



100 RURAL WOMEN

Creating Connections and
Inspiring Leadership with
Women in Rural Communities

Issue 8

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100 RURAL WOMEN

Please consider donating to our organization so that we can continue to help rural Minnesota women find their voice in leadership.

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2021 was a year of partnering and garnering support. We are incredibly fortunate and look forward to another building year in 2022 while showing our funders what we can accomplish with their support and belief in our mission.

Teresa Kittridge

What a year 2021 was--talking with more than 1,000 women across the state, being highlighted in the media, featured at conferences --and we are looking forward to an incredible 2022. Although 2021 was unpredictable at times with COVID we were nimble, to build on the positives of the new digital world, and learn how we can best support rural women. In particular we have learned how meeting virtually removes so many participation barriers for rural women.

We are so fortunate to have partners and funders that believe in the importance of our mission and the need for more women leading in rural communities. Their support allowed us to grow, develop innovative initiatives and programs of work and best of all allowed us to continue to fill our talent pipeline with interns, graduate students, fellows and Americorp Vista's. These young people provide a much-needed perspective of aspiring leaders and keep us continually looking ahead. I call them the "secret sauce" for our organization. They keep me optimistically enthusiastic about the future of Rural Women and Rural America.

In 2021, we received our 501c3 designation from the IRS, so we no longer need an intermediary to process our donations and grants. Our Board grew to 6 members who are diverse in age, profession, race, culture and voice. We completed half of our 100 in 100 meetings, continued our webinars lifting up rural women doing incredible work, joined True Tuesdays as a supporting partner, and are having a great time in our monthly virtual book group. I get to meet and engage with such extraordinary women every day and that keeps me energized.

Zoom has been a lifeline for many of us as we have navigated through COVID-19, and we are learning it may be our future as we see its unique advantages, particularly in rural areas. 2022 brings the continuation and growth of our current programs as well as a couple new ventures. We are happy to announce we were selected as a Capstone project at the Humphrey School of Public Policy. A student team will help us build a new mentorship network program called 100 Rural Elected Women. Other collaborative ventures include exploring sustainable business modeling supported by AIR Arrowhead Intelligent Region.

Here's to our 100 Rural Women organization working with you and others to envision the future by listening to and serving rural women!

If you want to get involved or have questions or suggestions email me:
teresa@100ruralwomen.org



100 IN 100

We held our first 50 meetings to gather information and learn how we can better support and connect rural women. We can't wait for what's to come in the next 50! We hope to see you there. Watch our "100 in 100" webinar to learn about our research and findings to date.



[WATCH WEBINAR](#)



[LEARN MORE](#)

THE READING ROOM BOOK CLUB

Join our Reading Room Book Club to connect with and learn about rural women's stories and authors. We meet virtually connecting women from across the state, reading new authors and with an interesting mix of fiction and non-fiction. We are looking forward to 2022's titles and authors. Join us on ZOOM the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

BREAKFAST CLUB WEBINAR SERIES

Our breakfast webinars have been information rich and thought provoking. Check out our past webinars. We see many new faces each month and have found this is a great way to make new connections and build relationships. If you would like to hear about a particular topic reach out to teresa@100ruralwomen.org.



[LEARN MORE](#)



U OF M MARY J. PAGE FUND

We are thankful to the University of MN RSDP and Foundation for partnering with us and providing opportunity to work with Graduate Students. We are continuing to raise funds via the Mary J Page fund to help support students that are working with us to continue research and projects that support rural women. Please consider donating so we can continue to work with these wonderful graduate students!

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TRUE TUESDAYS

100 Rural Women was honored to be invited to be a partner in True Tuesday's, a partnership founded by the Blandin foundation as a learning community for rural social justice champions and equity advocates.

This past fall we hosted a True Tuesday's panel: Story-Sharing with Rural Women Leading the Way to a More Equitable Future.

[LINK TO PANEL](#)



“MINNESOTA LIVE” & MPR

MPR Minnesota Public Radio’s new show Minnesota Now with Cathy Wurzer and the KSTP TV Morning Show “Minnesota Live” hosts Megan Newquist and Kristin Haubrich. We appreciated the opportunity to share about 100 Rural Women and our work!



[WATCH NOW](#)



[LISTEN NOW](#)



[WATCH NOW](#)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

100 Rural Women had the opportunity to feature some incredible rural MN Women at a national conference this past fall at the Rural Assembly

Our session is titled: The Rising Generation and Indigenous Women Lead the Way

ECONOMIC CLUB OF MINNESOTA

100 Rural Women’s Founder was featured on a panel “Rural Leaders Thriving” hosted by the Economic Club of Minnesota, participating with other rural leaders in a discussion facilitated by MPR journalist Kerri Miller.



[WATCH NOW](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL THANKS

INTERNS/GRAD STUDENTS/LEAD FOR AMERICA/AMERICORP VISTA:

This past year we had the amazing opportunity to have so many wonderful people helping our organization. We were fortunate to have interns from schools across Minnesota, U of M graduate students to drive and conduct research and Lead for America and Americorp Vista's helping to make 100 Rural Women what it is today.



STUDENTS

FELLOWS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

[READ MORE](#)

We are also very thankful for our Board of Directors. We grew to a Board of 6 extraordinary women. Special thanks and much gratitude to our Board for their representation of rural MN, their contributions to our organization and our future.



TERRI FOLEY



RACHEL JURITSCH



BENYA KRAUS



ERICA BJELLAND



HARA CHARLIER



FAWN J. SAMPSON



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