Leadership Letter

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

The thoughtful, committed members AAWGT are changing our corner of the world through the simple, yet powerful act of giving together.

Last Wednesday, we completed our 2012 grant review process by voting to invest $103,364 into making our community a better place to call home for all women and families. We were able to fund nine programs that target critical issues facing vulnerable children, homeless parents, elderly women, and women who are victims of human trafficking.

Please join us on Wednesday, June 13 at our annual Grants Showcase. It’s a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new 2012 Grantees, celebrate our work, and introduce your friends to our giving circle.

Be sure to check your email on May 21 for your invitation to participate in the 2012 Member Survey. When it arrives, please take a moment to reflect on your membership and share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas for how we can strengthen our giving circle. Our annual Leadership Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, July 14 and your answers to the questions on the survey will help inform our thinking as we plan for the future.

After the Grants Showcase, we will be taking July and August off to relax, recharge and enjoy the summer. No member meetings or newsletters are scheduled during the break, but we will swing back into action on Wednesday, September 12 with our bi-annual Grants Process & Criteria Review Session.

We hope to see you at the Grants Showcase on June 13!

All the best,

Laurie Sharp
President

Julie Schuelke
Vice President & President Elect

If you have questions, ideas, or special concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us at giving@givingtogether.org.
Circle Highlights

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together is a fund of the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County.

AAWGT AWARDS MORE THAN $100,000 IN GRANTS TO NINE AREA NON-PROFITS FOR 2012-2013

On May 9, the AAWGT membership voted to award $103,364 to nine area nonprofit organizations, bringing the total investment since 2007 to more than $400,000 that AAWGT will have contributed toward improving the lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County! We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Grants Committee Chair Susan Swayze, Assistant Chair Cynthia Danjczek, and the members of the Grants Committee for their work throughout the year to make our grants process a success. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the 28 AAWGT members who participated on the 2012 Grant Review Teams. These volunteers engaged in a rigorous review to determine the finalists on which our general membership voted. This year marks the first in which grant funds were supplemented by a five percent distribution from AAWGT’s endowment fund, which was created last year to help sustain AAWGT into the future.

On June 13 from 7-9 PM, giving circle members will have the opportunity to meet the new grant recipients at the 2012 Grants Showcase in the Francis Scott Key Auditorium lobby at St. Johns College. The AAWGT grant cycle runs from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

The AAWGT grantees for 2012-2013 are:

Anne Arundel County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – staff support for the program that trains volunteers to provide support and advocacy for abused or neglected children in the court system.

The Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region - an ongoing program designed to help families care for their disabled children at home.

Creating Communities: Arts Mentorship Academy - offers Title I school students, ages 8-17, an arts-based alternative education opportunity through instruction, mentoring, tutoring and experiential learning. The grant supplies staff support and direct program support services.

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Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake: GOTRGC Scholarship Program - uses a fun experience-based curriculum to combine training for a 5K with self-esteem enhancing workshops for preteen girls.

Light House Shelter: Family Solutions Program - helps homeless parents become successful in creating secure, caring, enriched family environments for their children through role-playing, active learning, skill building and group discussions.

Partners In Care: Ride Partners - provides arm-in-arm, friendly transportation to older adults who need rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and errands allowing them to remain in their homes.

Robert A. Pascal Youth & Family Services: GoGrrls! - a prevention program designed to empower and educate at risk girls ages 13-19 through a curriculum of tailored sessions that promote social competence.

The Samaritan Women: Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign in Anne Arundel County – the program will raise awareness in order to reduce human trafficking, and facilitate prevention support, intervention and advocacy.

Seeds 4 Success: Eastport Girls Club and I Am A Reader - the programs would increase the number of girls in Smart Start Tutoring, connect with and serve Hispanic youth and families, and start a new program designed for 1st and 2nd grade students.
SPRING MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATES PHOTO ESSAY PROJECT
SHARING OUR VISION: STORIES OF GIVING THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUTH

On April 11, nearly 100 AAWGT members and guests gathered at the Annapolis Maritime Museum for the organization’s annual Spring Open House and to catch a sneak preview of the photo essay project, Sharing Our Vision: Stories of Giving through the Eyes of Youth. This amazing project, launched in partnership with non-profit Vision Workshops, and with the support of the ESOL Department at Annapolis High School, engaged Annapolis High students to take portrait photographs of program participants at several of current and past grantee organizations, allowing AAWGT to put a human face on our mission and the projects we support in the community. ESOL students worked as both photographers and writers, alongside students from the school’s International Baccalaureate program. The stunning results were on display at the Open House, and AAWGT President Laurie Sharp, who along with former President Bronwyn Belling began laying the groundwork for the project a year ago, recognized all of those whose long hours and hard work made this project a reality, including Brenda Anderson, Susan Walker, Kirsten Elstner and Piper Watson. The full exhibit is on display at the Chaney Gallery at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts through June 3. AAWGT current and past grantees featured as part of the Sharing Our Vision project include Food Link, Partners in Care, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Arc of the Central Chesapeake Region, Sarah’s House and Centro de Ayuda.

Photos above provided by Dave Roberts. From L to R: Centro de Ayuda Director Patricia Omana and Mama Sana participant; Display of photos and essays; Presentation of flowers to AAWGT and Vision Workshop members; Members and guests taking in the exhibit. For more photos of the event, go to the photo gallery at givingtogether.org.

AAWGT MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN APRIL FIELD TRIP TO ARUNDEL HOUSE OF HOPE MEDICAL CLINIC
By Diane R. Evans

In late April, a group of about 15 AAWGT members participated in a field trip to visit the medical clinic opened last year by one of the 2011 grantees, the Arundel House of Hope. Located along a bus line on Crain Highway in Glen Burnie, the Arundel House of Hope has provided emergency, transitional and permanent affordable housing for the poor and homeless since 1992. The new, free, non-hospital affiliated medical clinic offers primary health care and behavioral health services to low-income, uninsured and under-insured area residents in the northern part of Anne Arundel County. Through voluntary partnerships, doctors from the Baltimore Washington Medical Center and others from the community at large staff the clinic. The AAWGT grant is providing financial assistance for routine health checks, prescription medications and referrals to specialists.

Executive Director Mario Berninzoni and Aisa Wood, Director of the Medical Clinic, welcomed us to the clinic and provided a tour of the facility and facilitated a discussion of the clinic’s role in the community, their partners in providing services and their plans for the future. While the clinic currently focuses on adults, they are discussing the addition of resources targeted specifically to women and children.

The Arundel House of Hope is currently seeking volunteers such as medical doctors, registered nurses, case managers, physician assistants, social workers and counselors, physical therapists, dieticians and clerical support. For further information, please contact Aisa Wood at 410-863-4888, ext. 116 or email her at awood@arundelhoh.org. For additional information about the Arundel House of Hope, go to their website at www.arundelhoh.org.

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Enjoying the camaraderie, some attendees stayed afterwards and had lunch at the nearby Moulin de Paris restaurant and enjoyed a shopping excursion to AAWGT grantee Partners in Care’s Boutique. Special thanks go to Post-Grants Committee Assistant Chair Diane Evans and Post-Grants Chair Lynn Buhl for organizing the field trip.

Pictured above are AAWGT Members Alpine Bird, Noelle Richmond, Diane Evans, Prue Clendenning, Martha Schwientes, Marie Brockhurst, Lynn Buhl, Laurie Sharp, Julie Schulke, Bronwyn Belling, Jane Morrell, Karen Smith, and Fay Mauro. Photo on right is the tour being led by Aisa Wood, Medical Clinic Director at The Arundel House of Hope.

Welcome to New Members

Join Us!

A warm welcome to the newest AAWGT members making a difference in our community:
Jan Churchill
Carol Forti
Sarah Kell
Betty Knupp
Rita Reimer
Carol Rolnick

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 30, 7:00PM—8:30PM
BOOK GROUP
Ask Me Why I Hurt by Randy Christensen
Complete details sent with online registration confirmation.

Wednesday, June 13, 7:00PM—9:00PM
2012 GRANTS SHOWCASE
St. John’s College, FSK Auditorium Lobby, 60 College Avenue, Annapolis

Help Wanted

Many thanks to Leadership Development Committee Chair Gloria Pressman and Vice Chair Susan Amos for organizing the “speed dating” roundtables during our May 9 voting meeting that allowed Committee leadership to discuss their committee work and needs with attendees in an effort to get more of our membership involved in committee work. Listed below are some of our committees and regular initiatives that currently have specific manpower needs.

Marketing and Communications Committee

The Marketing and Communications Committee has a small, dedicated team of people, who publicize events and AAWGT’s mission and work in the community, work on the newsletter, produce and manage copy for the website, and promote the giving circle through social media, but we could use additional help so team members have more backup and aren’t spread so thin. Marketing and Communication needs:

- Writers to cover events, interview grantees and write features about them for the website,
- Photographers to take photos at events that will be used on the website, in newsletters and on Facebook, and sent to media outlets
- Help with the website (outlined below)
- Publicists, who like working with the media to get the word out about the good work AAWGT is doing
- Social media mavens who can help us take our social media marketing to the next level.

For more information or to join the committee, contact Lynn McReynolds at 410-268-0275 or lynn@mcreynoldselek.com.

**Membership and Outreach Committee**

The Membership & Outreach Committee provides information to prospective members and welcomes new members, facilitating their participation in activities and committees. The committee plans new member orientations during the year and several events for members and prospective members. This devoted group of volunteers needs help with:

- Welcoming and registering guests who attend open AAWGT meetings. It involves arriving early to meetings and greeting guests, having them sign in, encouraging them to sign up for our newsletter, etc.
- Serving as Buddies to new members. Whenever a new member joins, Membership tries to connect them with a veteran member who will welcome her, encourage her to attend the upcoming meetings and give her a sense of the committee structure and ways she might choose to become more involved with AAWGT. We like to have a list of folks to draw from when a new member joins and doesn’t have any particular connection to a current member.
- Each year, Membership is responsible for organizing a volunteer activity with one of our current or past grantees. Last year, several members helped serve as course monitors for a Girls on the Run race at the Community College, for example. It would involve looking for opportunities for a one time volunteer event, publicizing it through the newsletter to our membership, and coordinating sign up.

To sign up to help with the Membership Committee, please contact Missy Attridge at 410-280-6655 or aattridge@verizon.net or Marie Brockhurst at 410-280-0713 or vze2nwkh@verizon.net.

**Website Support**

Volunteer needed to assist the Webmaster in maintaining the AAWGT website, givingtogether.org. AAWGT uses Wild Apricot Membership Management system for the website to manage our organization’s membership database, event registration, as well as presenting general information about AAWGT.

No html or web specific technical skill is required; however, the volunteer should be comfortable with overall online file management and the various file formats used, e.g., jpg, pdf, xls ,rtf and docx. Webmaster will provide whatever training is required. Experience with photo management is helpful as well.

Volunteer tasks:
- Review and update web pages
- Coordinate with Committee chairs to add new content
- Assure the quality and functionality of each web page
- Assist other AAWGT members who have limited access to the Wild Apricot software.
- Help design and implement new features and new webpages.
- Coordinate with AAWGT members to link the Website with Facebook
- Provide backup for Webmaster

If you are willing to help a few hours a month, please contact Eve-Marie Lacroix at evemariel@gmail.com

**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! Dates through May 2012 are covered, but if interested in volunteering for a future date contact Karen Davis at kluciadavis@hotmail.com

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**Endowment Fund**

The AAWGT Endowment Fund offers an exciting opportunity to expand our philanthropy and provide enduring support for our grantmaking mission. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members and friends, the fund currently stands at $64,077 and this year we will make our first 5% annual distribution to the AAWGT Grants Fund.

Our new challenge is to reach a balance of $100,000 in 2012! We hope you will join those who have already made a donation or multi-year pledge to help us increase our grant awards and secure a brighter future for all women and families in our community.