



wine
women & shoes®
Benefiting Bridge Communities
Presented by
WINTRUST
COMMUNITY BANKS

Impact Report 2026

Thank you to our fabulous sponsors!



Wine Women & Shoes 2026 Overview

Wine Women & Shoes 2026 was yet another sold-out event and record-breaking fundraiser that **you** helped make possible!

On March 15th, your support of neighbors transitioning from homelessness to hope was witnessed and appreciated by nearly 500 accomplished women and 80 dedicated volunteers. By all measures, the event was a spectacular success and stellar opportunity to showcase your brand.

With your support, we delivered an unforgettable, high-energy luncheon that truly wowed our attendees. Guests enjoyed boutique shopping, dazzling entertainment, highly sought-after raffles, must have live and silent auctions, a glamorous fashion show, abundant wine tastings, and so much more.

Each year we elevate the experience with special touches. This year featured a bigger, better venue and our Cirque de Soirée theme. The theme was expressed through lush décor and fabulous entertainment, including a juggler, trapeze and hula hoop artists, a stilt walker, and moving duet singing “A Million Dreams” from The Greatest Showman. Enthusiastic guests shopped, sipped, savored, and gave generously!

As a sponsor, your company enjoyed brand alignment with a top-rated, award-winning nonprofit and exceptional exposure through our biggest, most elaborate fundraiser. Read on to learn how you made an impact at our sixth annual Wine Women & Shoes!



Event Highlights

Wine Women & Shoes brought sip-sational excitement to nearly 500 guests on March 15th! Here are some of the elements we included thanks to your sponsorship and support:

Highlights:

- Cirque de Soirée theme with live entertainment and performers
- Cient graduate Penny's moving story of sacrifice and resilience
- New venue at Drury Lane with improved layout and logistics
- Glamorous fashion show featuring 8 designers
- 14 curated marketplace vendors
- Champagne welcome pour
- Wine tastings from 8 wineries with keepsake glasses
- Specialty mocktail and a variety of nonalcoholic options
- Gourmet lunch with butler service by volunteer Sole Mates
- Shopping bags provided to all guests
- High-demand photo backdrop and selfie stations
- NEW: Traveling Selfie Station
- Elegant tablescapes with guest gifts and VIP surprises
- "Best in Shoe" competition
- 38 Silent Auction packages
- 8 Live Auction packages
- "Key to the Closet" raffle valued at \$10,000
- NEW: Diamond Pull valued at \$2,500
- Mystery Boxes (150) featuring spa and beauty incentives
- Champagne & Chocolate Pull with premium offerings
- NEW: Diva Dens VIP lounge experience
- Enhanced guest amenities (valet, coat check, lounge seating, vanity kits)



Event Attendees

We launched Wine Women & Shoes with the goal of drawing in women from the Southeast DuPage area, including Hinsdale, Oak Brook, Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, and Downers Grove. The majority of our nearly 500 attendees hailed from this high-net-worth area and were 99% female, representing the ideal luxury brand consumer. Our event also included 80 volunteers and committee members from the DuPage area.

Attendees of this event included business owners, C-suite executives, philanthropists and club presidents, social media influencers, physicians, public relations professionals, realtors, elected government officials, finance execs, moms—and so much more.

The women who attended our event are key tastemakers and connectors in their communities, supporters of charities, socially conscious, and passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of their families and communities.

By sponsoring Wine Women & Shoes, your name and logo got in front of over 600 event attendees and volunteers!



Enhanced Marketing

Your name and support were proudly shared with the public to let them know you have joined Bridge in the fight against homelessness. Because Wine Women & Shoes is Bridge Communities' biggest and most ambitious fundraiser, your brand enjoyed the benefits of an aggressive marketing campaign.

Social Media:

Robust event promotion featured over 50 social media posts. Your logo was shared and your company tagged on Bridge's Facebook page with **3,800+ followers**, LinkedIn page with **1,400+ followers**, and on our Instagram page with **1,600+ followers**.

E-mail Campaign:

Your company was thanked and your logo prominently shared in a series of 12 pre- and post-event emails to event attendees, as well as major donors.

Event Website:

Your linked logo was featured on both a national event website and Bridge's event landing page; together these sites garnered over **7,000 total views!**

More Brand Exposure:

Vibrant & attractive signage abounded at Wine Women & Shoes, prominently featuring your name and logo. You were also thanked verbally on stage and featured in our guest programs.



2026 Financial Results

Bridge Communities' sixth annual Wine Women & Shoes continues to demonstrate the unique and significant opportunity this high-end, nationally proven fundraising model offers.

Thanks to you and our many generous participants, Wine Women & Shoes 2026 **raised a whopping \$640,066**, which blew away our budgeted goal of \$100,000 and surpassed last year's gross by 46%!

Wine Women & Shoes continues to grow and attract new attendees. This year's 489 guests represent a 9% increase over last year. Moreover, Bridge added 190 first-time donors to our database for further cultivation.

Your sponsorship is key to optimizing our net income and maximizing Bridge's ability to impact the lives of the resilient families we have the honor of helping. The more sponsor dollars we have, the more funds go directly to the bottom line. We hope you will continue your support of this incredible promotional opportunity in 2027 and beyond.

2026 Results:

Revenue: \$640,066

Expenses: \$243,520

Net: \$396,546



See You in 2027!

Wine Women & Shoes is clearly a fundraising superstar with an impressive upward trajectory and incredible future potential. Next year will be even bigger and better with yet more opportunities to promote your brand to our highly desirable guests and volunteers.

We hope you will commit today to Wine Women & Shoes 2027 so we can guarantee your desired sponsorship package.

Where else can you enjoy such direct, multi-faceted brand exposure to such a large and perfectly targeted audience segment?

Please contact Jen Bystry at jenifer.bystry@bridgecommunities.org to reserve your coveted sponsorship package for **Wine Women & Shoes 2027 on March 13th at Drury Lane.**

Cheers to you for helping make this – Bridge Communities' largest, most ambitious fundraiser – another record success!





Connecting families facing homelessness to a better future since 1988

Mission:

The mission of Bridge Communities is to partner with families and their children, providing stable housing and transformational support so they are empowered to overcome homelessness and thrive for generations to come.



Vision:

Our vision is a community where all families are healthy, financially stable, and living in affordable housing.



Values:

Our core values—Partnership, Hope, Integrity, Respect, and Empowerment—guide everything we do and reflect the commitment of everyone involved in Bridge Communities.

Connect with us on social media for event updates:

