



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together Newsletter

January 2010

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Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday, January 9 and
Friday, January 22,

Training Workshops for
Grant Applicants (9:30 - 11
am) & Reviewers (11 am -
12:30 pm)

Wednesday, February 10,
7:00-8:30 pm
General Meeting - Health
Care Services: Issues and
Gaps



Happy 2010! We hope that your holidays were filled with joy, family and friends.

As AAWGT heads into its fourth year, we have much to accomplish in serving women and families in Anne Arundel County. In the year ahead we plan an expanded grant making program, new educational programs and volunteer projects, and special efforts to diversify, build and engage our membership.

In 2009, we successfully awarded \$65,000 to 7 grantee organizations, held 3 interesting educational sessions, sponsored 2 member open houses, held a special "under 35" reception at Wellness House and - for our grantees - made lunches for the Light House, attended CASA's graduation and hosted a picnic lunch for Creating Communities. Our group continues to grow and attract women of all backgrounds, professions and interests.

The AAWGT goals for the year are to:

- communicate more effectively with all of our members;
- deepen our understanding of critical community issues;
- expand our grant making and more carefully measure its effectiveness
- offer meaningful activities to our members; and
- continue to spread the word about AAWGT's good work.

We start the year with a special program: An Update on Community Needs, to be held on Jan. 13th at 8:30 am at Maryland Hall. With your help and involvement, 2010 will be a year of continued growth and service to the community for all of us. See you soon!!

Lynne Davidson, President

Bronwyn Belling, VP/Pres-Elect



Welcome New Members!

Ellenor Alvarez
Lynda Behnke
Maureen Cavaiola
Patricia Czapp
Valerie Gutterson
Lisa Hillman
Jane Jacobsen
Molly Knipe
Patricia "True" Rowan
Theresa Wellman
Ginger Woolridge

Kristy McCarthy Weight

Click on the links to see who we help:

[Centro de Ayuda Mama Sana Program](#)

[Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Project](#)
[Antiviolence Education](#)

[Girls on the Run \(GOTRA\)](#)

[Maryland Therapeutic RidingHorses for Hope](#)

[Partners in Care Maryland, Inc.](#)

[Sarah's HouseFun Learning at Sarah's House \(FLASH\)](#)

[YWCA](#)

→ Upcoming Meeting Reminder

Wednesday, January 13, 8:30 - 10:00 am

Location: Maryland Hall, Room 308 (directions below)

Business Meeting: Approve Bylaw Revisions. Click on "Bylaw Revisions" on the sidebar for more information.

Educational Session: Update on Community Needs in AA County

How is today's economic environment impacting the lives of at risk women and families in our community? At an elementary school in Annapolis, counselors recently identified 23 students who were clearly hungry because they were stealing food daily. As the economy has worsened, the need for food security, emergency shelter, foreclosure prevention assistance, health care services, financial assistance for rent, medicine and transportation has soared.

We'll meet with experts who can help us understand the scale and scope of need in our community today.

Directions to Maryland Hall:

From Spa Circle (where West St., Taylor Ave., and Spa Rd. converge) head towards downtown Annapolis on West St. Take the first RIGHT onto Amos Garrett Blvd. Turn RIGHT onto Constitution Ave. Maryland Hall is straight ahead.

To learn more:

Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County

(www.cfaac.org)

Poverty Amidst Plenty: Two Faces of Anne Arundel County provides a needs assessment and call to action to help those in poverty and distress.

The Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers (www.abagmd.org)

Guide for Funding Basic Human Needs in a Challenging Economy examines the scale and scope on needs among Central Marylanders, including Anne Arundel County.

→ AAWGT Meeting-Event Recap

AAWGT December 9 Holiday Meeting

Our festive end-of-year meeting was held in Susan Nolte's welcoming and spacious home. Prue Clendenning and the Education & Program Committee arranged the delicious refreshments. Secretary Karen Davis enthusiastically assisted them and also managed member/guest

registration. Membership Chair Martha Hoyer posted signs and greeted guests. The 60+ members attending heard AAWGT's 2009 accomplishments, upcoming By-Laws changes, and voted on the 2010 slate of officers and committee leadership announced by Leadership Development & Nominating Committee Chair Kathy Brooks and Asst Chair Therese Gardner. Bronwyn Bellings announced the 2009 Founders Award (see below).

President Sharon Stewart reviewed a long and impressive list of 2009 highlights that include: an expanded and streamlined grants process; changes to our electronic and media communications; more choices of member and volunteer events; more efficient budget and committee procedures; new ways of increasing member involvement and receiving feedback.

President Sharon Stewart and VP Lynne Davidson acknowledged the 2009 AAWGT leadership, especially outgoing Membership Chair Martha Hoyer and Asst. Chair Diane Miller, Grants Chair Roylene Roberts, Post-Grants Chair Barbara Hoffstein, Marketing Asst. Chair Amy Steindler and Educ. & Program Chair Prue Clendenning.

Special thanks was given to outgoing President Sharon Stewart, who has served AAWGT professionally, tirelessly and energetically and moved the organization forward with tremendous strides this year!



→ Save these dates!

**Saturday, January 9 and Friday January 22,
Training Workshops for Grant Applicants (9:30 am - 11 am) &
Reviewers (11am - 12:30 pm)**

Location: South River Golf Course Clubhouse, 3451 Solomon's Island Road, Edgewater MD. Contact Kathy Potter (pottercako@comcast.net) for reservations. (See below, Grants Committee Highlights, for more information and directions.)

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00-8:30pm

General Meeting - Health Care Services: Issues and Gaps

Business Meeting: Approve the Budget

Location: Anne Arundel Medical Center, Health Sciences Pavilion, Health Sciences Institute, 7th floor, Conference Rooms A & B, 2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

Plan to attend a panel discussion featuring representatives of the Stanton Center Health Clinic, the County Health Department and an AAMC physician specializing in the needs of at-risk women and families. We will hear about possible barriers, which could affect the quality of health care for our AA County residents. These barriers could include: affordability, accessibility (transportation, language, wheelchair access, for example) and various organizational issues.

Directions to AAMC: Access Medical Parkway from either Bestgate Rd. or Jennifer Rd. Park in the new Health Services Pavilion (HSP) Garage (E) and enter the building from garage level 3, which is level 2 of the Pavilion. Once in the lobby, take the elevators to the 7th floor. The concierge will direct you to Conference Rooms A & B.

Wednesday, March 10, 8:30 - 10:00 am

General Meeting - Developmental Disabilities: Issues and Gaps

The focus of our educational session in March will be to present an updated needs assessment regarding the developmentally disabled and their caregivers in AA County.

Location: Edgewater Police Station, 35 Stepney Lane, Edgewater

 **AAWGT 2009 Founders Award -**

Tara Clifford

Now in its third year, the Founders Award recognizes a member amongst us who, in keeping with the community-minded spirit of its original founders, demonstrates meritorious and exemplary service, contributes significantly to our growth and structure, raises awareness about and broadens the image of AAWGT. This year, a new Founders Award Committee comprised of several original founders, one former recipient and AAWGT President or Vice President solicited nominations from members and made the selection from many extremely worthwhile nominees.

It was with great pleasure that prior recipients Sharon Stewart (2007) and Bronwyn Belling (2008) announced at our December meeting that the 2009 Founders Award recipient is Tara Balfe Clifford. Tara's service to AAWGT is extraordinary: one of our original founders, she

has singlehandedly recruited more members than any other member, helped launch the Grants Committee and has generously shared her expertise and wisdom, gathered in part from the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle. Tara also designed and implemented the first Post Grants Evaluation Committee, has graciously served as an AAWGT goodwill ambassador par excellence and has performed admirably as meeting hostess and guest photographer.

Tara Clifford has been a model of resourcefulness, leadership, and enthusiasm-the qualities that have helped to make AAWGT what it is today. And she has done all of this with a most humble and generous spirit. Let's all give three cheers for Tara!



→ Business and Committee Updates

Grants Committee:

The Grants Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as grant reviewers. Reviewers will work in teams, and most of the work will take place from March to May. No experience is required; the Grants Committee will provide training for new reviewers. Former reviewers, please re-enlist! To register as a reviewer, please contact Kathy Potter. (pottercako@comcast.net)

The Committee is offering workshops for grants reviewers on Saturday, January 9, and Friday, January 22, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30. The workshops will be held at the South River Golf Course Clubhouse (Brick Companies), 3451 Solomon's Island Road, Edgewater, Maryland. All reviewers are invited, but attendance at one of the workshops is mandatory for all first-time reviewers. Please contact Kathy Potter (pottercako@comcast.net or 410-263-1565) to make a reservation.

Directions to the golf course clubhouse: From Annapolis, travel south on Solomon's Island Road (Route 2). After the Rt. 214 intersection, turn left onto Colony Crossing Road. (If you pass under a cart bridge,

(you have gone too far.) Make an immediate right to a U-shaped driveway to the clubhouse.

Leadership Development & Nominating:

Kathy Brooks presented the 2010 Slate of Officers at the November meeting. Officers were elected at the December meeting and began their term of office on January 1st.

Policies & Procedures:

Members received the proposed changes to the bylaws and a brief statement regarding them in a separate email. We discussed these revisions at the December meeting and will vote on them at the January 13 meeting.

Education & Programs Committee:

The Education & Programs Committee welcomes all members who would like to contribute their ideas and energy to develop educational sessions and other learning opportunities. Contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com for more information.

Current E&P Programmers: Laurie Sharp, Lynne Davidson, Carol Cronin, Barbara Firebaugh, Marie Brigham, Barbara Mohrman

Marketing and Communications:

We need someone to help create publications using Publisher. Please contact Julie Crudele (Julie.crudele@comcast.net) or Amy Steindler (Amy.Steindler@verizon.net) if you are able to help.

Highlights of the December 8 committee meeting:

Consensus that we should not change the name of our website
designated a point person for photography and archiving
reviewed the 2010 calendar and coordinated w. upcoming work plan

Committee dates for 2010: January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15 and July 20. These dates are the third Tuesday of the month and meetings will still be in the evenings from 7:00 - 8:30.

 Call for Volunteers!

AAWGT Lighthouse Lunch Making Dates
Thursday Jan 14, 2010

Monday Feb 8, 2010
Friday Mar 12, 2010

If you are interested in hosting or volunteering, please contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com

**February Service Project: Habitat for Humanity - Women Build
(Date to be announced)**

Please note that Karen Davis is the new contact person for this project:

In February, teams of AAWGT Volunteers will work in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Women Build toward the goal of providing affordable housing for women and families in Annapolis.

The Women Build home, formerly part of the Oberry Court Public Housing on Clay Street, is a green/LEED certified structure designed by Annapolis architect, Catherine Purple Cherry. Habitat crew leaders and professional staff will train and work with AAWGT volunteers from 8am to 4pm on a Saturday and/or Wednesday in February.

Alternatively, AAWGT members can volunteer to be part of the Catering Crew that will buy, prepare and deliver lunch to the work site.

To participate on an AAWGT Building Team or Lunchtime Catering Crew send an email to Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com and include your preference for a weekday or weekend team. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available!

To learn more, visit these sites:

[Habitat for Humanity - Women Build](#)

[What's Up Annapolis: Women Build Volunteers Start 3rd Habitat Project](#)

→ Summary of Recommended Changes to AAWGT Bylaws (for adoption at the AAWGT Jan. 13, 2009 General Meeting)

1. The President and VP/President-Elect job descriptions are revised to reflect the "job sharing" nature of the positions.
2. The President may make special appointments (such as an Events Coordinator), who may become voting members of the Steering Committee, if approved by SC.
3. To be eligible for service, Officers no longer have to have been

members for one year, but must be members in good standing. Committee Chairs and Assistant Chairs must also be members in good standing.

4. The "Nominating Committee" becomes the "Leadership Development and Nominating Committee" and will focus on nurturing leadership involvement of existing and new members, while the Membership & Outreach Committee will work on recruiting new members, planning events and retaining existing members.
5. Minutes of meetings will be sent prior to next meeting; more flexible timing.
6. Leadership Development & Nominating Committee Chair will participate (along with the Membership Chair and certain Officers) in the selection of AAWGT member scholarship recipients.
7. "Policies & Procedures Committee" becomes Governance Committee.
8. Bylaws will be reviewed by Steering Committee at least once a year and recommended changes will be drafted by the Governance Committee. The Steering Committee will approve and then send suggested changes to the members for discussion and approval at a general meeting.

What's Good About Giving Circles. . .

1. Giving circles influence members to give more and give more strategically.
2. Giving circles' members give to a wide array of organizations and are highly engaged in the community.
3. Giving circles increase members' knowledge about philanthropy, nonprofits, and the community.

Want to read more about Giving Circles?

Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers website on giving circles in our region. www.givingcircleconnector.org
Giving Circle Information Center: national statistics, trends www.givingforum.org



A Special Thank You To Each of our 2009 AAWGT Volunteers

Norm Saunders, Website host and coordinator

Lynda Salamon and Kathy Carroll, E-newsletter editors

Kate Pynn and Kristen Lasker: Constant Contact managers

Fay Mauro: Steering Committee meeting space host

Mary Frances Isakov, M&T Bank: Grant funding liaison

Anne Potter: Membership list coordinator

Susan Walker: Bylaws and legal/governance advisor

Bess Langbein, Executive Director and Amy Francis, Donor Services Coordinator, Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County: AAWGT Donor-Advised Fund administrative support