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Inspired Women Paying It Forward Celebrates $1 Million in Collective Giving at October Meetings

This philanthropic network spans Western Pennsylvania, Chicago, and beyond.

PITTSBURGH, PA — In just under 12 years, a giving circle that started with 20 women gathered around one simple idea has grown into a nine-chapter powerhouse network that surpassed $1 million in collective donations to nonprofit organizations The official celebrations of this milestone will be held at all Chapter Meetings in October.

At Inspired Women Paying It Forward's quarterly happy-hour networking events, hundreds of like-minded women nominate and vote for a 501(c)(3) organization that supports women and girls in need. Each member contributes $100, and the full pot goes directly to the winning nonprofit — no overhead, no delay, just immediate impact. From combating food insecurity and domestic violence in the Pittsburgh region to funding clean water initiatives and girls' education in Africa and the Middle East, the organization's nine chapters have helped more than 115 nonprofits fund vital programs and services.

Founder Debra Dion Krischke, owner of Team Effort Events and Three Rivers Event Park, gathered the first group of women in Cranberry Township in 2015. Her mission, she says, was to "Create space for women who have more in their lives to take action on behalf of women who have less, locally and globally." She went on to say, " I'm thrilled our members and Chapter leaders can see for themselves the importance and impact of each person's $100 quarterly commitment. I'm comfortable that now we are truly ready to assist in replicating our proven model anywhere."

Inspired by that mission, former Pittsburgh television news anchor Kym Gable launched the organization's second chapter in the South Hills in 2017. "Having featured so many incredible nonprofits in my news stories over the years, I always had the desire to help more of our neighbors in an even bigger way," said Gable. "Now we get to witness a level of collective giving and collective impact that's making a difference here at home and around the world."

Today, Inspired Women Paying It Forward counts eight chapters across the Pittsburgh region plus a thriving new chapter in Chicago. Every chapter is led entirely by volunteer Chapter Leaders and members, spreading the word to grow the circle's reach. The organization's next goal: expanding into more counties across Western Pennsylvania and into new cities nationwide.

To learn more about Inspired Women Paying It Forward or to start or join a chapter, visit **www.inspiredwomen.com**.

A woman you may never meet may have a better future because of a decision made right here in Pittsburgh.