

Empowering Women
Strengthening Communities
Driving Economic Growth



**Corporate
Partnerships**

WHO WE ARE

A Trusted Leader in Women's Economic Empowerment

Since 1978, WomenVenture has empowered women in Minnesota to achieve economic success. Formed through the merger of CHART and the Women's Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO), WomenVenture brings together decades of expertise in workforce development and entrepreneurship. Today, we serve all women, with a focus on those who are underserved and under-resourced.

WomenVenture is transforming the entrepreneurial landscape—breaking down barriers in business knowledge, capital access, and systemic inequities—through a holistic approach that equips every entrepreneur to lead, grow, and succeed. Our programs provide affordable financing, business training and consulting, and financial empowerment tools that help women build sustainable businesses and strengthen their communities.

We are uniquely positioned in Minnesota as the only Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) focused on women, as well as the sole SBA-designated Women's Business Center (WBC) in the Twin Cities. We are also a certified SBA Microlender, expanding access to capital for underrepresented entrepreneurs.

Recognized at both the state and national levels, WomenVenture has received multiple honors, including the SBA's Minnesota WBC of the Year and national WBC of Excellence awards—underscoring our long-standing impact and leadership in advancing women's economic opportunity.



OUR MISSION

To empower women to achieve their economic goals by building profitable and sustainable businesses that transform communities.



OUR VISION

A world where women-owned businesses are the economic engine that powers our world.



OUR VALUES

Engage with empathy. Make meaningful change. Persist boldly.



CORE TARGET

By 2030, we will have **\$15M** in our active loan portfolio and will have impacted the lives of **10,000** women since 2020.



"We took the Getting Ready and Small Business Essentials courses to create our business plan. This allowed us to be confident in the viability of our business and secure a SBA loan with a local bank to open up our yoga and barre studio."

-EMMA BOYUM, OWNER HUM YOGA + BARRE

For nearly 50 years, WomenVenture has been a cornerstone for women in the Upper Midwest—providing capital, coaching, and connection that transform ideas into thriving enterprises. As the only CDFI centered on women, one of the first SBA-designated Women’s Business Centers in the nation, and an SBA microlender for over two decades, WomenVenture has built a trusted record of measurable, mission-driven impact.

- **25 years** as an SBA Women’s Business Center
- **20+ years** as a certified SBA Microlender
- **24+ years** as a certified CDFI
- **\$5M+ deployed** in loans and grants (past 3 years)—\$25M in total capital access deployment
- **Recognized by the U.S. SBA** for excellence and innovation
- **Award-winning leadership team** advancing equitable economic development



OUR IMPACT (FY25 JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025)

WOMENVENTURE IS PROUD TO BE A:

- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)
- Small Business Association (SBA) Microlender
- ONE of THREE Women's Business Center's in Minnesota AND the ONLY in the Twin Cities

Creating full-service pathways for women entrepreneurs from idea to scale.



1,490

Clients Served



\$1.58M

Loans Disbursed



8,187

Training Hours



2,833

Jobs Launched/
Retained



98%

Satisfaction

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Supporting a Woman at Every Stage

WomenVenture supports entrepreneurs navigating ongoing social and economic challenges through a seamless, personalized, and empowering experience that builds on their strengths and values—helping them achieve both their personal and professional goals.



ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CAPITAL

As Minnesota's only women-centered CDFI, we provide loans of up to \$100,000 paired with wraparound support. Our team offers personalized guidance before and after funding—helping entrepreneurs start, stabilize, and grow sustainable businesses across Minnesota and Western Wisconsin.



BUSINESS TRAINING

As the Twin Cities only Women's Business Center, we deliver high-impact training that equips entrepreneurs at every stage. Led by licensed professionals, our programs build practical skills, confidence, and financial literacy through hands-on, accessible learning.



BUSINESS CONSULTING

We offer one-on-one consulting to support entrepreneurs through every phase of growth. Our experts help clients strengthen business plans, manage finances, access capital, streamline operations, and build effective marketing and sales strategies—setting them up for long-term success.



“I took the Launched and Growing course expecting to learn tactical growth strategies. Instead, it gave me something even more valuable: clarity to focus my energy strategically. That clarity has helped me make real progress in my business, instead of spreading myself too thin. Now I spend my time on activities that create meaningful impact, rather than staying busy with tasks that don't advance our mission.”

JODI GRUHN, FOUNDER & OWNER, BOREALLE



OUR NORTH STAR EXPERIENCE

WomenVenture supports socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs through a seamless, personalized experience designed to meet them where they are — and help them move confidently toward where they want to be.

We exist to empower entrepreneurs by providing the guidance, resources, and community they need to grow both personally and professionally.

WE SERVE:

Entrepreneurs who are socially and economically disadvantaged/marginalized

OUR EXPERIENCE IS:
Seamless, Supportive &
Personalized

SO THAT OUR CLIENTS FEEL:
Valued, Equipped &
Empowered

AND ARE ULTIMATELY ABLE TO:
Achieve both their personal and professional goals

The Prospective Originator

"I'm trying to get started or just getting started with my business and I need help."

Needs A Solid Foundation

The Resource Seeker

"My business is struggling but I'm determined to learn, improve and turn things around."

Needs Mentorship and Support

The Determined Improver

"My business is doing well but I know I still have room to grow."

Needs Advice and Partnership

The Successful Sponsor

"I have benefited from WomenVenture services, now it's my time to give back and help others like me."

Wants to Give Back

Less Business Mastery

More Business Mastery

PARTNER WITH US

Partner with a Purpose

Partnering with WomenVenture is a strategic investment in inclusive economic growth.

Our corporate partners:

- Align with a trusted leader advancing women entrepreneurs, especially those from historically underserved communities.
- Help remove systemic barriers to business ownership and wealth creation.
- Expand access to affordable capital and close gaps in business knowledge.
- Strengthen local economies while delivering measurable community impact.
- Position your company as a leader in gender and racial equity and small business development.

For financial institutions:

Partnerships may support Community Reinvestment Act objectives through direct engagement with entrepreneurs and small businesses in low- and moderate-income communities.

What partners gain:

- Customizable partnerships tied to our four premier events and year-round programming.
- Meaningful brand visibility and authentic community engagement.
- Alignment with business and Environment, Social, and Governance goals



YEAR-ROUND RECOGNITION	Legacy Builder \$100,000	Visionary \$75,000	Trailblazer \$50,000	Catalyst \$25,000	Elevator \$15,000	Champion \$10,000
WomenVenture Course Naming Opportunity	X					
Graduation Review Panel Opportunity	X	X				
Print Media Recognition (advertising, press release, etc.)	X	X				
Feature Story in WomenVenture Newsletter	X	X	X			
Name/Logo on Event-Specific Corporate Partner Provided Item	X	X	X			
Social Media Recognition	X	X	X	X		
Recognition at WomenVenture Gathering with CEO	X	X	X	X	X	
Invitation to WomenVenture Annual Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X
Logo with Website Link on Corporate Partner Website	X	X	X	X	X	X

Please Note: Your company receives all benefits corresponding to your giving level on both pages 6 & 7.

PARTNER WITH US

WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS	Legacy Builder	Visionary	Trailblazer	Catalyst	Elevator	Champion
Podium Recognition	X					
Step & Repeat Display Recognition	X	X				
Electronic Bidding Recognition	X	X	X			
Pre & Post Event Marketing	X	X	X	X		
Ad/Logo in Event Program	FULL	½ PAGE	¼ PAGE	LOGO	LOGO	LOGO
Name/Logo on Event Signage	X	X	X	X	X	X
Program Slideshow Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Event Tickets - Tables will have 8 guests seated w/ 2 WomenVenture staff or clients	16	16	16	8	8	8

RISE WITH HER ANNUAL BREAKFAST	Legacy Builder	Visionary	Trailblazer	Catalyst	Elevator	Champion
Podium Recognition	X					
Step & Repeat Display Recognition	X	X				
Pre & Post Event Marketing	X	X	X			
Logo in Event Program	X	X	X	X	X	X
Name/Logo on Event Signage	X	X	X	X	X	X
Program Slideshow Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Event Tickets	8	4	4	4	2	2

INVEST IN HER DINNER SERIES	Legacy Builder	Visionary	Trailblazer	Catalyst	Elevator	Champion
Podium Recognition	X					
Pre & Post Event Marketing	X	X				
Exclusive Event Invite	X	X	X			
Ad/Logo in Event Program	X	X	X			
Name/Logo on Event Signage	X	X	X	X	X	X
Program Slideshow Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X

COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS	Legacy Builder	Visionary	Trailblazer	Catalyst	Elevator	Champion
Subject Matter Expert Presentation Opportunity	X					
Feature Branded Curriculum in WV Resource Catalog	X	X				
Ongoing Client Advisor Role Opportunity	X	X	X			
Pre and Post Event Branding & Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X
On-site Event Branding & Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X

PARTNER WITH US



Women Mean Business | Annual Gala

WomenVenture's premier fundraising event bringing together bold leaders, entrepreneurs, and champions of women's economic power. This signature evening fuels WomenVenture's work by raising critical funds, honoring the resilience of women business owners, and amplifying the collective impact of a community committed to economic opportunity.



Rise with Her | Annual Breakfast

An inspiring morning bringing together community leaders, partners, and champions of women's economic opportunity to connect, reflect, and invest in what's next. Together, we'll share stories of impact, highlight the momentum behind WomenVenture's work, and rally support for the women entrepreneurs shaping our communities.



Invest in Her | Dinner Series

An intimate, invitation-only evening designed to deepen connection with WomenVenture's closest partners, donors, and champions of women's economic independence. Together, we'll share powerful stories of impact, celebrate the progress we've made, and explore what's possible as we launch the new fiscal year. Your presence—and partnership—helps fuel the next chapter of opportunity for women entrepreneurs and the communities they strengthen.



Community & Connections | Client Series

A welcoming space for entrepreneurs at every stage to connect, share resources, and build clarity around their business vision. Join us for an evening of networking, guided vision board creation, and conversation about the tools and support WomenVenture offers to both pre- and post-launch business owners. Come ready to connect, learn, and imagine what's next.

Event-Specific Corporate Partnership

WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS	Legacy Builder \$25,000	Visionary \$15,000	Trailblazer \$10,000	Catalyst \$7,500	Elevator \$6,000	Champion \$3,500
Podium Recognition	X					
Step & Repeat Display Recognition	X	X				
Electronic Bidding Recognition	X	X	X			
Pre & Post Event Marketing	X	X	X	X		
Ad/Logo in Event Program	X	X	X	X	X	X
Name/Logo on Event Signage	X	X	X	X	X	X
Program Slideshow Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Event Tickets - Tables will have 8 guests seated w/ 2 WomenVenture staff or clients	16	16	16	8	8	8

RISE WITH HER	Legacy Builder \$25,000	Visionary \$15,000	Trailblazer \$10,000	Catalyst \$7,500	Elevator \$6,000	Champion \$3,500
Podium Recognition	X					
Step & Repeat Display Recognition	X	X				
Electronic Bidding Recognition	X	X	X			
Pre & Post Event Marketing	X	X	X	X		
Ad/Logo in Event Program	X	X	X	X	X	X
Name/Logo on Event Signage	X	X	X	X	X	X
Program Slideshow Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Event Tickets	8	6	6	6	4	4

INVEST IN HER	Legacy Builder \$25,000	Visionary \$15,000	Trailblazer \$10,000	Catalyst \$7,500	Elevator \$6,000	Champion \$3,500
Podium Recognition	X					
Pre & Post Event Marketing	X	X	X			
Exclusive Event Invite	X	X	X			
Ad/Logo in Event Program	X	X	X	X	X	X
Name/Logo on Event Signage	X	X	X	X	X	X
Program Slideshow Recognition	X	X	X	X	X	X

COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS	Legacy Builder \$25,000	Visionary \$15,000	Trailblazer \$10,000	Catalyst \$7,500	Elevator \$6,000	Champion \$3,500
Opportunity to present and participate as a subject-matter expert	X					
Opportunity to feature branded curriculum in WV member-only resource catalog	X	X	X			
Ability to serve as an ongoing expert advisor to clients	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pre- and post-event marketing exposure	X	X	X	X	X	X
Branding opportunity on event promotional materials and signage	X	X	X	X	X	X

OUR LEADERSHIP

Guided by Experience & Vision

WomenVenture is led by a dedicated group of professionals who bring deep expertise, diverse perspectives, and a shared commitment to advancing economic opportunity for women entrepreneurs. Our leadership ensures strong governance, strategic growth, and mission-driven impact.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is composed of respected leaders from across the business, nonprofit, and civic sectors. Together, they provide strategic oversight, financial stewardship, and thought leadership—ensuring WomenVenture remains responsive, innovative, and positioned for long-term success.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our leadership team brings decades of experience in entrepreneurship, finance, community development, and nonprofit management. Guided by a deep understanding of the challenges facing women business owners, they work every day to expand access to capital, education, and opportunity.

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

"At WomenVenture, we believe that when women have the tools and support they need to succeed, entire communities thrive. Our role is to remove barriers, champion opportunities, and help entrepreneurs turn possibility into progress."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Gemma Kubat (She/Her)
Target Corporation

VICE CHAIR

Anna Dosen-Hicks (She/Her)
US Bank

TREASURER

Sara Kaufman (She/Her)
Securian Financial

SECRETARY

Rhonda Skoby (She/Her)
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

AJ Austerman (He/Him)
Huntington National Bank

Babette Buckner (She/Her)
Moltron Builders

Derek Burgess (He/Him)
Slalom

Rebecca Cooper (She/Her)
Wells Fargo

Nicole Dunham (She/Her)
Community Member

Afira Hasan (She/Her)
Insight Vision Care

Robyn Saphir (She/Her)
Cummins

Aimee Stolt (She/Her)
Ernst & Young LLP

Cheng Sun (She/Her)
Deloitte

Pang Mee Xiong (She/Her)
BankCherokee

Sophia Khan (She/Her)
SK HR Advisory

Join us in Advancing Economic Opportunity

When you partner with WomenVenture, you help unlock opportunity for women entrepreneurs and small business owners across our state. Together, we can break down barriers to capital, build stronger communities, and create lasting economic impact.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Your expertise can make a meaningful difference. From mentoring entrepreneurs and leading workshops to supporting events and special initiatives, corporate volunteers play a vital role in helping small businesses grow and thrive. Opportunities are flexible and tailored to your team's skills and interests.

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

Partnering with WomenVenture allows your organization to align its values with a measurable impact. Corporate partners support access to capital, business education, and technical assistance—while gaining meaningful opportunities for employee engagement, brand visibility, and community leadership.

“Associated Bank is a proud, fierce advocate for WomenVenture and its mission to empower women through capital, business resources, and mentorship. Associated Bank’s work aligns seamlessly with WomenVenture’s commitment to support women-owned businesses and foster inclusive economic growth. Together, we are investing in women, leadership, and stronger communities. We are fortunate to partner with you!”

**-HILLARY COMBS-ORGEAN,
VICE PRESIDENT BUSINESS
RELATIONSHIP MARKET
MANAGER**



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Join us in advancing economic opportunity for women entrepreneurs. Together, we can build stronger businesses, stronger families, and stronger communities.

We'd love to explore how your business can get involved.

Email: development@womenventure.org
Phone: 612-224-9561

Learn more: womenventure.org



Email: development@womenventure.org | **Phone:** 612-224-9561
womenventure.org

   @womenventuretwincities