

# FULL CIRCLE NEWS

## June / July 2016

### Collective Philanthropy

Congratulations to our 2016 grantees! The AAWGT membership voted on May 11 to give more than \$100,000 to eight worthy nonprofits in Anne Arundel County. You can learn more about these grantees and their programs in this newsletter. Then, throughout the year, we will provide in-depth coverage of each grantee through the newsletter and the website.

AAWGT exists to engage in collective philanthropy. Our goals are to increase our learning and build a stronger community. Through the grant-making process, we build our knowledge about the needs in the community. We work together to solicit and review grant applications and then we vote on which proposals to fund, each of us reflecting on how these grants can create positive impact for women and families in Anne Arundel County.

AAWGT provides many opportunities to participate in the organization for everyone who is interested. You can learn more about each of the committees [here](#), and we urge you to send an e-mail to any committee that piques your interest.

Our June 8 general meeting, open both to our membership and the general public, will provide an overview of a new County plan proposing a strategic approach to addressing poverty. The plan seeks to create greater impact by using the geography of poverty in the County as it targets four specific populations. This presentation will feature a wealth of data and provide a first-hand look at the future direction for government funding.

AAWGT is about to send out its annual membership survey which will help guide our future. Members, please take a few minutes to respond – your input is invaluable.

AAWGT's collective philanthropy is made possible by your contributions of money, time and talent. Join us in June as we continue to learn and invest in our community!

[Mary Grace Folwell](#), President  
Member since 2011

[Linda Eggbeer](#), Vice President/President-Elect  
Member since 2013

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## Announcing AAWGT's 2016 Grantees

The votes are in and the selection has been made! To get here, 27 grant reviewers evaluated 35 applications over the last 3½ months to bring to our members 14 best applications that appeared to have the greatest potential impact on women and families in Anne Arundel County. Then it was the members' turn to vote; each member choose choosing which of the 14 organizations she believes will provide the greatest benefit. The final eight grantees were selected by the members at the May 11 Grant Voting Meeting and by online ballot. Presented below are the names of the 2016 grantees and a brief description of the activities what our funds will support.

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

#### **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - \$15,000**

CASA's mission is to provide a dedicated advocate to speak in the best interests of children who have been abused or neglected, in court and in the community. With AAWGT's grant funding, 20-25 children will receive a CASA volunteer.

### [Anne Arundel Community Action Agency](#)

#### **Green Summer Works - \$10,000**

The Green Summer Works Program provides low-income high school students an economic opportunity by combining paid work experience with comprehensive work force preparation, life skills education, and financial literacy training. Twenty students will be placed in paid summer jobs in a variety of environmental organizations with AAWGT funding.

**Arundel House of Hope**

**The Family Project - \$15,000**

The Family Project identifies homeless women and children, provides them with appropriate individual housing, and teaches them the skills needed for self-sufficiency that they can use and pass on to future generations. AAWGT funding will cover partial salaries of the Program Manager and Program Case Manager who provide counseling to the families.

**Arundel Lodge, Inc.**

**Marcus Youth and Family Center – Interpreters - \$15,000**

Arundel Lodge provides an extensive range of behavioral health services, primarily to low low-income people with serious and persistent behavioral diagnoses. AAWGT’s funding will provide 34 Hispanic children and their families mental health services with the help of medical interpreters for appointments with the Center’s Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner.

**He Opens Paths to Everyone, Inc.(HOPE)**

**Transitioning Homeless Women & Children into Healthy Homes - \$14,923**

This program uniquely provides essential healthy beds, basic furniture, clothing, personal hygiene products and household items at no cost to women and families (700+ adults and children annually) as they re-integrate into our communities. AAWGT funding will support partial salary of the driver and warehouse assistants, and rental of warehouse and equipment for two months.

**Light House, Inc.**

**Family Assistance Program - \$15,000**

The Family Assistance Program provides support for homeless parents and children that includes case management; employment assistance, including child care, and transportation; direct financial assistance for medical needs; school support for children including summer camps and field trips; and infant needs. Eleven parents and 29 children will benefit from AAWGT funding.

### Services from the Heart

#### **Backpack Buddies Program - \$5,625**

This program provides weekly backpacks of food over weekends and extended school breaks to economically disadvantaged children attending three Title 1 elementary schools: Eastport, Hilltop and Belle Grove. AAWGT funding goes directly to food and will support 75 children for ten weeks.

### YWCA

#### **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Play Therapy Services - \$10,000**

The YWCA is creating a Therapeutic Playroom to promote healing of children ages 3 -12 who have witnessed domestic violence or endured abuse. The program provides Child-Centered Play Therapy Techniques. AAWGT funding will support the partial salary of a licensed therapist, therapeutic materials and other program costs.

#### Grants Committee

Caroline Purdy, Chair  
Member since 2010

Sue Pitchford, Assistant Chair  
Member since 2012

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### **2016 Membership Survey**

AAWGT's annual Membership Survey should have been sent to members Wednesday, June 1. Please take a few moments to answer the questions on this year's survey. As part of our 10th Anniversary, we are trying to document AAWGT's impact on its members over the past ten

years. We also hope to gauge your reaction to some of the new activities undertaken this year and invite you to indicate your interest in getting involved. Thanks in advance for your valuable input. If you did not receive an email with the survey, send an email to [giving@givingtogether.org](mailto:giving@givingtogether.org).

[Linda Eggbeer](#), Vice President/President-Elect  
Member since 2013

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**Monthly Meetings:**  
**What's Coming Up and**  
**What's Already Happened**

***June 8 Preview: General Meeting***

How is the Governor's Office for Children encouraging a new collaborative approach between State and local governments as well as non-profits and philanthropists? What will this look like in Anne Arundel County? Pamela M. Brown, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, will speak about a community plan that recognizes the geography of poverty in Anne Arundel County using the focus of four underserved populations. This targeted approach will use the "Community of Hope Model" for disconnected communities developed by Casey Family Programs, currently being tested nationally.

While the data in the "Poverty Amidst Plenty" report is important, this talk is different in that it will address what is being done with the data to work collaboratively among the various governmental agencies, philanthropists and local non-profits. It will also address the major shifts in funding that are occurring. Come hear why Dr. Brown is more excited than she has been in the last seven years about the work being done and the positive impacts that are expected by engaging all sectors of the community in a strategic approach to poverty.

***April 6Recap: Spring Open House***

AAWGT's annual Spring Open House on April 6 started with social time, lovely food, and conversation at the Loews Annapolis Hotel on West Street.

Mary Grace Folwell welcomed everyone with her natural humor and enthusiasm. She acknowledged the new members and guests attending and offered each the opportunity to introduce themselves. The evening's seven speakers shared thoughts about why they joined and their feelings about AAWGT. Three common threads quickly emerged: giving back, getting involved, and wanting to know local like-minded women. It was agreed, "We aspire to seek and support initiatives that help women and children in Anne Arundel County."

Sarah Morse, Chair of AAWGT's Membership Committee, spoke first. Although she has only been a member for a year, she has taken a leadership role and has found help and support from past leaders. Sarah embraces the mission to serve vulnerable women and children in Anne Arundel County, and discussed the different ways to be a member, finding the level that is right for each individual. She loves the breadth and depth of the women in the organization. To enrich this, she started a new initiative called Anne Arundel Women *Getting* Together, monthly gatherings with no agenda other than building friendships. She encouraged everyone to come to a "Getting Together" event just to have fun and meet others.

Lynne Davidson joined in 2006. She has a long line of community service in her family. She was one of the founding members of AAWGT, working on the vision and mission. AAWGT has been a successful venture -- the future of philanthropy is female, focused, fearless, friendly and fun. She has found it a pleasure to be a part of the group.

Martha Schwieters came to AAWGT with an ulterior motive of having powerful women help her theater group. The theater group has since dissolved, but she greatly enjoys her involvement with AAWGT. She believes in the mission and feels that if we are asking people to give money, the organization needs to be transparent. Martha believes that by belonging to the group, you become a part of the solution.

Lynn Buhl, who joined in 2006, knew no one and was working in DC and unable to attend events. Once she joined a committee she felt at ease and got to know many people. She believes in women helping women and AAWGT's mission. Lynn has learned a lot from the educational programs and met fantastic women whom she respects.

Kate Fritz, the newest member to speak, joined because she is one of the only women in her professional role as Director of the South River Federation and because she believes in synergy. Her goal is to try to accomplish the greatest good for the longest time. She commented that women leaders are good at building social networks. She looks forward to working with everyone and meeting them.

Molly Knipe, CEO of YWCA, applied for a grant and found how careful, thoughtful, and strategic the organization wanted to be before they gave money. She loves her job and believes in working with women and children and for a non-profit. She felt that she was welcomed quickly and felt embraced by the group, being involved in strategic planning. It feels Molly said AAWGT feels like a family, is meaningful, and has helped her further embrace this community.

Sharon Stewart was a founding member of AAWGT, and at the beginning wondered how much the organization would grow. By the end of the first year, AAWGT had 60 members. She had moved from DC and loves what you can do in a community with philanthropy and the ability to be connected with others. Sharon expressed deep gratitude that so many people have stepped up to make things happen, and observed that AAWGT is run better than many of the places she has worked. Sharon shared that she is moving to Wilmington, NC soon.

Linda Eggbeer, who joined in 2013, acknowledged Sharon's vision and strong leadership in the formation of AAWGT. She also pointed to the leadership role that many women in the room have assumed over the years to make it the organization it is today. As a token of AAWGT's thanks to Sharon, a memory book is being created for her to have in her new home.

*Cori Dykman, Member Since 2015*

## ***April 21 Recap: Spring Field Trip***

Suicide Prevention Seminar: QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)  
Youth Suicide Awareness Seminar Offers Critical Insight

As part of AAWGT'S 10th Anniversary Celebration, our grantee Anne Arundel County Mental Health Association, Youth Suicide Awareness (YSA) Program presented a two-hour training seminar. The Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention program is intended to teach how to recognize the warning signs, clues and suicidal communications of people in trouble and to act vigorously to prevent a possible tragedy.

This seminar, held in lieu of our annual Spring Grantee Field Trip, was led by Alli Holstrom, YSA Chair and Certified QPR Trainer, who immediately drew in the audience with her in-depth review of national suicide statistics. She then brought it home to Anne Arundel County. Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the U.S. However, in Anne Arundel County, for ages 10-24, suicide is the second highest cause of death, with accidents ranking first and homicides third.

Perhaps the most sobering and unsettling statistics Holstrom presented were that in Anne Arundel County more students at the elementary school level, ages 9 and 10, admitted to thinking about suicide than middle or high school students. Research shows that the elementary student isn't thinking so much about death when he/she considers suicide, but simply about getting rid of pain. *To that youngster, suicide is the end of pain*, and for most at that age, their minds cannot wrap around the finality of death. They have not acquired coping mechanisms; they have no alternative scripts. There is no safe place.

The QPR Suicide Prevention Program has been developed to encourage all of us to "be a bridge"—to show young people how to cope or find solutions. The QPR — Ask a Question, Save a Life—is a professional training program; however, understanding suicide and recognizing clues to suicide are steps we all can learn. As Holstrom reminded us, much like CPR, the fundamentals of QPR are easily learned, and like CPR, the application of QPR could save a life.



QPR is designed to help someone who may be considering suicide and consists of three life-saving skills. How to:

Question...a person about suicide,

Persuade...the person to get help, and

Refer...the person to the appropriate resource.

The seminar discussion continued with a look at our own emotional reactions to suicide, how we all fear it, and often deny the “too terrible to contemplate.” If we realize that suicidal people are no different from ourselves, we can begin to understand that they just are overwhelmed by their problems, while we seem to have found successful coping solutions to ours.

It is important to recognize the clues and warning signs, whether they are direct or coded — “I’ve decided to kill myself” or “What’s the point of going on?” — and to pick up on behavior changes. Often there are situational clues such as loss of interest in daily activities or the tying up of loose ends. These clues can be associated with a recent move, loss of a friend or family member, loss of financial stability, and so on. All of the above can indicate that it is time for us to use QPR tools and listen carefully to the answers we get when we ask the question.

Alli Holstrom went through a series of questions that could be used, both direct and indirect, including how to persuade someone to get help and how to refer someone for help. She provided support materials and local resource hotline numbers, including a mobile app.

The impressive knowledge Holstrom shared, the valuable information and enlightenment, and the personal reflections and stories she told held the attendees’ attention and the question and answer period was both intense and uplifting.

For the past three years, the QPR program has been partially funded by AAWGT and during that time the program has grown exponentially. This year, The Youth Suicide Awareness Action Team has completed awareness training of 1,000 youth, parents, teachers and coaches in middle and high schools, as well as tutors and mentors. The YSA Action

Team now represents over 100 individuals and more than 20 community agencies and organizations in Anne Arundel County.

One of the goals of AAWGT'S 10th Anniversary is to celebrate the impact of our grants on the people and communities in Anne Arundel County. Our April seminar not only showed all of us what dedication, tireless performance and passion can do to change lives, but it also changed us—giving us the tools and courage to help save lives.

Susan Christensen, Member Since 2015  
Assistant Chair, Post Grants Evaluation Committee

### ***May 11 Recap: Grants Voting Meeting***

In spite of the rain, nearly 75 members were excited to gather and eager to select this year's grant awards. We voted and celebrated May 11, as \$100,548 in awards were approved for eight Anne Arundel County organizations with programs that assist women and children. Near the top of this newsletter is the article "Announcing AAWGT's 2016 Grantees" that lists the name of the successful grantees, their grant amounts, and a summary of the programs supported.

As the votes were being counted, the program shifted to "Thinking About the Future: the AAWGT Endowment Fund and a new AAWGT Membership Opportunity: Lifetime Membership."

### **AAWGT Endowment Fund**

Kate Caldwell, AAWGT member and Director of Philanthropic Planning, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, talked about what an endowment is and isn't. She explained that it's a fund where the principal is kept intact with earned interest available each year to support program or operating expenses. She made the point that most well established organizations have endowment funds, such as the BSO, St. John's College, and Severn School.

Who knew that endowments go all the way back to the Romans who established endowed chairs in learning? Ben Franklin set up endowed funds in Philadelphia and Boston that are still going strong today to

benefit the public good. You've probably heard of endowed chairs or endowed scholarships at universities.

[AAWGT's endowment](#) which is managed by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, has a current value of \$80,000, and is growing. Contributions made to our endowment are invested by a professional team in order to achieve stable income and growth of principal. The fund is administered under a policy that stipulates how much of the earnings can be spent each year in order to preserve the power of the fund and grow it over time. Our spending policy range is 3.5% - 5% per year; this year it is 4%. The really great news is the payoff! In the four years since the endowment was established, we've been able to add \$12,000 to our grant pool. That amount is equivalent to a grant itself! We also heard if the investment market provides more than 5% in interest in any given year (and we would all like to see those days again!), the difference between the spending policy and the interest earned is added to the endowment.

The power of an endowment is that as it grows, its investment power increases. We can be thankful that AAWGT's endowment was started by one of our founding members with an anonymous gift of \$25,000, that was then matched by several other members. These women knew that having and growing an endowment is a "best-practice" of giving circles. Now, many members give to the endowment, some regularly and some to celebrate or commemorate special occasions.

You might still wonder why we should give to an endowment when money is needed now for projects. Here's what we learned:

- For small to medium-sized organizations, it provides an ever growing source of funds for vital projects;
- It provides security in lean economic times;
- Donors give because they want the mission to continue for years, decades, and generations to come, past their own lifetimes;
- Donors believe in helping to build an extraordinary resource for future projects - unknown today - that will positively impact women and children for decades to come.

Giving to AAWGT's endowment is completely optional, but is a great idea, given what we learned! To date, 87 of our members have contributed to the AAWGT endowment, many more than once. Gifts have ranged in size from \$15 to \$1,000, made by rounding up their annual membership payment or directing birthday or special occasion gifts there.

## Lifetime Membership

AAWGT's former president and chair of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Karen Smith, unveiled a new, optional membership opportunity called [Lifetime Membership](#). This is an easy, high-impact way to be a AAWGT member "forever" while also eventually adding to the endowment. The "Lifetime Membership" of \$12,000 can be paid over three years with a minimum of \$4,000 per year.

Advantages are:

- New way to pay your membership;
- Supports both grants and membership today while also contributing to the endowment;
- Easy way to blend the annual membership piece with the important "perpetuity" piece of an endowment.
- Additional, positive tax benefit . . . the State of Maryland provides a special tax credit for contributions made to an endowment. Lifetime Members get the standard federal income tax deduction for the donation plus the potential of an additional 25% Maryland tax credit for giving to an endowment.

Click [here](#) for the information distributed on this at the meeting. And for further information, contact [lifetime@givingtogether.org](mailto:lifetime@givingtogether.org). Watch for the AAWGT website to be updated later this summer with more information on "Lifetime Membership."

Key summary items on Lifetime Membership to consider:

- It is optional - designed to meet different needs of different people at different stages of their lives
- Managed by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County

- Your annual membership fee will be drawn annually from your Lifetime Member (LTM) contribution – a LTM pays only the annual administrative fee (currently \$75)
- AND THIS IS KEY - Lifetime Memberships contributes to the current grant fund and strengthens the impact of AAWGT for coming years - even after our own lifetime.
- Special opportunity to commemorate our 10th anniversary this year.
- Can use the IRA minimum distribution requirement to pay the amounts or the IRA rollover to fund gifts to the endowment and/or for Lifetime Membership

Karen Smith channeled "Buzz Lightyear" in describing the power of Lifetime Membership, "To infinity and beyond!" Five members have already contributed a total of \$32,000 toward their own Lifetime Member giving.

We had a chance to meet and thank Melissa Curtin, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, for all she's doing to help AAWGT and our endowment fund.

Big thanks were extended to Caroline Purdy and Sue Pitchford for their work leading the 2016 Grants Committee. You can read the details in this issue on the eight organizational grants. Great projects with tremendous impact in our community. Your funds are being put to wonderful use - with collective impact of giving together!

Margaret B. Davis, New Member 2016

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## **Membership News**

### **New Members**

AAWGT has welcomed 23 new members in 2016, compared with 8 at the end of May in 2015, a nearly threefold increase. Nine new members have joined since the last newsletter: Margo Cook, Barb Cooke, Donna DeCosta, Marnie Kagan, Debbie McIlroy, Cindy O'Neill, Laura Ricciardelli, Cardie Templeton and Lois Villemaire.

## Renewing Members

Ninety-five members have renewed their membership as of the end of May, a 22% increase over last year.

## Maximizing Members' Use of the AAWGT Website

AAWGT's [website](#) is our main tool for communicating with members. Members have one place where they can see the calendar, including committee meetings, and register for events; read reports from recent events; news related to our grant process; minutes from meetings; access the membership directory; read recent newsletters; and even see recent posts on AAWGT's Facebook page.

So far this year 148 of our 214 members have logged into the website! We would like to help the remaining 31% login and explore the Members Only section. Below are a few tips on logging in and updating your personal profile.

**To login:** Click on the login at the top right corner of the [givingtogether.org](http://givingtogether.org) home page. This will display boxes to enter your email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, simply click on "*Forgot password*" under the password box and the system will enable you to choose a new password.

**Updating Your Profile:** When you are logged in, your name will appear at the top right of the page. If you click on your name, three options will appear: View Profile, Change Password, and Log Out. If you click on View Profile, you will see everything that is in the membership database about you, and can edit that information. We invite you to update your profile with a photo and a short bio as well. So far, 77 members' photos are posted on the website -- our goal is to have every member's photo available to view (only) by other members. If you need help to add or replace your photo, email [webmaster@givingtogether.org](mailto:webmaster@givingtogether.org) for quick and friendly help.

**If you have questions about the website:** We want you to be comfortable logging in and using the website! If you have any questions, email [webmaster@givingtogether.org](mailto:webmaster@givingtogether.org). Should you have questions about

your membership, email [membership@ givingtogether.org](mailto:membership@givingtogether.org). We are all more than happy to help with any issues you might have.

[Web/IT Team](#)

Eve-Marie Lacroix, Chair

Member Since 2008

Bronwyn Belling, Assistant Chair

Member Since 2006

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Click [HERE](#) to Join or Renew

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### Membership Committee Hosted Events

The first four Anne Arundel Women “Getting” Together events have been a lot of fun and provided a way for AAWGT’s new members to connect and socialize with other new and established members in small groups. Most recently, nine women gathered at Red Red Wine downtown in April. In May, a larger group sat by the water the Severn Inn, enjoying the first sunny afternoon in a long while. Join us for the next “getting together” event on Thursday, June 16th from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at Christopher’s in Crofton, and mark your calendars for the next, post-summer gathering back at the Severn Inn on September 29.

[Membership & Outreach Committee](#)

Sarah Morse, Chair

Member Since 2015

Tanya St. John, Assistant Chair

Member Since 2014

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### What’s Going On in the Grants Cycle?

**Post Grants Evaluation Committee  
Invites Interested Members**

The Post Grants Evaluation Committee (PGEC) serves as the yearlong point of contact to AAWGT's grant recipients. Teams of liaisons are assigned to each grantee. These teams conduct mid-year and final evaluations, tracking the performance of grant activities and use of AAWGT grant dollars.

PGEC is hosting a meeting Tuesday, June 14, from 8:30 - 10.:30 AM at a member's home. The purpose of this meeting is to provide updates about our current 2015 Grantees and to assign liaisons to the new 2016 Grantees. If you are interested in knowing more about the work of the Post Grants Committee, and if you would like to get involved, please join us. All members are welcome. Please [RSVP](#).

[Post Grants Evaluation Committee](#)

Judy Templeton, Chair  
Member Since 2011

Susan Christenson, Assistant Chair  
Member Since 2015

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## **Grants Committee**

### **To Review Grants or Not? That is the Question!**

Did you know the Grants Committee needs process and procedural input, in addition to grant application reviewers? If you have grant-making experiences with other organizations or have reviewed for AAWGT in the past, we hope you consider joining the Grants Committee, even if you can't commit time in the early spring.

The committee reviews its policies and procedures in the fall, meeting once a month during September, October and November. At these fall meetings, the committee discusses potential changes or modifications to the grants process and procedures, application and reviewer reports, and software.

A member may not have volunteered to be a grant reviewer for a variety of reasons, among them "wintering" away from Annapolis, participating on other committees, or simply not understanding our



grants process. If you have grant-making experience, know that there's an opportunity to be engaged with the Grants team, even if you don't become a reviewer.

If you'd like to know more about the Grants Committee, contact Caroline Purdy at 410-263-7579.

[Grants Committee](#)

Caroline Purdy, Chair  
Member Since 2010

Sue Pitchford, Assistant Chair  
Member Since 2012

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**Your Dollars At Work:**

**Food Link's Emergency Baby Pantry**

[Food Link's Emergency Baby Pantry](#) program serves families with infants and toddlers in crisis. Whether the need is diapers and wipes, pull-ups, formula and baby bottles, hygiene items, clothing or medication, there is never a charge. The main pantry site resides within Food Link's office on Riva Road. All baby pantry items purchased, donated or provided by charitable events are taken to this location, divided and then distributed to nine pantry sites throughout Anne Arundel County. It is a yeoman's job to meet demand at all the sites while finding organizations to conduct baby drives to satisfy periods of high demand and when grant monies are expended.

In times of crisis, this program remains the one consistent resource in our County. There have been increased requests for help through the County school system, Health Department and programs dealing assisting with pregnant women who have nothing for their babies. In times of extreme duress, Food Link has arranged for immediate delivery of baby items to families temporarily housed in hotels or without any means of travel due to lack of money, vehicle, friends and or family help or public transportation. The number at risk of homelessness and grandmothers or other family members stepping up to take

care of babies to avoid placement in the foster care system continues to rise. This program is a lifeline for those families.

Since the start of AAWGT's grant in July 2015, the Emergency Baby Pantry on Riva Road has helped over 400 children. The West County and North County sites have each helped more than 500 children. A new baby pantry site has recently been established in Edgewater at Joy Reigns Church. In addition, Food Link is consulting with three other locations interested in setting up a diaper bank-type program, including the Infants and Toddlers Program in Howard County.

[Cathy Bird](#), Food Link's Executive Director, stated, "The grant from Anne Arundel Women Giving Together has been both a gift that continues to shine the light of compassion, and the hope we need to protect our most vulnerable citizens – the babies in need."

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### **Your Dollars At Work:**

#### **Rebuilding Together Anne Arundel County**

[Rebuilding Together Anne Arundel's](#) mission is to repair and revitalize the homes and communities of low-income homeowners in Anne Arundel County. Rebuilding Together focuses on the elderly, disabled and single parents, supporting independence and providing a warm, safe, dry place to live.

Fran, an elderly widow in Annapolis, surviving on only social security payments found herself in a dire situation. Her roof was leaking, damaging walls and the ceiling. Her house needed major electrical work, including the replacement of a standard indoor electric outlet, dangerously installed outdoors. Her tub/shower was unusable due to wall rot and missing tiles; it needed to be removed and replaced. Her deck was unsafe. Windows wouldn't open and needed to be replaced. On April 30, 2016, these renovations were completed and her house was transformed into a home she can live in with dignity. She even has a new screen door. She couldn't believe how much her life had improved. She will now live independently in her own home and be able to age in place.

And that is just one example of several incredible outcomes, ranging in magnitude, all having a positive impact!

- An elderly woman in Severn now has a new aluminum handicap ramp and can exit her home by herself for the first time in years.
- A Brooklyn Park resident avoided eviction due to an HOA ordinance and lien against her home for extensive yard maintenance deficiencies.
- A disabled woman in Glen Burnie now has a usable kitchen and bathroom previously destroyed by water damage.
- A new roof and sheetrock, necessary electrical, painting and chimney repairs, and new smoke detectors solidified ownership of a disabled woman's home in Glen Burnie.
- Healthy housing fixes, including new grab bars, repairs to a foundation crack and deck boards, plus painting helped an elderly woman in Edgewater.

With a retail value of over \$105,000, Rebuilding Together leveraged AAWGT's grant to accomplish these six life-altering projects! The work added value to the neighborhoods of those homes and other homes nearby, and kept long-time residents in their own homes. Rebuilding Together engaged over 400 volunteers, building leadership skills, self-help skills, and the opportunity to give back and make a difference.

Previously known as Christmas in April, Rebuilding Together operated once a year on the last Saturday in April. However, the need in the County is so great that the organization now operates year-round. Rebuilding Together is seeking volunteers to include skilled tradespeople, board members, and interested community members who wish to help grow the organization and keep more families in their own homes while improving the housing stock of Anne Arundel County.

[Barbara Cupp](#) of Rebuilding Together says, "Our sincerest thanks to the AAWGT!!"

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**Light House Lunchmaking 101**

AAWGT members gather monthly to make 70 brown-bag lunches for the Light House. This is a great opportunity to do something good for the community, to get to know other AAWGT members, and to introduce a friend to a small group of AAWGT members. These hour-long gatherings are hosted in a member's home. The host assembles the items needed to prepare the lunches and those participating in the lunchmaking each contribute \$25 to \$35 to cover the actual cost. Send an [email](#) to get on the early notification list or watch for opportunities to participate on the website or in this newsletter.

[Light House Lunchmaking Committee](#)

Karen Davis, Chair  
Member since 2006

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**AAWGT Leadership:  
Are you Ready? Do you have Questions?**

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee is starting to review candidates for the slate of 2017 officers and committee chairs/assistant chairs that will be presented to the membership at our November 2016 meeting. During this process, we seek input from many members, but we may not know that you might be interested.

If you would like to be considered for an officer position or as Chair or Assistant Chair of one of the committees, or if you are curious to know what's involved in serving, please let us know. We are in the early stages of talking with potential candidates over the summer. Please reach out to us at [leadership@givingtogether.org](mailto:leadership@givingtogether.org).

And, if you're not quite ready for one of the leadership roles, but would like to become more involved and participate in one or more of the committees, most are actively looking for new members.

For your convenience, we have included a list of 2016 officers and committee leadership below, as well as a list of the Committees and their responsibilities:

[AAWGT Officers and Committee Leadership](#)  
[AAWGT Committees and Responsibilities](#)

**Opportunities to Get Involved Right Now!**

AAWGT's committees welcome your interest and participation. Each standing committee's charter is described in the Members Only section of our website. In addition, we have several ad hoc committees, including the [Information Systems Team](#), which manages, troubleshoots, recommends upgrades, and implements new software programs to improve AAWGT's operations and efficiency; the [Web/IT team](#), which oversees our incredible website and manages membership and event registration; and the [Events team](#), which coordinates arrangements for AAWGT meetings and events.

If you have a special interest in and/or talent that can be put to good use serving on a committee, please reach out to the [Committee Chairs and Assistant Chairs](#). They are almost always open to adding new people to their team!

Thanks so much for your interest. We hope to hear from you!

[Leadership Development & Nominating Committee](#)

Lynn McReynolds, Chair

Member Since 2006

Dorothy Walsh D'Amato, Asst. Chair

Member Since 2010

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**What Our Members are Reading**

An article from the *Washington Post* shares research on the impacts of severe poverty and other social problems on the transition to adulthood in "Why Becoming an Adult Means Something Very Different When You're Poor" by Emily Badger. Blog post by Andy Carroll on the Exponent Philanthropy website shares examples and ideas about giving beyond grants. The book *Childhood Disrupted* by Donna Jackson Nakazawa describes the long-term effects of growing up in a household

with multiple sources of sudden and long-term stress – the kind of household in which children in very low-income households often live. Finally, AAWGT’s Book Group is reading Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me*, a National Book Award winner. Written as a series of letters from a father to his teenaged son, this book is both a memoir and Ta-Nehisi’s observations and the evolution of his thoughts on race.

### **Why Becoming an Adult Means Something Very Different When You’re Poor**

This short [article](#) from the *Washington Post* by Emily Badger provides an overview of a study completed by three sociologists of 150 low-income young teens living in Baltimore over a period of ten years. The children were living in public housing, and “raised amid startling violence.” The book is *Coming of Age in the Other America*, by Stefanie DeLuca, Susan Clampet-Lundquist, and Kathryn Edin.

The transition from childhood to adulthood in middle class families cushions this transition – allowing time for exploration and false starts. In high-poverty households, often with many other problems, the launch into adulthood is haphazard, with little or no forgiveness for mistakes or bad choices – limited choices become more limited.

These struggling young adults “aspire to many of the same goals other teens do, even the kids who wind up for a time dealing drugs or stealing cars. They want good jobs that won’t bore them. They want to raise their children on safe streets with yard space.”

### **Getting Involved Beyond Grants**

This [blog post](#) by Andy Carroll provides stories and examples of members of small foundations becoming more involved in non-grant work to further the impact of their philanthropic giving. Exponent Philanthropy is an association of funders focused foundations or individual grant-makers with few or no staff. Their blog, *Philanthrofiles* provides much good insight and thought for the work of smaller grantmakers.

## *Childhood Disrupted – Learning more about the impact of childhood trauma*

Those who attended AAWGT's February meeting will well-remember Tonier's Cain story of childhood trauma, and how she emerged as an empowered woman helping people across the country and the world learn more about trauma-informed care. If you saw the documentary about her life, you may remember that she had a ten out of ten on the Adverse Childhood Experiences ("ACE") score. AAWGT's two 2015 education meetings focused on mental health also discussed how a high ACE score in a child predicts negative lifetime outcomes.

Donna Jackson Nakazawa, in her book *Childhood Disrupted*, delves into the biology behind the ACE score. Her book discusses how children encountering sudden and chronic adversity are exposed to excessive stress hormones. These stress hormones can cause powerful changes in the body, altering body chemistry. The developing immune system and brain react to this chemical barrage by permanently resetting the stress response to "high," which in turn can have a devastating impact on mental and physical health.

This book is also a story of hope, explaining how adults and children can counteract these biological changes. Donna Jackson Nakazawa spoke at the Annapolis Book festival in April of this year.

## **Between the World and Me**

The AAWGT Book Group is reading *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates in June. This book is included on several best books of the year lists from publications as diverse as *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post*, *People*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. It is also a National Book Award winner and a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

"Readers of his work in *The Atlantic* and elsewhere know Ta-Nehisi Coates for his thoughtful and influential writing on race in America. Written as a series of letters to his teenaged son, his new memoir, *Between the World and Me*, walks us through the course of his life, from the tough neighborhoods of Baltimore in his youth, to Howard University—which Coates dubs "The Mecca" for its revelatory community

of black students and teachers—to the broader Meccas of New York and Paris. Coates describes his observations and the evolution of his thinking on race, from Malcolm X to his conclusion that race itself is a fabrication, elemental to the concept of American (white) exceptionalism. Ferguson, Trayvon Martin, and South Carolina are not bumps on the road of progress and harmony, but the results of a systemized, ubiquitous threat to “black bodies” in the form of slavery, police brutality, and mass incarceration. Coates is direct and, as usual, uncommonly insightful and original. There are no wasted words. This is a powerful and exceptional book.” -- Jon Foro

[Mary Grace Folwell](#), President  
Member Since 2011

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## Upcoming Events

June 8 / Wed / 6:00 PM	<a href="#">General Meeting</a>
June 15 / Wed / 7:00 PM	<a href="#">Book Group</a>
June 16 / Thurs / 5:30 PM	<a href="#">AA Women Giving Together</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>
June 16 / Thurs / 6:30 PM	<a href="#">Governance Committee</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>
June 17 / Fri / 8:30 AM	<a href="#">Light House Lunchmaking</a>
June 25 / Saturday / 9:00 AM	<a href="#">Steering Committee Retreat</a> <i>(Steering Committee Members Only)</i>
July 13 / Wed / 9:00 AM	<a href="#">Light House Lunchmaking</a>

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## Full Circle News Feedback



The Full Circle News is published bi-monthly throughout the year. We invite your suggestions, feedback and questions.

[Marketing & Communications](#)

Jenny Kottler, Chair

Member Since 2011

Deb Schilling, Assistant Chair

Member Since 2013