



ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN  
GIVING TOGETHER

## FULL CIRCLE NEWS

April / May 2016

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### Giving Together

In the last several months and in the months ahead, AAWGT events are highlighting different ways of giving.

In February, Tonier Cain shared her story of transforming her early life of trauma, drug abuse, prostitution, arrests, and convictions to a life dedicated to encouraging service providers to learn about trauma-informed care and use it to better reach and treat people affected by trauma.

In March, a panel of philanthropists shared their perspectives on the continuing evolution of philanthropy, which they described as more democratic, more strategic, more collective, and more focused on impact. Many of their ideas can guide AAWGT and each of us individually in our giving. Our speakers provided us with a rich and diverse set of resources, the link to which can be found in this newsletter. One article discusses philanthropy as a means of encouraging civic engagement and connection. In this vein, we continue to design our AAWGT events to serve as a means to foster connections among members and among the broader community.

In April, AAWGT will host training for members and non-members on a very critical issue in Anne Arundel: suicide awareness. The Youth Suicide Awareness Action Team, funded by AAWGT to provide training to school children and adults throughout the county, will provide an opportunity for us to learn how to be prepared to help a person in need.

Our April 6 meeting highlights membership – an evening where a few members share stories about why they joined AAWGT and what participating in the giving circle has meant to them. If you are interested in learning more, please join us that evening!

Members: remember to vote for the slate of grantees in May. You can vote in person at the meeting on May 11 or in advance by email or fax. Registration information and instructions will be sent by email. This is your chance to work collectively with the 200 members of AAWGT to allocate over \$100,000 in grants to organizations seeking to improve the lives of women and their families in Anne Arundel County. This is the essence of our organization – giving together!

There are so many different ways to give treasure, time and talent. Learning about the issues and building human connections can inform our ability to give and to make a difference in our community. We are all philanthropists!

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

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## Monthly Meetings: What's Coming Up

### ***April 6 Preview: Spring Open House***

Our Spring Open House is the one general meeting of the year where we put the emphasis on YOU! Please bring a friend and enjoy a lovely reception along with first-hand stories from AAWGT members. Whether you are or are not a member, come to hear: **why** women join the Giving Circle, **what** motivates them to be involved in their community, and **how** we are making a difference in the lives of families in Anne Arundel County. There will be light fare, including Loews Annapolis Hotel's wonderful crab dip, and a cash bar.

### ***April 21 Preview: Spring Field Trip*** **Suicide Prevention Seminar: QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)**

This seminar is graciously offered free of charge by our 2015 grantee, Anne Arundel County Mental Health Association, Youth Suicide Awareness Program, and will be led by Alli Holstrom, Chair of Anne Arundel County's Youth Suicide Awareness Action Team and a certified QPR Trainer. QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is a simple educational program that teaches how to recognize someone experiencing a suicidal ideation or a mental health crisis and how to get a person at risk the help they need. It has been used to train professionals who deal with the public, but it is just as important that parents, friends, neighbors, even teens, learn to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide. There is a limit of 50 attendees, with registration offered first to members until April 6. After that date, registration will be open to the general public.

Participants can expect to learn to:

- Understand the issue of suicide including current data and statistics;
- Recognize the warning signs of suicide; and
- Ask questions of a person at risk and make a positive intervention, access help and save a life.

The session will delve deeply into the issue of youth suicide in Anne Arundel County and discuss findings and recommendations from the recent University of Memphis study. CEUs are available.

**May 11 Preview: Grants Voting Meeting** *(Members only)*

Please join us to cast your vote in the selection of the 2016 AAWGT Grantees. This year we will award over \$100,000 to area nonprofits. Members will receive an email on the first week in May with descriptions of the 2016 grant applicant finalists, and complete instructions for voting. The meeting will be hosted at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church at 730 Bestgate Road from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

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## Monthly Meetings: Review of Recent Meetings

**February 10 Recap: Breaking The Cycle  
Where There is Breath, There is Hope**

After the AAWGT Education meeting on February 10, everyone knew Tonier Cain. For almost an hour, Tonier brilliantly shared with a group of over 100 women the lows and highs of her life, balancing the details of her tragic past with humor. And she was funny! After living on the streets for 19 years as a prostitute, addicted to crack cocaine and alcohol, and living without hope, Tonier now travels the country and the world as a vocal, effective advocate of Trauma Informed Care. She credits the trauma therapy that she received in the last of many of her prison stays for saving her and [\[read more\]](#)

**March 13 Recap: Annual Women & Leadership Event  
The Emerging Face of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Philanthropy**

AAWGT's Women & Leadership Forum on Sunday, March 13 exemplified our commitment to educate our members about issues that will help us all become better informed decision-makers when targeting our grant dollars and more effective and engaged philanthropists in our own lives. "Female, focused, and fearless" were the words chosen to open our discussion on the future of philanthropy. [\[read more\]](#)

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## Membership News

Fourteen new members joined and 36 established members renewed their membership from February 1 through March 31, 2016.

**New Members:** Mary Adams, Stealey Ashley, Terry Berg, Betsy Chotin, Amy Clements, Margaret Davis, Kate Fritz, Lisa Kittner, Viki Liscinsky, Marion Matthews, Janis Rotner, Ann Schweitzer, Margo Speciale and Nila Jean Spencer.

**Renewing Members:** Margie Axtell, Alpine Bird, Marie Brockhurst, Reid Buckley, Heidi Busch, Susan Cartney, Susan Cook, Thelma DeLaGrange, Ginger DeLuca, Lori DeRose, Diane Evans, Kathy Flynn, Nancy Greene, Barbara Haight, Nancy Haiman, Barbara Hoffstein, Sally Iadarola, Lois Kelberman, Betsy Kimrey, Nancy Kling, Molly Knipe, Helen Krone, Eve-Marie Lacroix, Ellen Lucas, Judy Moore, Sarah Morse, Susan Nolte, Lilly Openshaw, Margaret Rauh, Noelle Richmond, Barbara Santos, Phyllis Saroff, Sandy Sweeney, Marilyn Sweetser, Louise Thomas and Janet West.

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Click [HERE](#) to Join or Renew

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

Early this year, the Membership Committee launched "Anne Arundel Women *Getting Together*" with two events, one in February and one in March. Both were small, informal gatherings allowing for great conversation and questions.

We hope many of AAWGT's members - new and not-so-new - will attend two upcoming "*Getting Together*" events, scheduled for April 21 and May 19 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. New members are encouraged to arrive at 5:30, and others are encouraged to join at 6:00 PM. These informal gatherings are for members to see friends and make new connections in our community. Someone from the Membership Committee will always be there to welcome everyone. Mark your calendar to Get Together:

Thursday, April 21, 5:30 – 7:00 PM  
Red Red Wine, 189 Main Street, Annapolis

Thursday, May 19, 5:30 – 7:00 PM  
Severn Inn, 1993 B&A Blvd, Annapolis

On March 9, the Membership Committee was pleased to welcome several new AAWGT members at a New Member Coffee. Each participant shared a bit about her background and reasons for joining AAWGT, and Steering Committee members discussed upcoming events and ways to become an active and engaged AAWGT member. Our thanks to Karen Davis for hosting this lovely event for a second time!

## [Membership & Outreach Committee](#)

Sarah Morse, Chair  
Tanya St. John, Assistant Chair

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## 2016 Grant Reviewers Hard at Work

After the wonderful panel discussion at our March 13 Forum, AAWGT's local community investments are on everyone's mind. You may have already started to think about our impact. Twenty-five AAWGT grant reviewers have been working diligently to objectively review and determine which of the applications received will provide the best return on your investment. The applications reflect a wide range of support services. Four teams of reviewers use AAWGT's mission statement and grant guidelines to guide their discussions and evaluations. Applications are judged on how effectively the program will meet the expected goals and outcomes. Site visits have begun to address final questions that remain: Does the program and staff have the resources and capability to execute the program? Is the organization financially sound? What will be the impact on the lives of the people the program serves? These questions must be sufficiently answered as the review team prepares the final list of applications for membership consideration at the May 11 meeting.

## [Grants Committee](#)

Caroline Purdy, Chair  
Sue Pitchford, Assistant Chair

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## The CFAAC and AAWGT Relationship

*Note: This story is re-appearing in this newsletter since the link to the complete story in the previous newsletter was incorrect.*

It sounds like alphabet soup! Are you aware that Anne Arundel Women Giving Together is a fund of the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (CFAAC)? What does that mean? What services does the CFAAC provide for AAWGT and what, in turn, does AAWGT provide to the Foundation? Melissa Curtin, Executive Director of CFAAC, and a member of AAWGT, agreed to shed some light on these questions.

What is the relationship between CFAAC and AAWGT? CFAAC is the 501(c)(3) "parent" of AAWGT and operates like all other nonprofits with a Board of Trustees, fundraising responsibilities and other related nonprofit activities. CFAAC is building a permanent source of funds dedicated to address our community's needs today and tomorrow. AAWGT is a component fund of the Foundation, one of 90 funds CFAAC

manages. The current total for assets managed at CFAAC is \$7.1 million and AAWGT holds 2.5% of the total. The founders of AAWGT recognized that the missions of CFAAC and the giving circle were in alignment. There are currently two giving circles – AAWGT and NextGen which is a giving circle for women and men under age thirty-five. CFAAC is now in the exploratory stages of creating an African American giving circle.

So does AAWGT have its own, separate 501(c)(3) status? No, AAWGT is not a separate corporation or organization. Each year, AAWGT reviews and signs an annual administrative agreement with CFAAC that outlines each party's responsibilities for the partnership for the year. Because CFAAC does have 501(c)(3) status and a corporate existence, contribution checks and checks to grantees are made to and from CFAAC. It also maintains the State of Maryland Registration for Charitable Organizations.

What does CFAAC do for AAWGT? CFAAC administers and manages three separate funds for AAWGT: the Grants Fund, the Expense Fund, and the Endowment Fund. It receives and deposits the 200+ annual membership contributions and fees, and pays the bills for the costs related to AAWGT's meetings, software, and other expenses. CFAAC also processes the checks for grantees and, along with AAWGT leadership, manages the Endowment Fund. As part of its 501(c)(3) responsibilities, CFAAC includes AAWGT's processes, contributions and expenses (including grants) in CFAAC's tax filings which are audited each year. The Foundation also provides insurance and a legal umbrella for AAWGT, vets grantees to ensure they are legally registered and in good standing, assists with donor relations, marketing and communications, and grant administration. Melissa meets with the AAWGT leadership team regularly to stay abreast of upcoming events and to identify relevant collaborative opportunities.

Can you tell us a little more about the AAWGT Endowment? The AAWGT Endowment was established in 2010 by a generous anonymous donor with the exclusive purpose of providing its earnings to the AAWGT annually in perpetuity. The initial \$25,000 donation to the Endowment Fund has since quadrupled to \$100,000 thanks to donations from members and friends of AAWGT. The annual distribution to the Grants Fund varies depending on the Foundation's spend rate for the year. The spend rate is recommended by CFAAC's Asset Management Committee and approved by CFAAC's Board of Trustees. For the past several years, the distribution has been around \$3,500 a year. In the event of the dissolution of AAWGT, the funds in the Endowment would go to support, as closely as possible, the original intent of the Endowment's founder, at the discretion of the CFAAC Board of Trustees.

How does AAWGT pay for CFAAC services? CFAAC charges a special reduced fee to manage, support and administer the Grant and Expense Funds. A separate fee,

which is a small percentage of the average total amount in the fund, is charged to manage the Endowment Fund.

[Melissa Curtin](#), CFAAC Executive Director

A final comment from AAWGT: At the formation of the Giving Circle, the founders came to the conclusion that becoming a fund of the Community Foundation was the most efficient, cost-effective way to function as a grant-making organization. Over the past ten years, members of the Steering Committee have periodically reviewed our arrangement with CFAAC and have concluded that it continues to work well for us. Not only do we receive a tremendous amount of organizational support from the Foundation but we are also able to take advantage of the broad and deep connections CFAAC enjoys with the charitable and philanthropic community in Anne Arundel County. AAWGT is fortunate to have such a mutually beneficial partnership as we pursue our goals to improve the lives of women and families in our community.

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## Your Dollars At Work:

### Youth Suicide Awareness (YSA) Action Team

In 2008, in the wake of a devastating string of youth suicides, the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children Youth and Families, in collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, spearheaded the founding of a community-based collaborative of citizens, County agencies and other child-serving organizations to address this issue on a broad scale. This group, now known as the Youth Suicide Awareness (YSA) Action Team, meets monthly and is over 100 individuals strong with representation from over twenty County and community agencies and organizations.

In the first few years of operation, YSA brought QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention gatekeeper training to over 20,000 citizens in our community including parents, teachers, coaches, mentors, students, nurses, faith leaders, and other county residents. They worked closely with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to find and incorporate “Lifelines,” a new mental health curriculum with an emphasis on suicide prevention, into middle and high-school health classes. The YSA also built partnerships with AACC’s TEACH Institute and Parenting Center, Building Life, and the Maryland Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to bring education and awareness around this crucially important issue to every corner of our vast and diverse county.

The YSA has been able to sustain and grow its presence in the community and increase its impact and reach over the last three years thanks to grant funds from

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together. Eight years into this journey, YSA finds itself strong and robust with a myriad of initiatives planned for the coming months.

YSA continues to work closely with researchers at the University of Chicago and the University of Memphis on a Suicide Bereavement Study that is hoped will help shed light on the issue of suicide contagion in the community and will better focus YSA's efforts going forward.

YSA's training roster now includes Mental Health First Aid for Youth, Counseling on Access to Lethal Means, and Kids at Hope. These important trainings are offered at little to no cost to the community. YSA's website continues to grow as a valuable local resource on suicide prevention education. The organization's smartphone app mirrors the website and provides easy-to-access information and crisis resource links.

On April 7 YSA will host the first of several sessions in our Military Behavioral Health event series to help combat the growing number of suicide losses among service members.

As YSA continues to grow its partnerships with local private schools, they continue to work with parents and community members across the county to address issues of coping, resiliency and mental health for all youth.

The YSA has made tremendous strides in shifting the conversation around youth suicide, raising awareness and changing the culture in our community. It is only through the continued efforts of YSA members, community partners and funders – like AAWGT – that YSA is able to continue this important work protecting the lives and futures of our teens and young adults.

Written by [Alli Holstrom](#), Chair YSA

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## Light House Lunchmaking 101

AAWGT members gather monthly to make 70 brown-bag lunches for the Light House. This is a great opportunity to do something good for the community, to get to know other AAWGT members, and to introduce a friend to a small group of AAWGT members. These hour-long gatherings are hosted in a member's home. The host assembles the items needed to prepare the lunches and those participating in the lunchmaking each contribute \$25 to \$35 to cover the actual cost. Send an [email](#) to get on the first notification list or watch for opportunities to participate on the website or in this newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

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| April 6 / Wed / 6:30 PM    | <a href="#">Spring Open House</a>   |
| April 11 / Wed / 9:00 AM   | <a href="#">Light House Lunchmaking</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>   |
| April 20 / Wed / 7:00 PM   | <a href="#">Book Group: Doing Good Great</a>  |
| April 21 / Thurs / 9:00 AM | <a href="#">Spring Field Trip</a> : <i>(Limited registration)</i><br>Youth Suicide Prevention Seminar (QPR) |
| April 21 / Thurs / 5:30 PM | <a href="#">Women Getting Together</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>  |
| May 11 / Wed / 6:00 PM     | <a href="#">Grant Voting Meeting</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>  |
| May 18 / Wed / 9:00 AM     | <a href="#">Light House Lunchmaking</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>   |
| May 19 / Thurs / 5:30 PM   | <a href="#">Women Getting Together</a> <i>(Members Only)</i>  |
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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  
Deb Schilling, Assistant Chair