Spring meeting and grantees update

The Spring meeting of the Women’s Giving Circle on April 27th at The Pines Country Club was a wonderful opportunity for members and their guests to mingle and learn about the impact our organization’s grants are having in our community. Hearing progress reports from our grantees was absolutely inspiring and an affirmation that the grants are being well utilized.

Kayla Taylor-Benson, the Development Coordinator at Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center told us about the many children and families that are helped through MCCAC services. The organization serves as a sophisticated venue in which children who have been abused or neglected are interviewed in a caring and compassionate manner allowing law enforcement and others in the child welfare system to observe the interaction. Children are therefore not required to repeatedly communicate their painful stories. The MCCAC offers extensive therapy, both individually and in group settings to aid the healing process. [http://www.moncocac.org/](http://www.moncocac.org/)

Monongalia Starting Points “Adventurous Girls” program serves 4th and 5th graders at Mylan Park Elementary School. The girls, recommended by teachers and counselors as a result of their at risk status, meet at school during recess and lunch on a regular basis to develop social skills and build comraderies. WGC grant funds have assisted the program in providing numerous afterschool activities. The girls have enjoyed Ropes and climbing activities, water sports and become acquainted with horses, learning a bit about horsemanship. Meanwhile they have learned the importance of peer support and built self-confidence. Go girls!

LIBERA’s Karen Haring explained that the organization, which parks a small bus at publically accessible parking lots throughout our region, provides an opportunity for women experiencing physical or emotional abuse to be mentored in a safe, protected environment. Our grant dollars have been used to assist in the training of more mentors; Karen stressed the importance of listening skills, which the training emphasizes. [http://www.liberawv.com/](http://www.liberawv.com/)

Madison Thompson of The Society of Women Engineers explained that our funding of the Girl Scouts program allows more SWE members at WVU to attend career fairs in regions of the country that they otherwise could not afford. This allows exposure to companies that may not travel to our region and results in internships and potential permanent jobs. Girl Scout Day, hosted by SWE provides hands on science and engineering opportunities for primary school girls. The girls earn their petals and badges through such activities and hopefully learn to love science and math, too. [http://swe.orgs.wvu.edu/](http://swe.orgs.wvu.edu/)

WGC funds really do make a difference to our grantees and the women and girls that they serve. To meet and greet so many women at the Spring meeting was invigorating. We certainly hope our guests will join us as the Women’s Giving Circle continues to make an impact through charitable giving. 😊
Summer Soiree

Summer Soiree at the Hotel Morgan's Montmartre Restaurant

On July 28th the WGC members and guests enjoyed the delightful venue and speaker Laurie Abildso, Executive Director of Girls on the Run of NCWV (GOTR). Laurie shared with us the impact of the WGC dollars at work in providing 17 scholarships to third through fifth grade girls to participate in the program. We learned how the GOTR encourages girls to recognize their individual strengths and celebrate connections with others. The girls in the program learn the value of teamwork and healthy relationships and how they can have a positive influence on the world. Physical activity is woven into the program to inspire an appreciation for fitness and healthy habits. Seeing numerous photos of girls with lots of smiles inspired us all!

Mark Your Calendars

WGC Annual Meeting — Thursday, September 21st at 6pm at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Conference Center at Mon General Hospital. Details to follow.

November Grant Voting Meeting — Thursday, November 2nd at 6pm at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Conference Center at Mon General Hospital.

RSVP to Jean Clark at jcc12sw@frontier.com

Some words from our President,

Beth Fuller on the founding of the Women's Giving Circle of North Central West Virginia.

“One of my first meetings with Rachel (Wood), we were meeting on an entirely different topic and I shared with her about a women's giving circle and what I had learned, and she was immediately interested. She enthusiastically said that she would help me get a group of ladies together and the Your Community Foundation (YCF) board agreed to fund an introductory luncheon at Sargasso. We were so excited that so many ladies came that day (I think we had around 20 or 22 and we filled the room). Then we decided to build upon that and schedule more events to gain interest with women in Morgantown.

I believe our next big gathering after setting up the fund at the YCF, was on the rooftop at the Marina Tower that had been provided by Susan Dull, a WGC founding member at Dixon Hughes Goodman. We invited the executive officers from the Women's Giving Circle in Wheeling and the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley's Executive Director, Susie Nelson to share information about how their giving circle began. They shared their procedures, funded projects and passion for their mission.

We carried over 40 chairs, several buffet and cocktail tables and floral decorations up to the rooftop with multiple trips to and from the car and it was a great success in gaining more interest and members!

Rachel was such a blessing in that she shared the giving circle with everyone that

Some words (continued on page 3)
she encountered and with our connections and strong women committed to assist, it began to take shape.

Barbara Myers and Sharon Maloney were on board immediately with the WGC, and we all met to dig in and review the Bylaws from the Ohio Valley Giving Circle that they generously shared with us. With several adjustments to their bylaws, we made them our own.

In November of 2014, we adopted our Bylaws for the WGC of North Central WV and elected officers for the upcoming year, and then we kicked off our inaugural year with a structure in place and a grant application process.

And here we are in the summer of 2017, embarking on our 3rd grant cycle. Our membership includes 56 wonderful women supporting women and girls throughout North Central WV.

Be Part of a National Study

Dear Members:

We’re taking part in a national study on the impact of giving circles/collective giving groups and hope you’ll take 15 minutes by August 25 to share your experiences by filling out this survey. You can also copy and paste this link into your browser: https://syracuseuniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abGfKhlJLm6WLN1r

If 50% of our group’s members complete this survey, we’ll also get aggregate data on our member responses to compare to all giving group participants nationwide, so your participation will help our group directly as well as help inform the broader field. Below please find a short note of explanation for the research team.

Thanks in advance for participating.

Beth Fuller, President, Women’s Giving Circle of North Central WV

Dear giving group member:

We invite you to participate in a national study to examine the impact of giving circles/collective giving groups on members’ philanthropic and civic behaviors, knowledge and beliefs. The survey will only take about 15 minutes to complete and responses are confidential and will only be shared in summary form.

Here is the link to the survey: https://syracuseuniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_abGfKhlJLm6WLN1r

Please complete the survey by August 25, 2017.

At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to include your email address for a chance to win a donation for the charity of your choice. Five survey respondents will be randomly selected for a $100 donation to be given each to a charity of their choice.

This survey is part of a larger study to understand the landscape and impact of giving circles/collective giving groups. For more information about the entire study, the research team, and its funders, please follow the link here. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at givingcircleresearch@gmail.com.

Thank you very much for helping us explore the impact of giving circles and collaboratives!

Sincerely,
Dr. Julia Carboni, Syracuse University
Dr. Angela Eikenberry, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Dr. Jason Franklin, Johnson Center for Philanthropy
Ms. Jessica Bearman, Bearman Consulting

A Special Rose: Many thanks to Cindy Tanner for designing our new website! Please visit the site at www.womensgivingcircleofncwv.org and please spread the word. The website provides a link to an on-line membership form with the YCF and grant making information. Cindy also opened her home this summer to the Marketing Committee who designed a new look for our Facebook page and updated marketing materials for the WGC.

Thank you, Cindy!
Greetings Donors for the Women’s Giving Circle of North Central West Virginia,

This is an exciting time of year for the WGC as we prepare to select and award grants to the projects to assist and support women and girls in our community.

Our grant funding comes from one half of the annual donations made by our members so it is important that we have our donations made before September 1 so we know what our funding capabilities will be.

If you will be supporting the Women’s Giving Circle for 2017 could you please make your donation this month?

Thank you for your past and current support.

Sincerely,

Royce

Royce Keller, Treasurer
4755 Ridgetop Drive
Morgantown, WV 26508

Membership Form

Name ___________________________________
Address ____________________________________
__________________________________________
Email _____________________________________
Phone _____________________________________

☐ I am joining as a full member.*
☐ $500 is enclosed
☐ $250 is enclosed (under 45 years of age)
☐ I am joining as a member of Friends of WGC.**
☐ $50 to $200 is enclosed

☐ Other gifts
☐ In Memory of ________________________
______________________________________ $_______
☐ In Honor of ________________________
______________________________________ $_______
☐ As sponsor for _______________________
______________________________________ $_______
☐ Endowment $________
☐ Grants $________

* Payments are due September 1st to participate in grant voting.
** Non-voting member; may attend one major event.

Please write your check payable to: YCF and write Women’s Giving Circle in the memo. Check # _______________

Please send this form along with your membership to: Women’s Giving Circle of NCWV
PO Box 176
Dellslow, WV 26531

All gifts are tax deductible.
Thank you for your gift.

The Your Community Foundation manages the fund and the administration of the Women’s Giving Circle and keeps the membership informed of the status of the fund.