



100 WOMEN WHO CARE NEWSLETTER

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On September 29, we proudly presented a check for \$33,000 to Grand Traverse Industries (GTI) to support their mission of providing meaningful employment, skill-building, and community inclusion opportunities for adults with disabilities. Specifically, this gift will assist with transportation expenses for clients at the Mancelona center. Micah Haven, Program Director at GTI, emphasized the importance of community support: *“As funding from Medicaid remains uncertain, generous contributions like this from 100 Women Who Care are crucial to our ability to deliver essential services for our clients and their employers.”*

“GTI is very close to my heart as our son Brian is a client of the Traverse City branch. I know first hand what an incredible difference they make in the lives of those they serve. So thrilled that they were the recipients of our funds this go round.” -Member Robin Insalco





Last month, Crew members Carol Heles and Cindy Zarow represented our Elk Rapids chapter at the 100 Alliance Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, MI—and wow, what an inspiring experience!

We were truly moved by powerful speakers and had the chance to connect with more than 80 fellow leaders from giving circles across the U.S. and Canada. The energy, ideas, and passion at the conference were contagious—we came home absolutely energized and brimming with inspiration for the future of our own chapter.

A big highlight? Learning that Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed April 10, 2025 (the 100th day of the year) as “100 WOMEN WHO CARE DAY.” How cool is that?

We were also reminded of the simple but powerful vision of Karen Dunigan, the late founder of 100 Women Who Care. Her mantra—KEEP IT SIMPLE—resonated throughout the conference. According to Karen’s sisters, the heart of giving circles is about helping the community, not getting bogged down in complexity. Instead, we should lean into the collective effervescence—yes, that’s a thing!—and celebrate the pure JOY of giving.

We found that every group is unique, and we were proud to share what makes our Elk Rapids chapter stand out. With 270 members, we were one of the largest (if not the largest!) giving circles at the conference—a major feat for a rural area. Other leaders were curious and inspired by our "no frills, one-hour meetings" paired with separate social events. It’s a model that works for us—and it shows.

TAKE OUR SURVEY!

If you haven't done so already, please take ONE MINUTE to complete our survey using this QR Code

Our nearly 95% donation collection rate for each giving cycle is nothing short of extraordinary. It's a testament to the commitment and heart of our members. Our biggest challenge now? Encouraging more local nonprofit nominations right here in Antrim County—so keep those ideas coming!

Since our founding in May 2022, our chapter has donated over \$250,000 to 11 different Antrim County nonprofits—and we’re just getting started.

We’re proud to be part of the global giving circle movement. According to the 100 Alliance, there are now 802 giving circles worldwide, 545 in the U.S., 206 in Canada and 580 in development. Together, these groups have raised over \$56 million, supporting causes ranging from human services, to health, to education.

We’re part of something big—and we can’t wait to see where we go next!

-Carol and Cindy

WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED TO SHARE THE PASSING OF OUR MEMBER...

PAT O'DELL

FEBRUARY 20, 1956 - OCTOBER 6, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 29 - SOCIAL EVENT IN TRAVERSE CITY - 5:30 pm gathering at The Parlor followed by “The Library that Dolly Built” showing at the State Theatre at 7:00 pm.

December 4 - Nonprofit Nomination Forms due

December 11 - Giving Meeting - 5:00 pm at HERTH followed by Ladies Night in downtown Elk Rapids