



ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN GIVING TOGETHER

Full Circle News

September / October 2013

Leadership Letter

Happy End of Summer! We hope that it has been a time of enjoyment with family, interesting vacations, and great outdoor activities with friends.

For AAWGT at our annual Steering Committee Retreat held on July 13, your leadership took time to reflect on the findings of our recent Member Survey, to strategize on how to improve our processes and facilitate our committee work, and to start the planning for our 2014 calendar of events. We will publish the 2014 calendar later this fall – stay tuned for some exciting changes!

We are happy to report that our membership numbers continue to grow with some new members signing up “on the spot” after attending one of our thoughtful education sessions. We are now a circle of 200+ committed, caring women giving their dollars, time and skills to support AAWGT efforts.

We look forward to a productive and interesting fall. The Education Committee is holding a “brainstorming” session – open to all members – on September 30. Please consider attending and sharing your ideas for topics. On October 9 we will have the opportunity to see the impact of the grants work we do. Our Fall Open House will feature the 2012 Grantees who will talk about the performance and outcomes of their recently completed AAWGT grants. Please come to hear their

stories, enjoy refreshments, and perhaps make some new connections and friends!

All the best,
Julie and Karen



Julie Schuelke President	Karen Smith Vice President
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Circle Highlights

2013 Founder's Award - Nominations Open



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](#) (members only page, login required) along with a narrative describing the nominee and your reasons for selecting her (500 words or less). The [Nomination Guidelines](#) can be used to assist you in your narrative.

We must receive your nomination(s) by Monday, October 14, 2013!

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. The

2013 ad hoc committee is composed of Anna Greenberg, Barbara Hoffstein, Susan Swayze, Helene Tenner, Tara Clifford, Sandy Sweeney and Julie Schuelke.

The 2013 Founder's Award will be presented at our Wednesday, November 13 Educational Session. Our prior awardees are Sharon Stewart (2007), Bronwyn Belling (2008), Tara Clifford (2009), Gloria Martin-Pressman (2010), Lynne Davidson (2011), and Laurie Sharp (2012).

PLEASE NOTE: Prior recipients are not eligible for nomination at this time.

The Weakening Link Between Marriage and Childbirth: Does it Matter?

On Sept. 11, 2013, AAWGT members and friends attended an interesting and informative educational session on "The Weakening Link Between Marriage and Childbirth: Does It Matter?" The speaker, Katherine (Katy) Suellentrop, is the Director of State Support at the [National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy](#). The National Campaign's goal is to insure that all children are born to loving, committed parents who have planned for and welcome their parental responsibilities.

The answer to the title question is, absolutely. Among other dismaying statistics, half of all unwed teenage mothers and their children live below the poverty line. Only 40% of teenage mothers graduate from high school, and only 2% obtain a college degree.

There is some good news in this area, as teenage births in the United States have declined by 50% since 1991. However, the U.S. rate is still twice that of Great Britain, which is twice that of the rest of Europe. The U.S. rate is 10 times that of Japan.

The rate of teen mothers has stayed fairly constant at 3% of the population over the past few years. In Anne Arundel Co. in 2011, 364 teens gave birth, 93% of them unmarried. Twenty percent of teen mothers already have one or more children. While nearly all teens say they do not want to get pregnant, 58% of sexually active teens admit to having unprotected sex at least part of the time.

The National Campaign focuses not just on teens but on young adults, ages 18-24. Births to unmarried women this age bracket have been increasing in recent years, but they are often overlooked in these efforts. It also targets potential young fathers, who are very much a part of the equation. <more>

Expanding their use of social media (bedsider.org) has helped The Campaign to reach out to younger teens. They have also worked closely with the producers of the MTV series "16 and Pregnant," which attempts to present a realistic view of teen pregnancy. President Obama's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, while directly reaching only 2% of teens, has had a ripple effect on many more. There are only two ways to prevent pregnancy: less sex and more contraception. Because the terms "birth control" and "contraceptives" can have a negative connotation, more emphasis is placed on "planned parenthood," that is, incorporating into your life plan whether and when to have children. The organization has identified over 500 risk and preventive factors that can influence this decision. Their website, www.thenationalcampaign.org, contains detailed information on all types of contraception and also addresses contraceptive myths.

The National Campaign is also evolving to reflect the country's changing demographics. While Americans are marrying and having their first child later in life, many unmarried parents in their 20s are now in stable relationships or cohabiting. However, unlike in Europe, where many cohabiting couples stay together for decades or for life, over half of U.S. cohabiting couples separate or move on to other relationships within 5 years of the child's birth.

All children do best if they are raised in stable, loving, responsible two-parent homes. While it will never be possible to reach all potential young parents, the National Campaign is doing an admirable job of advancing this goal.

Ms. Suellentrop's complete PowerPoint presentation can be accessed [here](#).

AAWGT Steering Committee Retreat

Twenty-one members of the AAWGT Steering Committee met on July 13 at the Annapolis Friends Meeting House to revisit our accomplishments and look ahead to our future challenges and opportunities! Our discussions were facilitated by Jill Barr, who adeptly shepherded multiple discussions and ensured completion of our planned agenda. 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. 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!

Welcome to New Members



A warm welcome to the new and returning members who are making a difference in our community!

Marie Brodmerkel	Nancie Kennedy
Ann Carroll	Helen Krone
Keely Clifford	Donna Levin
Debbie Daugherty	Suzanne Lord
Susan Duncan	Lee Lougee
Linda Eggbeer	Mary Ann Marbury
Craven Engels	Beverly Marcus
Lee Finney	Carroll McGillin
Kathy Flynn	Linda Moran
Adrian Fremont	Kathy Nellius
Marsha Gill	Pamela Polgreen
Karin Gipple	Margaret Rauh
Barbara Haight	Shelley Row
Ronda Hauss	Phyllis Saroff
Sally Iadarola	Deb Schilling
Kim Jones	Marilynn Sweetser
Lois Kelberman	Louise Thomas

Upcoming Events



Monday, September 30, 7:00PM
EDUCATION COMMITTEE BRAINSTORMING SESSION
Conte Lubrano Building, Lower Level, Annapolis

We are delighted that so many of our members are interested in exploring new educational opportunities for the 2014

calendar year. Our survey results have given us some great issues to reflect on, discuss, and refine for our upcoming sessions. Come join us for the discussion! Questions? Contact education@givingtogether.org.

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00PM

BOOK CLUB

***The Life You Can Save: How to Do Your Part to End World Poverty*
by Peter Singer**

For the first time in history, eradicating world poverty is within our reach. Yet around the world, a billion people struggle to live each day on less than many of us pay for bottled water. In the Life You Can Save, Peter Singer uses ethical arguments, illuminating examples, and case studies of charitable giving to show that our current response to world insufficient is not only insufficient but morally indefensible. The Life You Can Save teaches us to be a part of the solution, helping others as we help ourselves. Questions? Contact bookgroup@givingtogether.org.

Wednesday, October 9, 6:00-8:00PM

FALL OPEN HOUSE WITH 2012 GRANTEES

Maryland Hall Lower Level, Annapolis

Join us for a session highlighting the programs of our 2012 Grantees!

Wednesday, November 13, 8:30-10:00AM

**EDUCATION SESSION, INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF 2014 SLATE
AND FOUNDERS' AWARD PRESENTATION**

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

EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE: On **Wednesday, September 30th**, the Education Program Committee will brainstorm future meeting ideas. We are delighted that so many of our members are interested in exploring new educational opportunities for the 2014 calendar year. Our survey results have given us some great issues to reflect on, discuss, and refine for our upcoming sessions. Come join us for the discussion! Register [here](#).

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing and Communications Committee is in need of 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 Diana Rode (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.

Nancy Davis	Paula Abernethy
Chair	Assistant Chair

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!

One volunteer is needed for Friday, November 15, at the home of Marilyn Lyons-Graham, 3800 Thomas Point Road, Annapolis.

If you are interested in volunteering to host or help for a date contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com.



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