



# New Opportunity School for Women

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



## OUR MISSION

The mission of the New Opportunity School for Women is to provide under-resourced Appalachian and Kentucky women with tools to help them grow in self-knowledge, build confidence, and access resources to improve their financial, educational and personal circumstances.

## OUR VISION

All Appalachian and Kentucky women will achieve successful and rewarding lives that positively impact their families and communities.

## OUR BOARD

### Officers:

Christine Trout Van Tatenhove, President  
Amy Schill, Secretary  
Leslie Combs, Treasurer

### Board Members:

Shana Goggins  
Elle Keys  
Bridget McCormack-Finley  
Jennifer Lainhart  
Alys Smith  
Kristi Short  
Tami Gentry  
Anita Bowman  
Gabrielle Mellendorf

### Incoming 2026 Board Members:

Tracy Hulberg



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for standing with the New Opportunity School for Women. NOSW has always been about more than a two week program. It is about dignity, opportunity, and the belief that Appalachian and Kentucky women deserve barrier free access to tools, support, and community as they build stable and rewarding lives.

I joined NOSW as Executive Director in September 2025, and I am grateful for the warm welcome from our participants, alumni, volunteers, board, and partners. This season has been one of listening, learning, and strengthening the foundation that makes our mission possible. With your support, we have worked to build a balanced budget, improve how we collect and use data, and expand our capacity through stronger systems. These changes may happen behind the scenes, but they directly support what matters most. Serving women well and stewarding resources with care.

What has not changed is the heart of NOSW. Women continue to show up with courage and determination, ready to grow in self knowledge, build confidence, and take practical steps toward education, employment, and healthier futures for themselves and their families. Our programs remain free because our community believes opportunity should not depend on someone's ability to pay.

This annual report reflects what you make possible. Thank you for giving, volunteering, teaching, sharing our work, and investing in women's potential. I am honored to lead NOSW into this next chapter, and I am excited about what we can build together.

With gratitude,

*Angel Short*

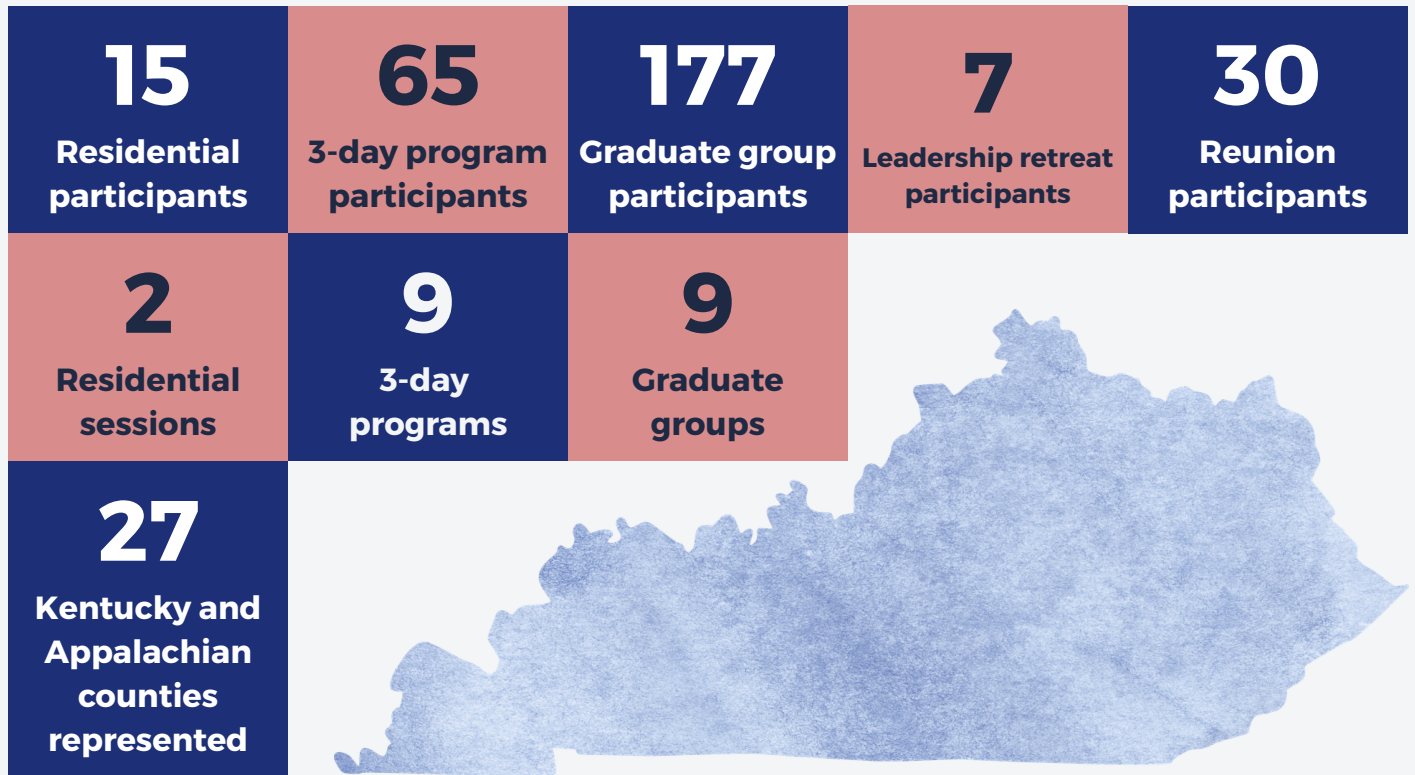
Executive Director



# TOTAL PARTICIPANTS SERVED: 294

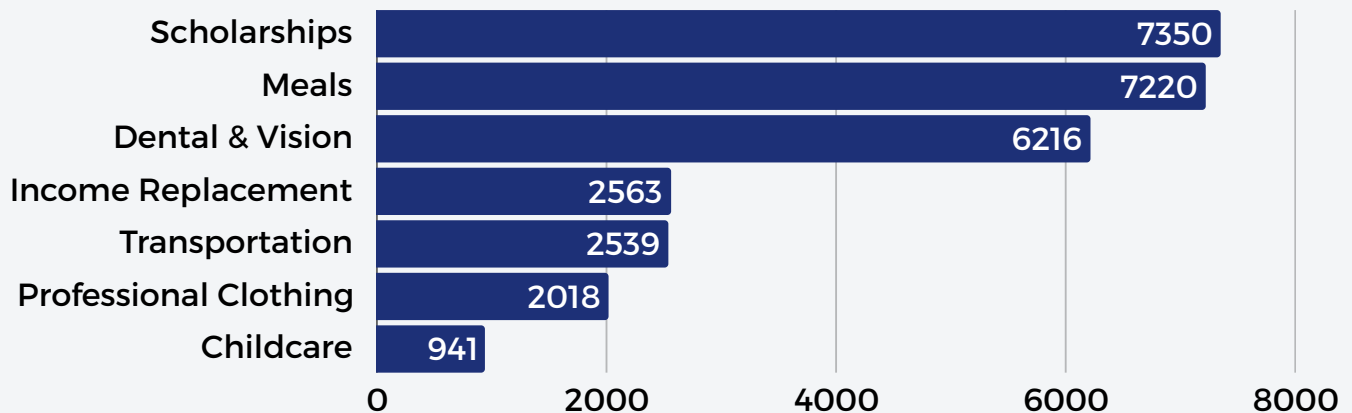
## TOTAL NEW PARTICIPANTS: 80

In 2025, NOSW served 294 participants through residential sessions, 3 day programs, graduate groups, and community gatherings. Participants came from 27 counties across Kentucky and Appalachia.



### Barrier Free Supports

\$28,847 in direct support provided to participants



**Direct support helps remove practical barriers so women can participate fully in NOSW programs and take next steps toward education, employment, and stability.**

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*In 2025, NOSW was powered by a community of 240 donors and 100 volunteers, with \$100 as the most common gift amount, and \$53,254 in in-kind contributions.*



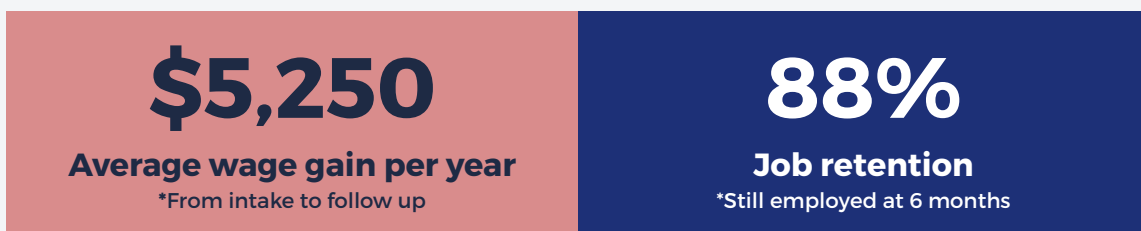
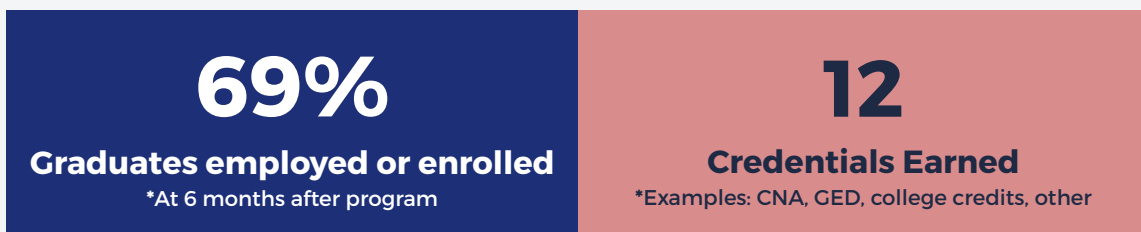
# FINANCIAL HEALTH

*The 2025 net deficit reflects a planned use of reserves to support programs and strengthen operations.*



# OUTCOMES

*Outcomes are measured through participant self reports and follow up check ins at set intervals after program completion.*



## JUNE

Nine women graduated from our June 2025 residential session.

Shown from left are Heather Land, Keara Larney, Crystal Sizemore, Autumn Reffitt, Melinda Whitley, Jessy Workman, Jozlynn Walker, Maggie Risner, Lindsay Sebastian.



## NOVEMBER

Six women graduated from our November 2025 residential session.

Shown from left are Christy Farley, Cheyenne Harper, Ashley Eubanks, Stella Mathews, Laura Johnson, and Christy Short.



## NOSW STAFF

Angel Short, Executive Director, [ashort@nosw.org](mailto:ashort@nosw.org)

Susan Jordison, Operations Manager, [sjordison@nosw.org](mailto:sjordison@nosw.org)

Crystal Burton, Program Director, [cburton@nosw.org](mailto:cburton@nosw.org)

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# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

To our donors, volunteers, partners, and friends, THANK YOU. Your generosity makes NOSW programs free and barrier free for Appalachian and Kentucky women. Because you give, women can access whole person learning, practical supports, and a community that believes in their talent and potential. We are deeply grateful for your trust and for the many ways you show up.

100 Women	Rose Mary Dow	Park Community Credit Union
ARH Foundation for Healthier Communities	George Duncan	Nancy Preis
Asbury-Warren Foundation	Elsie & Harry Baumker Charitable Foundation	Katherine Redmond
Berea College	Firestone	Richmond Rotary Club
Berea College Appalachian Fund	Foley Development Inc.	Kay Rouse
Berea Interfaith Task Force for Peace, DBA Peacecraft	Tom & Melanie Foley	Aimee Russillo
Blue Grass Community Foundation	Sue Fosson	Ann Samani & William Sturm
Bluegrass Elderlaw PLLC	Janet Frenck	Shirley S. Druggan Living Trust
Louise & David Booth	Ann Garrity	Alys Smith
Barbara Boyer	Noa Gimelli	Julia Sparks & Ann G. Caldwell
Anita Britton	Julie Graber	Nancye Spicer
Caren Caton	Rene Hales	Frank Taylor & Barry Schroeder
Billie Jo Caudill	Alma Hall	The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
Jennifer Coffman	Libby & Roger Jones	The Oak Hill Fund
Kimberly Cox	Just One More Foundation	Thompson Charitable Foundation
Cralle Foundation, Inc.	Richard & Linda Keister	John & Ruth Walker
Mary Lou Croucher	Kellogg Foundation	Kathleen Vagt
Marilyn & John Daniel	Bob & Dorie Kelly	Whitaker Foundation, Inc.
Aaron & Celinda DeGough	Anna & Bill Lake	Charles & Mary Workman
Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation	Judy Matheny	
	Harry T. McClure	
	Mary Ellen Mynear	
	Becky & David Nelson	
	Eileen O'Brien	
	Oxford Presbyterian Church	

## Ways To Give

<https://nosw.org/ways-to-help/>