



WOMEN

IN PHILANTHROPY

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.

— *Biennial Report* —

2019 - 2021

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A note from Scranton Area Community Foundation's President and CEO, Laura Ducceschi



Women in Philanthropy (WIP) began seven years ago with a small gathering of visionary women who believed that charitable individuals in Northeast Pennsylvania would be interested in coming together in new ways to support women, girls, and their families in this region. To date, over 100 generous supporters have made contributions of their time, talents, and financial support towards a variety of initiatives that are truly transforming lives.

This year, WIP has continued its important efforts in STEAM education, support for entrepreneurship, financial confidence, restorative dental care and more, while thoughtfully exploring other areas of focus for the future. The **Breaking Barriers Webinar Series**, which included local and national experts in the areas of civic engagement and advocacy, affordable childcare, and attainable housing was a successful way to determine how best to focus our collective efforts in order to create the most impact in our region. To me, the series illustrates the character of WIP and its supporters: thoughtful, deliberate, visionary, and effective.

I see this year as a turning point for WIP as together we have decided to move forward in new, innovative ways while ensuring the support and expansion of many of our current, impactful initiatives. On behalf of all whom we serve, I am grateful for your active participation and genuine commitment to creating more opportunities for women, girls and their families in NEPA.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the staff of the Scranton Area Community Foundation, I sincerely thank you. Because of our collective work together over the past seven years, WIP's current and future impact is bright. I look forward to continuing, and expanding, our important work together and its impact on so many individuals and families in NEPA.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura".

Laura Ducceschi, MBA, MA, CAP®, CFRE
President and CEO, Scranton Area Community Foundation





Engaging, empowering and transforming the lives of women and girls in Northeastern Pennsylvania

Since its inception in 2014, Women in Philanthropy (WIP) has focused on empowering and transforming the lives of women, girls, and their families in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Women in Philanthropy *aspires to engage supporters* in collective decision making to help move women from places of disempowerment and poverty to levels of personal empowerment and economic self-sufficiency.



Through the generosity of our many supporters, to date **Women in Philanthropy** has provided:

Grant Funding

Over \$100,000 provided to local nonprofit organizations helping women, girls and their families, including critical COVID-19 emergency grants.

STEAM Education

Nationally renowned STEAM Education to over 4,000 students in K-12 public schools in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

\$25,000 in full STEAM Stars Scholarships to the nationally recognized Level Up Program at Lackawanna College where students obtain their associates degree in a STEAM field while in high school.

Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses

Loan capital and training support to help launch nearly 15 local women-owned businesses in NEPA in partnership with Peoples Security Bank and the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center.

Grant support to 21 women business owners in Lackawanna County facing hardship due to COVID-19.

Financial Confidence and Matched Savings

Over \$185,000 in matching funds to nearly 80 women trying to build their savings, purchase a home, auto, or finance education, through a \$1 for \$1 match program.

Certification in Financial Education for over 120 women through a special program with the Women's Entrepreneurship Center and Kania School of Management, University of Scranton.

Dental Care

Restorative Dental Services through Building Confident Smiles, a program developed with Scranton Primary Health, provided to 17 uninsured women seeking employment.

Transportation

Improved transportation access to health services through a multi-year pilot partnership with Geisinger, and transportation access to workforce opportunities for clients at local social service agencies.

Civic Engagement

An informational webinar in partnership with Women's Whistle Stop, Scranton, to advance voter education and promote voter registration.

COVID-19 Grants

In early 2020, Women in Philanthropy awarded three COVID-19 Relief Grants totaling \$10,000 to support virtual learning in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) fields, funded by the generosity of our Women in Philanthropy supporters.

Arts in Education in Northeastern Pennsylvania at Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit, Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA, and Keystone College have each received a grant from Women in Philanthropy to support STEAM-related efforts, particularly to provide support during this unique time when women and families are required to oversee education in the home. These grants were reviewed and voted on by WIP supporters during a virtual Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

In addition to providing grant funding to support virtual learning in the STEAM fields, Women in Philanthropy awarded grants in April 2020 to Women's Resource Center, Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA, and Outreach - Center for Community Resources to help serve the needs of low-to-moderate-income women, girls, and their families during the COVID-19 outbreak.

A total of \$25,000 to date has been provided to small business owners for COVID-19 emergency grant funding through Women in Philanthropy, made possible only because of the generosity of Women in Philanthropy supporters.

"Thanks to generous support from Women in Philanthropy, we are excited to introduce our GALLS members to important STEAM projects, especially during this difficult time. Due to challenges surrounding COVID-19, we have launched our Virtual Club on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to make sure that children who cannot be physically at the Club still have access to STEAM projects. A big thank you to everyone involved at Women in Philanthropy for making this opportunity possible!" — Julianne Cucura, Development Director at Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania





Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support

With the help of your generous support, in 2020, Women in Philanthropy established the **Women in Philanthropy Business Relief Fund** at the Scranton Area Community Foundation. This non-endowed hardship fund was intended for women who own small businesses in Lackawanna County who are facing challenges due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Women in Philanthropy Business Relief Fund provided mini-grants of up to \$1,000 each to support women who own small businesses in Lackawanna County. This fund helped women deal with hardship situations occurring during the COVID-19 crisis. Through the Scranton Area Community Foundation, Women in Philanthropy provided grant support to 21 women business owners in Lackawanna County facing hardship due to COVID-19.

“Through generous contributions from Women in Philanthropy supporters, the Women in Philanthropy program at the Scranton Area Community Foundation is making a difference in the lives of women, girls, and their families during these challenging times,” stated Laura Ducceschi, President and CEO of the Scranton Area Community Foundation.

Women in Philanthropy is proud to support entrepreneurship and small business support to women in the Lackawanna County region.

STEAM Education

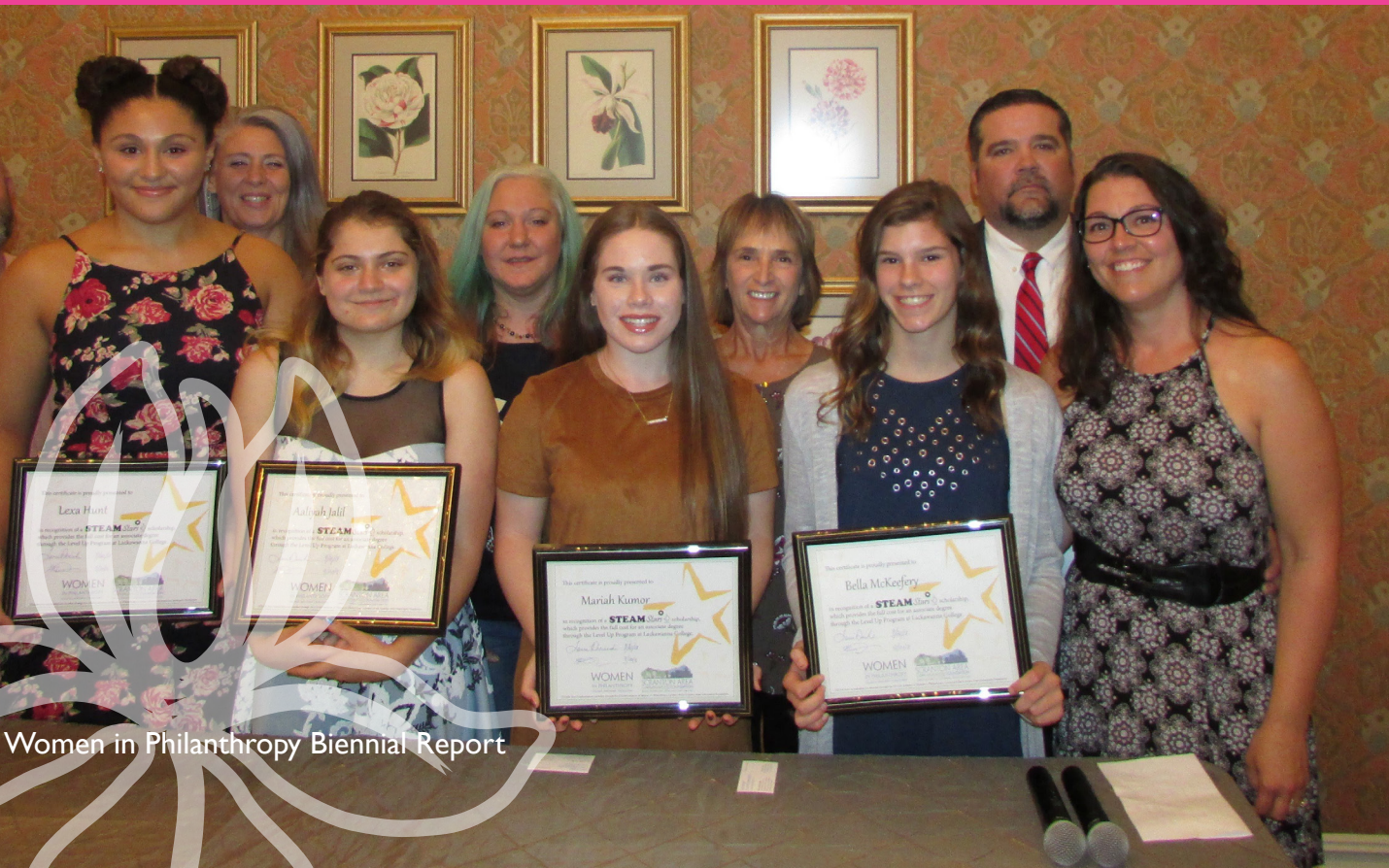
Women in Philanthropy has supported the Level Up Program at Lackawanna College since its inception through the **STEAM Stars scholarship program**. The STEAM Stars scholarship program through Women in Philanthropy has provided full scholarships to seven high-achieving female students, giving them the opportunity to take college-level courses so that they could obtain their associate degree by the time they graduate high school.

The STEAM Stars Scholarship program is supported through the Women in Philanthropy STEAM Education initiative which works to help bridge the educational gap by providing funding for STEAM education locally.

Funded entirely through Women in Philanthropy, a STEAM Stars Scholarship covers the students' entire time in the program at the total cost of \$6,200 per student. To date, WIP has provided seven total STEAM Stars scholarships. Two students from Scranton High School graduated from the Level Up Program in 2020. Three students from Riverside Jr./Sr. High School graduated from the Level Up Program in 2021. Two additional students were awarded scholarships in 2021, one from Abington Heights High School and one from Scranton High School.

A special thank you to Women in Philanthropy supporters for your generous support of this visionary program for our region!

Photo: Five STEAM Stars recipients were honored during a Women in Philanthropy quarterly meeting and reception in September 2019. Pictured here (from left to right): Lexa Hunt, Aaliyah Jalil, Mariah Kumor, and Bella McKeefery with their family members. Missing from photo: Priyal Patel, STEAM Stars recipient.



Breaking Barriers Webinars and Report

In March, during Women's History Month, we launched our **Learning to Break Barriers Webinar Series** which took place strategically at a time when people across the globe were tuned into fostering a world in which women experience equality, support, and inclusiveness. The important dialogue fostered through these conversations identified potential ways in which Women in Philanthropy can effectively advance critical objectives and make an impact in three new areas of focus including **civic engagement and advocacy**, **affordable childcare**, and **affordable housing**.

The **WIP Breaking Barriers Webinar Series Report** was released during our Women in Philanthropy Summer 2021 gathering in August and summarizes the findings from the webinars. To access the report, you can visit: <https://bit.ly/3ColGMD>

To request a hard copy of the **WIP Breaking Barriers Webinar Series Report**, please email us at info@safdn.org with your mailing address.

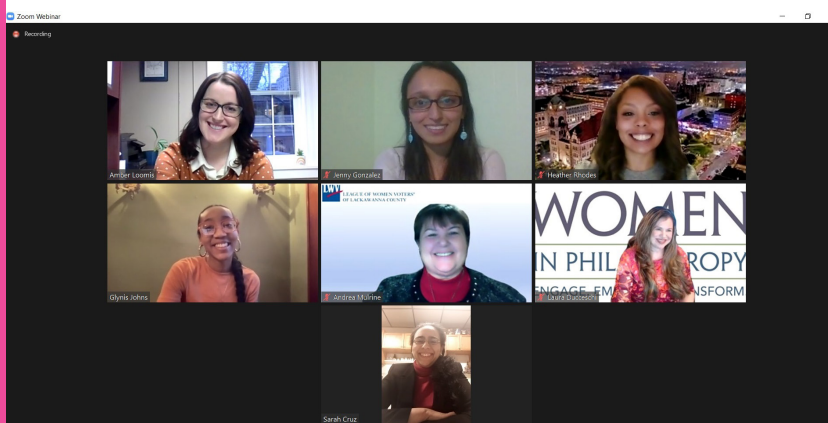


Photo: Panelists from the Civic Engagement: Part I Webinar during the 2021 WIP Breaking Barriers Webinar Series

Financial Confidence & Matched Savings

In 2016, Women in Philanthropy established a Matched Savings Program in partnership with the United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA which provides a \$1 for \$1 match to qualifying women in Lackawanna County. This match support helps pull women from the brink of financial insecurity and allows them to have the resources they need for important expenses.

Over \$185,000 in matching funds has been provided to nearly 80 women for the purposes of purchasing a home or car, paying for educational expenses, reducing their debt, or saving for the future.

As part of this program, the women also participate in Financial Confidence classes which cover a broad range of financial topics. These classes provide the women in the program with the knowledge and technical assistance to navigate important financial decisions with confidence. The monthly classes have included support in budgeting, banking basis, savings strategies, the psychology of money, understanding lease agreements, recognizing financial abuse, buying or leasing a vehicle, and improving credit scores.

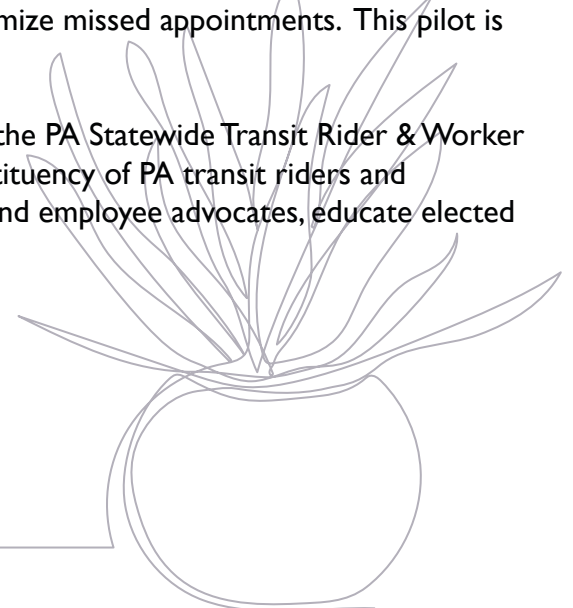
As a result of this program, women who are at or near the poverty level are given the financial and informational resources to break the cycle of poverty and create a better life for themselves and their families.

Transportation

Through the health care focus area, Women in Philanthropy has worked on improving access to transportation for women, girls, and their families across the Northeastern Pennsylvania region through participation on NEPA Moves. NEPA Moves, the regional collaborative focused on equitable transportation, has developed a collaborative program with community partners, ACE (Agency for Community EmPOWERment of NEPA), and United Neighborhood Centers that will support clients who are currently in a transitional stage of life by providing reliable transportation that will help to aid the client to break the cycle of poverty.

Through this participation with NEPA Moves, a pilot program with Geisinger was established to provide transportation access for health care services to minimize missed appointments. This pilot is currently operating.

The Scranton Area Community Foundation is a participant in the PA Statewide Transit Rider & Worker Organizing Fellowship, which continues to build a united constituency of PA transit riders and employees. The goal is to build local leadership among rider and employee advocates, educate elected officials, improve transit ridership in Pennsylvania.





Providing Restorative Dental Care

In the summer of 2019, Women in Philanthropy (WIP) proudly launched a brand new restorative dental program focusing on providing local uninsured and underinsured women with restorative dental care. This new dental program, which is made possible through the support of Scranton Primary Health, was created with the goal to improve access to restorative dental care for local women to help increase their self-confidence and help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

Through the program, called **Building Confident Smiles**, Women in Philanthropy to date has provided restorative dental care to 17 uninsured women seeking employment. United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA provides case management services in order to assist the women through the program and ensure they receive the additional services they may need.

Building Confident Smiles is made possible through the generosity of Women in Philanthropy supporters, and the support of Scranton Primary Health Care Center and Geisinger.

*Building
Confident Smiles*

Civic Engagement

Women in Philanthropy has made great strides in the area of civic engagement across Northeastern Pennsylvania. In Fall 2020, in partnership with Women's Whistle Stop, Scranton, Women in Philanthropy developed an informative webinar to advance voter education and promote voter registration. The target audience was nonprofit professionals and social service providers that have the ability to directly engage with their clients and constituents to help them understand how to get registered to vote, and to give them information on where they can go to accomplish this.

Women's Whistle Stop, Scranton (WWS) was a partner with the Women 100 and Vision 2020 series of programs and events that celebrated American women and is the largest 19th Amendment centennial celebration in the United States. Specifically, WWS, Scranton, was intended to be the mid-way stop for the SHE Leads Road Rally of women driving race cars from Philadelphia to Seneca Falls, NY - site of the first Women's Rights Convention. The plan for this midway stop had turned into a large celebration where our community would honor the 19th Amendment. Unfortunately, WWS and its many efforts to create an educational and celebratory event had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The women behind WWS instead turned their attention to advancing voter education and promoting voter registration in advance of the 2020 election. In partnership with Women in Philanthropy and the Center for Community Leadership and Nonprofit Excellence, WWS held informational webinars and provided voter education materials to nonprofit organizations in our community.

WWS also generously donated the proceeds from their fundraising efforts to supporting Civic Engagement activities within Women in Philanthropy. Through their generous support, and through the support of a grant from the Robert H. Spitz Foundation, WIP will be igniting a new focus on advocacy and civic engagement of women and girls in our community. This will begin with the development of a youth engagement program for high school students that helps to provide learning opportunities and places them on the path for success. The program will be focused on empowering these students, many from traditionally underrepresented groups, to become civically engaged and create a leadership pipeline using existing services and supports. This program will have a core focus on equity, and will aim to capture the attention of the students at a younger age so that when it comes time to participate in programs available later in their high school careers, they are able, eager, and prepared.

Photo: Susan Belin, Women in Philanthropy Co-Chair, provides an update on the partnership between Women's Whistle Stop Scranton, and Women in Philanthropy during the WIP Summer Garden Party held in August 2021.



Margaretta Belin Chamberlin Award & Roseann Smith Alperin Award

Two distinguished awards have been established through charitable funds to memorialize a loved one and to honor qualities of excellence that exist in female members of our community. The **Margaretta Belin Chamberlin Award** and the **Roseann Smith Alperin Award** are both presented annually during the Women in Philanthropy Annual Event. Below, we recognize the recipients from 2019 and 2020. The 2021 recipients will be announced and honored during the Women in Philanthropy Annual Event in November 2021.



Above: 2019 Margaretta Belin Chamberlin Award recipient Maureen Maher-Gray (middle) with Kathleen Graff (right) and Laura Ducceschi (left)

Roseann Smith Alperin Award

Below: Junior League of Scranton members present recipient Amy Betts (center) with the 2019 Roseann Smith Alperin Award



MARGARETTA BELIN CHAMBERLIN AWARD

Below: Kathleen Graff (left) and Ann MacGregor (middle), family of Margaretta Belin Chamberlin, present Mary-Pat Ward (right) with the 2020 Margaretta Belin Chamberlin Award



Photo: Maggie Martinelli (left) presents Linda Robeson with the 2020 Roseann Smith Alperin Award



Women in Philanthropy *Supporters*

Founding Philanthropists

Heather Acker
Donna Barbetti
Susan Belin
Betty Burns
Ida Castro, J.D.
Kathleen Graff
Barbara O'Hara, Esq.
Maureen Pesavento*
Mary Rhodes
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Tiffany Cross-Luciani
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Carol Breig*
Janet Brier
Rosemary Broderick
Ellen Burkey
Barbara Chisdock
Bridget Chomko
Mary Beth D'Andrea
Kate Dempsey Jones
Beverly Ducceschi
Laura Ducceschi
Lisa Durkin
Carolyn Elliott
Amy Everetts
Patricia Fox
Natalie Gelb

Judith Graziano
Dorothy Grill
Cathy Ann Hardaway
Kate Holod
Dana Hunter
Ryanne Jennings
Julie Jordan
Nora Kern
Gretchen Ludders
Dorothy Mackie*
Samantha Maloney
Sondra Myers
Maggie Nasser Martinelli
Kerry O'Grady
Natalie O'Hara
Teri Ooms

Brittany Pagnotti
Nancy Perri
Ann Lavelle Powell
Charlotte Ravaoli
Patricia Rosetti
Peg Ruddy
Elaine Shepard
Kate Sickora
Donna Simpson
Kirsten Smith
Amie Talarico
Dawn Leanne Talley
Dede Tersteeg
Cathy Wechsler
Thom Welby
Alexandra Yantorn

Organizational Philanthropists

Moses Taylor Foundation
The Hawk Family Foundation
Summit Peak Associates

Emerging Philanthropists

Bryanna Burnside
Brittany Cesarini
Noelle Griffiths
Nina Malvizzi
Laurel Radzieski

**denotes deceased*

The Future of Women in Philanthropy

We're shaping our next set of priorities!

In 2020, Women in Philanthropy conducted a survey of WIP supporters about the future of Women in Philanthropy, asking where are we making the most impact and where else can we—and should we—make an impact. Of eleven potential new areas of focus, the top three choices for Women in Philanthropy supporters were Affordable and Competent Childcare; Affordable and Attainable Housing, and Civic Engagement and Advocacy. We established the Learning to Break Barriers webinar series and, through six panel discussions held this year with regional and national experts, we explored these potential issue areas.

These important conversations identified ways in which Women in Philanthropy can make an impact—with input from leaders in our communities defining the local landscape and framing the dialogue, and then deeper dives at solution-focused national models to consider as we seek to address the concerns that were raised by our local leaders. The WIP Breaking Barriers Webinar Series Report was released in August and summarizes these findings.

In addition to the impact we will continue to make in current priority areas, these next steps that we will take together in new strategic areas selected by our supporters help more women and girls overcome barriers they are facing, and will contribute to the overall vitality of our region.

The information we've learned together through this process will be used to deepen our upcoming discussions with WIP supporters during the month of December 2021. In the first quarter of 2022 we will further refine the details of our collective strategy for the next chapter of Women in Philanthropy.

Please consider joining us for these upcoming Advisory Circle Committee Meetings which will take place via Zoom:

**Financial Confidence
Advisory Circle Meeting**
December 1, 2021 at 12:00 pm

**Civic Engagement
Advisory Circle Meeting**
December 2, 2021 at 12:00 pm

**Small Business Development
Advisory Circle Meeting**
December 6, 2021 at 8:00 am

Childcare Advisory Circle Meeting
December 8, 2021 at 12:00 pm

Housing Advisory Circle Meeting
December 13, 2021 at 12:00 pm

**Building Confident Smiles
Advisory Circle Meeting**
December 14, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Register online at SupportNEPAWomen.org.
All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY

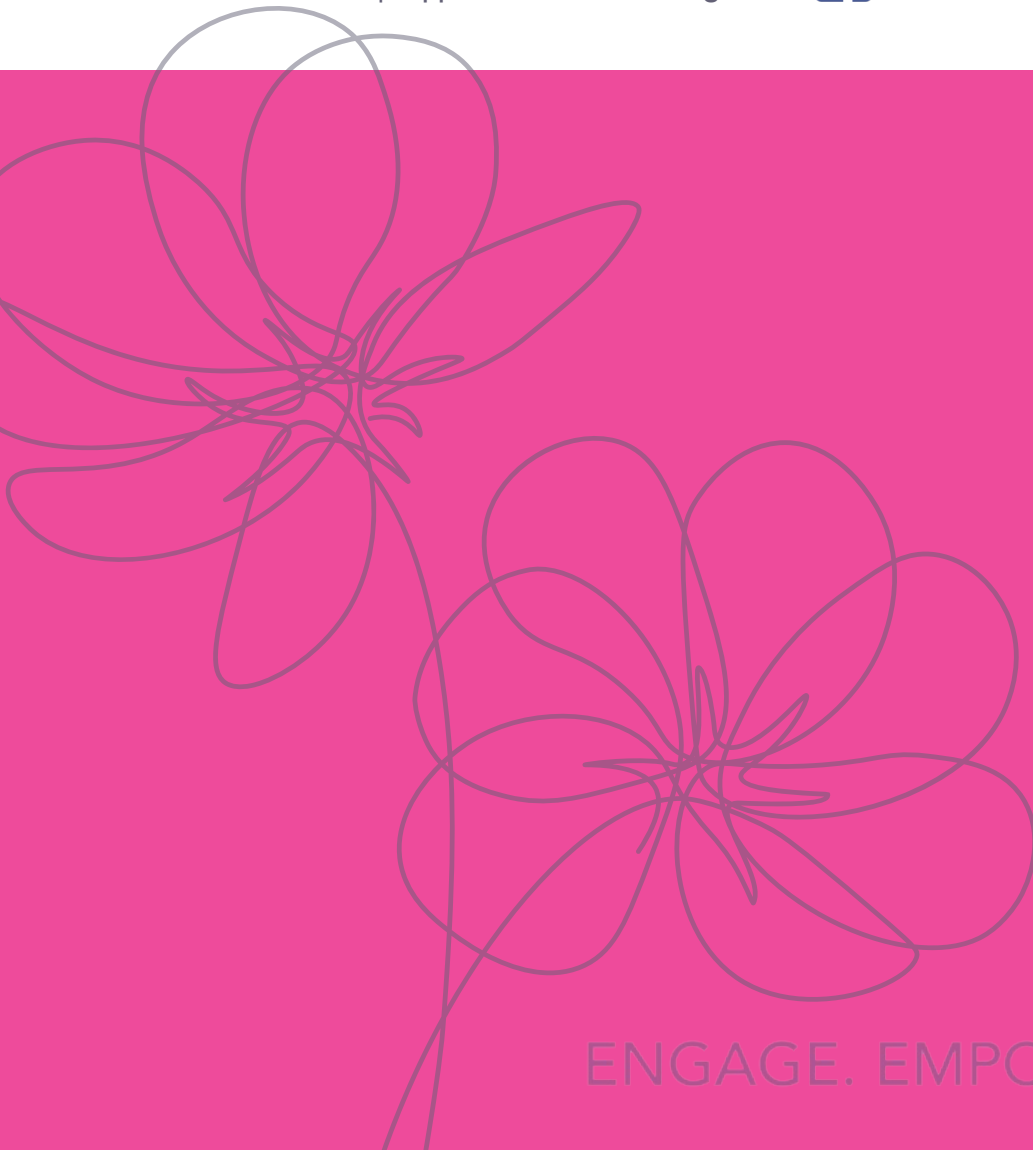
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615 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 102
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