

## Talking Points for PPT Presentation

### Assessing Our Achievements: 2006-2016

#### Slide 1:

- Hello and welcome to a special presentation on AAWGT's first 10 years. I'm Linda Eggbeer, Vice President of AAWGT -- and with me is Karen Smith, former president of AAWGT and currently Chair of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. As part of celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with you, we wanted to look back at what AAWGT has accomplished during our first 10 years - the differences we have made – and then look forward to where we might go in our next 10 years.

#### Slide 2:

- Ten years ago, a small group of visionary women came together to explore how they could respond to recognized needs in our County. Their decision was to pool their resources and engage in what is called “collective philanthropy” – many, acting as one! -- and to focus their efforts on improving the quality of lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County.
- They approached the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County as a partner – and the Foundation stepped up to provide the 501c3 umbrella....and the rest is history!
- As we began reflecting on these first 10 years, we looked back at data on our:
  - Grants
  - Education programs
  - Members (membership survey)
- We looked at the issues our 71 grants have focused on;
- We held in-depth conversations with six grantees to better understand the effect our grants have had;
- And we talked to members and non-members about our education programs.
- ...and here's what we learned about AAWGT's **layers of impact** over the past 10 years.

#### Slide 3:

- The first piece of our story can be summed up in one word....GROWTH:
  - Growth in our membership

- Growth in the number of grants awarded
- Growth in the amount of dollars invested

#### **Slide 4:**

- The next piece of our story is clearly about our MISSION: “to improve the quality of lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County.”
- Over the 10 years, this mission has been operationalized thru 3 uniquely different...yet interdependent....actions:
  - Grant making that invests in our community
  - Education programs that inform our members and the public about critical issues and the non-profits that are addressing them
  - An organization that inspires each of us to engage in individual and collective philanthropy

#### **Slide 5:**

- Let’s look first at our grant making - some call this the heart of AAWGT.
- This pie chart shows how we have invested our dollars across 3 critical issue areas:
  - Health and welfare
  - Education
  - Prevention and treatment of domestic violence and abuse

#### **Slide 6:**

- This bar chart looks at these same dollars from a different perspective – that of the populations served thru our grants – another important lens when looking at our impact.

#### **Slide 7:**

- To look at it another way, we’ve provided approximately:
  - \$200,000 for the development and education of children and youth. Included among these grants are scholarship and mentorship programs for young girls, support for healthy after school activities, and family literacy activities.
  - \$160,000 to reduce and prevent homelessness and support affordable housing in AA County. We’ve funded case management and self-sufficiency programs,

on-site child care, renovation projects, and programs to provide basic necessities to families moving from homelessness into self-sufficiency.

- \$148,000 to provide assistance to women and children suffering from domestic violence and abuse. These grants funded services such as therapeutic and legal services for women and children caught up in domestic violence, funds to support volunteers to work with abused and neglected children in the child welfare system, and efforts to stem the tide of human trafficking.

**Slide 8:**

- \$90,000 to support organizations focused on food insecurity. We've supported programs to provide weekend food for children who need it and healthy food choices for Anne Arundel citizens who are food insecure.
- \$60,000 for non-profit organizations that address mental health needs including youth suicide prevention and attending to the needs of Hispanic families with mental health needs.
- In addition, we've made grants in smaller amounts to address substance abuse, transportation problems, affordable child care

**Slide 9:**

- We learned a lot from talking with a group of grantees. Note the comments on the slide. In addition,
  - Grantees said that AAWGT's rigorous application process pushed them to think hard about what they were doing and develop language they then used in other grant applications;
  - They used AAWGT grants to leverage larger (Fed. & state) grants;
  - AAWGT grants provided stabilization for some of the small non-profits;
  - The relative breadth of our grant making allows them to tailor their "ask" - decreases the likelihood of "mission creep";
  - AAWGT has allowed grants to be used for salaries which for some organizations was a big boon;
  - AAWGT encourages its members to learn about community needs and the organizations that address them.

**Slide 10:**

- Grants are a huge part of what defines AAWGT – but let’s look at a second leg of the stool of AAWGT that over the years has *also* defined who we are: our education programs (informing).
- Over our 10 years, we’ve hosted 46 education programs for members and the general public, both audiences equally important in our emerging role as a thought-leader in this community.
- As you can see from this slide, these programs focused on a variety of topics – yet each providing a timely, relevant look at the forces at work in our community.
- We all learned a great deal from these programs – and more importantly, through them, we became better-informed decision-makers in understanding where to place our grant dollars.

**Slide 11:**

- Which brings us to the third leg of our stool – YOU, our members, and the impact the organization is having in terms of inspiring us all to be philanthropists. This year’s Membership Survey, completed by more than 50% of members, indicated that:
- We belong to AAWGT because we:
  - Provide local grants
  - Pool our philanthropic dollars with others
  - Learn about local issues
- So, how does this translate to what you as members engage in?? Well, as you would suspect....it parallels it!

**Slide12:**

- 86% of us attend Education meetings
- 55% of us attend the Grants showcase
- a full 38% of us have engaged in the grant review process

**Slide 13:**

- So, to sum up: What difference has AAWGT made since it was founded 10 years ago?
  - Contributed \$800,000 to community organizations supporting women and families in Anne Arundel County.
  - Educated its members and the general public about issues of critical importance in the county.

- Empowered women as leaders and philanthropists to improve life for others.
- Added new ways to engage: field trips, book group, and opportunities to get together socially
- Continuously improved grant making and post-grants processes
- Created a lively group for kindred spirits who seek to keep learning and giving back to their community.

**Second part of slide 13:**

- So, as we look to the next 10 years, what's next for AAWGT?
- The answer is simple – lots of new and challenging opportunities generated by *the emerging needs* of our community... **and** a plethora of new resources to tap.
- We can't predict what those will be – be we *can*, **as did our founders 10 years ago**, commit ourselves to:
  - Continuously improving the quality of all activities we engage in;
  - Seeking opportunities to evolve and change to better implement our mission and our impact;
  - Keeping our focus on expanding the role of women in both collective and individual philanthropy;
  - Actively seeking ways to become more strategic and bring our voices together to provide even stronger support for women and families in the County;
  - Finding ways for *all* members to engage ...at whatever level is right for them;
  - ... and have fun doing so!
- So....to you our members....**hooray for 10 amazing years!**
- And...here's to 10 + 10 + 10 + 10 years more of together making a difference!

**Slide 14:**

- Acknowledgements