

FORWARD

News & Updates from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation



HONORING A LEGACY OF EMPOWERMENT. In May, at our 7th Annual GALA, we celebrated our 2024 AmplifiHER, Susan Werner Thoresen, who will be remembered for her lifetime of work for gender equality. Read more about this uplifting, energizing and inspiring event inside! (See Page 6)

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As this session wraps up, see where our priority legislation stands. (p4)



SECOND GENTLEMAN

We hosted Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff for a gender equity roundtable. (p8)



WOMEN & GIRLS OF COLOR FUND UPDATE

As this Fund evolves, it gains its inaugural Chair! (p10)



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A Note from the CEO

As fall arrives and the leaves begin to change, the Foundation heads into its busiest time of year with our 20th Annual Women Building Community Luncheon, fall and winter house parties across the state, distributing grants to nearly 30 grantees across the state, preparing for a new legislative session, and wrapping up our ambitious and impactful annual giving season. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events and if not, please reach out—our NHWF team and I would love to connect!

Meanwhile, this summer was especially eventful with a very successful 7th Annual GALA where we celebrated our AmplifiHER, Susan Werner Thoresen. We released the latest edition of our flagship report, *The Status of Girls in New Hampshire 2024*, the most comprehensive compilation of data on girls in the Granite State (complimented by our sister report, *The Status of Women in New Hampshire*, to be released next year).

We wrapped up a packed session in the New Hampshire Legislature where we worked on bills that would defend progress on women's rights, support equitable access to fertility treatment, improve access to maternal health care, protect access to abortion, and protect the rights of our LGBTQ+ community. Unfortunately, we had some upsetting losses, none more painful than watching anti-trans legislation be passed and signed by the Governor. However, we also had some important wins, including seeing the fertility access bill signed into law.

As you'll see in this issue, we are learning and growing our Women and Girls of Color Fund team, and spent much of the spring connecting with our current and past grantees around the state. We are only able to fund a fraction of the grant requests we receive each year, and those grants are made possible with the support of donors like you who are passionate about women and girls and whose values align with the Women's Foundation.

As always, I am so grateful for your support of the Women's Foundation. Together we are changing the future by investing in women and girls.

With you in spirit and in action,

Tanna



Honoring a Legacy of Gender Equality

We are deeply saddened to share that our dear friend, Women's Fund founder, activist and philanthropist, Susan Werner Thoresen, passed away on Friday, June 14, after a courageous three-year battle with bile duct cancer.

Sue had a profound impact on the Women's Foundation, as well as the many organizations, programs and campaigns to which she dedicated her time, leadership and financial resources. She was known for her work advocating for equal pay, women's rights, reproductive health care, the arts, community development and helping organizations build a sustainable future through planned giving.

We are so grateful to have been able to honor Sue as our 2024 AmplifiHER recipient at our GALA one month before her death. If you would like to send a condolence note to Sue's family or make a donation in her honor, please visit our website or call our office at 603-226-3355.

2024 NHWF Board Retreat



Every other year, the Women's Foundation Board and Staff gather for a day-and-a-half retreat. For the third time, the retreat was held at St. Methodios in Contoocook.

Highlights from this year's retreat included welcoming and onboarding five new board members, team building during our fire-side chat on Thursday evening, and spending Friday reviewing and recommitting to our three strategic priorities of Voice, Money and Power.

The nearly 24 hours our board and staff spent together at this year's retreat was immensely valuable. It was a success in tangible ways — such as updated goals, group learning and a renewed grounding in our mission — and in intangible ways, such as strengthened bonds and new friendships. We look forward to gathering again in 2026!



Meet Our New Board Chair!

Allison Potter joined the New Hampshire Women's Foundation Board in 2019, and in December, was voted in as the Women's Foundation's youngest Board Chair in NHWF history! Allison founded Swell Media in 2013, which was acquired by Meet The People and their family of independent agencies in 2023. Her leadership as a woman business owner has informed her practice of mentoring young women in her field. Allison brings a depth of experience and knowledge to her role, unmatched only by her passion for supporting Granite State women and girls. We are so thrilled to see how her leadership, supported by her Vice Chair, outgoing Board member Dan Weeks, shapes the next phase of NHWF's growth. Please join us in welcoming Allison Potter!

CONTACT US

18 Low Ave, Suite 205, Concord, NH 03301 | nhwomensfoundation.org | 603.226.3355

Introducing Five New Board Members

Five new board members joined us this year, bringing expertise from industries and geographic regions across New Hampshire.



Joe Keefe
Sustainable
Investing
Leader



The Honorable Joanna Kelley
Co-Owner,
Cup of Joe;
Portsmouth
Assistant
Mayor



Lyndsay Robinson
Partner,
Shaheen &
Gordon



The Honorable Colin Van Ostern
Business
Leader



Dr. Erin Zagadailov
PharmD,
MS, BioTech
Executive

Learn more about these five dynamic leaders, along with their full bios, on our website:



2024 Legislative Highlights



In the 2024 legislative session, we advocated for bills spanning abortion, access to fertility treatment, girls' mental health, child care and defending trans youth. In a non-budget year, an election year, with a closely divided House, here are the outcomes of our priority bills impacting women and girls:

NHWF: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **SIGNED INTO LAW** **EQUITABLE ACCESS TO FERTILITY TREATMENT (HB 1197)**

Amended to include one aspect of SB 558 (Modern Economy Act) sponsored by Senator Perkins Kwoka, this bill requires applicable health insurance plans to offer up to six rounds of Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) to all members, regardless of their family composition. This makes fertility treatment more affordable and accessible to same-sex female couples, individual women, and anyone with a uterus to help start or grow their families. Until this law, heterosexual couples who could not conceive after 12 months were covered for fertility treatment (often starting with IUI) while same-sex female couples and individual women had to pay out of pocket for IUI before being covered for other fertility treatment. This makes access to fertility treatment equitable!

Prime Sponsor: Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka

NHWF: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **SIGNED INTO LAW** **CHILD CARE FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS (SB 404)**

Affordable and accessible child care is essential for a functioning economy. Women are the most impacted by the child care industry – both as the providers and as those who rely on its service. SB 404, as amended, creates a pilot program to provide child care workers with greater access to the child care scholarship. This would bring child care workers back into the industry to expand the number of classrooms and slots available in communities. Women make the economy work. But they need child care.

Prime Sponsor: Senator Becky Whitley

NHWF: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **SIGNED INTO LAW** **COVERING EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS (SB 411)**

As amended, this bill creates a committee to study access to youth emergency mental health services. Girls have higher rates of depression, considering suicide, poor mental health, and self-harm. Girls are also more likely to ask for help from services such as NH Crisis Text Line. Families deserve to know they can get the help they need for their children.

Prime Sponsor: Senator Becky Whitley

NHWF: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **SIGNED INTO LAW** **EATING DISORDER HOTLINE ON STUDENT ID CARDS (HB 1109)**

This bill adds the Eating Disorder Hotline to the back of student ID cards. New Hampshire girls are more likely than boys to try to lose weight and engage in harmful ways to lose weight, however, girls are also more likely to ask for help from services such as NH Crisis Text Line. Putting resources literally in the hands of students will support girls and is a smart way to reduce stigma and reach all students where they are.

Prime Sponsor: Representative Rosemarie Rung

NHWF: **OPPOSE HB 1205, HB 1312, and HB 619**

Outcome: **SIGNED INTO LAW**

NHWF: **OPPOSE HB 396**

Outcome: **VETOED**

TARGETING AND DISCRIMINATING AGAINST TRANS YOUTH

Transgender girls are girls. Like all girls, trans girls deserve to be treated fairly and have access to all our schools have to offer. Several anti-trans bills would move us backwards from the progress New Hampshire has made in recogniz-

ing transgender people in nondiscrimination law.

The House and Senate passed four anti-trans bills including:

1. HB 1205 which bans trans girls from participating in girls sports
2. HB 1312 which requires advanced notice of school curriculum that includes gender or sexuality
3. HB 619 which bans provider referrals for gender-affirming surgeries for minors
4. HB 396 which allows discrimination on the basis of gender identity in schools, bathrooms, locker rooms, prisons, and jails

Governor Sununu signed three of them (HB 1205, HB 1312, and HB 619) and vetoed one (HB 396). We are deeply disappointed in Governor Sununu's decision to sign these three bills that harm trans youth.

Prime Sponsors: Representatives Louise Andrus, Kristine Perez, Terry Roy, and Jim Kofalt

NHWF: **SUPPORT**

Outcome: **DID NOT PASS** **ENSHRINING THE RIGHT TO ABORTION IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONSTITUTION (CACR 23 + CACR 24)**

New Hampshire is the only state in New England that has not protected the right to abortion in state law. These two CACRs (Constitutional Amendments) would have allowed the voters to decide if there should be a clear and affirming right to bodily autonomy in the state's constitution. If it had passed the legislature, it would have been on the ballot in November.

Prime Sponsors: Senator Debra Altschiller and Representative Amanda Toll

Our Latest *Status of Girls in New Hampshire* Report

In June, we celebrated the release of our 2024 *Status of Girls in New Hampshire* report. This report is the most comprehensive compilation of data on girls in the Granite State. It includes 74 indicators of New Hampshire girls' well-being in education, economic security, health, substance abuse and safety.

The indicators highlight a strong, smart, resilient and diversifying population of girls with endless potential. The data also highlight disparate outcomes by gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and geography. These disparities present opportunities for investment and involvement to support Granite State girls.

Data during and after the pandemic show how girls were impacted in the areas of academic achievement, college persistence, substance use and contraception use — but particularly in mental health. New Hampshire girls are twice as likely as boys to experience poor mental health, depression, self-harm, and suicide consideration. Gay, lesbian and bisexual girls have much higher rates of poor mental health than their heterosexual peers. Teens with poor mental health are at increased risk for many adverse effects, such as drug and substance use, risky sexual behaviors, poor academic performance, and low self-esteem. However, girls not only receive

mental health services at twice the rate of boys, but girls are also more likely to ask for help from services such as NH Crisis Text Line, where 3 out of 4 youth callers identify as girls.

We know that New Hampshire girls are resilient and parents, families, schools and community programs offer opportunities for girls to connect, learn, grow, and thrive. To reflect these experiences, we highlight the voices of girls and the efforts of our Grantees throughout the report in Spotlights, to remind us of the joy and pride girls have in themselves despite historic events and social inequities.

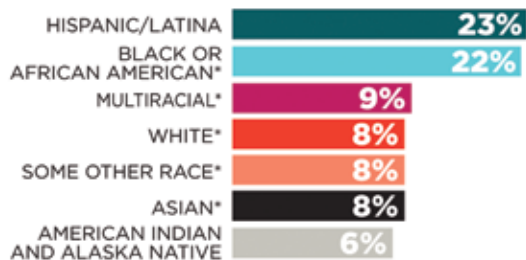
Highlights from the report, particularly around girls' mental health, has been covered by media across the state. We are pleased that our data can be used to reinforce the need for greater resources and supports for New Hampshire girls, and encourage you to see the full report, and read some of the news coverage using the report on our website, where you can also request a printed copy:



Read the full report:
nhwomensfoundation.org/SOG



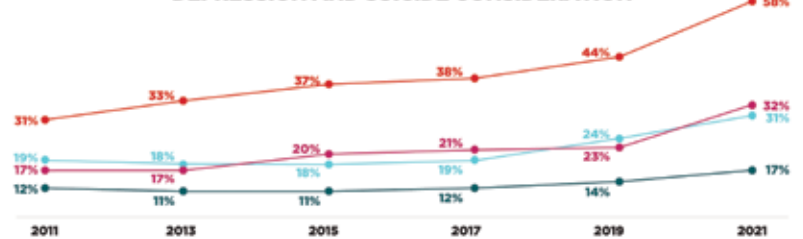
GIRLS' POVERTY RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



US Census Bureau ACS 2021 5-year estimates.
Detailed Tables B01001 & B17001, data.census.gov

* NON-HISPANIC

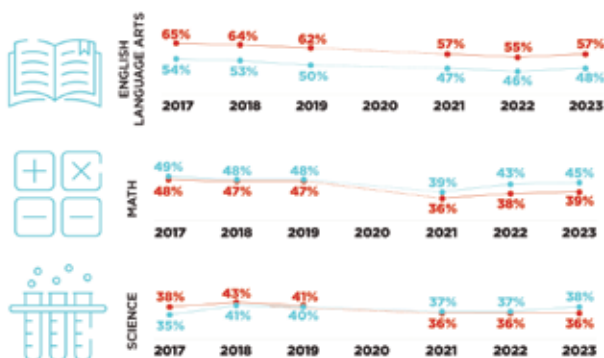
DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE CONSIDERATION



● GIRLS DEPRESSED ● GIRLS CONSIDERED SUICIDE
● BOYS DEPRESSED ● BOYS CONSIDERED SUICIDE

NH DHHS Data Portal, YRBS Summary, 2011-2021, wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov

STUDENTS ACHIEVING SUBJECT PROFICIENCY



● GIRLS ● BOYS

NH DOE, Performance Data - Assessments, 2017-2023,
mydoe.nh.gov/iPlatform

CYBERBULLYING TARGETED AT GIRLS BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION



2021 YRBS data portal export by Sexual Identity.
provided by NH DHHS 18-Aug-2023

A GALA to Remember

Our 7th Annual New Hampshire Women's Foundation GALA was a resounding success! Friends from far and near gathered for the sold-out event at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club to support the Women's Foundation and to celebrate our AmplifiHER, the late Susan Werner Thoresen. The event raised over \$150,000 to support the Foundation.

Board Chair Emeriti and GALA Co-Chairs, Mary Jo Brown and Martha Fuller Clark, oversaw a moving and impactful tribute to Sue for her lifetime of philanthropy, advocacy and community leadership with a touching tribute video and the presentation of our AmplifiHER award.

During the event, Sue's husband, Bob Thoresen, announced two generous gifts to the Women's Foundation in honor of Sue: first, he is establishing a field of interest fund focused on reproductive rights and access, and second, in recognition of Sue's longtime commitment to organizational sustainability and planned giving, he will be offering a challenge "match" this fall to help increase the Women's Foundation's endowment to \$5 Million.

The Women's Foundation also celebrated three Trailblazers at the GALA. These trailblazing women shared the spirit and values of the Women's Foundation and have changed the landscape for women and girls in the Granite State through their respective contributions.

This year's Trailblazers were Iris Turmelle, a trans rights advocate and student; Ophelia Burnett, a restorative healing justice advocate and organizer; and Judge Tina Nadeau, a pioneer of drug courts and judicial reform in New Hampshire.

Special thanks to our generous Corporate Sponsors: Saltwater Collective, Wild Valentine, Dartmouth Health, ReVision Energy, McNabb Properties, New Hampshire Business Review, Shaheen & Gordon and New Hampshire Public Radio.

To make a donation in honor of Sue Thoresen, donate online here:



**Mailing a check? NHWF 18 Low Ave,
Suite 205, Concord, NH 03301
(603) 226-3355**

Save the date for our 8th Annual GALA:
Saturday, May 17, 2025 at the Wentworth by the
Sea Hotel in New Castle, NH.





See videos, highlights
and more GALA 2024
photos at:



Women Run! Trainings Ahead of Local & State Office Elections

Some of the most common barriers to many women who consider running for office now or in the future are the expectations of needing to know everything, or not being “qualified” enough. *Women Run!* is the only program in New Hampshire encouraging and training women to run for state and local elected office. Through virtual trainings, our *Women Run!* programs help to break down those barriers by helping women gain the confidence and tools to run with the skills and abilities they already have.

In February, we offered several opportunities for women across the state to learn from locally-elected women, ahead of Town Meeting Day. In May, we ran a series for women considering running for state office, ahead of the June filing deadlines. We were joined each time by an impressive lineup of elected women leaders, including: Senator Shannon Chandley, Senator Denise Ricciardi, Representative Paige Beauchemin, Representative Hope Damon, Representative Alicia Gregg, Representative Gaby Grossman, Representative Loren Selig, Town Moderator Helen Hanks, School Board Member Kara LaMarche, and Select Board Chair Laurie Warnock.

Want to get email updates on upcoming trainings?

Sign up for *Women Run!* emails here:






 Senator Denise Ricciardi


 Representative Paige Beauchemin


 Representative Hope Damon


 Representative Gaby Grossman

Increasing Women in Local Office
 Wednesday, May 15, 2024 12:00 PM — 1:00 PM




 Laurie Warnock
 Select Board Member
 Hampstead


 Kara LaMarche
 School Board Member
 Bedford


 Helen Hanks
 Town Moderator
 Town of Tilton

GETTING THE WORD OUT
 Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Second Gentleman Talks Gender Equality with NHWF



The New Hampshire Women’s Foundation was pleased to welcome **Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff** in June for a roundtable conversation on gender equity, at Girls at Work in Manchester. Joining the Second Gentleman were two administration officials: **Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services, Melanie Fontes Rainer**, and **Director of the Office of Child Care at the Department of Health and Human Services, Ruth Friedman**.

The Second Gentleman and special guests received a tour of Girls at Work, led by Girls at Work Program Director Kaylee Richard, a former Girls at Work participant. During the roundtable, the Second Gentleman and Directors Fontes Rainer and Friedman

each gave remarks on the importance of gender equity and the priority that gender equity had in the Administration.

“We know that here in New Hampshire, women are paid 76 cents on the dollar to a man’s wage, which we see nationwide — it’s just not fair, it’s not right.” Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff said. “This isn’t to the detriment of any man to lift up women. As my wife the Vice President has said many times, when we lift up women, we lift up the economy.”

Around the State: Meeting Grantee Leaders Where They Are



“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

A note from Lauren Wool,
NHWF Director of Grantmaking

The true definition of philanthropy is “love of humanity” and for the New Hampshire Women’s Foundation and our supporters, that is certainly as true today as it has been since our founding. Our Community Grantmaking Program is one of the ways we show the love; investing in nonprofits throughout the Granite State that have real impact for women and girls.

I have been connecting with our 2023 Grantee Partners, hearing their perspectives from being on the forefront in their communities. Unique and sometimes disarming accounts of the needs and challenges; inspiring stories of successes and vision; thoughtful considerations about partnership “beyond the check”; and ways they have seen proof of women and girls building their own “Voice, Money, Power”. The opportunity to learn with and from so many dynamic leaders throughout NH’s nonprofit sector is a privilege that we do not take for granted.

Tina Turner’s hit song title “What’s Love Got To Do With It” is evocative, but our love for NH’s women and girls thriving is hardly a “second-hand emotion.” When women and girls prosper, communities prosper. Knowing more about the challenges and opportunities brings the responsibility to act and be agents for change. Join us!



Clockwise from top left: Staff and Student Farmers at the high tunnel at Cornucopia Project in Peterborough; Kerry Norton, Executive Director and Founder at Hope on Haven Hill at their new facility in Rochester; The Overcomers Refugee Services Women’s Group meets in Concord; Susan and Pascale at Turning Points Network in Claremont outside their new facility; Kathy Beebe, Executive Director at HAVEN in Portsmouth.

The Next Phase of Our Women and Girls of Color Fund

Women & Girls of Color FUND

and girls — but did you know that a mere 0.5% are directed towards those serving women and girls of color — equivalent to just half a penny per dollar? This stark disparity underscores the urgent need for targeted action to rectify historic and systemic underinvestment.

As part of our ongoing commitment to equity and justice, NHWF launched the Women and Girls of Color Fund in 2022. We knew that a different way of philanthropy would be needed in order to address and reverse the historic and persistent underinvestment in women and girls of color. We launched the Fund with a commitment that we would learn along the way what worked and what didn't, and were committed to learning and evolving as we grew.

You may be familiar with the dismal statistic that nationwide, only 1.9% of philanthropic dollars are allocated to organizations serving women

WOMEN & GIRLS OF COLOR FUND ADVISORS



KILE
ADUMENE

ZIB
CORELL

HON. MELANIE
LEVESQUE

RASHIDA
MOHAMED



HON. JACKIE
WEATHERSPOON

DAN
WEEKS

SINDISO
MNISI WEEKS

In its first two years, the Women and Girls of Color Fund, led by a team of community advisors, has provided low-barrier, faster turnaround grants to projects led by and serving women and girls of color across the state. A few early projects that the Fund has invested in have included Victory Women of Vision, Manchester Community Action Coalition, New American Scholars and Courtney Daniel Brand “No To Patterns.”

In addition to these developments, we are also thrilled to introduce Rashida Mohamed as the Fund's Chair — read on to learn more about her!

Introducing the Inaugural Chair of the Women and Girls of Color Fund



The Women and Girls of Color Fund embodies the Women's Foundation's dedication to driving meaningful change. With a focus on amplifying the voices and addressing the needs of marginalized communities, we are pleased to introduce our inaugural chair of the Women and Girls of Color Fund advisory board: Rashida Eltag Mohamed.

Rashida has served on the Women's Foundation Board for five years. She is the Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Advocate at the Manchester Police Department. Prior to that, she worked for the International Institute of New Hampshire, where she educated newcomers about the differences in attitudes and laws in the United States, especially involving rights and protections for women and children. Rashida, who is originally from Sudan, moved to New Hampshire in 2001.

Rashida's new role as Chair of the fund's advisory board signifies a pivotal moment in reshaping philanthropy in New Hampshire. As the Women and Girls of Color Fund takes flight, Rashida Eltag Mohamed's leadership promises to guide our continued investments in opportunity and empowerment for racialized and marginalized communities across the state.



During the Ottoman era, women sought the help of the Sheikh of Al-Azhar for problem-solving behind this door.

“When I was younger, my dad used to call me “Margaret Thatcher” as a nickname. However, he meant it in a derogatory way and did not intend to compliment me. Despite his intentions, I took pride in the nickname because it encouraged me to learn more about Margaret Thatcher, a prominent female leader in history. I was particularly drawn to her quote, “There can be no liberty unless there is economic liberty.” That quote inspired me to become passionate about supporting women's rights and led me to move to the USA. Despite the challenges that came with that decision, I would make the same decision again in a heartbeat.”

—Rashida Eltag Mohamed



Become a FundHER

Our leadership donors are an integral part of the Women's Foundation. These loyal and generous donors demonstrate their commitment and passion for women and girls by pledging \$1,000 or more per year to the Women's Foundation. Their collective support represents a significant part of the Foundation's annual budget and it is long overdue that we give these important donors a new name!

We are pleased to announce the new name for our leading donors: FundHER.

FundHERs drive the Women's Foundation forward, empowering a better future for New Hampshire women and girls. Interested in becoming a FundHER? Contact Tanna Clews at tanna@nhwomensfoundation.org.

Rachel Connell Legacy Fund for Girls' Leadership



Rachel Connell was a fierce lifelong advocate for women and girls and her impact on the people around her was immense. As Rachel's family considered how to best memorialize Rachel's legacy, they thought of the Women's Foundation. What better way to honor Rachel's memory than to ensure a lasting impact through a fund supporting the next generation of strong women? The Rachel Connell Legacy Fund for Girls' Leadership, will focus on empowering girls across New Hampshire, whether through grants to organizations developing girls' leadership, or programs created at the Women's Foundation to empower girls. We are honored to ensure Rachel's legacy continues by elevating and supporting Granite State girls.

The Connell family invites you to join them and contribute to the Rachel Connell Legacy for Girls' Leadership. You can do so on our website at NHWF.org/donate (and select "Rachel Connell Legacy for Girls' Leadership"), by mailing a check to NHWF (be sure to note "Rachel Connell Legacy for Girls' Leadership"), or by calling us at (603) 226-3355.



Wear Your Support of the Women's Foundation with NHWF swag!

Limited availability of some designs and sizes.

View and shop at:
NHWomensFoundation.Org/Store





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WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**

18 Low Avenue, Suite 205, Concord, NH 03301



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COMMUNITY
LUNCHEON**

OCT | 17 | 2024

Learn more:
NHWomensFoundation.org/WBC

