



Anne Arundel Women Giving Together

AAWGT Newsletter

September 2009

Happy End of Summer!

In May, we asked our members to give us feedback by completing a survey. Thanks to Marketing & Communication Chair Julie Crudele, who compiled the surveys, the results are now in. About 50% of our members responded, which points to a healthy and engaged group. And of the 58 who responded, 46 said that their expectations were being met well or very well.

Why do women belong to AAWGT? Overwhelmingly, 56 respondents said it was to "participate in hand-on philanthropy" and 30 said that it was to "learn about the needs of women and families," followed by "social interaction/networking and "the opportunity to learn about philanthropy." Some commented, "AAWGT has built a terrific organization and I am happy to be a part of it" and "I love AAWGT: it is a fabulously talented, energetic & 'positively minded' group of women. I am proud to be a member! "

Also, AAWGT members told us that you prefer morning or a mix of morning/evening meetings and suggested a long list of topics you'd like to hear about in upcoming programs. You also said that you prefer electronic communication. We hear you and we will plan accordingly!

Thanks to everyone who filled out the survey. The results will be used to shape programs and priorities for the coming year. For those of you who didn't have a chance to respond, please feel free to share your thoughts in an email or over the phone. We love hearing from our members!

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Stewart, President
stews@mindspring.com

Lynne Davidson, Vice President

lynnedav@aol.com



Help [Anne Arundel Women Giving Together](#) grow and share our good work: please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends.

**September 9th
General Meeting at Maryland Hall
8:30-10:00 AM**

Topic: Can arts programming really create a positive impact on the lives of at risk youth?

How does arts programming help at risk youth? What problems does it help them overcome? What types of arts programs are available in our community? How do the artists, teachers and mentors who lead these programs define goals and measure success? How are these programs funded? At our September meeting, we will have the opportunity to explore this topic with two dynamic leaders from our local arts community: Rob Levit and Kirsten Elstner.

Kirsten Elstner is the Director of VisionWorkshops which provides after-school mentoring programs in photography and writing to help young people "find their voice and tell their own stories." VisionWorkshops serves youth from underserved communities in Anne Arundel County with a special focus on the Hispanic population as well as youth from the Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts.

Rob Levit is an arts integration specialist who founded Creating Communities to foster creativity and the arts for the underserved with a focus on elementary school children, hospital patients and adults with mental illness. In 2008, Creating Communities received an Innovative Program Award from the Volunteer Center of Anne Arundel County for

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Who We Help

Centro de Ayuda

Mama Sana Program

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland

Project Antiviolence Education (PAVE)

Girls on the Run (GOTRA)

Essential life skills to girls in grades 3 through 8.

Maryland Therapeutic Riding

Horses for Hope

Partners in Care Maryland, Inc.

Volunteer Program to

developing the Arts Mentorship Academy which serves the Clay Street Community in Annapolis.

Directions to Maryland Hall, 801 Chase Street, Annapolis

From SPA CIRCLE (where West St., Taylor Ave., and Spa Rd. converge) head towards downtown Annapolis on WEST ST. Take the first RIGHT onto AMOS GARRETT BLVD. Turn RIGHT onto CONSTITUTION AVE. Maryland Hall is straight ahead.

Or go to www.marylandhall.org for additional directions.

"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for." - Georgia O'Keeffe

Grantees in the News:

Partners in Care will celebrate their 15th birthday on Saturday, Sept. 12th at Chartwell Country Club in Severna Park with a dinner, music and some fun events. For only \$50 you can come and have a lovely dinner with a choice of steak, salmon or vegetarian pasta and support this wonderful organization. Please consider attending and inviting some friends! To sign up, call 410-544-4800 410-544-4800 .

Maryland Therapeutic Riding was featured prominently on the NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams on July 31. The segment for "Making A Difference" was filmed at the MTR farm in Crownsville and was narrated by Nora O'Donnell. Go to MSNBC to watch a webcast!

Here's a direct link:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#32244202>

Upcoming AAWGT Events and Meetings - Save the Date!

October 14: 6-8 PM

Membership and Outreach Event at Chartwell Country Club in Severna Park

Details and directions in the next issue of the Newsletter.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

drive women 55 and older

Sarah's House

Fun Learning at Sarah's House (FLASH)

YWCA

Affordable technology training

"Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions." - - Harold Geneen

Highlights of our 2009 Member Survey

Why do you belong to AAWGT? Opportunity to participate in hands-on philanthropy (56); opportunity to learn about the needs of women and families (30); social interaction and networking opportunities (22); opportunity to learn about philanthropy (13)

Are your expectations being met? Well or very well (46)

What are your communication preferences? Email (56), e-newsletter (36), general meetings (29), special events (20), committee meetings (15), website (15)

What is your participation in meetings? Generally attend (33). If not, usually because of conflicts (27), or scheduled time doesn't work for me (25)
Preferred meeting times? morning (20), mix of all (19), evening (9)

How about committees? Satisfied or very satisfied (57)

How first heard about AAWGT? Most first learned of AAWGT from a friend or current member (50), followed by a newspaper article (2)

Participation in AAWGT activities? Member Events: Participated in (47), joined as a result (16), invited guests (35), guests joined (19).

New member orientations: good idea (35)

Programs: considered "very informative."

Additional suggested topics are: issues affecting older women and the aging population; health topics; programs for developmentally disabled; "non-profit trends;" ABAG; economic impact on nonprofits and their service delivery; transportation (especially for underprivileged and elderly).

Field Trips: 15 participated in Service Day (Partners in Care), visited Light House Shelter, CASA Graduation.

Suggested other activities for AAWGT? Once a year "young person" volunteer activity or reception; hands-on participation like community art projects with kids or therapeutic riding, trips to North County and West County charities.

Suggestions for improvement? Reach out to younger members; explore multi-year grants; continue rigorous grant review process.

Thanks again to all who responded. You are helping us build an even better organization.

How you can Help AAWGT:

The Marketing Committee is seeking:

1. a graphic designer to help with an AAWGT style guide
2. a marketing-publications event support person to design, redesign and coordinate printing invitations and work with team to make sure all collateral is available for upcoming events.

The Education and Program Committee is seeking people interested in creating interesting and informational programs on AA County needs/issues for AAWGT.

AAWGT is seeking an events planner.

If you could help in any of these areas, please contact Sharon Stewart (stews@mindspring.com) or Lynne Davidson (Lynnedav@aol.com).

If you are interested in other volunteer activities, visit the Volunteer Center of AAC at www.VolunteerAnneArundel.org.

Grants Showcase

The 2009 Grants Showcase held on June 10th was a great success. The St. John's College Hodson Boathouse provided a beautiful venue for a lively and informative social evening that brought together AAWGT members and representatives from each of our 2009 grantee organizations. Following refreshments, representatives from each of the organizations spoke, describing the missions of their programs and thanking AAWGT for the support they had received.

Members! This is the annual event that celebrates our achievements, so plan ahead to attend the 2010 Showcase next June. Look for more information in future issues of the Newsletter.



Lynne Davidson and Sharon Stewart with representative from Sarah's House



Sarah's House Exhibit



Centro de Ayuda Exhibit

THANKS to:

- St. John's College for the use of this lovely location
- M&T Bank for ongoing support, especially Nick Lambrow and AAWGT member Mary Frances Isakov
- Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County for hosting AAWGT as one of its philanthropic funds... and to CFAAC Executive Director Bess Langbein and Board members Martha Blaxall, Anna Greenberg, Becki Kurdle, Harley Flack, Karen Whaley, Veronica Tovey and President Dave Cyphers for attending.
- Grant Chair Roylene Roberts and co-chair Kathy Potter who headed up the

grant review and managed our grants program - and our main purpose for being - AND to all who served as grant reviewers this year.

- Post-Grants Committee Chair Barbara Hoffstein and co-chair Julie Schulke and committee members, for staying connected with our grantees during the next program year
- Education and Program Committee for heading up this effort, coordinating food and all logistics for the event tonight: Chair Prue Clendenning and Co-Chair Laurie Sharp and members Carole Falk, Barbara Mohrman, Barbara Firebaugh
- Special thanks to Carole Alexander and Suzie Moore for flowers and decorating
- Marketing Committee for laying the groundwork with invitations, public relations and event support; Chair Julie Crudele and Co-chair Amy Steindler
- Special thanks to "honorary member" Dave Roberts, husband of Grants Chair Roylene Roberts, for his photography
- Membership Committee for behind the scenes coordination and event support, headed up by Chair Martha Hoyer, co-chair Diane Miller and member Susan Nolte
- Leadership and Development Committee for welcoming our newest members and serving as greeters for this event: Chair Kathy Brooks, co-chair Therese Gardner and member Gloria Martin-Pressman
- Secretaries Karen Davis and Bronwyn Belling and Treasurer Barb Novak for keeping us organized and helping with sign in, name tags and in many other ways
- The many other AAWGT members who supported the event this evening, including Bee Billups, Tara Clifford, Nancy Kling, and Eleanor Huggins.

To all who attended: we thank you for that spirit of generosity, which when combined with the force of those here in this room, multiplies one hundredfold. Together, we are effecting real and powerful improvements for women and families in Anne Arundel County.

Steering Committee Retreat

On Saturday, July 11th, the AAWGT Steering Committee (officers and committee chairs) met in a day-long "retreat/advance" to discuss accomplishments and challenges for the organization and to begin planning for 2010.

AAWGT is grateful to our incredible facilitator, Terry Edwards, who provided pro bono services and energized the group with her creative and interactive facilitation style. Thank you also to Bess Langbein, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, for participating, along with several AAWGT committee members who helped with discussions: Martha Blaxall of Post Grants Evaluation, Randi Hogan of Marketing and Communications, Susan Walker of Policies and Procedures, and Barbara Mohrman of Education and Program.

Some of the discussions that will be a part of our planning for next year included:

1. Developing more hands-on volunteer opportunities and site visits,
2. Developing livelier, interactive and more technology-savvy formats for events and educational programs,
3. Developing a database to collect more information about our grantees,
4. Expanding the diversity - both age and ethnicities - of our group, and
5. Expanding our use of technology by revamping our website and moving to more online activities.

Also, stay tuned for the 2010 schedule of activities - we will be refining them over the next couple of months and then providing the schedule to all members.

First Annual AAWGT Picnic held August 2 at Turnings Farm

Special thanks to Martha Blaxall and Joe Dickey for hosting the picnic at their beautiful farm! Despite the threat of rain, a great time was had by all!



Bob Stewart, Lester and Lynda Salamon



Having fun at the Picnic!



Barbara Mohrman and Lynne Davidson

RENEW YOUR AAWGT MEMBERSHIP!

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your check as soon as possible.

To increase membership, we have created a new "Associate Member" category, which invites women 35 and younger to participate for one-half the cost of a regular membership. If you have questions about your membership contribution, please feel free to call Treasurer Barb Novak at (410) 224-2528 (410) 224-2528 .

Membership forms can be found on our website, www.givingtogether.org.

Remember: By pooling our resources, your annual AAWGT contribution is multiplied 100 times or more!

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new AAWGT members:

- Ki Walsh Baldwin
- Jory Bender
- Marie Brigham, M.D.
- Kimberly Brown, Ph.D.
- Patricia Mary Clare Brown
- Cathy Hockel
- Randi Hogan
- Carol Johnson
- Jeannie Kruidenier
- Madelyn Schaefer

Please make a special effort to welcome our new members if you meet them at one of our meetings.

Contact Information

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together
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(410) 280-1102 (410) 280-1102

AAWGT is a non-denominational, non-partisan group that welcomes all interested women.

Website: www.givingtogether.org

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