



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

April 2011

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Important Upcoming Dates

April 13

Membership Open House

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Field Trip: Arundel Lodge

May 11

Grants Voting Meeting

Please see givingtogether.org
for
Member Activities, Book Group and
other info!

As we do each April, AAWGT is holding its Spring Membership Open House on Wednesday, April 13th from 6-8 p.m. at the Annapolis Maritime Museum in Eastport (see details below). Please join us and bring a friend or two who would like to learn more about the wonderful work AAWGT does to make Anne Arundel County a better place for women and families. We'll also be celebrating our 5th Anniversary and recognizing over 165 founders and members who have made it possible to make a difference in the community by awarding a total of over \$300,000 to local nonprofits as of this coming June.

AAWGT leadership recently sent all members a letter and report outlining our accomplishments in 2010 and encouraging each of you to renew your membership for 2011. We hope you will stay involved, and if the time is right for you, look into a committee where you think you might be of service. For those of you who have not yet joined, please consider filling out the online membership form at givingtogether.org or printing it out and mailing it in.

These past few years, we have seen steady demand from local nonprofits applying for AAWGT grants. As our many programs addressing the needs of our youngest, oldest, and most vulnerable neighbors demonstrate, the value of our grants is immense. Our message is a powerful one--through the collective generosity of our members, we can make a significant difference in our community. My \$500 may not go too far in helping the disabled or homeless, but our \$10,000 can. The whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

We hope to see both new and familiar faces at our Open House on the 13th.

Missy Attridge
Chair, Membership Committee
Marie Brockhurst
Assistant Chair, Membership

Invite a friend to join!
Go to givingtogether.org
for a renewal/donation form.

Renew Your Membership!
Go to givingtogether.org
for a renewal/donation form.

Welcome New Members!

Laurie Crosley
Pam Williams
Noelle Richmond

[Click here to learn more about
our 2010 Grantees!](#)



Marie and Missy

→ Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 13, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
AAWGT Spring Open House
Annapolis Maritime Museum
723 Second St., Annapolis (Eastport)

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with friends - old and new - as we celebrate five years of making a difference in the lives of women and families.

Directions from downtown Annapolis: Cross the Spa Creek Bridge, turn Left onto Chesapeake Ave. (second traffic light), turn RIGHT onto Second St. The Annapolis Maritime Museum is at the end of the street.

Please register online at givingtogether.org and click on the event name in the UPCOMING EVENTS section on the home page. Supplemental parking information will be included in the confirmation email that you will receive after you register.

→ Meeting Recap

Wednesday, March 9 - Women & Global Issues

In her own words, Renée S. Acosta, President and CEO of Global Impact, is "not afraid to jump off a cliff." And that's probably just what it felt like in 1993 when she assumed leadership of the philanthropic nonprofit organization that manages two of the largest workplace giving programs in the world. Since then, Global Impact has grown in annual revenue from \$12 million to \$118 million and now distributes grants to 56 charities worldwide to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Ms. Acosta was interviewed by Susan Reimer, columnist for the Baltimore Sun, at AAWGT's fourth annual Women

& Leadership Event on March 9. Their discussion about helping women and families around the world provided a global prism for our members to view the challenges and opportunities we face on a local level.

Read more about this wonderful event on our website including a link to a powerful 3-minute Girl Effect video that Renée shared with the audience, as produced by the Nike Foundation.

Wednesday, March 23 - AAWGT Hosts a Forum Discussing "A Crime So Monstrous" - Human Trafficking.

Those of us who might have thought Anne Arundel County was somehow exempt from the tragedy of human trafficking learned otherwise at our March 23 Special Interest Forum on Human Trafficking.

A research project conducted by Shared Hope International found that at least 100,000 American children are being taken into prostitution every year, the typical age range being 11 to 14. It exists throughout Anne Arundel County, with street-walkers in Brooklyn Park, Laurel, and Annapolis on West Street around the court house; brothels in Millersville and Glen Burnie; and in hotels around BWI, including the posh ones.

What can be done? Daytime drop-in centers like YANA Place (You Are Never Alone) are one way to reach out to victims. Four human trafficking bills are currently pending in the Maryland legislature. And prevention -- reaching vulnerable children before they become victims -- is critical.

A Crime So Monstrous is the title of a book on modern-day slavery by E. Benjamin Skinner. It is, sadly, a crime that is more prevalent than at any other time in the history of humankind. And it is, most definitely, right here in our own back yard.

For more information:

Shared Hope International: www.sharedhope.org

Polaris Project: www.polarisproject.org

YANA: www.yanaplace.org



Speakers and Moderators

→ AAWGT Grantee of the Month: Pascal Center - Stop the Violence

Robert A. Pascal Youth and Family Services (RAPYS) is AAWGT's April Grantee of the Month. Located in Severna Park, RAPYS has provided mental health counseling services for low-income children, adolescents and families residing in Anne Arundel County since 1968. This year, AAWGT made a grant of **\$6,408** to support its play therapy program for children aged 3 to 10 years. Play therapy helps children recreate situations that resemble their emotional struggles, which they often cannot express verbally. Under the guidance of the therapist, the child is enabled to gain a sense of mastery over the situation. Play therapy can be very effective in helping children who have been abused, suffer from anxiety or depression or who have attachment and relationship difficulties. Executive Director Adel O'Rourke, says she has seen "miracles happen within the walls of the play room" for some of our county's smallest patients.

The next RAPYS fundraiser will be held on Thursday, May 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena. The festivities will include heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, a silent auction and music for dancing. Tickets are \$100 and dress is business or cocktail attire. Please show your support for this vital organization by attending this fun evening on the Chesapeake Bay.

Volunteer opportunities with Pascal Youth and Family Services are plentiful: They are seeking members to serve on their Board of Directors or the Development Committee for their two yearly fundraisers-- a fall 5K fun run and a spring dinner/event. They also need someone to perform data entry tasks. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please call 410-975-0067 and ask to speak with Carol on extension 10. For more information, go to rpascal.org

→ Hold These Dates!

Look for complete details and online registration for these events under UPCOMING EVENTS at givingtogether.org.

Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Book Group: *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of*

Family by Condoleezza Rice

To join the group for this discussion, simply go to UPCOMING EVENTS at givingtogether.org, click on *What We're Reading* and register. You will receive a reminder email with directions to the home of this month's hostess three days prior to the meeting. Registration is limited to AAWGT members, but as always, you may bring a guest. Questions? Contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com.

Friday, April 29, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (followed by optional lunch)

Annual Field Trip - Arundel Lodge, 2600 Solomons Island Rd./Rt. 2, Edgewater

Our annual Field Trip features a tour of The Open Eye Art Gallery at Arundel Lodge this year. The gallery displays the work created by adults who participate in their art program.

Arundel Lodge works in full partnership with people who have serious mental illness with the goal of helping each individual achieve a satisfying and meaningful life in the community. AAWGT's 2010 grant to the Arundel Lodge Latina Outreach Project provides mental health services including outreach, education and treatment to low-income Latina women.

Following our gallery visit, all interested members are welcome to join us for lunch at Brio in Annapolis Towne Centre at Parole.

Please register for the gallery visit online at givingtogether.org and click on the event name in the UPCOMING EVENTS section on the home page.

If you plan to join us for lunch, please send your RSVP to events@givingtogether.org by no later than April 22.

Wednesday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Proposed Grants Presentation and Voting on 2011 Grantees
YWCA, 1517 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, MD 21012**

At this important meeting, members will have an opportunity to discuss the Grants Committee recommendations and vote to select our 2011 grantees. A confidential ballot and instructions on voting procedures will be emailed to members prior to the meeting. To register to attend online from our home page, click on Grants Voting in the Upcoming Meetings box. Note: This is a **MEMBERS ONLY** meeting.



Business and Committee Updates

Governance: A class on parliamentary procedure will be given on Saturday, April 9 at the Chartwell Country Club in Severna Park. The cost is \$25, including lunch. Anyone interested should contact Susan Nolte at 410-647-2525 or csnolte@verizon.net.

Leadership Development & Nominating: A special thank-you to everyone who helped make the March 9th Women & Leadership event a great success! Thank you to Maureen Cavaiola and Lynne Davidson for securing our speaker and moderator, Julie Crudele for handling media and calendar postings, and all the members of Leadership Development, Marketing & Communications, and Membership committees and our events team, who worked together to make the event happen.

We are looking for additional committee members to work with us, particularly to help plan the program for the next Women & Leadership event, to be held March 2012. If you are interested, please contact Committee Chair Sharon Stewart at stews@mindspring.com or 410- 212-9493.

Website & Social Media: Website Enhancements: Members and guests are now regularly registering for special events, including the Book Club, through the website. Selected photos from each event can be viewed in the Photo Gallery on the home page as well. Members can see hundreds of additional photos by logging into the "Members-Only" section. While logged in, why not review your membership record and add a photo of yourself?

We are also working on a major redesign to be introduced in late spring that will better accommodate the increasing amount of information on the website. The new look for the site will be one element of a transition to a consistent look and feel for AAWGT communication materials.

Help Wanted!

Coming soon is an AAWGT Facebook page, thanks to an experienced non-member volunteer and other members who will serve as administrators to help maintain the Facebook page and coordinate content with the leadership and webmaster. If you like social media and are willing to do more, we need your help!

April 12 marks one year since we launched the new website for communication with the public as well as membership management for our organization. Several members are now managing administrative information within the website.

If you have a general understanding of website software, database management, and/or Google apps, we could use your talents to assist with the organization and enhancements planned for the website. Backup help is especially needed this Summer and Fall.

Contact Eve-Marie Lacroix at evemariel@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.



Service/Volunteer Opportunities

LightHouse Shelter Lunch-making:

Can you help? Purchase food in advance and welcome like-

mind members to your kitchen so AAWGT can make and deliver 70 sandwiches to feed those less fortunate. Provision costs are shared among those present, usually about \$25 per person. It's a great way to get to know some members better - and you are welcome to bring a friend along to learn about AAWGT! Upcoming dates and needs are:

- Thursday, April 14, home of Sandra Sweeney, 30 Decatur Avenue (1-2 more volunteers needed)
- Friday, May 20 (host and 5-6 volunteers needed)
- Tuesday, June 21 (host and 5-6 volunteers needed)
- Monday, July 11 (host and 5-6 volunteers needed)

The shelter is most grateful for our contribution as the need continues to be great in this economy. Updated shopping instructions are available on the password-protected Member Directory front page at givingtogether.org

Contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com if you would like more information or want to host and/or volunteer.

These sessions begin at 8:30 a.m.
