

# Women Inspired Network names 2025 Celebration of Giving grant recipients

Waltham Elementary School received a grant from the Women Inspired Network during its Celebration of Giving event on Dec. 9. Pictured (from left) are Starved Rock Community Foundation founder Pamela Beckett, WIN grants chair Debbie Buffington, Waltham teacher Kathleen Diluciano, WIN steering committee co-chair Cherie Reynolds, and SRCCF CEO Fran Broley.

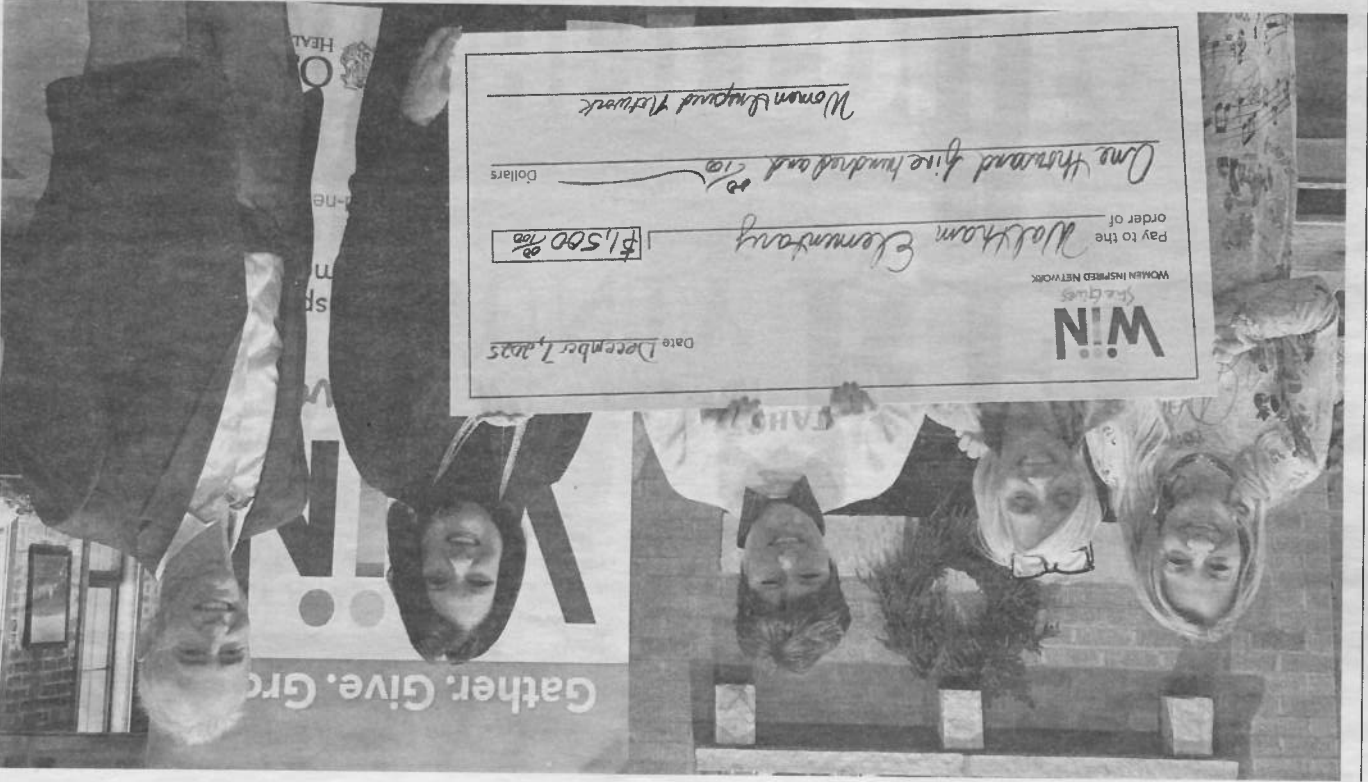


Photo provided by the Starved Rock Community Foundation

## Ninth annual giving event supports therapy dog, library, garden

By SHAW LOCAL NEWS NETWORK

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The Women Inspired Network awarded \$8,000 in grants to local non-

profits during its ninth annual Celebration of Giving on Sunday, Dec. 9. The event was emceed by Women Inspired Network grants chair Debbie Buffington and steering committee co-chair Cherie Reynolds. Buffington said WIN has awarded \$120,000 in grants and scholarships since its founding. The grant recipients included:   
 • Peru Police Department, "Haven's Heroes" therapy dog - \$5,000   
 • Waltham Elementary School library

Regional Office of Education 35 Academy's "Resilient Rockstars" - \$1,000   
 • Grow Spring Valley's "Julie Rutgens Tallant Community Garden" - \$500   
 The Peru Police Department's K9 Haven is a St. Bernard therapy dog assigned to the department's school resources officer. The program's goal is to increase the frequency of kind school acts

See CELEBRATION OF GIVING, page 4

## LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Putnam County library system to close for holiday weeks

The Putnam County Public Library District will be closed for two holiday periods in late December and early January.

All library branches will be closed Dec. 24 to 26 for Christmas and Dec. 31 to Jan. 2 for New Year's.

The library system will resume regular

hours following each holiday closure. For information, contact the Putnam County Public Library District at 815-339-2038.

- Shaw Local News Network

### Illinois Valley Alzheimer's support group set to meet in Peru

The Illinois Valley Alzheimer's Caring Friends Support Group will host its monthly

meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, in the upper level of the Peru Public Library, 1409 11th St.

The meeting will address caring for loved ones and navigating the holidays.

For information, call Peggy Garner at 815-585-0561, Joanne Milby at 815-228-1858 or Bob Frig at 815-220-0202.

- Maribeth M. Wilson