

AIWO Annual Report: January - December 2025

Executive Committee (EC): Dr. Richa Pandey (President), Dr. Renu Govindaiah
(Vice President), Daksha Patel (Treasurer), Purnima Brahma (Secretary)

Total Members= 52

| Month | Activity |
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| January | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AIWO general body met and discussed the potential beneficiaries for India Night 2025. The members nominated the following 5 non-profit organizations: Compass for Kids, Contact Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of Central IL, Heartland Housed, and Sojourn Shelter. Each provided in-person presentations at the AIWO meeting and answered questions. The members voted, and the Compass for Kids was chosen as the beneficiary for India Night 2025. ● AIWO taxes were filed for 2024. ● AIWO 'Pantry of Hope' project fund was initiated, with goals to fill local Springfield area micropantries every month. A total of \$8,102 was collected from AIWO members, family & friends. The micropantry was stocked with an average of \$200 per pantry. ● The Douglas Methodist Church micro pantry was stocked. |
| February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Lanphier High School micro pantry was stocked. ● A presentation on The Heart to Heart - A guide to Women's Heart Health was provided to members by Dr. Nicole Florence. |
| March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A presentation on Cybersecurity was provided to members by Kara McElwrath. ● The South East High School & Colony West Church micropantries were stocked. |
| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AIWO donated \$500 to a non-profit promoting literacy in underserved children, 'Look It's My Book'. Individual members also contributed, and the total of \$2,500 was raised for the cause. ● 24 Easter Baskets were made and delivered for the current kids taking shelter at Contact Ministries ● Hope Presbyterian Church micropantry was stocked. |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 hot meals were provided to the families affected in Chatham by the YNOT tragedy. ● 'Seva and Shanti Luncheon' was initiated in collaboration with 5 local Indian Community Organizations in Springfield. The entire Springfield community attended the lunch and donated money for the families affected by the YNOT tragedy. A total of \$12,867 was collected & provided to the authority. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 Mother's Day care baskets were delivered to women taking shelter at the Sojourn shelter. ● A presentation on Recycling 101 by Adena Rivas was provided to members. ● St. John's Lutheran Church & Chatham VFM Hall micro pantries were stocked. |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A presentation on Coping Mechanisms and Mental Health was provided to members by Dr. Krishna Taneja. ● The Chatham VFM Hall micro pantry was stocked. |
| July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A donation of \$1,000 was provided to a school in India to provide sanitary products to students. ● Evening hot meals were provided for 60 homeless people at the Springfield Helping Hands Shelter. ● Graham Elementary, Iles Elementary, and Parkway Christian Church micropantries were stocked. |
| August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leslie's micropantry was stocked, and school supplies for Iles Elementary School were provided. ● AIWO donated \$500 to the Central Illinois Food Bank. |
| September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members participated in a walk to end Alzheimer's disease and raised a total of \$3402. AIWO provided \$500, and individual members contributed the rest. ● The United Methodist Church micropantry was stocked. |
| October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AIWO co-hosted 'India Night - Wardrobe Edit Clothing sale' in collaboration with Peaches pop-up to provide an opportunity to the Springfield community to buy Indian outfits in preparation for India Night held on November 8, 2025. All funds collected (\$3,125) went towards the India Night beneficiary- Compass for Kids. ● Evening hot meals were provided to 60 homeless people at the Springfield Helping Hands Shelter. ● Titan Fuel Pantry and M.E.R.C.Y Communities micropantries were stocked. |
| November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 2025 India Night was held on November 8, 2025, at Crowne Plaza to benefit Compass for Kids. Each of AIWO's 52 members volunteered their time and energy to make India Night possible. The event included dinner, entertainment (dance and fashion shows), a live auction, and a fund-a-need. Over 550 people attended the event. Total funds raised for Compass for Kids were \$283,579. The net proceeds of \$230,000 will be provided through a check presentation ceremony on February 20, 2026. ● Parkway Church and Graham Elementary School micropantries were stocked. |

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| December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An annual luncheon was held for members to celebrate the end of a successful fundraising year. ● Two hot evening meals were provided to 60 homeless people at the Springfield Helping Hands Shelter. ● St Martin de Porres micropantries were stocked twice. |
| <p>April</p> <p>August</p> <p>September</p> | <p>The following fundraising events were attended by AIWO members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women’s Power Lunch hosted by the Simon Cancer Center 2. Power of Purse hosted by the M.E.R.C.Y Communities 3. Little Black Dress Gala hosted by the Wooden It Be Lovely 4. Members performed the finale dance at the Back to School Brunch hosted by the Compass for Kids 5. Members performed the Opening Sequence Dance at the ‘Style of Hope’ event at the Hope School of Autism in Springfield. |