



ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN
GIVING TOGETHER

FULL CIRCLE NEWS

February / March 2016

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Welcome to a new year with Anne Arundel Women Giving Together. We are marking our 10th anniversary this year, looking back and looking forward, reflecting on the cumulative impact of grants awarded since 2007 and considering how to create greater impact in the future.

As part of looking forward, on March 13th, AAWGT is convening a group of four women philanthropists to explore the dramatic changes in charitable giving in the 21st century. It promises to be an important and thought-provoking discussion, prompting each of us to consider how these changes can facilitate our philanthropy going forward.

Our 10th year also provides an opportunity to look back and examine the impact AAWGT has had over the past decade. As AAWGT seeks to improve the lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County through grants awarded to area non-profits, we also work to build an organization of well-informed and engaged women prepared to tackle community problems. Our education meetings convene speakers to engage attendees in better understanding the multiple aspects of issues that affect women and families' well-being – such as housing, mental health, transportation – and in figuring out what we as philanthropists and community leaders can do to make a difference. More than one-third of attendees at AAWGT public meetings are non-members, including representatives of local non-profits, religious organizations, government, and interested citizens. By facilitating connections among service organizations and community members and calling attention to the most significant issues affecting women and families, we serve as a community partner to our grantees, mobilizing each member through giving of time, money, and/or talent to serve those in need.

We are looking forward to an exciting anniversary year, which will premiere a video at the March meeting looking back at our first ten years and, as part of the Grantee Showcase in September, an analysis of our impact and lessons learned to date. These will be woven into our usual rhythm of grant application review and award, engaging members, celebrating our grantees, and continuing education. We hope you will join us on the journey of looking back and looking to our future!

[Mary Grace Folwell](#), President
[Linda Eggbeer](#), Vice President/President-Elect

Happy 10th Birthday!

In 2006, 15 visionary women focused their energy, talents, passions, and thinking around an idea of “collective philanthropy” that could improve the lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County. Soon, 30 other women joined them . . . then 50 . . . then 100 – and now 200 women will celebrate an investment in local non-profits over these ten years of nearly \$800,000 in grant money and thousands of hours in donated time. We invite you to join us this year as we celebrate ten years of making a difference!

Our goal is for every AAWGT member to engage in some way in our yearlong celebration. Opportunities include attending the March 13th Women & Leadership Forum: “The Emerging Face of 21st Century Philanthropy”; joining one of three separate service projects during the year; voting for our grants in May; inviting your friends to join AAWGT or celebrating ten years of impact at September’s Grant Showcase. Expanded membership opportunities will be announced in February. It is our hope that each and every one of you will be part of this exciting year! Watch your newsletter for more information about these activities – and help launch our next decade of collective philanthropy.

10th Anniversary Committee
[Karen Smith](#), Chair

Monthly Meetings: What’s Coming Up

February 10 Preview: Breaking The Cycle

For two decades, Tonier Cain hustled on the streets of Annapolis, racking up 83 arrests along the way. Rapes, beatings, and drugs were a routine part of life; home

was underneath the College Creek bridge or inside the locked cage of the Jennifer Road Detention Center and the Maryland Correctional Institute in Jessup. In 2004, pregnant and incarcerated for violation of parole, she was provided the opportunity to go to a community trauma, mental health and addictions program. Fast forward eleven years and today she is not only a homeowner and a mother, she is a national advocate and speaker for Trauma Informed Care. She works with Congress, programs in all 50 states, and internationally. Come hear how she made this incredible transformation in her life and what we can do as a community to help others make similar strides. To see the trailer from "Healing Neen," a documentary about Tonier Cain and the work she does, use this [You Tube link](#).

Wednesday, February 10, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Mt. Olive Community Center, 2 Hicks Avenue, Annapolis

Click [HERE](#) to register. Please come at 11:30 for a brief business meeting, and to socialize and meet other members. The program will start promptly at noon. Bring your bag lunch. Light refreshments will be served.

***March 13 Preview:* AAWGT's Annual Women & Leadership Event
The Emerging Face of 21st Century Philanthropy**

Join us for a vibrant discussion with four women philanthropists who are on the forefront of dramatic shifts in charitable giving trends. New models of philanthropy are dynamic, personally engaging and nearly instantaneous. Today, anyone can be a philanthropist! Be a part of this engaging conversation as we explore the implications of this revolution and its impact on our community and giving.

Sunday, March 13, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Reception to follow; Francis Scott Key Auditorium, St. John's College, Annapolis

Click [HERE](#) for complete program details and registration information. Registration is required.

Membership News

Three new members joined and 37 established members renewed their membership during December 2015 and January 2016.

NewMembers: Debbie Henninger, Carroll McGillin and Mary Spencer

Renewing Members: Carole Alexander, Bee Billups, Martha Blaxall, Cele Brown, Lynn Buhl, Kate Caldwell, Ann Carroll, Maureen Cavaiola, Tara Clifford, Debbie Daugherty, Sue Farmer, Barbara Firebaugh, Elizabeth Gross, Valerie Gutterson, Jan Hoffberger, Elizabeth Kinney, Suzanne Lord, Bev Marcus, Margaret Martin, Trudy McFall, Ricarda McGaughey, Mary Milan, Susan Nolte, Sheila Onuska, Thea Pinsky, Sue Pitchford, Caroline Purdy, Elaine Ralph, True Rowan, Deb Schilling, Julie Schuelke, Elaine Shanley, Gwyn Smith, Melanie Teems, Carol Thompson, Theresa Wellman and Pam Williams

Click [HERE](#) to Join or Renew

Anne Arundel Women Getting Together

The Membership Committee will host a series of informal, social gatherings in 2016 to provide a chance for new and veteran members to get to know one another. These events will occur at restaurants throughout Anne Arundel County. New members are encouraged to arrive at 5:30, and others are encouraged to join in from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Registration is not required for these events. Someone from the Membership Committee will always be there to welcome everyone. Mark your calendar to Get Together:

Thursday, February 18, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Chop House, 1915 Towne Centre Blvd, Parole

Thursday, March 24, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

The Point Crab House & Grill, 700 Mill Creek Rd, Arnold

New Member Morning Coffee Hour

Wednesday, March 9, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Members who joined in 2015 and 2016 are invited to join members of the Steering and Membership Committees for a New Member Morning Coffee Hour. This is an opportunity for those who have been a member of AAWGT for a year or less to ask questions and network with other new and seasoned members in a small, intimate group setting. Come learn why you are important to the mission and work of

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together — and get to know a few members. New members can expect to receive an invitation to this event.

[Membership & Outreach Committee](#)

Sarah Morse, Chair

Tayna St. John, Assistant Chair

The CFAAC and AAWGT Relationship

It sounds like alphabet soup! Are you aware that Anne Arundel Women Giving Together is a fund of the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (CFAAC)? What does that mean? What services does the CFAAC provide for AAWGT and what, in turn, does AAWGT provide to the Foundation? Melissa Curtin, Executive Director of CFAAC, and a member of AAWGT, agreed to shed some light on these questions.

What is the relationship between CFAAC and AAWGT? CFAAC is the 501(c)(3) “parent” of AAWGT and operates like all other nonprofits with a Board of Trustees, fundraising responsibilities and other related nonprofit activities. CFAAC is building a permanent source of funds dedicated to address our community’s needs today and tomorrow. AAWGT is a component fund of the Foundation, one of 90 funds CFAAC manages. The current total for assets managed at CFAAC is \$7.1 million and AAWGT holds 2.5% of the total. The founders of AAWGT recognized that the missions of CFAAC and the giving circle were in alignment. There are currently two giving circles – AAWGT and NextGen which is a giving circle for women and men under age thirty-five. CFAAC is now in the exploratory stages of creating an African American giving circle.

So does AAWGT have its own, separate 501(c)(3) status? No, AAWGT is not a separate corporation or organization. Each year, AAWGT reviews and signs an annual administrative agreement with CFAAC that outlines each party’s responsibilities for the partnership for the year. Because CFAAC does have 501(c)(3) status and a corporate existence, contribution checks and checks to grantees are made to and from CFAAC. It also maintains the State of Maryland Registration for Charitable Organizations.

What does CFAAC do for AAWGT? CFAAC administers and manages three separate funds for AAWGT: the Grants Fund, the Expense Fund, and the Endowment Fund. It receives and deposits the 200+ annual membership

contributions and fees, and pays the bills for the costs related to AAWGT's meetings, software, and other expenses. CFAAC also processes the checks for grantees and, along with AAWGT leadership, manages the Endowment Fund. As part of its 501(c)(3) responsibilities, CFAAC includes AAWGT's processes, contributions and expenses (including grants) in CFAAC's tax filings which are audited each year. The Foundation also provides insurance and a legal umbrella for AAWGT, vets grantees to ensure they are legally registered and in good standing, assists with donor relations, marketing and communications, and grant administration. Melissa meets with the AAWGT leadership team regularly to stay abreast of upcoming events and to identify relevant collaborative opportunities.

Can you tell us a little more about the AAWGT Endowment? The AAWGT Endowment was established in 2010 by a generous anonymous donor with the exclusive purpose of providing its earnings to the AAWGT annually in perpetuity. The initial \$25,000 donation to the Endowment Fund has since quadrupled to \$100,000 thanks to donations from members and friends of AAWGT. The annual distribution to the Grants Fund varies depending on the Foundation's spend rate for the year. The spend rate is recommended by CFAAC's Asset Management Committee and approved by CFAAC's Board of Trustees. For the past several years, the distribution has been around \$3,500 a year. In the event of the dissolution of AAWGT, the funds in the Endowment would go to support, as closely as possible, the original intent of the Endowment's founder, at the discretion of the CFAAC Board of Trustees.

How does AAWGT pay for CFAAC services? CFAAC charges a special reduced fee to manage, support and administer the Grant and Expense Funds. A separate fee, which is a small percentage of the average total amount in the fund, is charged to manage the Endowment Fund.

[Melissa Curtin](#), CFAAC Executive Director

A final comment from AAWGT: At the formation of the Giving Circle, the founders came to the conclusion that becoming a fund of the Community Foundation was the most efficient, cost-effective way to function as a grant-making organization. Over the past ten years, members of the Steering Committee have periodically reviewed our arrangement with CFAAC and have concluded that it continues to work well for us. Not only do we receive a tremendous amount of organizational support from the Foundation but we are also able to take advantage of the broad and deep connections CFAAC enjoys with the charitable and philanthropic community in Anne Arundel County. AAWGT is fortunate to have such a mutually beneficial partnership as we pursue our goals to improve the lives of women and families in our community.

What's Up with the Book Group?

As an extension of the Education Committee, the Book Group focuses on books about women and families or topics pertaining to the mission of AAWGT. Our goal is to help us make more informed choices as grant makers and also offers a terrific way to get to know fellow members in a small group setting. Bookworms and non-bookworms alike welcome to any or all of our six gatherings each year.

The first 2016 Book Group gathering will be February 24 and will cover *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. “*Just Mercy* is every bit as moving as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways, more so,” according to David Cole of *The New York Review of Books*. “[It] demonstrates, as powerfully as any book on criminal justice that I’ve ever read, the extent to which brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the United States. But at the same time that [Bryan] Stevenson tells an utterly damning story of deep-seated and widespread injustice, he also recounts instances of human compassion, understanding, mercy, and justice that offer hope . . . *Just Mercy* is a remarkable amalgam, at once a searing indictment of American criminal justice and a stirring testament to the salvation that fighting for the vulnerable sometimes yields.”

[Book Group](#)
Cele Brown, Chair

2016 Grant Cycle Launched

After refining the grant documents, policies and procedures based on our experience from the prior Grant Cycle, we launched our 2016 grant program in early January, with two days of workshops for potential applicants and our member grant reviewers. February is an exciting month for the Grants Committee as we wait for the February 3 grant application deadline.

On January 5 the Applicant Grant Workshop introduced the AAWGT mission, our grantmaking interests, and our 2016 grant process to prospective applicants. The room was filled with representatives from 39 organizations interested in proposing programs that fall within our focus areas of education, health and welfare, and prevention of and/or treatment for violence and abuse.

Twenty-eight AAWGT members also attended the January 5 workshop and remained for a New Grant Reviewer Orientation. These members had the opportunity to meet and interact, first-hand, with applicants and to see their reaction to the AAWGT grant process. The enthusiasm among our members was palpable, and several signed up to be new grant reviewers. Anyone is welcome to attend the Workshop; all members are welcome to attend the Orientation. We believe these annual gatherings are a powerful way to truly understand the AAWGT mission and the organizations that we reach.

January 7, two days after the workshop and orientation, AAWGT hosted a Software Tutorial to train grant applicants on how to complete the on-line application. One attendee said, as she left the meeting, “I wish all grant organizations were as organized as you,” testimony for the grant team’s hard work. Our goal was to arm the applicants with advice, encouragement, information, and tools in order to get the best applications. And now we wait for the applications to be submitted by February 3.

[Grants Committee](#)

Caroline Purdy, Chair

Sue Pitchford, Assistant Chair

What our Members Said About the Grant Workshop

“What a great meeting you all provided this morning! — well organized, very informative, very professionally delivered! — an amazing job by all! Thanks for getting this grant cycle off to a great start with potential grantees — once again, I am SO-O-O proud to be part of this great organization!!”

“I enjoyed the presentations today and really could feel the passion from the AAWGT members and am very happy to be a new member.”

Your Dollars At Work:

HOPE For ALL Rises to Many Challenges

In 2004 retired teachers Diane and Leo Zerhusen, inspired by religious convictions to serve their less fortunate neighbors, founded He Opens Paths to Everyone (HOPE For All). Their goal was to provide, free of charge, basic furniture, new bedding, and household supplies for women and children who were moving from

homelessness to subsidized housing in Anne Arundel County and parts of Baltimore City.

During HOPE's first year of operation, 13 families were served. Over the past ten years the effort has grown, supported by financial donations as well as used household items from caring individuals and area churches. Amazingly, this organization's small staff and crew of volunteers were able to serve nearly 250 families in 2015. The families served are referred to HOPE For All by a number of county government agencies, schools and other local non-profits.

By meeting just the basic needs for setting up a household, what once seemed like an insurmountable task for a single mom and her kids became a tremendous blessing, freeing the family to focus on preparing for work and school. The not-for-profit agency receives both in-kind and financial donations from a variety of both public and private sources, plus it has a team of 120+ volunteers who work with the program.

The growing needs of the community put a tremendous burden on the resources of HOPE For All. The fundamental expenses of warehousing the furniture, clothing and household items, transportation for both pickup and delivery of goods, plus administering the expanding program resulted in rising financial needs. Until recently, four separate warehouses and small offices have housed a tremendous amount of furniture and household goods processed through this tightly run organization. Clothes in boxes are piled to the ceiling for the 2,000 to 3,000 clients including children referred by Anne Arundel County public schools, who receive clothing from the agency every year. In addition, twice a year, a truck full of clothing is delivered to families in Appalachia. An indoor garage sale is held monthly selling surplus household items and collectibles. HOPE For All is a true community partner as many other area non-profits are also supported by their excess. HOPE approached the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County and AAWGT for financial assistance to help them meet the ever-expanding demands for their services, and the operational cost increases that come with growth. In early 2016, HOPE moved into a larger, 14,000 square foot space to consolidate all of their activities under one roof. This new facility will give them room to accommodate the donations of furniture, housewares, and clothing they receive, sort and inventory each year.

[Post Grants Evaluation Committee](#)
Martha Schwieters, Member

What Our Members Are Reading

As AAWGT members are planning events, articles and books inspire and inform these discussions. Summarized below are materials considered for the upcoming February and March programs.

Tonier Cain, speaker at the February 10th education meeting, will teach us about "trauma-informed care." You can read her recently published memoir, *Healing Neen: One Woman's Path to Salvation from Trauma and Addiction*, which describes how this kind of care enabled her to transform her life. After surviving a childhood of abuse and neglect, Tonier "Neen" Cain lived on the streets for two nightmarish decades, where she endured unrelenting violence, hunger and despair while racking up multiple arrests and criminal convictions related to her addiction. Incarcerated and pregnant in 2004, treatment for her lifetime of trauma offered a way out . . . and up. Her story illustrates the consequences that untreated trauma has on individuals and society at-large, including mental health problems, addiction, homelessness and incarceration. Today, she is a nationally renowned speaker and educator on the devastation of trauma and the hope of recovery.

In March, AAWGT will have a panel discussion on the changing face of philanthropy in the 21st century. Two articles preview some of the changes that philanthropy and the charitable sector are undergoing.

["On Philanthropy: 6 trends that will set the pace for philanthropy in 2016"](#)

The increasing involvement of women, a focus on impact investing and the popularity of program-related investments are several factors expected to drive philanthropic activity in 2016, writes strategist Bruce DeBoskey in *The Wichita Eagle*. Other trends to watch include the rise of innovative structures -- like Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan's new LLC, as well as strategic giving and crowdfunding applications. He describes strategic giving as "[d]eveloping a thoughtful philanthropic strategy that benefits both donors and their communities that helps donors achieve more internal and external bang for their charitable bucks."

["Empowered Women Are Changing Philanthropy"](#)

An article by Kiersten Marke discusses how the growing financial muscle of women, as well as the increasing leadership of women, will significantly change philanthropy.

[Mary Grace Folwell](#), President

Upcoming Events

February 9 / Tues / 10:00 AM

[Application Software Tutorial for Reviewers](#)

Members must login to website to register

February 10 / Wed / 11:30 AM

[Education Meeting: Breaking the Cycle](#)

February 18 / Thur / 5:30 PM

[Anne Arundel WomenGettingTogether](#)

February 24 / Wed / 7:00 PM

[Book Group](#)

February 25 / Thur / 8:30 AM

[Light House Lunchmaking](#) (Registration limited to 5)

March 4 / Fri / 9:00 AM

[Light House Lunchmaking](#) (Registration limited to 5)

March 9 / Wed / 9:30 AM

[New Member Morning Coffee Hour](#) (By invitation)

March 13 / Sun / 1:30 PM

[Women & Leadership Event: The Emerging
Face of 21st Century Philanthropy](#)

March 24 / Thur / 5:30 PM

[Anne Arundel WomenGettingTogether](#)

Full Circle News Feedback

The Full Circle News is published bi-monthly throughout the year. Suggestions, feedback and questions are welcome and can be sent to marketing@givingtogether.org.

[Marketing & Communications](#)

Jenny Kottler, Chair

Deb Schilling, Assistant Chair