



# 100 WOMEN WHO CARE NEWSLETTER

Volume 05 October, 2023

## AUGUST RECIPIENT

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library GTR was selected to receive our collective donation which will be used to provide 160 Antrim County children with one new, age-appropriate book from birth through their 5th birthday, at no cost to the families. The need to foster emergent literacy in the Grand Traverse Region is great: 56% of children are not ready for kindergarten and 52% of children are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade.



Member Lousie Wenzel and Grand Traverse Region Books from Birth director Bob Robbins pose with "Dolly Parton."

## \$23,200 DONATION

According to Books from Birth director Bob Robbins, *"Birth to age 5 is the most critical period for brain development and reading aloud to a child is the single most important activity a parent can do to prepare their child for kindergarten. Due to a lack of funding, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was not previously available to Antrim county children. Thanks to this generous gift from 100 Women Who Care - Elk Rapids Area, it will be available starting later this year."*

## MEETING NOTES

Compelling nonprofit presentations were made by **Lee Ellen Kerr** (Antrim County High Tea for Breast Cancer Prevention), **Lindsay Banwell** (Right Tree) and **Louise Wenzel** (Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Grand Traverse Region).

With our August donation to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we celebrated crossing the **\$100,000 total donation** threshold - an amazing and impactful milestone after just five meetings!

We also recognized our member-driven outreach activities. **Deb Broderick** coordinated the collection of items for the Antrim County Baby Pantry and **Linda Mullen** coordinated Good Samaritan's "Sammy's Shoes" drive. **Shelley Appelbaum** thanked the group for our vital participation in Harbor Days' "Give A Shift" program, noting that over 100 hours were donated by 100 Women Who Care members and their families.

**Carol Hockin**, Director of Operations at Acme Christian Thrift Store & Food Pantry (ACTS) thanked our group, reporting that our May 2023 donation purchased food and allowed them to purchase and install a much needed generator.

## PLAYGROUND COMPLETED AT GOOD SAMARITAN !



Our August 2022 donation has come to fruition with the completion of the Learning Playground erected on the grounds of Good Samaritan's Moms & Tots program. According to Moms & Tots director, Gayle Kroon *"The playground is being put to good use; we have happy kids and parents. We're thrilled to be able to provide a safe place for kids to play and a good learning spot where meaningful conversations can take place."*



When **Linda Mullen** and others at Good Samaritan distributed the 108 shoes and boots collected from 100 Women Who Care - Elk Rapids Area for "Sammy's Shoes" Drive, she noted that one little girl told her that the kids at school made fun of her worn, mismatched old shoes. When she was able to select a brand NEW pair of shoes (and socks, because she didn't have any) she was so **HAPPY**, commenting on how **SOFT** her new shoes felt.



## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

**Rocky Paige of Raymond James** for underwriting our 2023 meeting venue and website fees.  
**THANK YOU ROCKY!**

Member **Kristie Altonen** of Townline Ciderworks and **Chantal Lefebvre** of WaterFire Vineyards for providing free cider and wine tastings after the August meeting.

**Nikii Brown/A-Ga-Ming Golf Resort** for providing the August meeting venue.

**Jodi Poikey & Toni Morrison/Real Estate One** for ongoing printing services.

**The Place - Promotional Products and Apparel** for producing our 100WWC SWAG.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**December 7** - Nonprofit nomination forms due

**December 14 - 5:00 pm\*** Giving Meeting at HERTHA followed by "Ladies Night" in downtown Elk Rapids.

**Note the early 5:00 pm meeting start time!**