



## ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN GIVING TOGETHER

### **FULL CIRCLE NEWS**

October/November 2016

#### **Focusing on Impact**

The key reason we belong to AAWGT is because we care about others and want to learn and do something to help improve the lives of women and families right here in our county.

That's why the September Showcase is always so well attended and this year was no exception! We welcomed over 125 members and guests to meet the eight new grantees who've just been awarded funds and to hear from the nine 2015 organizations completing their grant year. In their brief remarks, these non-profit leaders spoke about the impact they believe the giving circle's grants have had on their organizations and those they serve every day. Click [here](#) to read a recap of the September Showcase.

Impact... We hear the word a lot but what exactly does it mean for AAWGT and how can it be measured? How do we know if the 71 grants totaling over \$800,000 we've awarded over the last decade have really made a difference and, if so, in what ways? What impact has resulted from planning and hosting 46 top-quality education programs since we began in 2006? What effect has the giving circle had on its own 200+ members? These were the key questions the Tenth Anniversary Committee decided to try to answer as it took a wide-ranging look back at AAWGT's first ten years.

Truth be told, this exercise turned out to be a lot harder than we thought it would be. We looked at all the data we've collected on grantees and the purposes and results of the grants that have been awarded. We held very informative

conversations with six multi-year grantees to drill down on what they considered the key impact(s) of our grant making. And we surveyed AAWGT members about their experiences with the giving circle and asked about the effect their membership has had on their community engagement. Click [here](#) to see detailed results of the study.

We also dipped into the philanthropy literature and reached out to other giving circles to ask how they approach measuring impact. We learned that from the largest organizations and foundations to the smallest, measuring impact is challenging, messy and expensive. We also learned that it's important to try to do it anyway and to commit ourselves to taking incremental steps along the path to learning everything we can about the results of our efforts.

And that's exactly what we plan to do right now and going forward. The Grants Committee is reviewing its funding criteria and application process with a renewed focus on increasing impact. The Post Grants Evaluation Committee has been looking at ways to clarify and sharpen the information we get back from grantees. The November members meeting will feature a presentation about collective impact followed by small group discussions. We need to think and plan for where we want AAWGT to go in the next three to five years and we're counting on every member to weigh in and help us get there. The journey should be very rewarding!

[Mary Grace Folwell](#), President (member since 2011)  
[Linda Eggbeer](#), Vice President/President-Elect (member since 2013)

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## **Monthly Meetings: What's Coming Up and What's Already Happened**

### **October 19 Preview: Education Meeting Heroin and Opioids: Suddenly a Big Problem**

With the number of deaths from heroin and opioids already doubling this year over last, the problem of addiction needs to be taken seriously. Do you know someone who has been impacted by heroin or opioids? Most people do.

[Anne Arundel County Department of Health's Prevention Specialist Sandy Smolnicky](#) will describe the scope of the problem. What is heroin and what does it do to the body? Where is it happening and who is affected? And why is it suddenly such a big problem? [Serenity Sistas'](#) Founder and Executive Director Angel Traynor will share her own story of addiction and recovery. She'll also discuss available treatment options, and which move addicts forward. What collaborative efforts are being made and which are working? How can AAWGT make an impact as a philanthropic group?

The program will conclude with a performance on heroin and opioid abuse by students from Annapolis High Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program.

In preparation for this session, consider watching YouTube video [Not My Child](#).

[Education Meeting: Heroin and Opioids: Suddenly a Big Problem](#)

Wednesday, October 19, 11:30 – 1:30 PM

Mt. Olive Community Life Center, 2 Hicks Ave, Annapolis

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### **November 9 Preview: Members' Business Meeting and Forum**

Members are invited to attend the final general meeting of 2016. This will be a Members Only Business Meeting. The evening's program will include voting on Bylaw changes and presentation of the 2017 leadership slate. Lauren Maddox of Due East Partners will lead a discussion about creating community impact. \*See story about HOPE for All below.

[Members' Business Meeting and Forum](#)

Wednesday, November 9, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis

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### **September 21 Review: Fall Open House and Annual Grants Showcase**

On September 21, more than 125 members and friends of AAWGT gathered at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church for the annual Fall Open House and Grants Showcase. Guests and members introduced themselves with the gusto of old friends reuniting immediately upon entering the building.

To open the program, Linda Eggbeer and Karen Smith presented a slide show to celebrate all that AAWGT has accomplished in the past 10 years. Founded in 2006 by a group of visionary women, AAWGT's mission has been to pool financial resources to engage in collective philanthropy to improve the lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County. Reflecting back on our first decade, there has been significant growth in both membership and grants, significant investments have been made in the community, our county has been educated and is better informed, and philanthropy has been inspired. Click [here](#) to see the slides presented at the meeting that capture the impact AAWGT has had on the community in its first decade.

AAWGT believes the most effective way to impact our community is targeting specific areas: education, homelessness, domestic abuse, food insecurity, and mental health. The robust process AAWGT applies to award grants asks community organizations to consider our mission and to address our goals in their application. Recipients of AAWGT grants are using these awards to fund specific programs, as well as to leverage larger grants. An AAWGT grant award is a testament to the impact many of our local nonprofits have on our community. AAWGT empowers its members to be engaged in our community, commit to excellence, embrace new opportunities, strengthen our voices, and have FUN while doing it!

Before the start of the program AAWGT's 2015 and 2016 grant awardees displayed information about their programs. The new 2016 grantees were introduced and then each of the 2015 grantees offered highlights of the impact their organization has had on our community as a result of receiving AAWGT's grant.

**Green Summer Works** partners with eight high schools and twelve employers to teach participating students job and leadership skills. Watch [these videos](#) to learn more about the program and what the kids say they've learned.

**Youth Suicide Action Team** started eight years ago. At that time, our county was reticent to talk about youth suicide. Now, schools, families, businesses, churches, and youth groups are asking team leaders to talk and provide insight throughout the county.

**Food Bank's Backpack Buddy** program more than doubled the number of children served from 2014 to 2015. Through the Backpack Buddy program, schools are able to provide healthier snacks and fresh produce for their students.

**Anne Arundel County Public Library's Discovery Dock** is a Family Literacy Play and Read space designed to provide a welcoming, engaging area where families can learn to build literacy skills.

**Center of Help / Centro de Ayuda's Leadership in Learning** graduated 15 students in the program last spring. These students now have the skills needed to continue expanding their English and reading proficiency both in school and with other community resources. The center also provides monthly English language classes for parents, encouraging better family communications and assimilation into the community.

**Food Link's Emergency Baby Pantry** provides diapers and formula, neither of which is covered by WIC. Babies who aren't properly diapered have impact even beyond the infant. Mothers feel like failures when they are unable to provide such basic needs for their infants, babies are miserable from being in dirty diapers, posing real health risks to the babies and stress to all members of the family.

**HOPE For All** received referrals from 20 county agencies last year for their Turning Houses Into Homes program. 290 families received supplies, including beds and linens, furniture and other household supplies to support a new start in a home.

**Rebuilding Together** successfully leveraged the \$15,000 grant to renovate 7 homes, which included replacing three roofs with an actual value of \$145,000. All of the renovation work is done by crews of volunteers and professionals donating their time and skill, wielding paint brushes and mops.

**Lighthouse Shelter Family Assistance Program** has resulted in reducing the average stay at the shelter from ten to six months. Their goal is to move client families toward independent living in as short a time as can be accomplished. This is a prevention imperative; current statistics show that 80% of kids who are homeless under the age of ten will be homeless as adults.

Submitted by Barb Cooke (new member 2016)

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## Support HOPE For All at the November Meeting

HOPE For All helps those families who have overcome homelessness, but have no funds or means to furnish their new apartments. The number of families being served by HOPE is more than a family each day, and is growing. AAWGT hopes those attending the November meeting will consider providing certain new, never-used items; personal items that help provide dignity for those who are establishing a new home. Your support of HOPE for All allows it to support more families as they transition into homes.

Here's what is needed:

- Sheets and blankets (twin, full and queen sizes)
- Towels
- Shower curtains
- Pots and pans
- Socks and underwear (children and adult sizes)

[Marilyn Lyons](#) (member since 2007)  
Member, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

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## Membership News

As of the end of September, we have 207 members, including 20 members who renewed and six new members who joined during the past two months:

Diane DiNardo  
Betsy Lewis

Beverly Macgowan  
Kristi Neidhardt

Joy Phillips  
Pam Zisselman

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[Click HERE to Join or Renew](#)

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## **Preview: Membership Committee Hosted Events**

The Membership Committee will host another Anne Arundel Women *Getting Together* event on Thursday, October 20 at 5:30 pm at Harry Browne's. As always, this informal, social gathering is open to all members.

Then on November 17, a Wine and Cheese event will be hosted at a member's home offering our newest members a chance to meet other members, learn more about the work of our Giving Circle, and ask questions. This is a by-invitation event and is open to members who have joined in the last 12 months, Membership Committee members and Steering Committee members.

### [Membership & Outreach Committee](#)

Sarah Morse, Chair (member since 2015)

Tanya St. John, Assistant Chair (member since 2014)

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## **Your Dollars at Work: Arundel Lodge**

This year's AAWGT grant to Arundel Lodge is being used to help pay for medical interpreters for the care of Hispanic youth.

Arundel Lodge has been providing mental health services in the community since 1975. Their mission is to improve the lives of children, adults and families impacted by mental health and substance use disorders. In November 2015, the Marcus Youth and Family Center at Arundel Lodge was opened to fill a void in Anne Arundel County and expand mental health services for youth 4 - 17 years of age and their families. Within ten months of opening the Center, more than 200 children are being served, about 33% of whom are Hispanic. Many of the parents/guardians of these children and some of the children themselves do not speak English, making it a challenge to provide care. Hispanics are the fastest growing, non-English speaking minority group in Anne Arundel County.

The odds faced by some of our community's Hispanic youth are enormous. But the potential to succeed, with help, is also great! We've heard stories of children as young as five years old traveling thousands of miles on their own to reach the US; running from sexual abuse or unwittingly running into it when they arrive.

There are children who come with romanticized notions of reunions with parents who left them behind many years ago, in search of a better life for their families, only to find that they don't fit into the new family dynamic. Many of these children are escaping gang violence and persecution and experiencing the grief of leaving home and coming to a foreign land, where everything is different -- the customs, food, people, climate, language. These children need care, attention, and an equal chance to succeed. This program provides the care, attention, and support they deserve and must receive. It is estimated that about 150 - 230 Hispanic children, in the Annapolis area alone, will require services this year.

Finding psychiatrists or nurse practitioners who specialize in children is difficult enough but finding professionals who are bilingual is almost impossible. Arundel Lodge has one Spanish-speaking therapist who can treat older children, but the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) who prescribes medications to children and the younger child therapists don't speak Spanish. In order to provide proper care including therapy and family involvement, obtaining parental consents, explaining proper medication use, side-effects, answering questions, plus follow-up for medication evaluation and management, and involving parents in the therapy process, Arundel Lodge needs to hire certified medical interpreters. The cost per appointment for an interpreter is approximately \$75 per hour plus travel. This is a non-reimbursable expense through any private or public insurance so AAWGT's grant to allow us to provide this service is critical.

*"The interpreter I had was wonderful. She was very professional and did a wonderful job translating. My client's father was, for the first time, able to understand his daughter's mental illness and ways that he could help her. He was also able to understand information provided about the medication she was prescribed." – Arundel Lodge Child Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner*

Tanya St. John (member since 2015)  
Arundel Lodge, Development Director

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## **Member Opportunities to Volunteer at Arundel Lodge**

Arundel Lodge is offering an opportunity to participate in two service projects:

**Interact:** Socialization is an important skill which helps develop and sustain relationships and one that many of us take for granted. Join with fellow AAWGT members and get to know several Arundel Lodge’s Day Program female clients, providing an opportunity to connect by being your social-self!

When: October 25, 9:30– 10:30 AM

Location: TBD

**Paint!** Arundel Lodge’s building is over 10 years old, and it’s time to refresh. Painting goes a long way to invigorating a space, uplifting spirits, and making people feel welcome. Please help paint a Day Program classroom, where life skill classes are provided to over one hundred clients Mondays – Thursdays.

When: Date and time to be confirmed, likely a Friday

Location: Arundel Lodge, Edgewater

If either of these projects peaks your interest, send an email to [Marilyn Lyons](#).

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## Grants Committee Looking for Reviewers, New and Experienced

As we begin to enjoy the cooler days and drink Pumpkin Spice lattes, you might be looking at your winter schedules and thinking about what opportunities there are for joining an AAWGT committee. While the Grants Committee meets during the fall months to gear up for the next grant application cycle, our team members might approach you to join the grants team! There is no better way to experience the mission of AAWGT than helping select the next grantees. Applications come from large and small non-profits in our county serving children and families in need of therapy for mental illness, dealing with domestic violence, serving the homeless . . . and so much more. Reading the applications and participating in review teams’ discussions about these organizations offers a chance to learn more about our county and its supporting non-profits.

The Grants cycle starts in January when we host a workshop for all potential applicants. Applications will be due on February 1, 2017, and then the reviewers get active. After everyone has read their assigned applications, the team forms a consensus on which applicants are worthy for continued consideration. Team leaders bring those consensus decisions to a meeting in early March and a list of selected applicants is created so that site visits to these organizations can be

arranged to answer further questions beyond the application information. In early April, team leaders meet once again to share the information learned from the site visits, and the list of organizations that will appear on the ballot for membership voting is finalized for the May monthly meeting. All reviewers are welcome and encouraged to join in the discussion of the team leader meetings.

This is a synopsis of our grants calendar, but if you are interested in learning more detail about the grant reviewer responsibilities, tasks and time commitments, and dates of meetings for this year's review process, please contact the Grants Committee's Chair, Caroline Purdy, or Assistant Chair, Sue Pitchford, at [grants@givingtogether.org](mailto:grants@givingtogether.org). They will send a calendar of meetings with descriptions and answer your questions. The Grants Committee is looking for both new and experienced reviewers for each review team. And for those who have reviewed in the past, we are especially in need of team leaders! Please let us know if you can serve in this role.

[Grants Committee](#)

Caroline Purdy, Chair (member since 2010)

Sue Pitchford, Assistant Chair (member since 2012)

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If either of these projects piques your interest, send an email to [Marilyn Lyons](mailto:Marilyn.Lyons).

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## Preview of Proposed Bylaws Amendments

The Governance Committee toiled through the summer's heat to compile several suggested improvements to AAWGT's principal governing document, our Bylaws. Members will soon receive a special email with the proposed amendments attached in preparation for the November 9 Membership Meeting, when a vote to accept these changes is scheduled. Proposed amendments cover topics like Lifetime Membership, the Treasurer's responsibilities, processes for approving expenses, authorization of a new committee, administrative changes that match the way we conduct business today, and minor grammatical corrections.

Members are invited to contact [governance@givingtogether.org](mailto:governance@givingtogether.org) with questions about these proposed changes.

[Governance Committee](#)

Martha Schwieters, Chair (member since 2008)

Julie Schuelke, Assistant Chair (member since 2007)

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## Leadership Opportunities

There are always leadership and committee opportunities with Anne Arundel Women Giving Together! Please consider joining us. If interested or for more information, contact [leadership@givingtogether.org](mailto:leadership@givingtogether.org).

[Leadership Development and Nominating Committee](#)

Lynn McReynolds, Chair LDN  
Dorothy D'Amato, Assistant Chair LDN

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## Founders' Award Nominations Due Soon!

Please help us recognize an extraordinary member who goes “above and beyond”! Click [here](#) for information on the award, past recipients and their contributions. Using [Founders' Award Guidelines](#) and [Nomination Form](#), submit your nominations for that special AAWGT member that you would like to recognize. Nominations are due to the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County by no later than Friday, October 14, 2016.

[Founders' Award Committee](#)  
Linda Eggbeer, Chair

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## Light House Lunchmaking 101

It only takes an hour! Once every month since 2008, 70 lunches are assembled and delivered to the Light House. For a donation of an hour of your time and a \$25 - \$35 contribution toward the shared food costs, you can take an active role in helping the homeless and others in need in our area. To register, click on a lunch making date on AAWGT's [calendar](#). And bring a friend -- it's a great way to see AAWGT in action.

[Light House Lunchmaking Committee](#)  
Karen Davis, Chair

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## What Our Members are Reading

In October, the book group will be reading *Riding the Bus With My Sister: A True Life Journey* by Rachel Simon.

In the ten years since Rachel Simon first invited the world to board the bus with her and her sister, Cool Beth, readers across the globe have been moved by

their story. Now, in an updated edition with fifty pages of new content, Rachel Simon reflects on changes in her life, Beth's life, and the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The highlight is Beth's update, which is in her own words. A new Reader's Guide is also included. Join these two unforgettable sisters on their journey, this time in an even deeper and richer way.

In the first article in this newsletter, we discuss examining the impact of AAWGT over the past ten years and how we intend to continue to explore how AAWGT can create the greatest positive impact, given our resources. [Community Engagement Matters \(Now More Than Ever\)](#) explores how community engagement is critical for any philanthropic effort, and that even with a large amount of money, staff, and data, inadequate community engagement will damage or eliminate positive impact.

[Mary Grace Folwell](#) (member since 2011)

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### Upcoming Events

- |                               |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 7 / Friday / 8:00 AM      | Steering Committee Meeting<br><i>(Steering Committee Members Only)</i>               |
| Oct 19 / Wednesday / 11:30 AM | <a href="#">General Meeting - Education</a>                                          |
| Oct 20 / Thursday / 5:30 PM   | Anne Arundel Women Getting Together                                                  |
| Oct 21 / Friday / 8:30 AM     | <a href="#">Light House Lunchmaking</a>                                              |
| Oct 26 / Wednesday / 7:00 PM  | <a href="#">Book Group Meeting:</a><br>Riding the Bus with my Sister: A True Journey |
| Nov 3 / Thursday / 8:30 AM    | <a href="#">Light House Lunchmaking</a>                                              |
| Nov 4 / Friday / 8:00 AM      | Steering Committee Meeting<br><i>(Steering Committee Members Only)</i>               |
| Nov 9 / Wednesday / 6:00 PM   | <a href="#">Business Meeting and Members' Forum</a><br><i>(Members Only)</i>         |

Nov 17 / Friday / 5:30 PM

New Member Wine & Cheese

Nov 30 / Wednesday / 7:00 PM

[Book Group Meeting](#): 2017 Planning

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### **Full Circle News Feedback**

The Full Circle News is published bi-monthly throughout the year. Suggestions, feedback and questions are welcome and can be sent to [marketing@givingtogether.org](mailto:marketing@givingtogether.org).

#### [Marketing & Communications](#)

Jenny Kottler, Chair (member since 2011)

Deb Schilling, Assistant Chair (member since 2013)