



ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN
GIVING TOGETHER

Full Circle News

September / October 2012

Leadership Letter: Growing Philanthropic Leaders Through Giving Circles



This month's leadership letter is excerpted from a column AAWGT Founder and Past President Sharon Stewart recently wrote for PhilanthroFiles, the Association of Small Foundations' blog. To read the complete column, go to the [AAWGT website](#).

As foundation leaders, we all have a vested interest in growing philanthropy in our communities. . . One tool for growing philanthropy and developing leaders is giving circles, [which] have seen phenomenal growth nationally and are a way to get more people involved in grantmaking and learning about local community needs.

One of my most exciting ventures was helping to start Anne Arundel Women Giving Together (AAWGT). . . Since its founding in 2006, I have seen an incredible growth in philanthropy in our community. How do giving circles make this kind of growth happen?

Here are some examples from AAWGT of how we develop philanthropic leaders:

- Our members learn grantmaking skills by reviewing proposals, conducting site visits, managing the detailed grants process for member voting, and conducting follow-up visits and evaluation with grantees.
- We hold 3-5 educational events each year, where members learn from community-based experts about issues such as domestic violence, aging, and homelessness. . .
- We provide members with opportunities for leadership development by

serving as officers or committee chairs and participating in an annual retreat that focuses on leadership development, planning, and evaluation.

- One of our annual signature events is our Women & Leadership Forum, which features speakers who talk about leadership issues as well as philanthropy and giving circles.

- We also are fortunate to be a part of the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers, where we have regular opportunities to take part in networking and an annual giving circle workshop that brings together area giving circles for sharing and learning opportunities.

....The result is more engaged philanthropists – serving on boards, setting up their own foundations or funds at a community foundation, more targeted giving, and more people having fun working together to make their community a better place.

Circle Highlights

2012 Founders Award - Recognizing our Stars!



It's time to recognize one of our stars! Once a year, in keeping with the community-minded spirit and generosity shown by AAWGT's original founders, we recognize a member who has demonstrated meritorious service over and above the call of duty, contributed significantly to the growth and structure of AAWGT, and raised awareness about and broadened the image of AAWGT.

To nominate the member you think deserves recognition, simply complete the **[Founders' Award Nomination Form](#)** along with a narrative describing the nominee and your reasons for selecting her (500 words or less). **We must receive your nomination(s) by Monday, October 15, 2012!**

Nominations may be sent via:

- Mail: AAWGT, c/o Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, 914 Bay Ridge Road, Suite 220, Annapolis, MD 21403
- Fax: (410) 280-1104
- Email: founders@givingtogether.org

The selection is made by an ad hoc committee consisting of a representative number of Founders, a Founders' Award past recipient, a representative of the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee and the current AAWGT President and/or Vice President. This year Tara Clifford will Chair with Anna Greenberg, Susan Swayze, Helene

Tenner, Sandy Sweeney and Julie Schuelke serving as members of the committee.

The 2012 Founder's Award will be presented at our Wednesday, November 14 Educational Session at Maryland Hall from 7:00PM – 8:30PM.

Our prior awardees are Sharon Stewart (2007), Bronwyn Belling (2008), Tara Clifford (2009), Gloria Martin-Pressman (2010), and Lynne Davidson (2011). **PLEASE NOTE: Prior recipients are not eligible for nomination at this time.**

Steering Committee Retreat Looks at Road Ahead

Eighteen members of the AAWGT Steering Committee met on July 14 at the Annapolis Friends Meeting House to revisit our accomplishments and look ahead to our future challenges and opportunities! Our discussions were facilitated by Lauren Maddox, who adeptly shepherded multiple discussions and ensured completion of our planned agenda. We were delighted that Jan Hoffberger from the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, could join us.

Each committee reported briefly on its highlights from the past year, of which there were many, and the rest of the day was focused on a number of areas important for our future success. These ranged from how to evaluate our grant making and post grant assessment processes to make sure they are as efficient and effective as possible, to how to engage/inspire member involvement and effectively work with our committees. As part of our ongoing strategic planning process, we also worked on and held discussions about how to manage our growth, leadership succession planning, diversity, and a proposed vision statement for AAWGT.

Steering Committee members agreed that AAWGT has achieved much for an organization its age, and has a great deal to be proud of, and that we must continue to examine our work strategically to achieve even more in the coming years! Thanks to all present for the thoughtful and engaging conversations!

"Sharing our Vision" Photo Exhibit at Annapolis High



"Sharing Our Vision" showcased Annapolis Area High School students at Back To School Night on September 6, 2012. The "Sharing Our Vision" exhibit is a collaborative effort with Vision Workshops and

Annapolis Area High School ESOL and IB students. The exhibit, comprised of about 30 photographs and narratives, puts a human face on AAWGT grantees making a difference in the lives of women and their families in Anne Arundel County. The photographs and supporting narratives provide an authentic view of our grantees and their clients as seen by our youth. One student noted, "Walking into Sarah's House, we were taken aback. This was no homeless shelter- it was a center for changing lives." Hoping to inspire our youth with positive role models and opportunities to see themselves and their communities in a new light, another student noted, "....this experience gave me a chance to prove that I could be something in America and make a difference." There was also an opportunity to establish a dialogue that could not take place in the normal grant-making process or in the halls of Annapolis High. The exhibit will be at Annapolis Area High School until September 20, 2012.

Welcome to New Members



A warm welcome to the newest AAWGT members making a difference in our community:

Paula Abernethy	Penny Holloway
Maria Baker	Lois Miller
Sharon Boettinger	Margaret Redd
Sue Farmer	Rev. Dr. Amy Richter
Laura Henderson	Pam Siemer

Upcoming Events



Wednesday, September 12, 8:30-10:00AM EDUCATION SESSION

Are We Making a Difference? A Full Circle Conversation
Moyer Recreation Center, Truxton Park, Annapolis

Members can register online at www.givingtogether.org

Saturday, September 29, 9:00AM ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT

Samaritan Women Farms, 602 S. Chapel Gate Lane, Baltimore MD 21229

For more information or to register go to www.givingtogether.org

Wednesday, October 3, 7:00-8:30PM BOOK GROUP

Composing a Further Life: The Age of Active Wisdom by Mary Catherine Bateson

For more information contact Cele Brown, bookgroup@givingtogether.org

Wednesday, October 10, 6:00-8:00PM

FALL OPEN HOUSE with 2011 GRANTEES

Annapolis Maritime Museum, 723 Second St., Annapolis, MD 21403

Committee News

EDUCATION

The Education Committee is planning a brainstorming session in the next few weeks to plan the education events for the rest of the year. Date and time TBA. Interested members should contact Judith Coughlin (jcough32@comcast.net) or Maureen Cavaiola (mhcavaiola@gmail.com).

GOVERNANCE

Three new members were officially welcomed into the Governance Committee on August 22 at an evening meeting. Shauna Chabot, Rita Reimer and Laurie Stackpole joined "old" members Chair Bev Nash, Former Chair Susan Nolte and Assistant Chair Martha Schwieters to address the issue of Conflict of Interest. It was felt that the first steps would be 1) to bring those sections of Grants and Post Grants Committees' Policies and Procedures touching on potential conflict of interest into better alignment, and 2) to develop a simple disclosure form to be completed and signed by members of Steering, Grants, and Post Grants Committees, probably in January. These forms will be kept by the Governance Committee. Vice President Julie Schuelke was present and took an active part in the spirited discussion.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING

The Leadership Development Committee is preparing the slate of Officers and Committee Chairs/Assistant Chairs for 2013, and we wanted to give you a heads up on the timeline for nominations and election.

According to the Bylaws, members will receive notification of the slate 48 hours prior to November 14th meeting.

At the November 14th meeting, the Leadership Development and Nomination Committee will present the slate and nominations will be

taken from the floor.

The election will be conducted online from November 15 through December 12 and members will be notified of the final slate by the end of the calendar year.

Keep an eye out in your email for further information and details on voting or for more information contact Gloria Martin-Pressman (glopress@aol.com) or Susan Amos (susan@changingkeysbysusan.com).

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing and Communications Committee is working with several new members to expand our marketing power, and is especially interested in adding new members who have some familiarity with and/or interest in working with web sites or social media. Welcome to new members Heidi Busch, Corri Goldman, Patricia Horn, Sue Pitchford, Barbara Rasin Price, and Rita Reimer. We will hold our next meeting in late Sept. or early Oct. For more information, please contact Lynn McReynolds (lynn@mcreynoldselek.com) or Diana Rode (rodebayridge@verizon.net).

MEMBERSHIP

Not surprisingly, word of mouth is the most effective way to encourage new members to join AAWGT. We have postcards with a basic explanation of our giving circle and our website address that you can mail or give to friends. They are available for the asking and we bring some to every AAWGT meeting in case you want to pick some up. The Membership Committee is always happy to e-mail information to prospective members or to discuss AAWGT with them. Just send us an e-mail at membership@givingtogether.org.

Perhaps the best way to explain what we do, is to bring a friend (or two or three) to an appropriate meeting. Our Fall Open House on Wednesday, October 10 from 6-8 pm, highlights our 2011 Grantees. Guests will get a first hand sense of which organizations we have selected as our grantees and what they have done with our money. Our Wednesday, November 14 educational session from 7-8:30 features a presentation on the 2012 Needs Assessment, where Bess Langbein and Dr. Pamela Brown will explain the areas of greatest need in Anne Arundel County this year. It is a good way for all to see how we begin the process of informing ourselves about unmet needs in our community.

Thanks for your help in spreading the news about AAWGT to your friends and other prospective members.

Missy Attridge	Marie Brockhurst
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Help Wanted



Volunteers needed to make lunches for the Light House Shelter

Participating in a lunch making session for the Light House Shelter is a great way to get to connect with other giving circle members for coffee, conversation and good deeds. Volunteers gather at the home of an AAWGT member to make 70 sandwiches to feed our less fortunate neighbors. The host purchases the provisions ahead of time. Those present share the costs of supplies (about \$25 per person). Members are more than welcome to bring a friend to see our giving circle in action! If interested in volunteering to host or help for a date below contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, October 17 - Need 1 host and 3-4 volunteers

Monday, November 12 - Need 1 host and 3-4 volunteers

Tuesday, December 18 - Need 1 host and 3-4 volunteers

[Check out our Website!](#)

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