



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

AAWGT Newsletter

June 2009

What's the new trend for 2009? According to a number of recent new articles and reports - giving circles and women donors! Since AAWGT has been around for nearly 4 years, I guess that puts us ahead of the curve here in Anne Arundel County.

A new study conducted by the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers, Indiana University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha indicates the important role that giving circles play in their communities. Findings (www.givingforum.org/givingcircles) include:

- Giving circle members say they give more and give in more strategic ways than other donors.
- Giving circle members are highly engaged in their communities. Giving circles also increase members' knowledge about philanthropy, nonprofits, and community needs.
- Giving circle members say they give to a greater number of organizations, compared to other donors.
- Giving circle members are more likely than other donors to give to areas less often funded by organized philanthropy, such as organizations serving women and girls, ethnic and minority groups, and for arts, culture and ethnic awareness.
- Giving circles can have even a greater impact in these difficult economic times because members pool their donations and are able to make larger grants to nonprofits than they could have made individually.

Another new study sponsored by the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund found that more women than men act as their household's primary decision-maker in determining how much to give and which charitable causes to support. Women also felt strongly about involving their children in philanthropy -- nearly 48% (compared to 39% of men) strongly agree that it's important for their children to continue their tradition of giving. (Additional details at www.charitablegift.org.)

As a member of a giving circle and a woman donor, you are leading the way here in Anne Arundel County and making a significant difference for so many members of our community. Thank you for your leadership and support - AAWGT is proud to have you as a member.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Stewart, President
stews@mindspring.com

Lynne Davidson, Vice President
lynnedav@aol.com



Help [Anne Arundel Women Giving Together](#) grow and share our good work: please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends.

Don't miss our Grants Showcase Reception on June 10th! Bring a friend and welcome our 2009 grantees.

Place: St. John's College Hodson Boathouse (directions below)

Time: 7-9 PM

Light refreshments will be served.

Directions: From Rt. 50 East, take Rowe Blvd. exit (#24), bear right and proceed towards downtown Annapolis. Turn left at Taylor Ave. Take the first right on Annapolis St. (Rt. 450). Turn right onto King George St. The Hodson Boat House will be the first building you encounter on the right after crossing the bridge at College Creek. Parking is available on King George Street or in any of the campus parking lots, which will be available for our use that evening. There is also free parking in the Bladen Garage beginning at 6pm, located at Bladen and St. John's Streets.

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Who We Help

Centro de Ayuda

Mama Sana Program

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

Project Antiviolence Education (PAVE)

Girls on the Run

Please note: The Leadership Development Committee will hold a pre-reception meeting for new and prospective members at 6:30PM.

Reminder: Please renew your membership!

Upcoming AAWGT Events and Meetings - Save the Date!

August 2nd - Picnic at the Blaxall Farm

More information and directions will follow in the July newsletter.

August 7th - Volunteer Day

Don't miss this opportunity to see the positive ways that participation in the arts reaches at-risk children. Rob Levit, founder of Creating Communities, has invited our members to participate in the Arts Mentorship Academy at Maryland Hall. On the last day of camp volunteers will make and deliver bag lunches for the children and are invited to stay for the closing ceremony just after lunch. The Arts Mentorship Academy is an award-winning program that fosters creativity and the arts for children who are residents of the Clay Street Community in Annapolis.

Contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com if you would like to participate (limited to 5 or 6 participants).

September 9th - General Meeting at Maryland Hall

Time: 8:30-10:00 AM

Additional information below.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

"Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions." - - Harold Geneen

AAWGT Announces the 2009 Grantees

[Centro de Ayuda](#) will receive \$8,615 for its Mama Sana Program, a bilingual prenatal and infancy education program structured to support Latino/Hispanic women.

[Girl Scouts of Central Maryland](#) will receive \$10,000 to expand their Project Antiviolence Education (PAVE) for at-risk girls into five county schools.

[Girls on the Run\(GOTRA\)](#) will receive \$8,016 to support a program that uses

(GOTRA)

Essential life skills to girls in grades 3 through 8.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding

Horses for Hope

Partners in Care Maryland, Inc.

Volunteer Program to drive women 55 and older

Sarah's House

Fun Learning at Sarah's House (FLASH)

YWCA

Affordable technology training

Please visit our Grantee websites (hyperlinks in the below article) to see updates on their activities!

training for a 5K run to teach essential life skills to girls in grades 3 through 8.

[Maryland Therapeutic Riding](#) will receive \$8,392 to establish Horses for Hope, which will provide therapeutic riding, counseling, and child care to women in crisis.

[Partners in Care Maryland, Inc.](#) will receive \$10,000 to expand a program in which volunteers drive women 55 and older to destinations, such as medical appointments, necessary to maintain their health and welfare.

[Sarah's House](#), a shelter for the homeless, will receive \$10,000 to enhance Fun Learning at Sarah's House (FLASH) which provides tutoring and mentoring to resident children.

[YWCA](#) will receive \$9,506 to provide affordable technology training to low-income clients who are seeking better employment opportunities.

Our grants total \$64,529.



A special thank you to all those who made our May 13th grants voting a successful process. It involved many volunteers, working many hours, to review proposals, make site visits and participate in meetings. The effort was led by our Grants Committee, chaired by Roylene Roberts and assistant chair Kathy Potter.

A special THANK YOU to Kathy Potter for all of her work organizing and managing the grants voting process for our members. Thank you also to the grant review team members:

- Jane Morrell, Prue Clendenning (co-leads), Barbara Mohrman, Tara Potter
- Chris Poulsen, Glenda Keel (co-leads), Kathy Ebner, Susan Nolte
- Elizabeth Appel, Lynda Salamon (co-leads), Kathy Brooks, Nancy Greene
- Melanie Teems, Karen Davis (co-leads), Kim Elling, Gloria Pressman
- Helaine Betnun, Barbara Hoffstein (co-leads) Therese Gardner, Lynn Buhl, Marilyn Graham

- Bronwyn Belling, Nancy Kling (co-leads), Fay Mauro, Susan Trattner



If you are interested in other volunteer activities, visit the Volunteer Center of AAC at www.VolunteerAnneArundel.org.

AAWGT September Education Program

How Arts Programming Can Be Used to Create a Positive Impact on the Lives of At Risk Youth in AAC

According to Americans for the Arts, "arts agencies across the country have for many years provided arts programs for youth at risk of juvenile delinquency and other behavioral problems, with the assumption that these programs can alter the course of troubled lives." Research done by the YouthArts Development Project substantiates this belief and suggests that "The arts open the door to self-reflection and self-expression. They provide the literal means for one of the most important tasks our youth face: to pose and wrestle with questions about the very direction of their lives."*

In our September meeting, we will be discussing this topic with two dynamic leaders in our local arts community: Kirsten Elstner and Rob Levit. Kirsten Elstner is the Director of VisionWorkshops which provides after-school mentoring programs in photography and writing to help young people "find their voice and tell their own stories." VisionWorkshops serves youth from underserved communities in Anne Arundel County with a special focus on the Hispanic population as well as youth from the Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts.

Rob Levit is an arts integration specialist who founded Creating Communities to foster creativity and the arts for the underserved with a focus on elementary school children, hospital patients and adults with mental illness. In 2008, Creating Communities received an Innovative Program Award from the Volunteer Center of Anne Arundel County for developing the Arts Mentorship Academy which serves the Clay Street Community in Annapolis.

*From the Americans for the Arts, YouthArts website, <http://www.americansforthearts.org/youtharts/about/>

"I was saved by the arts." Rosie O'Donnell

PLEASE RENEW YOUR AAWGT MEMBERSHIP!

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your check as soon as possible. We would truly appreciate receiving the checks by June 30.

To increase membership, we have created a new "Associate Member" category, which invites women 35 and younger to participate for one-half the cost of a regular membership. If you have questions about your membership contribution, please feel free to call Treasurer Barb Novak at (410) 224-2528 (410) 224-2528

Membership forms can be found on our website, www.givingtogether.org.

Remember: By pooling our resources, your annual AAWGT contribution is multiplied 100 times or more!

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new AAWGT members:

- Joanna Conti
- Leslie Geisel
- Valerie K. Miller

Please make a special effort to welcome our new members if you meet them at one of our meetings.

Stay tuned for news about the Membership Committee's summer coffee for prospective and new members as well as a fall membership event.

Contact Information

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AAWGT is a non-denominational, non-partisan group that welcomes all interested women.

Website: www.givingtogether.org

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