AURORA EMPOWERS

Through its grantmaking, Aurora empowers women in Greater Hartford to successfully complete college and earn a degree. We know that access to higher education, particularly for economically disadvantaged women and first-generation women college students, is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and will lead women to higher paying jobs and improved economic mobility. In 2018, Aurora granted a total of $110,000 to support women’s college success programs at YWCA Hartford Region, Manchester Community College, Grace Academy, Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges and Goodwin College.

Goodwin College’s WISE (Women Investing in Securing an Education) program, one of Aurora’s grantees, provides comprehensive support services for young women at risk of dropping out of college. Unique to this program is the opportunity for select students to travel to a national leadership conference, which in 2018 was in Orlando, Florida. Emoinee, a WISE participant, was thrilled for the chance to attend! With its emphasis on active, hands-on learning and the opportunity to network with hundreds of peers from around the country, Emoinee knew this could be a life changing opportunity. And it was. At the conference she took a risk by introducing herself to one of the keynote speakers, Jeff Dess, while they rode the elevator together. Emoinee’s “elevator pitch,” which she learned through the WISE program and had devoutly practiced, was now paying off and would result in a personal invitation from Jeff to attend his leadership workshop later that day. “Taking that risk paid off and that would set me up for the risks I would take later on,” she said. Emoinee returned from the conference with more confidence, new friendships and a commitment to finishing her bachelor’s degree. “College is no stroll in the park!” she said when she spoke at Aurora’s recent Annual Meeting. But Emoinee has truly “claimed her education” and will be a fabulous role model when she goes on to pursue her career as a high school social worker.

AURORA EDUCATES

Through Our Research

From small business, to corporations, to the political landscape, Aurora’s recently released data on leadership shows that women leaders are making an impact locally, state-wide and beyond!

33% of all firms in Hartford County are women-owned

In 2018, 11 new female representatives were voted into Connecticut office increasing female representation in the state legislature to 33%

27% Female executives at Fortune 500 companies in Hartford County

Female-founded companies perform 63% better than all-male firms

There are 113,100 women-owned businesses in Connecticut that employ 95,300 people and contribute $16.4 billion to the state’s GDP

Make a difference and support women and girls in Greater Hartford

Three ways to give:
1. Mail your donation to: 1678 Asylum Avenue, Lynch 216, West Hartford, CT 06117
2. Make your gift online at aurorafoundation.org
3. Text the keyword aurora to 56512 and follow the prompts
AURORA ENGAGES
Financial Literacy Conference

At the recent Women’s Financial Literacy Conference at Goodwin College co-sponsored by the Aurora Foundation, participants spent the day taking a deep dive into financial topics including investing for retirement, negotiating salary offers and establishing credit. One presenter offered students an important message: “You are not your credit score, and you are not defined by your mistakes with money. We’ve all been there - take the opportunity to learn and get better.” Keynote speaker Medina Jett shared her own story of growing up without financial resources and how it drives her determination to succeed and give back to her community.

Leadership Forum “Collaboration and Connection for Women and Girls”

Aurora’s recent Women’s Leadership Forum at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford offered attendees insight into the importance of collaborations and connections to effectively address women and girls’ issues in Greater Hartford and beyond. Moderated by Hartford City Council President Glendowlyn L.H. Thames, panelists included Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Eleni Kavros DeGraw (Co-Founder, 100 Women Who Can Farmington Valley), Kate Farrar (Executive Director, CWEALF) and Brittney Yancy (Ambassador, The United State of Women Greater Hartford). A common theme of the morning? We need to maximize our relationships, form strong organizational partnerships and work together to best respond to today’s issues.

Aurora Women’s Giving Circle

The 2019 Aurora Women’s Giving Circle kicked off on April 23 at the University of Saint Joseph. Giving Circle members had the pleasure of hearing from Head of School at The Ethel Walker School, Meera Viswanathan, who spoke about the many challenges facing today’s teen girls - the focus of this year’s Giving Circle grant award. A great take away? We need to empower our young girls to have voices, become community partners and know that they CAN!

It’s not too late to join the Aurora Women’s Giving Circle. Our next meeting is June 4 at noon at the University of Saint Joseph. Visit aurorafoundation.org or call 860.881.4926 for more information.