



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

AAWGT Newsletter

February 2009

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." This quote by Margaret Mead, a noted 20th century cultural anthropologist, has always been a favorite. As members of Anne Arundel Women Giving Together, we experience firsthand the power of a group of women coming together and making a positive difference in our local community.

Thanks to the time and talent of many women, AAWGT has grown to a 130-member strong organization with seven active committees and a diverse array of programs for members. We should be proud of the nearly \$100,000 we have put back into our community over the past two years. And, this year we will be able to provide an additional \$60,000 to local nonprofits.

During these tough economic times, we remain committed to our core work - supporting programs for at-risk women and families. Thank you to every member for your important contributions. We look forward to connecting with you in the coming months!

Sharon Stewart
2009 AAWGT President
stews@mindspring.com

Help *Anne Arundel Women Giving Together* grow and share our good work: please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends.

AAWGT General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 11th

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Location: Room 250A, Sajak Pavilion, 2002 Medical Boulevard, Annapolis

Topic: Self-Sufficiency Standards for Women and Families

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How much does it really take to manage the day-to-day costs of living? Come learn why poverty levels and limited resources are failing to cover the real costs of living for low-income women and families.

This meeting is open to AAWGT members and all interested friends!

Speakers:

Mary Lassen, Executive Director for the Center for Community Change, Washington DC, and former President and CEO of the Women's Union

Donna Atkinson, National Family Self-Sufficiency Project Director for Wider Opportunities for Women

Sean Dobson, Executive Director of Progressive Maryland

Reminder: Please renew your membership!
Letters will be coming soon.

Upcoming AAWGT Events and Meetings - Save the Date!

Date: Wed., March 11

Time: 10 am and 11 am

Topic: AAWGT Visits The Light House Shelter

Come see and learn more about the AAWGT-funded Building Futures Self-Sufficiency Program, which helps women gain skills and become strong. Visits are limited to 10 AAWGT members for each of the two time slots. Please contact lsharp1000@msn.com to RSVP. First-come, first-served!

Date: March (Time and Date TBA)

Topic: CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) Volunteer Graduation

Date: Wed., April 8

Topic: Membership Reception

Details to be announced in March's newsletter.

Quick Links

[More About Us](#)

Who We Help

Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore

Micro-enterprise for Women

Annapolis Area Ministries, Inc.

Building Futures: A Self-Sufficiency Program

Anne Arundel Co. CASA, Inc.

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children

Rob's Barbershop Community Foundation

Gifts for Grooming Program

YWCA of Annapolis & AA County

Life Skills Training at Arden

Organizational Updates

From the Grants Committee

Heavy Turnout for Grant Applicant Training Sessions - More Reviewers Sought

Sixteen potential applicants (14 of whom had not submitted grants to AAWGT before) attended one of the two Grant Applicant Training sessions conducted by the Grants Committee in January. The heavy turnout for these non-mandatory sessions suggests that we will receive substantially more than the 25 grant applications that were submitted to AAWGT in each of the previous two years.

Several new reviewers also were trained at these sessions, but the Grants Committee is still seeking additional reviewers. Reviewers work on teams with experienced team leaders, and new reviewers will receive training before the process begins in March.

Please contact Roylene Roberts, Grants Committee Chair: rnr123@verizon.net or Kathy Potter: pottercako@comcast.net for information.

From the Education and Program Committee



At the morning meeting on January 14 at Pathways Treatment Center, members learned about the problems relating to addiction and recovery in Anne Arundel County from two very experienced counselors in the field. Helen Reines, Executive Director of Pathways, part of the Anne Arundel Medical Center, was one of two speakers. Her program treats both in-patient and out-patient adults and teenagers. Leigh Ragan, Clinical Director of First Step Recovery Center, works with indigent patients on an out-patient basis.

The speakers stated that one in ten people is addicted to drugs or alcohol, and both agreed that women are under identified as addicted. This may be because of the stigma attached to addiction or because many women are caretakers and may not make time for treatment. Because of their physical characteristics, women process alcohol differently from men and suffer detrimental health effects. The speakers highlighted the fact that recently people are becoming addicted to pain medications. After building up a tolerance to the first medications, they often move to stronger or illegal drugs to abate their increasing pain.

When asked where our grant money might be most helpful, Ms. Reines suggested an emergency fund to help outgoing patients come up with the

required deposit for a halfway house or apartment.. Ms. Ragan suggested providing funds for a new drug called Campral, a very effective but expensive treatment not usually covered by insurance.

From the Post Grant Evaluation Committee

The Post Grant Evaluation Committee is in high gear. The Committee provides a communication link between the grantees and AAWGT members and exercises due diligence to ensure that our grant funds are used in the manner delineated by the original application. On May 14, 2008, the AAWGT membership voted on the 2008 grantees. In December and January our Liaison Teams interviewed the 2008 grantees, preparing them for their next step: to submit their Interim Reports to Anne Arundel Giving Together in cooperation with the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County on January 14, 2009.

Our Interim Reports are now in and are being reviewed by the Liaison Teams. The Committee will meet on February 3rd, to go over these interviews and reports together. In April we will be recruiting new Post Grant Evaluation members for our 2009 grant year. Please contact Barbara Hoffstein, bhoffstein@att.net or Julie Schuelke, jschuelke@studley.com, if would like to serve on this interesting and vital committee.

We are also working with the Education Committee to provide a site visit for 20 of our AAWGT members on March 11 to one of the 2008 Grantees. Our aim is to show our membership how important our donations are in improving the lives of the women and children who live in Anne Arundel County. Stay tuned for an announcement of the site that we will visit!

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new AAWGT member:

- Nancy A. Greene

Please make a special effort to welcome our new members if you meet them at one of our meetings.

Contact Information

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together
914 Bay Ridge Avenue, Suite 220
Annapolis, MD 21403
(410) 280-1102 (410) 280-1102

AAWGT is a Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County

Website: www.givingtogether.org

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