



Contact:

Dave Schultz, President
Waukesha County Community Foundation
dschultz@waukeshafoundation.org
262-513-1861

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To view a complete version of this release with images, please visit
<http://news.marketingimages.com/default.asp?nid=TBD>

**The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County Names
2010 Women of Distinction Award Honorees**

Waukesha, Wis. March 22, 2010 -- The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County announces the recipients of the 2010 Women of Distinction, Family of Women of Distinction, and Young Woman of Tomorrow Awards. This year's Women of Distinction honorees are Karen Dalessandro of New Berlin, Linda Kons of Menomonee Falls and Brenda Ness of Waukesha. Marian Etzel and her daughters, Diane Harley and Janet Kenny of Menomonee Falls, and granddaughter, Kathleen Farvour of Germantown, were named the Family of Women of Distinction. Stacey Lynn Bjorgaard of Oconomowoc was named the Young Woman of Tomorrow.

The honorees will be recognized at the Women of Distinction Awards luncheon event on May 11, 2010, at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. Proceeds from this annual event support the Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County, a fund of the Waukesha County Community Foundation. Honorees will receive awards created by artist Peggy Thurston Farrell.

The Judging Committee was chaired by Lynn M. Revoy, retired vice president of learning and student services, Waukesha County Technical College, and a Women of Distinction honoree in 1996; and Emily Lorenz, community volunteer, who was named by the Volunteer Center as Volunteer of the Year in 2007.

Serving on the committee were Dave Helling, M.D., retired; Mary Lodes, retired vice president and chief nurse executive, Waukesha Memorial Hospital, and a 2009 Women of Distinction Award recipient; Kathy Gale, executive director, Interfaith Senior Programs of Waukesha County; Terry Janssen, President, Janssen & Co., S.C.; and Suzanne Kelley, President, Waukesha County Chamber of Commerce.

Karen Dalessandro, Morning Show host for Clear Channel's WMIL "Moo Crew", has raised over a quarter of a million dollars annually for the Child Abuse Prevention Fund /Children's Hospital of Wisconsin through the FM106.1 RadioThon. In addition to her many charitable contributions, she has found homes for hundreds of animals through her work with the Wisconsin Humane Society. Karen has devoted herself to women's

wellness through her annual Mammogram Party, taking a group of ladies for their screening in a limo, complete with brunch, Q & A with a breast care specialist and a live broadcast of the morning show. After losing her own mother to breast cancer last summer, Dalessandro teamed with Wisconsin Well Women and Susan G. Komen to develop “106 Check Up for Chicks”. The campaign allows her to create awareness year round while offering 106 underinsured and uninsured women the opportunity to receive a mammogram. Her Bosom Buddy social networking program invites women to join in the fight against breast cancer by promising to spread the word about the importance of self exams and mammogram screenings. Her voice represents hundreds of women becoming advocates for their own health every day.

Linda Kons, office assistant at Carmel Builders, Inc., has a long history of community involvement in Menomonee Falls, especially with local youth development programs. She helped start a Little League program that has grown to support more than 1,100 boys and girls, and she started a committee that led to the opening of a Teen Center in the community and served on its board for many years. Kons served on the School Board in Menomonee Falls for 12 years, including a term as the 2nd female President of the Board. She is currently the Program Chair for Leadership Menomonee Falls and is scheduled to be the 2010/2011 Chair of the Board of Governors of Leadership Menomonee Falls. She co-founded a high school job fair and has been active with the Optimist Club, Falls Community Outreach Steering Committee, the Skateboard and Bike Park Committee, the Chamber Tourism and Marketing Committees and her church Parish Council.

Brenda Ness Marineau, Bilingual / ELL Program Coordinator and Educator for the School District of Waukesha at the secondary level, is a tireless advocate for English Language Learning students and their immigrant families, who is dedicated to making the dream and vision of America work for all. She takes a personal interest in the success of her students, facilitating after school tutoring and “College Fridays” to support their work on college and scholarship applications to connect them with post-secondary success, while working at the same time to connect their families with needed access to a range of other community resources. Ness is a charter member of the Waukesha County Dental Coalition and served as President of the Waukesha Area Sister City Association since 1998, coordinating medical supply shipments, three youth exchange projects, fundraising efforts to support life-saving operations for numerous children, and three State Department supported domestic violence exchange projects between Waukesha and its sister city of Kokshetau, Kazakhstan.

Marian Etzel and her daughters, **Diane Harley** and **Janet Kenny** of Menomonee Falls, and granddaughter, **Kathleen Favour** of Germantown, have improved the quality of life for thousands of people in Waukesha County for more than 60 years. Etzel, a lifelong resident of the Falls, has worked to organize the annual Menomonee Falls Memorial Day parade, including sewing costumes and participating as a clown. At age 80, she still dresses as the Easter Bunny for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. She is dedicated to active participation in the democratic system of government, serving as a poll worker for more than 36 years. She served meals to the homeless through Loaves and Fishes and delivered

Meals on Wheels for many years. She continues to organize volunteers and collect food for the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry. She volunteers at Community Memorial Hospital and has donated 72 pints of blood. She has been active in her church and served as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, imbuing girls with her belief that there are no limits to what girls can achieve if they put their mind to it. She also was the first woman in Menomonee Falls to own and ride a motorcycle.

Diane Harley has been a sixth grade teacher in Menomonee Falls for 36 years, where she has been co-director of the Destination Imagination Program at St. Mary School. She is Chairperson of the Youth Award Committee. When serving as President of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, the organization sponsored workshops to expose girls to a variety of unusual occupations. She works at the Falls Food Pantry, the St. Ben's meal program and takes her 6th grade class to St. Vincent de Paul twice a year to serve meals to those in need. She is a Board member of the Falls Historical Society, serves as Block Captain for the Neighborhood Watch Association, and for more than 10 years has driven an elderly neighbor to the grocery store and church every week.

After her three children were in school, Janet Kenny finished her degree in secondary education. She has taught at Brookfield Academy since 1993, where she serves as director of the math department. She initiated the Middle School's annual Pi Day celebration and instituted the Middle School Math Meet. She coaches students who compete in the Wisconsin Math League Contest, the national Math Counts competition and various international competitions. For many years, she served on the board of directors and as treasurer for Accompany of Kids, a nonprofit youth performance troupe. She was PTA treasurer, Girl Scout Cookie Mom and has been an active member of her church, where she serves as a deaconess, a prayer person and a member of the mission team.

Diane Harley's daughter, Kathleen Farvour, is in her sixth year of teaching at Ben Franklin Elementary School in Menomonee Falls, where she is co-advisor of the Math Olympiad program and active with the Ben Franklin Academy after-school program. She previously taught for one year at St. Mary Elm Grove, where she served as co-advisor of the Student Council program and as a volunteer track coach. She was also a volunteer volleyball coach, spending two years with the CYM high school league at St. Joseph Wauwatosa and one year with eighth graders at St. Mary Menomonee Falls. She volunteers at the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry, cooks food for the St. Ben's Meal Program monthly, and is an active member of her church as a Eucharistic Minister.

Stacey Lynn Bjorgaard is a senior at Kettle Moraine High School, where she is ranked first in her class of 351 students, with a 4.989 weighted GPA. Stacey played number one singles tennis on her conference tournament championship team, was chosen by her coach as MVP and was named Outstanding Player of the Year by the Waukesha Tennis Association. She is co-associate concertmaster and member of the 1st violin section of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra's Senior Symphony, which performed throughout China. Stacey was elected vice president of her class as a Junior and Senior,

was instrumental in the success of blood drives and homecoming festivities, and was appointed as student representative on a committee to increase Summer Academy enrollment. She participated with the Best Buddies program, which pairs students with those with disabilities. She has volunteered at the Oconomowoc Hospital as well as La Casa de Esperanza, where she was a classroom assistant. This fall she will be attending Brown University, Providence, RI, studying biology and Spanish. She aspires to become a pediatric specialist.

During the luncheon honoring these women, the 2010 Women and Girls Fund grants, which are supported in part from the proceeds of the luncheon, will be awarded to area agencies.

For more information or to order luncheon tickets, please contact Lynne Foltz, Waukesha County Community Foundation, at 262-513-1861 or go on line at www.waukeshafoundation.org, [Women of Distinction](#).

###

The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County supports programs and organizations that help women and girls overcome obstacles and achieve success. Grants focus on programs that offer education arts, cultural opportunities, and health and human services. The Women and Girls Fund is a permanent fund of the Waukesha County Community Foundation. For more information, visit www.waukeshafoundation.org.