



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

AAWGT Newsletter

May 2009

Did you know that, as philanthropists and donors, women take more chances than men? They are more likely to give to a new or less well-known organization they believe is truly making a difference than, for example, their alma mater, a museum or another well-established institution. Women are more likely to donate to a nonprofit organization than to a political candidate. And, more women than men are online today, and more women are blogging.

As reported by Lisa Witter and Lisa Chen, authors of "The She Spot," we women are actively involved in our world and are not afraid to use our money to make a difference.

That active involvement that women share in common will come alive on Wednesday, May 13, from 8:30 to 10 am, when AAWGT members gather to make decisions on how to spend \$64,500 in AAWGT grant funds. As we complete our third year of grant funding, the decisions made that day will be the culmination of a year-long process. We thank our Grants Committee and all of the reviewers for their important work this year.

We know that those who need services in Anne Arundel County are growing in number and the problems they face are growing in complexity. Meantime, organizations are faced with patching together more services with less money. The need for support has never been greater. How rewarding that on May 13, we will collectively participate in how to best use our funds and reinvest in the community we all cherish. This is participation at its most powerful.

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.

May 13, 8:30-10 AM

General meeting to vote on 2009 grantees
Edgewater Police Station, 35 Stepney Lane

At the May 13th general meeting, AAWGT members will select the grantees for our third annual grant cycle. A total of \$64,500 in funding is available for local projects, and each grantee will be awarded up to \$10,000 for the year. Those who were members of AAWGT in 2008 and/or 2009 are eligible to vote. The meeting will be held at the Edgewater Police Station Community Room, 35 Stepney Road, from 8:30-10:00 AM.

Additional details below in the Grant Committee Notes.

Reminder: Please renew your membership!

Upcoming AAWGT Events and Meetings - Save the Date!

June 10, 7:00-9:00 PM

Grants Showcase
St. John's College Boathouse
Bring a guest and meet our 2009 grantees!

July

No meeting; Steering Committee Retreat

August 2

First Annual Picnic at the Blaxall Farm in Davidsonville

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Who We Help

[Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore](#)

Micro-enterprise for Women

[Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc.](#)

Building Futures: A Self-Sufficiency Program

[Anne Arundel Co. CASA, Inc.](#)

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

[Rob's Barbershop Community Foundation](#)

Gifts for Grooming Program

[YWCA of Annapolis &](#)

AAWGT "Volunteer Day"--stay posted!

AA County

Life Skills Training at
Arden

FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Please visit our Grantee websites to see updates on their activities!

FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE: VOTE ON 2009 GRANTEES

At the May 13th general meeting, AAWGT members will select the grantees for our third annual grant cycle. A total of \$64,500 in funding is available for local projects, and each grantee will be awarded up to \$10,000 for the year. Those who were members of AAWGT in 2008 and/or 2009 are eligible to vote. The meeting will be held at the Edgewater Police Station Community Room, 35 Stepney Road, from 8:30-10:00 AM.

About a week before the meeting, each member will receive an email packet consisting of a ballot with finalists recommended by the Grants Committee and a confidential summary of each proposal. The packet will also include instructions for submitting an absentee ballot if you are unable to attend the meeting.

The list of finalists is the product of the efforts of six review teams, consisting of 26 AAWGT reviewers. The process began in January when we sent out 100 solicitations to non-profit organizations working in Anne Arundel County. Later that month the Grants Committee held information sessions for the non-profit organizations and training sessions for new reviewers. By the February 12th deadline for proposals, AAWGT had received 29 applications, representing requests for almost \$260,000 in funding. At this point the actual review of the applications began, and members of the review teams were at the heart of that process. Each team, consisting of four or five trained AAWGT members, reviewed and ranked a set of randomly selected proposals. They read and analyzed the grants, discussed applications, conducted site visits (where necessary), and made the difficult decisions required to select the finalists. Great care was taken to avoid conflicts of interest. Now the AAWGT membership will determine which programs will be awarded grants for 2009.

Please look for the ballot packet in your email. We on the Grants Committee look forward to seeing you at the meeting and counting your votes!

Questions? Contact Roylene Roberts (rmr123@verizon.net) or Kathy Potter (pottercako@comcast.net).

AAWGT Needs Your Feedback!! 2009 Member Survey Coming in May. We want to hear your ideas and comments. Look for the Member Survey coming to you electronically and in paper form at the May 13th meeting.

Spring Membership Recap

Despite blustery and rainy weather, we had an impressive turnout at AAWGT's 3rd annual Spring Membership Open House, held on April 15 at Fishing Creek Farms Clubhouse. Some 22 new women and 43 AAWGT members attended, and there was an absolute buzz of energy in the crowd as we collectively mixed, mingled, enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres, and talked a little about AAWGT.



The brief program began with introductions from the new attendees. Sharon Stewart spoke briefly about our giving circle's highlights, and then we heard from Jane Morrell, Tara Potter, Anna Greenberg, Linnell Bowen, and Sherri Meredith on "What AAWGT Means to Me." Bess Langbein, Executive Director of CFAAC, thanked our group for its value to the community, and Lynne Davidson concluded with an invitation to join AAWGT and participate in any number of ways.

Thanks to the Membership Committee, to all AAWGT members who brought guests, and to all volunteers who helped make the evening a great success!!



TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAWGT MEMBERSHIP!

So far, we have 71 paid renewals, 14 new members, and one associate member. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your check as soon as possible.

Please note that 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!

GRANTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah's House

AAWGT grantee Sarah's House will hold its first annual "Art of Kindness Gala" on Saturday, May 16th from 6 to 9 PM at the parish hall of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1800 Seton Drive, Crofton.

The event, hosted by the Friends of Sarah's House, will feature music, art for sale, a silent auction, and light fare, beer, and wine.

Tickets are \$50 per person; after-five attire. For tickets and further details, call 410-551-7722 410-551-7722 , Ext. 1216, or send checks to Sarah's House, Attn: Juanita Patke, 2015 20th St., Fort Meade, MD 20755.

YWCA's Arden House

For the past year AAWGT has been funding a life skills training program for the women of YWCA's Arden House. Women usually arrive at Arden House with nothing so when they leave for new housing, they need sheets, towels, house wares, etc.

Eleanor Huggins and Sandy Sweeney have been our liaisons to YWCA and they would like to invite you to ***help Arden House by bringing new and gently used linens and household items to the May 13 or June 10 meetings of AAWGT.*** You can help to give these women a fresh start! Questions: call Sandy at 410-263-3956 410-263-3956 .

Thank You!

AAWGT is a volunteer-run organization and we could not do what we do without the incredible time and talents of so many people. Special thanks to:

- Martha Hoyer and the Membership Committee for all their hard work on the April 15th member outreach reception.
- Linnell Bowen, Anna Greenberg, Bess Langbein, Sherri Meredith, Jane Morrell, and Tara Potter, who spoke so eloquently at our April 15th reception.
- Tara Clifford, for bringing so many wonderful guests to the April 15th reception.
- Amy Steindler, for artistic creation of our new AAWGT Committee posters.
- David Roberts, who took photos at the April 15th reception (in this newsletter).

- Wine Cellars, which provided wine at cost for the April 15th reception.
- Anne Potter, who has taken over management of our membership database.
- Kathy Brooks, who hosted a recent focus group with women aged 35 and under to help develop our strategies for attracting younger women to AAWGT.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new AAWGT members:

- Lois Moses Shofer
- Julie Conrad
- Leslie Slezak
- Vicki Wallace

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

Contact Information

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together
914 Bay Ridge Avenue, Suite 220
Annapolis, MD 21403
(410) 280-1102 (410) 280-1102

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

Website: www.givingtogether.org

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