



Women's Giving Circle of Harford County June 2022 Newsletter



And the Grantees Are...

It was great to finally gather together as a group at the Abingdon branch of the Harford County Public Library (HCPL) after a two-year hiatus for our May 11th general membership meeting and grant vote. We had 29 members attend and finally have an updated membership photo!

With this grant cycle, we reached a significant milestone in our 12th year of collective giving by awarding over a half million dollars in grants. Stay tuned for the formal public announcement of our grantees.

I was struck by the impact of our group when one of the HCPL employees who was helping us set up shared her story. One of our grants to Harford Family House made a difference in her life enabling her to get housing and attend Harford Community College. She was extremely grateful and said this had a lasting impact on her life, helping her and her son.

Thanks to [APGFCU](#) for sponsoring lunch and to [LAS Photography](#) for taking pictures.

Donna Kreis, Chair





WGC Featured on Podcast: Conversations with Rich Bennett

News Flash! The Women's Giving Circle was featured on Harford County Living's Podcast: [Conversations with Rich Bennett: Engaging Women Of All Generations In The Power Of Community Philanthropy](#). Kim Malat, Past Chair, and I had the pleasure of chatting with Rich about all things WGC. I encourage you to check out other [Conversations with Rich Bennett podcasts](#) which feature our grantees, most recently Katelyn Shephard, the Executive Director of Homecoming Project, and Jordan Lally and Tara DeCapite of the Ed Lally Foundation, as well as our members, Michelle Karczeski, who is running for Clerk of Court in Harford County, Maryland, and Kathy Burley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Donna Kreis, Chair

Grant Committee Update

There is plenty to be grateful for this month on the grants committee. We have indeed had a busy and successful year. The Women's Giving Circle of Harford County awarded \$54,460.50 in grants to 14 nonprofits in the county in 2022, bringing its cumulative giving to more than a half-million dollars--\$504,682.86--in its first 12 years. We awarded one new nonprofit an award this year, The Ed Lally Foundation. The Ed Lally Foundation received a \$2,000 grant to support the inaugural Harford County Women's Mindfulness Retreat, which focuses on mental health and suicide prevention. Please be on the lookout for an upcoming press release at the end of the month with the complete list of awardees, thanks to Theresa Wiseman. We appreciate Theresa's continued support of the Women's Giving Circle and willingness to coordinate the press releases.

Our grants committee is to be commended for their time and effort in the reviews and selections of the grant pool. Through the efforts of these 16 women and our granting process, your funds are strategically awarded to

pool. Through the efforts of these 10 women and our granting process, your funds are strategically awarded to maximize their effectiveness. Thank you to the Executive Board, Kim Malat, Rosemary King-Johnston, and the technical review committee for their guidance and support during this season. Thank you to our new members, Judy Antisdel, Maria Dontas, Beth Rebuck, Hillary Smolenski, and Debby Stathes for their willingness to review and try something new. We hope you are just as excited for next year's grant cycle. And thanks to our seasoned reviewers, Ronnie Davis, Sally Edler, Jean Foulk, Tricia Horst, Lynne LaCalle, Alice Welsh Leeds, Kathi Santora, and Terry Troy for your continued support of the grants review process. Thanks to our Treasurer, Monica Worrell, for her stewardship and distribution of our membership funds to grantees.

My personal thank you to Sarah Ortiz-Brown, co-chair of the grants committee. We regret to inform you that she will be stepping down as co-chair this June, and I thank her for her efforts and support over the past year and a half. You will be missed!

Last but not least, thank all of you for your contributions to this year's grant pool. The agencies that do the hard work of providing opportunities for women and children rely on our continued support to make their missions achievable. They were all significantly impacted as a result of COVID-19, and because of you, we are able to make a notable impact on hundreds of women and families in 2022. Kudos to you! The power of collective philanthropy knows no limit.

Sara Burley
Grants Committee Chair



Membership and Outreach Committee Update

Earlier this spring, we held a Member Mingle at MaGerk's in Bel Air to celebrate our current members of the WGC! It was a nice gathering and opportunity to connect new and returning members. We were joined by guest speaker Neala Lancellotti, Development Director at SARC, who spoke passionately about the organization and their newest areas of focus. On behalf of SARC, she extended her gratitude to the WGC and highlighted the impact that our support has had over the years. Special thanks to all who attended!

Callout for Venues and Sponsors!

Callout for venues and sponsors:

Whether we are gathering our membership, showcasing our grantees, or recruiting new members, we are always looking for event venues and sponsors! If you have access to an event space and/or connections to a potential sponsor, we would love to hear from you! Please email us at wgcharfordmembership@gmail.com.

We hope you will continue spreading the word across your networks and sharing the WGC love in 2022! Stay tuned for upcoming event information and opportunities to invite prospective members to mix and mingle with the current membership. More to come in the summer and fall!

Allison Cuneo & Donna Kahoe
Membership & Outreach Committee Co-chairs

Women's Giving Circle of Harford County / P.O. Box 94 / Bel Air, MD 21014

