



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

May 2011

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Important Upcoming Dates

May 11

Grants Voting Meeting

June 8

Grants Showcase

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

Invite a friend to join!
Go to givingtogether.org

This is an exciting time in AAWGT's yearly cycle. At our upcoming May 11 meeting, members will select AAWGT's grant recipients for 2011. The Grants Review Committee has evaluated 34 proposals (requesting a total of more than \$340,000), resulting in a list of recommended programs from which members will select the grantees. Members, watch for an email in the next few days that explains the voting procedure and includes confidential information and the recommendations.

Recommended programs serve women and families in Anne Arundel County across the focus areas defined in the AAWGT Grant Criteria (click [here](#) to view); education, health and welfare, and prevention/treatment of violence and abuse. These recommendations were selected after careful review by the Grants Review Subcommittee. Reviewer Teams sought those programs that best:

- Match AAWGT Grant Criteria;
- Address important needs for women and families in Anne Arundel County;
- Present a plan to address these needs and demonstrate the capacity to carry it out;
- Provide benchmarks that define success and enable the organization to make improvements in the future; and
- Maximize the impact of our funds.

The grants process is truly a team effort. Twenty-five AAWGT members, making up four review teams, and a financial reviewer participated in the process. Under the direction of experienced team leaders, these groups worked through March and April to evaluate the applications. In many cases, site visits and/or telephone interviews were conducted to obtain more information or to clarify points in the proposals. Team leaders gathered twice to discuss and rank the applications. We would like to thank all the members who have worked so hard to make this a successful year.

We look forward to seeing all members when we meet at 8:30 a.m. on May 11 at the YWCA, 1517 Ritchie Highway in Arnold, to cast our votes. Electronic voting will be permitted in advance for those members who are unable to attend in person.

for a renewal/donation form.

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

Welcome New Members!

*Susan Amos
Debra Bird
Virginia (Ginger) DeLuca
Kathleen DuShane
Janet Fischer
Margaret (Marty) Keegan
Jenny Kottler
Linda Marth
Pamela McKee
Gayle Plato
Joan Turek
Maureen Williams*

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



Lynda Salamon - Chair, Grants Committee
Susan Swayze - Assistant Chair, Grants Committee

→ Upcoming Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 8:30 to 10:00 am
AAWGT Grants Voting Meeting (MEMBERS ONLY)
YWCA, 1517 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, MD

→ Meeting Recap

Spring Open House & Five Year Celebration!

Nearly 90 AAWGT members and guests celebrated five years of making a difference in the lives of Anne Arundel County women and their families at our annual spring open house at the festively decorated Annapolis Maritime Museum on April 13th. Since its

inception five years ago, sparked by the vision of founding member Sharon Stewart, our giving circle has awarded nearly \$300,000 in total grants to area nonprofits. Ten of the fifteen original founders were present to join in the excitement. These founding members have grown to more than 160 like-minded

philanthropists who have helped improve the lives of so many women and children in our community. The evening's two surprises were the announcement of a brand new AAWGT Endowment Fund (details below and online) and distribution of a special commemorative [booklet](#) celebrating our major milestones to date. Special thanks go to Gloria Martin-Pressman for underwriting the booklet, to Lynne Davidson for early drafts of the copy and especially to Vice President Laurie Sharp for



Founders pictured above, from left: Barbara Hoffstein, Debbie Daugherty Richardson, Sharon Stewart, Helene Tenner, Anna Greenberg, Pat Barland, Becki Kurdle and Susan Swayze

designing and shepherding this incredibly memorable special keepsake!

→ Announcing Our New AAWGT Endowment Fund!

Culminating the excitement of our Five Year Celebration and Spring Open House on April 13th was the announcement of a brand new AAWGT Endowment Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (CFAAC) with AAWGT as its beneficiary. This fund was initially seeded by the remarkable generosity of one anonymous member's donation of \$25,000. Sharon Stewart said, "This endowment is an immensely significant achievement. It will ensure the future of the AAWGT in a way that annual membership fees simply can't."

"When this incredible one-time donation is matched with another \$25,000 through contributions," President Bronwyn Belling remarked, "a five percent annual distribution will be added to our grants fund. In furtherance of this goal, I am proud to announce that 100% of our Steering Committee members and key volunteer leaders have already pledged over \$9,000 -- and counting -- toward this matching amount."

Bess Langbein, Executive Director of CFAAC added, "this endowment means your mission will go on forever; it will have lasting power. You are really changing people's lives. Bess concluded "It's amazing.....your organization is endowed after only five years of existence. I encourage you to think about planned giving, because it will be permanent, a legacy." Bess also recognized Jan Hoffberger of the Community Foundation "who has worked to steward this gift."

"It's another bucket into which our members and others can donate. It will also allow men to contribute," Bronwyn added, smiling, "We *don't* want to shut them out entirely!"

A new pledge form for the AAWGT Endowment Fund will be posted online soon and all members will be notified at that time. CFAAC has also offered to answer any individual questions and provide a speaker about endowment funds in general and the broader topic of legacy giving at one of our upcoming educational sessions.

→ Grantee of the Month - Annual Field Trip to Arundel Lodge Highlights the Mental Health Needs of Underserved Latinas

Arundel Lodge provides mental health services to adults with mental illness in Anne Arundel County and received an AAWGT grant in 2010 to launch their Latina Outreach project. This program is designed to serve Hispanic women who suffer from post traumatic stress syndrome, domestic violence and anxiety. On April 29, fifteen AAWGT members received a tour of the facilities and briefing from Executive Director Mike Drummond.



"We thought we might serve six to twelve Latinas this year, but we've had 51 referrals and so far we've treated 36 women with the AAWGT grant."

Mr. Drummond expressed how much the AAWGT grant has meant to Arundel Lodge and the women it serves. "We care about people, but federal rules preclude us from using tax dollars to serve undocumented people. The AAWGT grant has helped us remove that barrier to providing services. The Latina community views these services as a God-send and very valuable." Self-assessment forms completed by the participants revealed dramatic improvements in mental outlook and a sincere appreciation for the program: "Treatment helped me so that other people would not abuse me and so I myself can be happy." "This is the best service - thank you for what you have done for me; I am another person, and I can now advise others how to seek help." And, "I felt happy because I saw a shining light that would help me in my life."

The mission of Arundel Lodge is to "respectfully assist each person to achieve a satisfying and meaningful life in the community." It was founded in 1975 by the parents and family members of people with serious mental illness as a support for patients who were leaving hospitals and coming back into the community. Arundel Lodge currently oversees a residential program for 103 people in residential group homes around the county along with a day program at the Lodge that provides nutrition and case management along with supportive employment, education and treatment services to over 700 people.

The impressive building, designed by AAWGT member and architect Catherine Purple Cherry, features vibrant art created by participants in Arundel Lodge art therapy programs. These programs offer a safe, supportive environment where people can use visual arts to "explore, express and recover." Our tour ended in the Open Eye Gallery, where textile artist Margaret O'Brien showed us her multi-textured weavings and we marveled at the scope and variety of the paintings



displayed on the walls. See www.openeyegallery.com for information on upcoming gallery shows including an art sale and portrait photography exhibit on Friday, May 20 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

Hold These Dates!

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

June 8 - Grants Showcase, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Francis Scott Key (FSK) Auditorium Lobby, St John's College

June 29 - Book Group

July & August -Summer Vacation - no membership meetings!

September 7 - General Meeting & Educational Session

Business and Committee Updates

Education & Program Committee: Our committee encourages members to complete the membership survey that will reach members by email shortly. This survey will help us determine our programs next year. Please respond to identify your particular interest in programs or speakers that would be well qualified to present on these issues. We also encourage members to this Committee to assist with development of our informational sessions.

For more information, contact education@givingtogether.org

Leadership Development & Nominating (LDN) Committee:

New Members - mark your calendars! LDN will be hosting a new member reception on Thursday, June 2 at the home of Kitty Higgins. Details will be sent directly to new members shortly.

Membership & Outreach: If you have not already renewed your AAWGT membership, please take the time to do so now. Our website allows you to look up your most recent contribution date. Committee leaders Missy Attridge and Marie Brockhurst can also check for you by emailing membership@givingtogether.org Click [here](#) for a fillable membership donation and renewal form. As we approach our May 11 vote to determine the non-profits who will receive 2011 grants from AAWGT (based on 2010 membership donations), we hope that we will have at least as much grant money to disperse in 2012 as we do this month.

The needs of county organizations do not seem to be diminishing, and the only way to maintain or grow our overall support is to have new members join and current members renew.



Service/Volunteer Opportunities

LightHouse Monthly Lunch-making:

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

- Friday, May 20 (new member Mary Milan will host and 2-3 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. All lunch-making sessions begin at 8:30 a.m.

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

[Forward email](#)

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