

WINTER 2026

# Leading Ladies

Connect. Create. Change. Celebrate!

## Leading Ladies in the Limelight: Celebrating Our “16 Over 60” Honorees



*Our Leading Ladies continue to set the standard for leadership and service in West Michigan. We are delighted to announce that three of our own—Judy Welch, Deb Kay, and LouAnn Shawver—were selected as Senior Neighbors’ 2025 “16 Over 60” honorees.*

This honor celebrates individuals who redefine what it means to age with purpose, recognizing those who contribute their wisdom and energy to make Kent County a better place at any age.

- **Judy Welch**

is honored for her expansive philanthropic heart and tireless work in community leadership.

- **Deb Kay**

is recognized for her fierce advocacy and ability to lead with both grace and effectiveness in healthcare, community and philanthropy.

- **LouAnn Shawver**

is celebrated as a resilient builder and an empowered leader who inspires everyone she meets.

These women embody the “Connect, Create, Change” mission of the Leading Ladies. Please join us in celebrating their incredible contributions!



## The Power of 100: Welcoming Shelley Irwin

History was made in 2025 when we reached a major milestone, our 100th member! Fittingly, #100 is a woman who has spent her career amplifying the voices of others: Shelley Irwin.

As the award-winning host of The Shelley Irwin Show on WGUV and one of the region's most influential leaders, Shelley brings an unparalleled passion for storytelling and community building to our group. Her arrival marks a new chapter for our "dynamos" as we continue to grow our reach and our impact. Welcome to the sisterhood, Shelley!

Since Shelly joined, we've added ten more members: Zeljka Adzic, Vicki Franics, Kat Hartley, Kim Hartman, Jen Koffman, Carolyn Morse, Mary Ann Sheline, Mary Slafkosky, Judy Uebbing, and April Wells. Welcome Ladies!

## A Legacy of Healing: Leading Ladies Award Annual Grant to Ele's Place

In a powerful demonstration of collective philanthropy, the Leading Ladies have officially awarded this year's \$2,000 grant to **Ele's Place West Michigan**, a non-profit serving grieving children, teens and families. Selected through the votes of our membership, this partnership underscores our commitment to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The award was celebrated at a luncheon where Leading Ladies members met with the visionary team from Ele's Place to hear firsthand about the impact of their work. As a dedicated healing center, Ele's Place provides essential peer-to-peer support for children and teens navigating the painful journey of grief. By ensuring that no child has to walk the path of loss alone, they are quite literally changing the future of West Michigan families. We are deeply honored to support their mission of hope and healing.



# The Clark Promise: A Lifeline of Dignity

The heart of the Clark Foundation mission is the **Clark Promise**, a commitment to ensure eligible residents never lose their Clark home due to financial hardship. The fear of outliving one's resources is a heavy burden; the Clark Promise is designed to lift that weight, providing peace of mind and dignity.

This "lifeline" is sustained by the **Benevolent Care Endowment Fund**. While 100% of Leading Ladies' membership dues and gifts are funneled directly

into this endowment, the fund is also bolstered by a wide community of generous donors who believe in the Clark mission. Together, this collective generosity ensures that qualifying residents can continue to live, thrive, and remain in the community they love, regardless of life's unexpected financial challenges.

## Save the Date: Connection & Community

### GOLF FORE CLARK

August 24, 2026  
at Blythefield  
Country Club

### FASHION EVENT IN APRIL

Stay tuned  
for details

We invite you to join us at these upcoming events to network, celebrate, and support the Clark Foundation.

## Member Spotlight: Andrea Abraham & WOOSH & The Hallmark Channel

We are bursting with pride to celebrate a major milestone for one of our own Leading Ladies. **Andrea Abraham**, the visionary founder of **WOOSH BEAUTY**, was a part of **The Hallmark Channel Christmas Cruise and two Hallmark Christmas Experience** events this past season!

Andrea has always had a gift for turning the everyday into something special. By bringing the WOOSH philosophy of “simple magic”

to the Hallmark family, she was able to share her heart and her hustle with a national audience. It is a perfect match of values, and we couldn't be more excited to watch her brand shine on such an iconic stage. We eagerly anticipate hearing about more to come!

Andrea's success is a testament to the talent and drive within this group. Seeing her vision embraced by a brand like Hallmark inspires every one of us to keep pushing for our own 'big stage' moments.

