



ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN
GIVING TOGETHER

Full Circle News

November / December 2013

Leadership Letter

As I step down from my term as President of AAWGT, I send a special thanks to all those who volunteered your time and special talents to participate in our activities and organization this year.

What a productive year 2013 has been!

- We surpassed the 200 active members mark with the largest class of new members in our history
- This year's grants pumped an additional \$95,682 into local non-profits and pushed us past the half million dollar mark in grants funded
- Attendance and interest in our educational sessions soared, advancing our position as a thought-leader on key issues facing women and families in AA County
- We made significant improvements in our internal AAWGT governance procedures and responsibilities

- We are well along with the enhancement of data management systems and communications tools so that the organization can better serve our members, sustain future growth and continuity, and function dynamically

We have accomplished much together – and I have truly enjoyed helping to lead the charge!

In the coming year AAWGT will face challenging new issues and new opportunities. By collectively learning from the past, building upon our prior good work, being open to new ideas, and constantly striving for improvement, AAWGT's future will be bright and our impact strong. I have no doubt that the 2014 Leadership Team is up to the task!

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of AAWGT. Thank you for your support and friendship.

Julie Schuelke
President

Circle Highlights

Renewal Reminder

There is still time to renew your membership and make a difference before the end of the year!

"Because of AAWGT, the Light House Shelter was able to give our parents coursework and counseling in parenting, financial literacy and life skills -- all critical to empowering change. The ripple effect of your dollars on the lives of these individuals is immeasurable."

Pam Siemer, Lighthouse Shelter

.....and this is why we give to AAWGT. Your renewal this year (**before Dec 31**) will make a huge difference in how many organizations we can help through our grants this coming year. If you haven't renewed yet, please do so now....and help AAWGT to

collectively make a difference in the lives of Anne Arundel County women and families.

November Education Session - Reflections on Good Karma \$1

Good Karma \$1 is a 14 minute documentary that demonstrates how the world's simplest communications with homeless individuals leads to lessons in generosity. After viewing the film at our November session, our membership had an opportunity to discuss the poignant message of the film and see if there were any deeper implications for our giving circle as well as our own individual definitions of philanthropy.

The rich and lively discussion yielded some ground truth! Learning about the needs of the community can make us want to give more of ourselves and our talents to others. Our grants have a ripple effect in the community and as we educate ourselves and give grants, organizations come back to share the results of the grants and to thank us. We are inspired to write more than a check. We can donate our time and cause transformative action. The final result is a healthier member and a healthier community! A true giving circle!

It is important to reflect on our collective voices and gifts at this time of year. This collaboration strengthens the mission and culture of AAWGT.

Kudos to CFAAC for sharing Good Karma \$1, Laurie Sharp for developing this unique session, Mary Grace Folwell for moderating the session, and most importantly the astute input of our members for such a meaningful conversation.

2012 Founder's Award - One of our Stars Recognized!



Susan Swayze Receives 2013 Founders' Award

Susan Swayze was announced as the recipient of this year's Founders' Award during the November 13 membership meeting. The Founders Award is presented annually to a member who has demonstrated exemplary service to the organization. The award is based on a member's outstanding participation in the organization; length of service; specific initiatives and achievements and their impact; raising awareness about and broadening the image of AAWGT; innovation; and breadth and spirit to inspire and raise the capacity of other members for AAWGT's collective good.

Since 2005, Susan has been engaged with AAWGT as one of the 15 original Founders. She served as a member of the original Grants Committee and then went on to serve as a grants reviewer, review team leader, Assistant Chair and Chair. She has also served on Steering Committee, Fundraising/Leadership Development and Nominations Committee and the Endowment Committee.

Former Leadership Award recipient Tara Clifford, who chaired the nominations committee, announced this year's awardee, saying, "Never willing to say no, [Susan] has been extremely generous with her time and her talents. The entire AAWGT organization has benefited from her leadership and her unselfish devotion."

For any members who may be interested, we are accepting contributions to the AAWGT Endowment Fund as a way of honoring Susan's outstanding commitment to AAWGT and celebrating her selection as the recipient of this year's Founder's Award. To make a donation in Susan's honor, please click [here](#).

Congratulations, Susan!

AAWGT Receives Community Leadership Award



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) awarded AAWGT with the 2013 Leadership Award in recognition of continuous commitment to ensuring that every child in our community has the opportunity to live in a safe, stable permanent home.

AAWGT President Julie Schuelke accepted on behalf of the organization saying, "CASA's mission of serving children who have been abused and are under the protection of the foster care system fits perfectly within AAWGT's grants criteria. We are happy to have been a vital supporter of CASA over the last several years through our grants program. We also have members who have become "CASA's" and have volunteered directly with the CASA organization. We appreciate and thank CASA for the vital work you do with children in need in Anne Arundel County."

Fall Showcase Features 2012 Grantees



On Wednesday, Oct. 9, nearly 100 members and friends of Anne Arundel Women Giving Together came out on a rainy evening to celebrate the accomplishments of the organization's 2012 grantees at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. This special evening allows the prior year's grantees to share with AAWGT members how the organization's grant money was put into action, through highlights and stories about lives changed.

The celebration of the eight 2012 grantees included:

- Anne Arundel County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA);
- The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region;
- Creating Communities: Arts Mentorship Academy;

- Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake: GOTRGC Scholarship Program;
- Light House Shelter: Family Solutions Program;
- Partners In Care: Ride Partners;
- The Samaritan Women: Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign in Anne Arundel County; and
- Seeds 4 Success: Eastport Girls Club and I Am A Reader.

Assistant Grants Committee Chair Kimberly Iaquina opened the evening with a report on the highlights of seven years of AAWGT grant making, which has resulted in more than \$500,000 in grants to organizations serving Anne Arundel County women and families. Post Grants Committee Chair Lynn Buhl and Assistant Chair Diane Evans moderated the program and introduced the 2012 grantees.

Some highlights included:

- Kristen Lasker from the ARC of the Chesapeake spoke about one of the 29 families served by the grant in which the AAWGT grant money was used to pay for care for a developmentally disabled child so his single mother, who had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer, could receive treatment. She is currently in remission.
- Rebecca Tingle from CASA noted that, in the past year, 29 new CASA volunteers were trained, 35 cases were closed and CASA was able to go from serving 122 children to 145. She applauded AAWGT for helping CASA to increase its capacity over the past few years, and also recognized AAWGT member Missy Attridge, who has served as a CASA volunteer since its first Anne Arundel County training session in 1997. Ms. Tingle also noted that CASA is presenting AAWGT with an award for service at its annual gala in November.
- John Palinski from Seeds 4 Success, a mentoring and literacy program that serves children and families living in Annapolis' public housing communities, told of how the 2012 funding had allowed the organization to expand the Eastport Girls Club program by 20 percent, to reach out into the Hispanic community and to pilot the I Am A Reader program, the organization's first literacy program for young boys; and
- Pam Siemer of the Light House Shelter shared how the 2012 grant funds had allowed the shelter to implement an arts program with (fellow AAWGT grantee) Creating Communities' Rob Levit, and to

support the Light House Shelter's Family Empowerment program, which includes parenting, financial literacy and lifeskills classes.

2014 Leadership Slate

At the November meeting, AAWGT presented the 2014 slate for Officers and Committee Chairs/Assistant Chairs and nominations are now closed. **All members should have received a voting email after the meeting whereby they can cast their vote by no later than THIS FRIDAY, December 13.** Included here is the slate showing the position and candidate's name for that position.

President - Karen Smith
Vice President / President Elect - Maureen Cavaiola
Treasurer - Cele Brown
Assistant Treasurer - Mary Ann Marbury
Secretary - Jenny Kottler
Assistant Secretary - Judy Coughlin
Grants Chair - Sandy Sweeney
Grants Assistant Chair - Kimberly Breton
Education & Programs Chair - Mary Grace Folwell
Education & Programs Assistant Chair - Lois Kelberman
Governance Chair - Donna Stackhouse
Governance Assistant Chair - Susan Nolte
Marketing & Communications Chair - Diana Rode
Marketing & Communications Asst. Chair - Deb Schilling
Membership & Outreach Chair - Heidi Busch
Membership & Outreach Assistant Chair - Paula Abernethy
Post Grant Evaluation Chair - Judy Templeton
Post Grant Evaluation Assistant Chair - Prue Clendenning
Leadership Development Chair - Julie Crudele
Leadership Development Assistant Chair - Carol Cronin

Members should Contact leadership@givingtogether.org if you did not get your email with voting instructions.

Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to the 38 new members who joined our circle in 2013 and are making a difference in our community!

Laura Boehm	Susan Leshner
Marie Brodmerkel	Donna Levin
Ann Carroll	Suzanne Lord
Susan Duncan	Lee Lougee
Linda Eggbeer	Mary Ann Marbury
Craven Engels	Carol McGillin
Jane Flynn	Linda Moran
Kathleen Flynn	Kathy Nelliuss
Adrian Fremont	Pamela Polgreen
Marsha Gill	Margaret Rauh
Karin Ripple	Shelley Row
Barbara Haight	Phyllis Saroff
Ronda Haas	Deb Schilling
Sally Iadarola	Rebecca Strandberg
Sue Ellen Jenkins	Kelly Sutter
Kim Jones	Marilyn Sweetser
Lois Kelberman	Louise Thomas
Nancie Kennedy	Mary Ann Treger
Helen Krone	Susan Leshner

Upcoming Events



Tuesday, January 7, 9:30AM - 12:30AM
2014 GRANTS WORKSHOP
Pip Moyer Recreation Center

Friday, January 10, 8:00AM-10:00AM
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Former and New SC Members Invited
County Offices, Riva Road

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00PM
BOOK GROUP MEETING

Register online for more information

**Wednesday, February 12, 11:30AM-1:30PM
EDUCATION EVENT**

Location TBD

Register Online! Simply visit givingtogether.org and look for the event under [upcoming events](#). All events are open to members and guests unless noted otherwise.

Committee News

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing and Communications Committee is working to expand our marketing power, and is especially interested in adding new members who have some familiarity with and/or interest in working with our website, have writing expertise or have knowledge and would be willing to help with graphics and design. For more information, please contact Diana Rode via marketing@givingtogether.org.

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. 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.

Heidi Busch, Chair	Paula Abernethy, Asst. Chair
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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! All dates through the end of the year are staffed, but if interested in volunteering to host or help for a date in 2014 contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com.



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