



# ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN GIVING TOGETHER

## *Full Circle News*

November / December 2012

### Leadership Letter



***No one has ever become poor by giving.***

Anne Frank

Dear AAWGT Members,

I would like to celebrate my last official act as President by thanking each of our members for contributing to the spirit of generosity, sense of purpose, and heartfelt caring that are hallmarks of our giving circle. By giving together, we are making a positive impact in lives throughout our community and just as importantly, in the lives of each other.

Thanks to the financial generosity of our members, we were able to invest more than \$100,000 in grantmaking initiatives this year. As you plan your year-end giving, please consider making an additional donation to AAWGT. Whether you prefer to contribute to our Endowment Fund or make a Special Purpose Donation, you will find a range of opportunities to meet your charitable goals on the back of our [Membership Renewal Form](#).

I would also like to extend a huge round of applause and a massive group hug to the talented and dynamic women who served in leadership, to the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, and to every member who participated on a committee or special project this year. Your time, talent, and energy are what activate and propel our giving circle forward.

It has been an incredible honor to work with all of you.

On a personal note, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for the outpouring of caring and support that has cheered and buoyed me along through some challenging health issues. This includes a special thanks to Julie Schuelke for her unfaltering grace in assuming the duties of the President several months ahead of schedule!

All the best,  
Laurie Sharp

## Circle Highlights

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



#### **AAWGT President Laurie Sharp Receives 2012 Founder's Award**

At the recent November 14 meeting, President Laurie Sharp was announced as the recipient of this year's Founders Award, which 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. Tara Clifford announced this year's awardee, saying, "She leads. She advocates. She understands. She relates. She inspires. She encourages. She's systematic, happy, artistic, resourceful and positive."

Nominees are proposed by the AAWGT membership and reviewed by a representative group which included Founders Anna Greenberg, Susan Swayze and Helene Tenner; Tara Clifford, a Founders' Award past recipient; Sandy Sweeney, a representative from the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee and Julie Schuelke, AAWGT Vice President.

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

Congratulations, Laurie!

## *AAWGT Members Dig In for Day of Service Supporting The Samaritan Women*



A dozen AAWGT members and friends shared a great volunteer service project on Saturday September 29th at The Samaritan Women, one of our 2012 grantees! The Samaritan Women advocates against human trafficking and provides residence to women who have endured trauma, including veterans and victims of human trafficking. They also operate a Farm & Food Ministry that provides local produce to families in need. Members set out bright and early to carpool to The Samaritan Women's small farm in Baltimore. It's a beautiful spot with a barn, two houses and a good deal of land located right in the middle of a densely populated neighborhood. Residents live in the larger house and office and meeting rooms are in the other. They grow vegetables, tend chickens, and perform maintenance on the property.

Lucky for us, it was a brisk, sunny day as we had yard work to do in preparation for their upcoming Open House. We replaced old signs, weeded, chopped down dead sunflowers, hauled debris, and freshened up a gravel driveway. Fortunately, we thought to pack a nice picnic lunch as we had worked up an appetite by the time our chores were complete.

Our grant to The Samaritan Women is funding a human trafficking public awareness campaign in Anne Arundel County.

## *Poverty Amidst Plenty IV: Surviving the Economic Downturn*



Presentation of CFAAC's needs assessment study stresses that affordable housing, low-cost childcare and transportation are greatest economic challenges facing county's struggling low and middle-income families. Every two years the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County sponsors a Needs Assessment Report that measures community well-being in a number of different areas. Dr. Pamela M. Brown, Executive Director of the County's Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, who researched and compiled this year's report, "Poverty Amidst Plenty IV: Surviving the Economic Downturn," presented her findings to AAWGT members and friends at an educational session held at the Annapolis Maritime Museum on November 14.

Dr. Brown reported that, as increasing numbers of people lost jobs in the recent economic downturn, many middle class families who never thought they would have to seek help fell behind on their mortgages and other obligations and were forced to do so. More County residents are now hungry, have unmet health care needs, underwater mortgages, and face other challenges in trying to remain self-sufficient.

The County's high cost of living exacerbates this problem. While median family income is almost \$100,000, nearly 27,000 families make less than half that. The median income for residents in the workforce is \$42,000, but it costs over \$58,000 for a single parent with a preschool child to be self-sufficient.

The biggest challenges facing the low income community are affordable housing, low-cost quality child care and transportation, all of which are in short supply in the County. Scrambling to meet these needs on a daily basis prevents many single parents from living a normal life to the point that they give up and just stop trying.

The study examined economic opportunity, youth development and education, health, the environment and the arts. The report finds positive news in several areas, including student academic performance, but highlights County needs and gaps in services. The latter findings include:

- In general, North County communities face more challenges than elsewhere in the County.

- While the County's Hispanic/Latino population has more than tripled since 1990, services to this community have failed to keep pace.
- There is a shortage of mental health services, especially for children and even more for Hispanic/Latino children.
- Childhood obesity is a growing concern.
- Many 16-24 year olds, known as "Youth in Transition," are at risk at every level.
- While test scores and High School graduation rates are up, poor children still lag significantly behind their peer.

The report demonstrates that, no matter what your interest, there is a need you can help address. As Dr. Brown concluded, we can't fix all of these problems, but we can work together to bring about change and help create a better future for community members.

Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County Executive Director Bess Langbein told the AAWGT audience that "this is not just a bunch of data; it's supposed to be a call to action" to the community. She noted that AAWGT is taking action, and "we hope this data will inform your grantmaking."

Many thanks to Education Committee Chair Judy Coughlin, Assistant Chair Maureen Cavaiola, and Bess Langbein and the CFAAC, who helped bring us this interesting and informative presentation.

### *2013 Leadership Slate*

At the November 14th meeting at the Maritime Museum, AAWGT presented the 2013 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 December 12.** Included here is the slate showing the position and candidate's name for that position.

President - Julie Schuelke  
 Vice President / President Elect - Karen Smith  
 Treasurer - Cele Brown  
 Assistant Treasurer - Valerie Gutterson  
 Secretary - Jenny Kottler  
 Assistant Secretary - Judy Coughlin  
 Grants Chair - Cynthia Danjczek  
 Grants Assistant Chair - Kimberly Breton  
 Education & Programs Chair - Maureen Cavaiola  
 Education & Programs Assistant Chair - Mary Grace Folwell  
 Governance Chair - Martha Schwieters

Governance Assistant Chair - Donna Stackhouse  
 Marketing & Communications Chair - Diana Rode  
 Marketing & Communications Asst. Chair - Lynn McReynolds  
 Membership & Outreach Chair - Missy Attridge  
 Membership & Outreach Assistant Chair - Marie Brockhurst  
 Post Grant Evaluation Chair - Lynn Buhl  
 Post Grant Evaluation Assistant Chair - Diane Evans  
 Leadership Development Chair - Susan Amos  
 Leadership Development Assistant Chair - Julie Crudele

**Members should Contact Gloria Pressman or Susan Amos at [leadership@givingtogether.org](mailto:leadership@givingtogether.org) if you did not get your email with voting instructions.**

## Welcome to New Members



A warm welcome to the 28 new members who joined our circle in 2012 and are making a difference in our community! There's still time to spread the word and add to our grant making funds for 2013!

Paula Abernethy	Betty Knupp
Maria Baker	Tonya McCoy
Sharon Boettinger	Lois Miller
Heidi Busch	Judy Moore
Helen Chin	Elizabeth Palmer
Amy Crain	Sue Pitchford
Sue Farmer	Peg Redd
Carol Forti	Rita Reimer
Corri Goldman	Evie Renz
Laura Henderson	Amy Richter
Penelope Holloway	Carol Rolnick
Jan Keel	Pam Siemer
Sarah Keel	Gwynneth Smith
Lyn Keller	Kathie Sulick

## Upcoming Events



**Wednesday, November 28, 7:00-8:30PM**

**BOOK GROUP**

*Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence has Declined* by Steven Pinker

For more information contact Cele Brown, [bookgroup@givingtogether.org](mailto:bookgroup@givingtogether.org)

**Sunday, December 9, 10:30-1:00PM**

**GIRLS ON THE RUN FALL 5K RACE**

Anne Arundel Community College, College Pkwy, Arnold

Volunteers are needed as Course Monitors, Parking, Start/Finish Support

To sign up contact Tom Waite at [twait919@gmail.com](mailto:twait919@gmail.com) or 443-949-2828

**Wednesday, January 9, Noon-1:30PM**

**EDUCATION SESSION**

Housing and Homelessness

Maryland Hall, Room 308, Annapolis

**Wednesday, February 13, 7:00-8:30PM**

**WOMEN & LEADERSHIP EVENT**

Location TBD

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

## Committee News

### **EDUCATION**

SAVE THE DATE: On Wednesday, January 9th, the Education Program Committee will launch next year's education programming with an in-depth look at the issues of Housing and Homelessness. This topic has been among the top three issues AAWGT members have consistently indicated they wanted to learn more about. Please join us at this daytime meeting on January 9th for presentations by leading national and state voices on housing and homelessness -- and then add your voice to a rich, member discussion with service-providers from our local Anne Arundel County community. The Education Program Committee's goal is two-fold: (1) to provide AAWGT members with information that will help us all to better understand the forces in action within our community and the individual opportunities for engaging in solutions; and, (2) to support informed decision-making by our membership throughout the granting process. We hope you will join us on January 9th -- and remember that

this will be a daytime meeting!

## **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 our website or have knowledge of Microsoft Publisher and would be willing to help with graphics and design. For more information, please contact Lynn McReynolds ([lynn@mcreynoldselek.com](mailto:lynn@mcreynoldselek.com)) or Diana Rode ([rodebayridge@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.***

Missy Attridge	Marie Brockhurst
<a href="mailto:Aattridge@verizon.net">Aattridge@verizon.net</a>	<a href="mailto:vze2nwkh@verizon.net">vze2nwkh@verizon.net</a>
410-280-6655	410-703-8335

## **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 2013 contact Karen Davis at [kluciadavis@hotmail.com](mailto:kluciadavis@hotmail.com).

### **Volunteers needed December 9th - Girls on The Run Fall 5K Race**

Volunteers needed as Course Monitors, to help with Parking and as Start/Finish Support. To sign up contact Tom Waite at [twait919@gmail.com](mailto:twait919@gmail.com) or 443-949-2828.



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