



ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN GIVING TOGETHER

September 2011 Newsletter

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Important Upcoming Dates

September 14

General Meeting and Education
Session

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

What a summer "break" we experienced- perhaps that's not the best term, given the challenges of our first major earthquake and Hurricane Irene. Yet each of us rose to the occasion and performed admirably under these tests of character. That's what leadership is all about!

This issue puts a spotlight on leadership of all kinds:

- How to nominate a leader amongst us for our annual Founders' Award (by October 1);
- As philanthropic leaders, AAWGT members have now donated over \$300,000 to nonprofits in 5 years;
- One member has shown remarkable personal leadership (and humility) by anonymously donating \$25,000 to our new AAWGT Endowment Fund, whose balance is now at \$42,000 and growing; and
- We are leading in concentric circles locally as we partner with Junior League Sustainers to volunteer at the Girls on the Run 5K race on December 4th - come one, come all!

You can share your own leadership tips before and after our next meeting at 7 p.m. on September 14th. If you're a new member this year, please arrive early (at 6:30 p.m.) for an informal networking session. Otherwise, plan to stay afterwards to enjoy refreshments and perhaps make some new friends!

Bronwyn and Laurie

other info!

Invite a friend to join!
Go to givingtogether.org
for a renewal/donation form.

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

Welcome New Members!

**Karen Kelly
Lee Finney
Anne Lloyd
Theresa Hussman
Bette Rimsky
Nancy Lindley
Christine Spain
Keren Dement**



Bronwyn Belling, President & Laurie Sharp, Vice President

→ Upcoming Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

General Meeting & Education Session
Immigration: Facts, Trends & Realities
Roger H. "Pip" Moyer Recreation Center,
273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis

[Register here.](#)

→ Meeting Recap

On June 8th, AAWGT awarded over \$79,000 in grants to six local nonprofits at our annual Grants Showcase held at St. John's College in Annapolis. Read details on the individual grants and see photos of the recipients posted on the home page of our website [here](#).

→ Steering Committee Retreat Wisdom

Nineteen members of the AAWGT Steering Committee met on July 16 at the Annapolis Friends Meeting House to revisit our accomplishments and look ahead to our future challenges and opportunities! Our discussions were facilitated by Jill Barr, an Annapolis resident and Assistant Dean at UMBC, who adeptly shepherded multiple discussions and ensured completion of our planned agenda.

We were delighted that Bess Langbein, Executive Director of the Community

Foundation of Anne Arundel County, was able to join us for the morning session highlighting our achievements for the past year. These included over \$300,000 in grants made in the past five years, "going green" to streamline our grants review process, multiple enhancements to our website, including an efficient online event registration process, along with the launching of our new AAWGT endowment fund for grants, and its initial success to date.

The future challenges identified focused on our sustainability -- how to manage our growth effectively and the importance of succession planning to ensure strong, viable and diverse leadership. Remaining responsive to members by balancing "high tech" with "high touch" was also noted as a guiding principle for our continued success. Committee members have volunteered to help us address these issues in the months ahead. We will also include a Strategic Planning discussion to our monthly Steering Committee meetings.

Steering Committee members agreed that AAWGT has come a long way, indeed, has a great deal to be proud of, and that we must continue to examine our work strategically to achieve even greater heights in the coming years! Thanks to all present for the thoughtful and engaging conversations!

Hold These Dates!

September 21 - Book Group

Please see article below for more information

October 12 - 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

General Meeting & Education Session

Youth: Barriers to Success - Avenues of Opportunity

Maryland Hall, Annapolis

[Register here](#)

November 9 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Fall Open House, Voting on 2012 Slate of Officers & Awards

London Town Public House and Gardens, Edgewater

→ Update on our New Endowment Fund

As you know, an extremely generous, anonymous AAWGT member donated \$25,000 to our giving circle to create the new AAWGT Endowment Fund. Since announcing the Fund in April, we are thrilled to report that member contributions and pledges have raised the total to over \$42,000 as of September 1. We are fast approaching the \$50,000 goal which, if reached by December 31, will trigger a contribution of five percent of the balance to our grant fund in 2012!

The Endowment Fund holds great promise as a beacon to improve the quality of life for women and families in our community in perpetuity. It enables us to keep our annual membership contribution at its current level while allowing members to give more if they chose to do so. Contributions can be earmarked as legacy gifts or to recognize and honor a member. The Fund also provides an opportunity for non-members, businesses and corporations to contribute to the important work we do.

If you would like to make a donation to the Endowment Fund, donation forms are available online here. Your support is greatly appreciated.

→ 2011 Annual Survey - Our Members Speak!

We would like to thank our members for their response to our Annual Member Survey. The survey (sent via email in May) is designed to provide members with an opportunity to 'give voice' to their ideas, preferences, concerns and level of satisfaction with our giving circle. It is an important tool for our leadership to evaluate how well we are meeting the needs of our members as well as the needs of women and families in our community. And it provides an essential sense of direction as we plan for the future.

See for yourself! Look for the 2011 Annual Member Survey (2-pg. Summary and complete 33-pg. Detail Responses) are on our website in the 'Members Only' section. Don't miss the thoughtful comments, ideas and insights in the narrative answers listed at the end of the complete survey! If you have further comments or questions, or have difficulty accessing those documents, please do not hesitate to contact leadership at giving@givingtogether.org.

→ Grantee Spotlight: St. Phillip's Quad E Program

In 2010, AAWGT awarded a grant of \$10,000 to St. Phillip's Family Life Center, Inc., for its Extended Educational Enrichment Experience (Quad E) Program. The program purpose is to support an after school program to improve the academic achievement of up to twenty 5th through 8th grade at-risk students in Annapolis and Germantown Elementary Schools, and Bates Middle School. The program was able to measure the academic achievement outcomes of twelve 5th grade participants, all of whom were successfully promoted to the 6th grade.

The Quad E program's parent counselor was able to work with parents to help them address issues affecting the behaviors and academic achievement of their children, underscoring the need to work with parents and not just the children alone in solving academic and behavioral challenges.

Two middle school students and their parents were successfully connected with family therapy to address behavior and family issues and one middle school student was admitted to the Seed School, a college-preparatory boarding school in Baltimore. Two elementary students were also referred to other after school programs.

The Family Life Center reports that their Strengthening Families program helped parents and children make positive changes that have resulted in better behavior in the children, with fewer suspensions.

→ Business and Committee Highlights

Education & Programs: All interested members are invited to attend a one-time brainstorming session in late October to plan our educational calendar for 2012. Contact Judy Coughlin and Maureen Cavaiola at education@givingtogether.org if you are willing to share ideas, think outside the box, and have some fun too!

Governance: The Governance Committee will be meeting soon to see if any updates are needed to the Bylaws. Please let us know if you are aware of any changes that you would recommend. Notify Susan Nolte at csnolte@verizon.net or Bev Nash at beverlynash@verizon.net Thanks!

Membership & Outreach: We are happy to welcome 40 new members to AAWGT thus far in 2011. We will be sending e-mail renewal reminders out to those 2010 members who have not yet renewed. If you'd prefer to go ahead and get it accomplished, here is a link to the [Member Donation Form](#) on our website.

As always, if you have any questions or would like up to send more information to a potential member, we can be reached at membership@givingtogether.org or using our contact information below.

Missy Attridge, Aattridge@verizon.net
410-280 6655

Marie Brockhurst, vze2nwk@verizon.net
410-703-8335

Web & Technology Committee: We've just built a new Facebook page to reach out to tech-savvy women and future members..... "like" us by searching "Anne Arundel Women Giving Together" on your Facebook page.

Service/Volunteer Opportunity

LightHouse Lunch-making Schedule:

Can you help? Hosting a Lighthouse lunch-making session at your home is a great way to get to know some members better, and you are welcome to bring a friend along to learn about AAWGT! Purchase food in advance and welcome 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.

The Shelter is most grateful for our continuing contributions as the need is even greater in this economy.

Upcoming dates and needs are:

Tuesday, Sept. 20 at the home Tara Clifford, 124 Park Ave., Edgewater. Volunteers are Marilyn Lyons-Graham, Bee Billups and Brenda Anderson.

Friday, Oct. 21 at the home of Sydney Petty, 5 Hull Ave., Annapolis. Volunteers are Bee Billups, Marty Keegan and True Rowan.

Tuesday, Nov. 15. Need host and 3 volunteers.

Wednesday, Dec. 14 at the home of Carol Johnson, 833 Coachway, Annapolis. Need 3 volunteers.

Updated shopping instructions are available at 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.

→ Annual Volunteer Service Project: Girls on the Run 5K Race

For this year's annual service project, AAWGT is joining up with the Junior League Sustainers to provide 25 volunteers to support our 2010 grantee Girls on the Run's 5K race at Anne Arundel Community College on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Volunteers are needed from noon - 2:00 p.m. to serve as course monitors, staff the information table and food areas, and to help with set-up. No running is required! An informal social gathering with the Junior League Sustainers will follow afterwards at Vice President Laurie Sharp's home nearby. To volunteer, simply register [here](#). Or contact Marie Brockhurst at yze2nwhk@verizon.net for more information.

→ The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement by David Brooks

Please join us for our first book group after the summer recess. In *The Social Animal*, Brooks makes the recent revolution in neuroscience understandable, and he applies it to those things we have the most trouble knowing how to teach: What is the best way to build true relationships? How do we instill imaginative thinking? How do we develop our moral intuitions and wisdom and character? Brooks has always been a keen observer of the way we live. Now he takes us one layer down, to why we live that way. (Excerpted from Amazon.com review)

We will use Brooks' point-of-view as a launching point for a consideration of what works - and what doesn't - in our own efforts to help women and families in our community.

[Click here to register online.](#)

Questions? Contact Laurie Sharp (lsharp1000@msn.com)