

Women's Giving Circle of Harford County January 2023 Newsletter



A Message from the Chair

Thanks to everyone who zoomed into our virtual General Membership meeting and Board Vote. I am honored to continue serving as Chair of the Women's Giving Circle. I am energized by the enthusiasm and talent of our incoming Board members and excited to have a portion of our Board continue their work over the next two years. The WGC Board from 2023 to 2025 is:

- Donna Kreis, *Chair*
- Bonnie Miranda, *Secretary*
- Kelley Pugh, *Treasurer*
- Kim Malat, *Past Chair*
- Hillary Smolenski, *Grant Committee Chair*
- Donna Kahoe, *Membership and Outreach Committee Chair*
- Debbie Lynch, *Communications Chair*

Our grant season is in full swing, and it is exciting to anticipate where our dollars will go. Thanks to your generosity, you make this philanthropy possible.

As we near the end of January, now is the perfect time to start a recurring donation of \$46 per month or \$21 per month (if under age 35) to spread your membership payments over the year. It's easy to set up and you'll never be late renewing your membership. Access the [Grapevine website by clicking on this link](#) and follow these [directions](#).

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Donna Kreis, Chair

Vice-Chair Wanted

Donna Kreis has graciously agreed to serve another term as Chair of the WGC; however, we are still in need of a Vice-Chair. This is an excellent and rewarding opportunity to get more involved with our circle.

Member's Choice Award

The Holiday Happy Hour, held on November 29th at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs was a great success and a big thank you to everyone who attended to help celebrate the season! One of the highlights of the event was the announcement of the Third Annual Member's Choice Award, an award funded by the endowment fund that is given to a local non-profit nominated and selected by the membership. While the vote among the nominees was close, the organization selected by the members to receive the award was....**The Brandon Tolson Foundation!** BTF was established in 2017 with the specific goal of providing assistance to local families who have suffered the sudden loss of a child, helping with things such as funeral expenses, medical expenses, lost wages, financial and/or legal advisors, and therapists/support groups. Nominated by new WGC member Debbie Lynch, BTF received \$5,518.28 from the WGC in furtherance of its mission. Congratulations to The Brandon Tolson Foundation and thank you to the members who took the time to nominate a deserving non-profit for the award!



Membership and Outreach Committee Update

As we start the new year, the Membership and Outreach Committee welcomes two new members; Sue Nappi and Jean Foulk, bringing our Committee membership up to 14, *woohoo!!* The Committee kicked off 2023 with a fun dinner meeting at Lemon N' Ginger to celebrate the "Year of the Rabbit"! The meeting got the Committee in gear by securing plans for a variety of events throughout the year, including service project(s) and an on-site with Grantee event. Watch for coming details in the WGC Newsletter, website and Facebook page.

As a fun twist on growing our membership, Sue Nappi has proposed the idea of a friendly competition between WGC members from Havre de Grace and Bel Air, to see which municipality area can secure the most new members! Although a prize was not mentioned for the winners, neither were rules - so GAME ON!!!

We're kicking off the year with our "**Spread the Love**" event February 26, 2023, from 2:00-4:00 pmat Bulle Rock Residence Club. Please invite a friend or two to join you and other WGC members for a lovely afternoon event to mingle, nibble, sip and learn about the WGC and what we do. We anticipate that a guest Grantee, or two, will also be joining us to share information about their programs as well. Look for the Evite with the rsvp link coming soon.

The Membership and Outreach Committee is always looking for input from members on growing and maintaining our membership, so please share your thoughts, concerns and ideas to wgcharfordmembership@gmail.com.

Donna Kahoe, Membership and Outreach Committee Chair

Grant Committee Update

On January 23rd, the Grant Committee hosted an online pre-application meeting for potential applicants to explain our grant process and timeline. The meeting was well attended by local non-profits, which always makes us happy to see such interest!

Speaking of interest, do you want to become more involved in the Women's Giving Circle, but don't know how? We would love to have you join us! Becoming part of the Grant Committee is a wonderful way to become more involved, meet fellow members and learn about the local non-profits. No prior experience is necessary! The time commitment is only five weeks between March and April in order to review the grants submitted. If you think this may be the right fit for you, please join us for the next online meeting on February 7th at 8 a.m. Please email Hillary at wgcharfordcogrants@gmail.com to get more information on the meeting or the committee.

The Committee is so excited that the 2023 grant window is now OPEN and applications are underway! Applications are due no later than 12 noon on March 10, 2023 so that the committee has sufficient opportunity to review them all. Reviews will be completed by the committee in April, with recommendations presented to the Board in May with grants awarded in June!

Hillary Smolenski, Grant Committee Chair

Women's Giving Circle of Harford County
2023 Grant Guidelines and Application

Grant Guidelines:

The Women's Giving Circle of Harford County (WGC) 2023 grant program assists a wide range of nonprofit organizations' projects and/or programs **directly** benefitting women, children, and/or families in Harford County.

The purpose of the program is to provide one-year grants of up to \$5,000 each to nonprofit organizations that provide services in Harford County, Maryland. Grant funds may be used for direct costs related to projects/programs, such as but not limited to, personnel, equipment, materials, supplies, and administration. The term of the award will begin on the date of the award letter (projected for June 2023). Awarded grant funds must be utilized during the term and fully expended by June 30, 2024.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must be a tax-exempt nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code providing services in Harford County. Proof of tax-exempt status will be required as part of the application by submitting the organization's 501(c)(3) determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service and status will be confirmed prior to awarding funds. Additional documentation may be requested if the organization's tax-exempt status cannot be determined.
2. Grant funds must be used to provide services in Harford County.

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Hillary Smolenski

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