



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together Full Circle News

February / March 2015

Bounteous Opportunities

By: [Maureen Cavaiola](#), President
[Mary Grace Folwell](#), Vice President

The mission of AAWGT is broad in scope, with bounteous opportunities for our members to improve the lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County. We utilize the tools that have been created, developed and honed over the last nine years, to achieve our mission: a transparent, professional grant process; education sessions to pique curiosity and get to the root causes of social issues; and broadreaching leadership opportunities for our members and the greater community.

This year we have goals to improve our communication stream and organizational processes to make an even better experience for our members. We hope to engage each member in ways that best fit your personality, time and talent. We hear every day of your fabulous contributions to our community. We celebrate your efforts and challenge you to add that same energy back into our Giving Circle. When AAWGT turns ten in 2016, we want to be robust and sustainable, with a reputation and legacy that cares, gives, and achieves its mission and culture.

Communication is always two-way and reciprocal. We welcome your feedback and comments – always!

Let's get going early on our personal and organizational contributions for 2015. Without every one of us contributing, there is no Giving Circle! We can and will continue to showcase our philanthropy in unique and effective ways!

February 11 Meeting: Education Economic Insecurity and Our Older Neighbors

By: [Lois Kelberman](#)
[Pam Polgreen](#)

On February 11 at 11:30 am, AAWGT will host an education meeting open to all members, their guests, and all interested community members to learn more about economically vulnerable [older adults](#). Many of our older neighbors live above the poverty line and yet struggle to pay ever-increasing housing, food, health care, and other expenses. This gap in elder economic security affects about half of all older adults in retirement. This is a

surprisingly high percentage. Jo Reed, Director of the Elder Economic Security Initiative for Wider Opportunities for Women, will speak to this phenomenon and share the Institute's Basic Economic Security Tables - a unique data analysis developed by the Institute to focus attention on this issue. More information is available at the [Economic Security Institute, a project of Wider Opportunities for Women](#). Nancy Hoover, long-time staff member from the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities will put real faces on our neighbors in Anne Arundel County who fall within this category by sharing their stories and challenges.

After hearing from Jo and Nancy, we will spend time exploring ways that philanthropy could help this vulnerable population.

The meeting will be held at Ginger Cove, 4000 River Crescent Drive in Annapolis. Please note that parking is not available on site. Park on Riva Trace Pkwy near Ginger Cove entrance, and take shuttle into Ginger Cove.

[Registration](#) is highly recommended due to limited capacity.

AAWGT Welcomes its New 2014 Members

AAWGT welcomed thirty-five new Members to the Giving Circle in 2014. These new Members were invited to a special Member reception in early December at the home of Marie Brockhurst. The new Members were individually recognized and asked to share information about their professional lives, their families, their roles in civic engagement, and how they learned about AAWGT. Many shared what they hoped to learn and to contribute as Members. The new Members' "buddies," Membership and Steering Committee members also attended. We look forward to the many contributions and interests these new Members bring to the organization. At the end of 2014, AAWGT had 194 Members.

2014 New Members

Pam Brown	Carolyn Hayes	Barbara Petersen
Reid Buckley	Anne Herndon	Ellen Piwoz
Sandy Comenetz	Dawn Johnson	Linda Rogers
Susan Cook	Frances Kushner	Peggy Sange
Kimberly Coughlin	Jody Lacey	Betsy Saunders
Thelma DeLaGrange	Ashley Marshall	Elaine Shanley
Laurie Deppa	Matty Matzen	Tanya St. John
Beth Dolezal	Barbara McMahan	Wanda Stansbury
Debra Einstein	Liz Montaner	Susan Veccia
Ciri Fenzel	Sara Moran	Janet West
Mary Alice Gehrdes	Nancy Nolan	Sue Woolsey
Elizabeth Gross	Sheila Onuska	

AAWGT's Largest Grant Pool Ever: 2105!

By: [Mary Grace Folwell](#)

The final numbers are in, and the grant pool for 2015 is **\$105,505.73**. This is the largest pool of funds AAWGT has ever raised and about \$10,000 more than 2014! A huge thanks to the generosity of each of our members! The grant pool each year is the accumulation of the prior year's membership donations, an additional contribution each year from AAWGT's Endowment Fund, and other individual gifts. Our Grants Committee is currently reviewing grant applications that were submitted by the February 4 deadline. The Grants Committee will recommend to our Members qualified grant requests, in excess of the amount available for distribution. Members are provided a summary about each qualified grant, in advance of the Members Only meeting in May when voting takes place. Members are encouraged to mark their calendar for May 13 to attend this important meeting. Instructions will be provided about electronic voting if a Member is unable to attend on May 13.

Join or Renew Your Membership

Click [HERE](#) to Join or Renew

Warm Hands and Warm Hearts: Birthday Wishes Benefit the Homeless and AAWGT

By: [Bronwyn Belling](#)

Intrepid founding member [Tara Clifford](#) wanted to do more than just celebrate her big seven-**oh in December! Inspired by John F. Kennedy's, "Ask not what your country can do for you," after seeing him speak in Lafayette, Indiana, in the 1960s, Tara has always paid it forward. In lieu of birthday gifts, Tara asked friends and colleagues to donate a new or gently worn coat to benefit [Giving Back, Linda's Legacy](#); over 100 coats were distributed to those in need late in December. [View a video about Giving Back's work, produced by Bob Madden](#) [HERE](#).**

Tara also encouraged her friends to make a 'deep and lasting' donation to the AAWGT Endowment Fund. Through Tara's generosity, close to \$2,000 has been contributed. "I've been so lucky," Tara shares, "And I knew that I could make a difference today for tomorrow."

If you would like to honor a friend or **family member, and help build AAWGT's Endowment Fund**, click [HERE](#) for information.

Grant Application Goes Online!

By: [Karen Smith](#)
[Bronwyn Belling](#)

AAWGT's 2015 grant season launched in January with a new and exciting enhancement.

Applicants have just submitted their proposals online! This new tool provides ease of use for applicants while ensuring that our well-developed member review process remains confidential and is made simpler through the use of technology. Thanks to the tireless work of AAWGT members Judy Coughlin, Barbara Haight, and Sandy Sweeney, the new AAWGT online grant application -- utilizing the Foundant platform -- has been thoroughly and thoughtfully customized to reflect the culture of AAWGT and to incorporate our experiences with grant review.

In early January, AAWGT held a well-attended training session for interested non-profits to walk them through the online application process. One of the attendees at the January training session sent a note with her completed grant application that said, "However, I want to personally thank all of you for your thoroughness in the process, your email reminders, and your insight that some of us may not understand or cannot complete the application without your help desk! What a feeling of support that gave! Thank you, the committee, and your membership for what you are doing."

This week our Grant review teams will receive training on using the platform in the review process. We are excited about the new capabilities this online process will give AAWGT to better "crunch data", maintain permanent records, and serve our non-profits. We are grateful for the targeted donations of our members' time and dollars that have made this possible!

March 11 Meeting: Women and Leadership Effective Leadership: Keys to Success

By: [Lynn McReynolds](#)
[Carol Cronin](#)

Each year AAWGT focuses one meeting on women and the unique leadership role we play in our society, rather our usual focus on community needs. This year's theme is "Effective Leadership: Keys to Success" and the event will be Wednesday, March 11 from 6 - 8 pm at Anne Arundel Community College. The session will explore traits most common in strong leaders, the special strengths women bring to leadership roles, the importance of mentoring in leadership development, as well as tips for success and fascinating stories from local women leaders. This year's program features a panel session of accomplished women from our community, including Dawn Lindsay, president of Anne Arundel Community College; and Kathryn O. "Kitty" Higgins, president of The Higgins Company and former White House Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor and member of the National Transportation Safety Board. AAWGT's Past President, Karen Smith, will moderate the panel.

[Registration](#) is highly recommended due to limited capacity.

What's Special About AAWGT's Website?

By: *Eve-Marie Lacroix*

The website changes almost daily! When was the last time *you* visited AAWGT's website? Recent changes

to the website make it much easier to discover the details of AAWGT's upcoming and past events; our grants program, including current and past grantees; the history of AAWGT; membership application and renewal forms; and links to other organizations and topics of interest to our group.

New Features:

- The new **Search box** in the website banner on every page of the website allows you to search for just about anything you want to find.
- The **Site Map** located in the footer of each page provides an index to all pages in the website and easily gets you to the page you are looking for.
- The **Calendar of Events** on the black menu bar allows you to view a monthly calendar of all events, including many committee meetings. From here you can click for details about any event, change the view to see the entire year's events, or see a listing of events.
- **About Us** on the menu bar includes a directory listing of all members, committees, and how to contact AAWGT officers and committees. An FAQ answers common questions about AAWGT.

Special Note to Members Only

Members: Do login when you visit the AAWGT website. When you login, you have access to a wealth of information not available on the public website. On the Members Only page you will find:

- A membership directory *including contact information* and often a photo and short bio about a member.
- A **complete calendar of events**, including book group dates, lunch-making for the Lighthouse Shelter, and member-only and steering committee meetings.
- A "**Grants in Action**" photo slide show.
- **Additional opportunities to engage**, including special events and activities of interest to members.

So – login now – through the Member Login page.

Your Dollars In Action: Food Link: Wholesale Produce Charitable Distribution

By: [Judy Templeton](#)
[Madelyn Schaefer](#)

Since its founding in 1991, [Food Link](#) has become one of the largest hunger relief and food rescue organizations in Anne Arundel County. Food Link's Wholesale Charitable Produce Program provides fresh fruit, vegetables and other healthy food to less fortunate citizens in Anne Arundel County. Food Link's mission is to alleviate hunger in our community, linking vital resources to families and individuals in need. AAWGT's \$15,000 grant provides partial funding of the Executive Director's salary, purchase of gleaned produce, and transportation costs.

By means of food distribution through a network of over 100 service agencies, Food Link serves emergency shelters and pantries, soup kitchens, foster care group homes, treatment and rehabilitation centers, public housing sites and low-income senior citizen facilities. Produce is distributed free at the Riva Farmers Market every Friday morning to recipient agencies and charitable organizations who further distribute it to those in need. Much of the fresh food items are donated by The Maryland Wholesale Produce Market; other produce is purchased from the Mid Atlantic Gleaning Program. The benefits of healthy

eating are clear in preventing diabetes, infectious disease and other conditions that lock the underprivileged into a cycle of dependency.

Food Link is supported by hundreds of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are participants in the program.

Executive Director, Cathy Bird, says Food Link provides more food gleaned from farm fields today because surplus supplies from the Wholesale Food Market in Jessup is diminishing, for various reasons. One example is supermarkets now accept lesser grade produce for use in their salad bars; previously, this lesser grade might have remained unsold and given to Food Link. Food Link would love to expand into other counties in Maryland and constantly strives to improve capacity. Logistics, additional staffing and funding are the challenge. Food Link accomplishes a great deal with a very limited budget. It has become the last stop when traditional support fails or turns people in need away.

Upcoming Events

February

- 10 Tuesday Grant Reviewers and Team Leaders Software Tutorial I
- 11 Wednesday **Education Meeting:** Living on the Ledge
- 12 Thursday Grant Reviewers and Team Leaders Software Tutorial II

March

- 6 Friday Steering Committee
- 11 Wednesday **General Meeting:** *Effective Leadership Skills*
- 18 Wednesday Book Group: Mountains Beyond Mountains

[Click here](#) for event details and registration information on the events listed above.

New Newsletter Format

Hopefully you've enjoyed reading to this last news item in AAWGT's bi-monthly, newly formatted newsletter. The newsletter format has changed -- and we *are* truly interested in your feedback and suggestions. Please send an email to marketing@givingtogether.org with your thoughts. Thank you!