



# DONOR PROFILE

NINA DEEP

## You have a powerful story to share about the matriarchs in your family. Can you share how they have inspired you?

My grandmother was married at 14 and had six children by the age of 22. Although she was never formally educated, she passed along her simple wisdom to my mother—work hard, achieve your potential, you can do anything. At a time when women in medicine were a rarity, my mother left home at 17 to attend medical school and paved the way for three of her younger siblings to follow in her footsteps.

She emigrated from India to the United States in 1965, newlywed and pregnant. She and my father completed their medical residencies here at a time when there was no such thing as maternity leave—so she used up her two weeks of vacation and went back to work.

I grew up in Dayton, Ohio, living a privileged life of private schools and international travel. Two weeks after I left for college, my father died tragically, leaving our family in financial and emotional crisis. As we all felt our world falling apart, my mom somehow managed to be stronger than ever. She singlehandedly supported me and my siblings in every way: emotionally, financially, and spiritually. At a time when most would be too young to be inspired, she was my hero already.

Sadly, three years later my 23-year-old sister died unexpectedly after a simple appendectomy. To me, at 20 years of age, our family seemed cursed. We struggled, and still struggle today, with the cruel reality of loss. When it didn't seem possible to do more, to be more, my mom persevered, emotionally carrying a broken family with a heavy heart. She encouraged us to finish our educations and pursue our dreams. Over the following four years, she watched proudly as we each in turn graduated from medical school and then each got married. It was because of her love and support that we were able to reach our potential and become who we are today.

## From these lessons you learned from your grandmother and mother, what would you like to pass along to other women and girls?

Although each of us has the potential to succeed, we may not always believe that we can. Yet there is no more powerful a force than the belief in oneself.

They say that adversity does not build character, it only reveals it. Your character is built each and every day through hard work, kindness, integrity, and connecting with others.

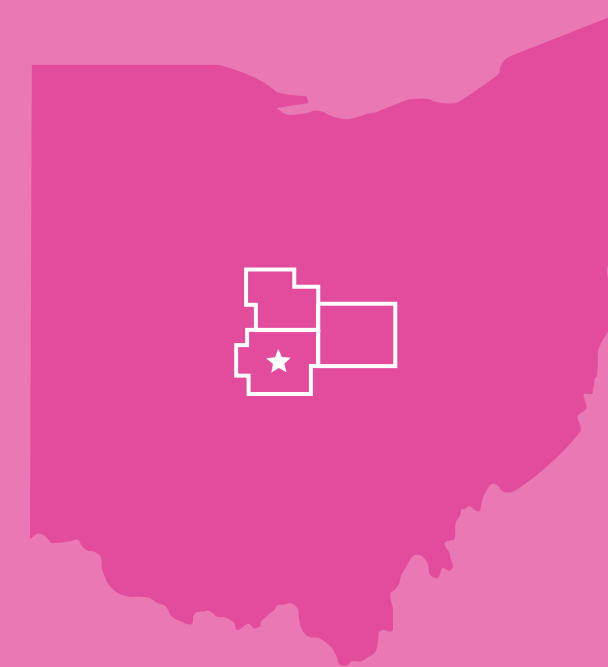
## How do your experiences come to connect you with The Women's Fund?

Most of my coworkers and friends are very active in philanthropy as volunteers. The Women's Fund shares my feelings about the limitless potential of women, especially when they support one another. Seeing my mother struggle through such a difficult time, I was grateful that my grandmother had instilled such a strong sense of self in her children. Her teachings were basic yet profound. The Women's Fund reminds me of my mother and grandmother—empowering women to succeed.

# GRANTMAKING AT

# THE WOMEN'S FUND

**\$200,000** IN FUNDING THIS GRANT CYCLE



**12**

PROGRAMS FOR FUNDING

**6**

PROGRAMS ARE NEW

**6**

PROGRAMS ARE PROVEN

## COUNTIES SERVED BY THE 12 PROGRAMS

- 2 SERVE FRANKLIN AND DELAWARE COUNTIES
- 1 SERVES LICKING COUNTY
- 8 SERVE FRANKLIN COUNTY
- 1 SERVES FRANKLIN AND LICKING COUNTIES

## PRIORITY AREAS OF THE 12 PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED

2 ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

1 LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN

3 ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY & LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN

5 LIFE SKILLS FOR GIRLS

1 LIFE SKILLS FOR GIRLS & LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN