There are more than 100 women who are making a difference at the Watertown Area Community Foundation’s annual Women & Giving Fundraiser held at Joy Ranch last Friday.

Keynote speaker, Jean Abbott (above and far right), reflected the group’s mission as she spoke about perseverance, overcoming obstacles, and meeting goals during her presentation, “Misdiagnosed: Be the Person You Are Meant to Be.”

Those attending also heard from a 2018 Women & Giving grant recipient, Wendy Olson, Watertown High School Project Success coordinator who works with children facing challenges both at school and with equine experiences. Scholarship recipient Hannah Hamerl, a LATI student, shared her story and why she is pursuing a career in nursing. Chris Carter (pictured with Abbott) was mistress of ceremonies.
WOMEN & GIVING cont’d

Special thanks to Prudy Calvin, Ann Sigelman, Joy Ranch and Watertown Ford Chrysler for their support of the event.

This giving circle has awarded nearly $200,000 in grants and scholarships since its beginning 16 years ago. The group’s mission is to help area women and children to overcome barriers, increase their opportunities and achieve their goals.

THANK YOU - Jan DeBerg (standing) Watertown Area Community Foundation executive director, thanks Prudy Calvin (left) and Laurie Benson for their help with Women & Giving. Calvin, Women & Giving Advisory Committee chair, helps underwrite the event. Benson, former Foundation Board member, gave closing remarks at the fund raiser and challenged the women to increase their giving. In hopes of raising $40,000 in conjunction with the Foundation’s 40th anniversary, Benson said she would match gifts above the $28,000 mark that was made last year.

LATI - Gov. Kristi Noem addresses those attending the 17th annual Governor’s Luncheon at Lake Area Technical Institute. The Foundation is a major underwriter of the event and Board Chair Charlie Ewalt also welcomed the group.

FOUNDATION BOARD
From left, Joel Vockrodt, Dr. Jeff Danielsen, vice chair; Tom Beadnell, Angie Reppe, Liam Culhane, Kristen Henderson, Charlie Ewalt, chair.