

**WALWORTH COUNTY**

**Geneva Lake Women's Association presents six \$5,000 "Diamond Grants"**

Two additional diamond-themed fundraisers planned for 60th anniversary year

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The Lake Geneva-based Geneva Lake Women's Association (GLWA) has announced the recipients of its six \$5,000 "Diamond Grant" awards, special one-time grants in recognition of the organization's 60th anniversary.

The grants were presented

on Friday, April 26, at the kick-off party for Women's Weekend 2024, an annual event hosted by GLWA.

Receiving Diamond Grant awards at the 7:30 p.m. grant presentation in the Riviera Ballroom in downtown Lake Geneva were:

■ Bethel House, Whitewater, an ecumenical project helping families facing homelessness by providing transitional housing and case management

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Members of HOPE NOW of Elkhorn accept a "Diamond Grant" award from the Geneva Lake Women's Association during the kick off of Women's Weekend. Pictured from left, Kathy Papcke, Parliamentarian, GLWA; Lisa Seward, Hope Now; Beth Perry, Hope Now; Catherine Rupp, Development Director, GLWA; Sunny Minx, Disbursement Committee, GLWA, and Pat Herman, Treasurer, GLWA.

**GLWA**

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to families in need.

■ Dementia Friendly Community Initiative (DFCI), Elkhorn, which provides free training to businesses, agencies and churches to create dementia-friendly spaces and promote dementia awareness throughout the community. Initiatives include memory cafes and the cycling without age program. Geneva Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2373, Williams Bay, providing support and fellowship for veterans across the Geneva Lake region.

■ HOPE NOW, Elkhorn, a char-



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Bethel House of Whitewater was one of the recipients of the Geneva Lake Women's Association's "Diamond Grant" awards. Pictured from left, Megan Hartwick, Executive Director, Bethel House; Bernadette and Eric Russow, President & Secretary, DFCI; Catherine Rupp, Development Director, GLWA; Sunny Minx, Disbursement Committee, GLWA, and Pat Herman, Treasurer, GLWA.

itable organization with a focus on providing urgent, necessary assistance for rent, security deposit, utilities, transportation and medical-related needs to applicants within the Elkhorn School District area.

■ Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP)—Walworth County Chapter, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering hand-made, fully-furnished beds to Walworth County children in need. With more than 300 chapters nationwide, including 19 in Wisconsin, the mission of Pocatello, Idaho-based Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc. is to tackle childhood bedlessness, which affects nearly 3% of the population.

■ Walworth County Literacy Council, Elkhorn, which educates and partners with adult learners to reach their literacy goals, thereby empowering themselves, their families and communities.

"It's a testimony to those who have come before us, the founders of GLWA, and all of the women who have served as members and leaders over the years, that today the organization is stronger than ever," said Geneva Lake Women's Association President Pam Wenc. "We are thrilled to be able to honor their legacy with six special gifts to local charities throughout Walworth County during our 60th Diamond Anniversary year. GLWA members thrive on having fun while raising money for and



Dementia Friendly Community Initiative received a "Diamond Grant" award during the kick off for Women's Weekend, April 26. Pictured from left, Kathy Papcke, Parliamentarian, GLWA; Bernadette and Eric Russow, President & Secretary, DFCI; Catherine Rupp, Development Director, GLWA; Sunny Minx, Disbursement Committee, GLWA, and Pat Herman, Treasurer, GLWA.

raising awareness of our charitable partners. Our members each bring unique talents and abilities, but share a commitment to improving the lives of others. That's been our purpose since the beginning, and it remains strong today."

GLWA's Women's Weekend is an annual event offering three days of activities from which attendees may choose, including wellness classes, wine and food experiences, creative workshops, a boat cruise and more. Key sponsors include the City of Lake Geneva, Kunes Auto, Grand Geneva Resort, Harbor Shores Hotel, The Baker House, The Bottle Shop, Kikkoman and The Space Wellness Studio. Learn more about Women's



Members of Sleep in Heavenly Peace were a recipient of a Geneva Lake Women's Association "Diamond Grants" award. Pictured from left, Kathy Papcke, Parliamentarian, GLWA; Cindy Holmes, Chapter President, SHP-Walworth County; Laura Berg, Core Team Member, SHP; Catherine Rupp, Development Director, GLWA; Sunny Minx, Disbursement Committee, GLWA, and Pat Herman, Treasurer, GLWA.

Weekend at <https://www.lakegenevawomensweekend.com> or the Women's Weekend Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/WomensWeekendLakeGenevaWI>.

Proceeds from Women's Weekend go to GLWA Philanthropic Fund, which benefits charitable organizations throughout Walworth County.

Wenc said the Geneva Lake Women's Association will also hold two more 60th anniversary events this year.

"In addition to our Women's Weekend event, we have two more diamond-themed fundraisers planned for 2024," she said. "Now in its 21st year, our signature event, Ladies Day Luncheon, 'Diamonds, Bunnies and Best Sellers,' will be on Monday, Sept. 9. New for our anniversary year will be a premier fall gala, 'Bling It On Gala: For Charity,' planned for Saturday, Nov. 9."

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**A long history of giving**

With a mission of raising funds, raising hopes and raising spirits, since 1964 the Geneva Lake Women's Association has supported charitable organizations serving

those in need.

GLWA was originally an extension of the Lake Geneva Jaycees known as the Lake Geneva Jayettes, a group of women who devoted their time and talents to the community through direct

service projects. In 1986, the group declared itself independent of the Jaycees and became the Geneva Lake Women's Association.

Today, GLWA members are innovators in developing and administering programs to answer the

needs and issues facing the Greater Walworth County community including Meals on Wheels, Safety Town, Special Olympics, and many more.

"Women are welcome to learn more about GLWA and meet other

members at our regular membership meeting on the first Monday of every month," Wenc said.

For more information, visit [www.glwa.net](http://www.glwa.net) or the Geneva Lake Womens Association Facebook page.



Members of the Geneva Lake VFW Post 2373 was awarded a "Diamond Grant" award by the Geneva Lake Women's Association. Pictures from left, Kathy Papcke, Parliamentarian, GLWA; Ron Grabski, Commander, VFW Post 2373; Catherine Rupp, Development Director, GLWA; Sunny Minx, Disbursement Committee, GLWA, and Pat Herman, treasurer, GLWA.



SUBMITTED PHOTO, REGIONAL NEWS

The Walworth County Literacy Council received a "Diamond Grant" award from the Geneva Lake Women's Association, April 26. Pictured from left, Kathy Papcke, Parliamentarian, GLWA; Josefina Sanchez, WCLC board member; Catherine Rupp, Development Director, GLWA; Diane Aschmann, Instructional Support, WCLC; Sunny Minx, Disbursement Committee, GLWA, and Pat Herman, Treasurer, GLWA.