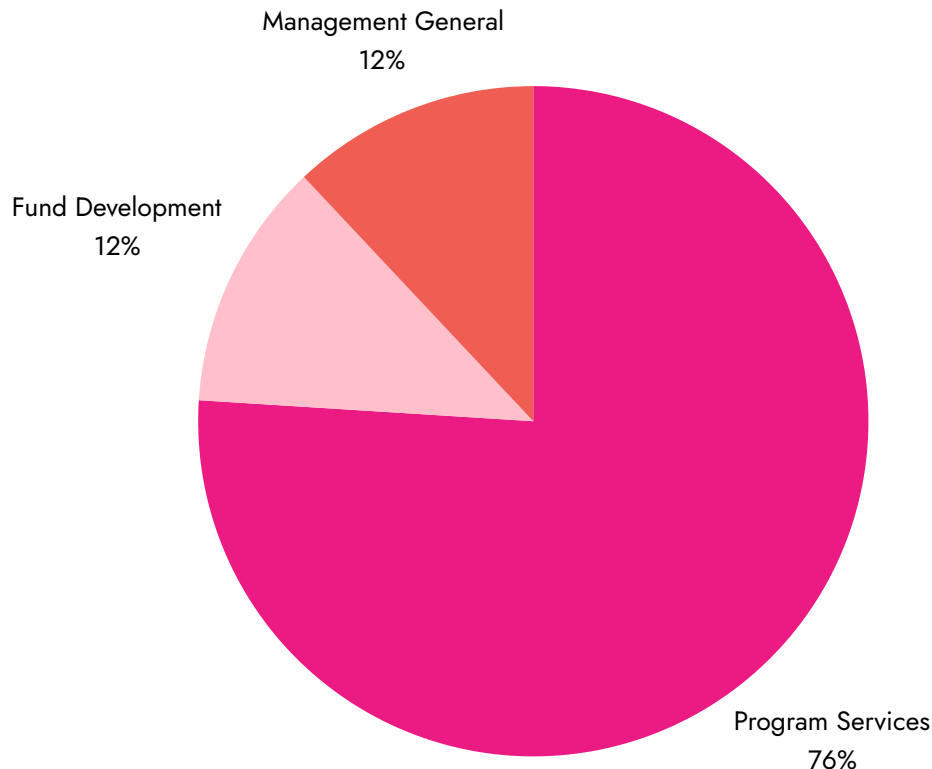
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 30,029
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NET ASSETS

Donations and Support	\$ 795,308
Donations (Grants)	\$ 219,995

TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 1,015,303
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,045,332
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Thank You

To Our Generous Donors and Supporters

\$50,000 - \$150,000

Axalta Coating Systems
Borg Warner
Lear Corporation
Magna Services of America, Inc
Raymond James Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Amazon
BASF Corporation
Forvia (formerly Faurecia)
Innoviz Technologies

\$15,000 - \$24,999

AT & T
Bonnie Smith
Bridgewater Interiors
Brose North America
Denso International America
FANUC America Corporation
Joyson Safety Systems
Kiefer Foundation
LTC Roll & Engineering
S & B Smith Foundation

\$10,000-\$14,999

Chemico Group
Commonwealth Rolled Products
Diamay North America Automotive, Inc
Flex N Gate
Hanon Systems
Henry Ford Health
Kenneth White
Proterial America, Ltd
Sharp Corporation

\$5000 - \$9999

Bill & Cathie Larkin
Bill & Marlene Emerson
Bosch
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Fidelity Charitable
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MCL Jasco, Inc
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Nemak
Perficient, Inc – Ann Lehman
Round Room Gives, Inc dba TCC Gives, Inc.
Rush Group -Andra Rush
Solero Technologies
Stellantis
The Second Course LLC-Burt Jordan
UHY Cares Michigan
Utech
Walbridge
ZF Group

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please email info@rhondawalkerfoundation.org should you note an omission or error.

\$1000 - \$4999

Abbott Labs
Aisin World
Ally Financial, Inc
Alrae Holding Company, LLC
AON
Burt Jordan
Celani Family Foundation
Central Michigan University
Christine Feuell
Chrysan Industries
Chrysler African American Network
Claude Denker, III
Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan
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Detroit Chapter Girl Friends, Inc
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Devon Industrial Group
Dezi Santiago
Epic Fitness Group, LLC
FCA-Fiat Chrysler Automotive
Fifth Generation Inc. – Love Tito’s
General Dynamics Land Systems
Greektown Casino, LLC
International Women’s Forum
James Armistead
Joyce Hayes Giles
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Kevin Reising
Kristin Tyll
Lack’s Trim Systems
Lear Charitable Foundation
Leonard Wiles
Leslie Walton
Linamar
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Matthew Rizik
Metalsa
MGM Resorts Interantional – MGM Grand
Detroit
Michael and Jodi Bly
Michael Montgomery
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Nicole Franklin
Nisha and Jason Andronic
Pamela Rodgers
Powerhouse Gym – Henry Dabish

Scott Cieslak
Southeastern Michigan Chapter, NECA
Stephanie Jones
Steven Keifer
Strategic Staffing Solutions
Tammy Carnrike
Terin Brown Chaos
The Rebel Spirits Group, LLC
Tracy Fuerst
Tricia Ruby
Vincent Solerino
Willam Ruona

\$500 - \$999

All Pro Color Web Design Inc dba All Pro Color Inc
Antoinette Turner
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Darianne Hudson
Denise Brooks-Williams
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
Ellen Hill Zeringue
Ericka Stephens
Friends of the Children-Detroit
George Barnes
Gwen Hale
Heart of West Michigan United Way
James Koehler
Jeffrey Lambrecht
Jocelyn Lincoln
John Meldrum
Kacy Hare
Kalpana Jadeja
Kara Kennedy Fortman
Kevin Hoag
Kevin Jackson
Kevin Smith
Kimberly Keaton Williams
Mearon Lewers
Meghan Hanley
Meillie Coffee
Melissa Serafini
Michael Stack
Michelle Allen
Monique Woods
Robert Stocki
Roberta Archer
Ron Mims
Ronald Gillum
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Shari rogers
Vanguard Charitable
VIGA USA, LLC

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Banks & Company

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McLaren Health Care

Michael Montgomery, Treasurer
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Robin Gamble Photography

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46th District Court

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Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

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Carla Sarti
Lear Corporation

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TD SYNTEX

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State of Michigan

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Senior Marketing and
Communications Director

Nicole Amacker
Program Manager

Jacalyn Shelton Wallace
RWF Coordinator

Amy Keely
Executive Administrator

Robin Thurber
Executive Assistant to the CEO

Carolyn Barden
Bookkeeper

Get Involved with the Rhonda Walker Foundation

Help Empower Detroit Youth Join our Team of Donors, Volunteers and Mentors



RHONDA WALKER
FOUNDATION
EMPOWERING HER SUCCESS

DONATE

Financial gifts enable RWF to enhance programming and impact teen girls in Metro Detroit. Contributions directly support our Girls into Women Program Pillars: College Prep, Career Development, Personal Development, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach and Mentoring. To make a donation, please visit <https://rwf.kindful.com/>
For special donations such as Donor Advised Funds, Endowments, or Stocks, please contact Ruselda Villanueva Johnson, CEO at rjohnson@rhondawalkerfoundation.org

MENTOR

Every RWF teen is matched with a professional, caring, supportive mentor. RWF mentors support our teens with career planning, college applications, job shadowing, and confidence building. Apply to be an RWF Mentor Today at bit.ly/RWFmentor-Apply

VOLUNTEER

RWF is looking for volunteers to assist with programming, events, office administration and our RWF Cares Community Outreach Program. **Apply to be an RWF Volunteer Today** at <http://bit.ly/RWF-Volunteer>

STAY CONNECTED

Don't miss out on upcoming RWF news and events. Sign up to join our mailing list.



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rhondawalkerfoundation.org

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Please direct any questions to
info@rhondawalkerfoundation.org
313.263.1676