

Leadership Letter



Welcome to the “new look and name” for our online AAWGT newsletter, Full Circle News. Beginning with this issue, it will be landing in your email box every other month, chock full of news and photos chronicling AAWGT achievements, past, present and future. It will include our new ‘Help Wanted’ column to identify ways you can participate. Special thanks are in order to Lynn McReynolds, Diana Rode and Eve-Marie Lacroix for this terrific transition!

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it seems timely to express our heartfelt appreciation for all 175 new and returning members who make all this magic possible. We’ve shared a big five year celebration this past year, reaching over \$306,000 in grants made to date. We’ve launched our new Endowment Fund to ensure that our work on behalf of women and families continues on in perpetuity. Most important of all, we have over \$90,000 in hand for our 2012 grants – a \$10,000 increase from 2011!

In lieu of a holiday session this year, we are focusing on volunteer service. Join us on Sunday, December 4 from noon to 2 PM to serve as a course monitor for the Girls on the Run winter 5k race at Anne Arundel Community College. Immediately following the race, we will warm up at a casual social with Junior League Sustainers and Annapolis Zonta Club members who will work side-by-side with us that day. And no, you do not need to run! To be part of this fun and inspiring event, register at GivingTogether.org under Upcoming Events.

It has been our honor to serve you during this memorable year! Happy holidays to all!
Bronwyn & Laurie

Upcoming Events



EMAIL VOTING FOR ELECTION OF 2012 SLATE

November 15 – December 14

FIRST ANNUAL BOOK REVIEW DINNER

Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Paul’s Homewood Café, 919 West St., Annapolis

Please join us for a special year-end Book Review Dinner! We will raise a toast to our second year of great reads and look ahead to the books we would like to include on our new 2012 bi-monthly meeting schedule.

Reserve your space at the table! Register at GivingTogether.org under events tab.
(Please remember to sign in before you register since this is a member’s only event.)

Questions? Contact Laurie Sharp at lsharp1000@msn.com

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY WITH JUNIOR LEAGUE SUSTAINERS AND ZONTA CLUB: GIRLS ON THE RUN 5K RUN

Sunday, December 4, Noon – 2:00 PM: Race, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Volunteer Social

For this year’s AAWGT service project, we are joining with the Junior League Sustainers and Zonta Club members to support the Girls on the Run 5K race at Anne Arundel Community College on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Twenty-five volunteers are needed from noon – 2:00 PM to serve as course monitors, staff the information table and food areas, and to help with set-up. No running required! A social gathering with volunteers from the Junior League Sustainers will follow at the home of AAWGT member, Laurie Sharp. Register at GivingTogether.org under events tab.

Welcome to New Members



A warm welcome to the newest AAWGT members making a difference in our community:

Mary Grace Folwell
Patricia Horn
Kathryn Collings Laing
Joan Murray
Anita Ramundo
Ernie Shineman
Judy Templeton

Circle Highlights



Education Session Considers Juvenile Justice in the County

The Circle hosted an educational session on October 12th led by the Honorable Cynthia Ferris, Master in Chancery of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel, and moderated by AAWGT member Kathy Potter (pictured at left). “Who are the kids?” perpetuating juvenile crime in Anne Arundel County. That was one of the questions addressed by Master Ferris at the session “Youth: Juvenile Justice in Anne Arundel County” at Maryland Hall. She also spoke on the philosophy of our juvenile justice system and measures that may get to the root of the problems.

“Certain stereotypes, unfortunately, sadly, are often true,” she said. “Juvenile offenders are mostly boys – so we don’t have a lot of resources for girls. “And of course, they are mostly boys of color, often from poor, single-parent homes with uninvolved fathers. Alarming new trends in juvenile crime also include more handgun use. More kids are taking handguns to school, consequently, there are now uniformed police officers in most public schools.

Master Ferris described a gang education program the Court instituted just this year for parents whose children are in the system, and also emphasized the danger and seriousness of marijuana offenses.

“So many kids from all classes and income groups are doing marijuana these days.” Ferris said. People have the concept that marijuana is harmless – but it’s *not* harmless for kids – they can’t concentrate in school, their grades fall, they start skipping school and hanging with the wrong people. That leads to crime. As a consequence, there are very serious penalties for marijuana possession, because it has such a serious impact.”

Moderator Kathy Potter, a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Juveniles) volunteer asked what Master Ferris would do about juvenile crime in our county if she could wave a magic wand.

“I think if you can get to the girls, then boys will follow. If you’re just 15 or 16 raising kids, you don’t have a clue about parenting. The girls don’t finish school and they wind up raising their children in public housing with all its problems of violent crime and drugs. We need to deal with the teenage parenting issue.”

In her closing remarks, President Bronwyn Belling remarked, “We couldn’t have asked for a more inspirational talk concerning our mission to support women and children in this county.”



Fall Open House with 2010 Grantees

The evening of November 9th was crisp and clear with the a full moon that shone down upon the Historic London Town & Gardens as AAWGT held its 2011 Open House featuring our 2010 Grantees. Representatives from each organization made brief presentations detailing their success in using AAWGT grant money to help mitigate the problems of the underserved women and children of our county.

These included:

- Anne Arundel County Literacy Council’s Tutor Training Workshops Program, which trains volunteer tutors to work with illiterate adults
- Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region’s Family Support Services Program, which provides subsidies to families with developmentally disabled children to help keep them at home

- Arundel Lodge's Latina Outreach Project, which provides mental health services and information to Latinas who are left out of mainstream mental health treatment
- Eastport Girls Club Smart Start Tutoring/Mentoring Program, which tutors and mentors at-risk girls living in public housing communities
- Food Link's Wholesale Produce Distribution Program, which gleans fresh produce from farmers' markets and other sites and provides it to over 1,000 families
- Partners In Care Repairs With Care Program, which offers handyman services to the elderly -- mostly women -- who live alone
- Robert A. Pascal Youth and Family Services' Stop the Violence Program, which uses play therapy to help children who have experienced trauma
- St. Philip's Family Life Center's Extended Enrichment Experience, a 3-day per week program of after school tutoring for at-risk students.

A young mother from Ecuador was there to express her extreme gratitude that her disabled son was able to get therapy through the Arc of the Chesapeake, and a Pascal Center representative told a touching story about a sexually abused child who came forward to report her abuse after seeing her abuser take an interest in her younger sister. That child has taken to wearing a super hero cape, a symbol of her pride that she saved her sister from her own fate.

Julie Schuelke, chair of the Post-Grants Evaluation committee discussed the roles her committee plays in recommending and evaluating grantees. The new slate for the Steering Committee was announced, and two members received special recognition from the Founders: Eve-Marie Lacroix, who has so effectively put together our website, and Karen Davis, who has coordinated the LightHouse Shelter lunch-making program for at least five years. With funding from M&T Bank, AAWGT also presented the first Making a Difference Award of \$1,000 to the Anne Arundel County Library Foundation for additional resource materials on philanthropy and successful proposal writing for the nonprofit community.

2010 AAWGT President Lynne Davidson received the Founder's award, for her work over the years on behalf of our giving circle. "This is a continuum," she said. "It was started with great vision by Sharon Stewart, and I have been honored to lead and to serve. It is so inspiring to see how many fabulous people are in this organization -- we're in this legacy together!"

Her words were echoed by this year's President Bronwyn Belling, who said she has had "such an incredible year as President working with so many caring and compassionate members. We have made such enormous progress, all out of everyone's hearts and service and time!"

*Pictured Above: From Left, Front Row: The Arc: Jennifer White, Gabriela Primrose, and client
Second Row: Food Link: Paula Gordon, Linda Wetz, Irene McElwee, Kathy Nelius and Cathy Holstrom-Bird
Third Row: Yevola Peters, St. Philip's Family Life Center; Christine Goldman, AAC Literacy Council; Anne Myers, Partners in Care
Fourth Row: Julie Schuelke, AAWGT; Laurie Sharp, AAWGT; Karen Feldman, Eastport Girls Club; Helena Hunter, Eastport Girls Club
Rear: Bronwyn Belling, AAWGT; Adel O'Rourke and Laurie Warnke, Pascal Youth and Family Services*

Help Wanted



The **Grants Committee** is seeking grant reviewers who can commit from 5-12 hours per month, mainly in March, April, and May. Reviewers will work in teams led by experienced reviewers. All new reviewers must attend a training workshop on either Saturday, January 7th or Thursday, January 12th from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Experienced reviewers who did not attend 2011 training sessions are urged to attend this January since some of the procedures have changed.

If you are interested in reviewing grants and haven't yet volunteered or been contacted, please contact Susan Swayze at wswayze@verizon.net or at 410-267-1617.

AAWGT Volunteer Service Project Needs More Volunteers

Sunday, December 4, 2011 – Noon to 2:00 PM with informal networking event immediately following. Assist former grantee Girls on the Run at their Winter 5K Race at Anne Arundel Community College. For details on our activities and registration information, go to GivingTogether.org.

Spotlights



AAWGT and M & T Bank Announce their first “Making A Difference Award”

In honor of our fifth anniversary of grantmaking, we hoped this year to undertake a project to benefit the nonprofit community as a whole. A portion of our collaborative grant with the Community Foundation from M&T Bank this year made this possible. A \$1,000 award was made to the Anne Arundel County Library Foundation to purchase resource materials on proposal writing, grantsmanship and board/staff development for the nonprofit community. These printed materials will complement the successful online Cooperating Collection for nonprofits now available at the Annapolis Area Library on West Street.

This award was announced at a Meet Your Grantmakers event for nonprofits at the West Street Library on November 2 and again at the AAWGT Fall Open House on November 9. Materials are now being acquired, and should be accessible from any branch beginning in January, 2012. A brochure describing the new materials should be available in advance of our annual Grant Applicants Workshops in January, 2012 and will be posted online when completed. Special thanks to M&T Bank for helping us bring this idea to fruition!

AAWGT Endowment Fund



As you consider your year-end giving, please consider building a brighter future for women and families in Anne Arundel County with donation to the AAWGT Endowment Fund. If we reach our goal of \$50,000 by December 31, the fund will make a 5% contribution to our grant fund next year ...and forever.

It's easy. Donation forms are available at GivingTogether.org under the 'Donate' tab. Simply make your check out to The Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County and be sure to include 'AAWGT Endowment Fund' in the memo. Mail to AAWGT Treasurer: Madelyn Schaefer, 47 Poplar Point Road, Edgewater, MD 21037. Thank you!