



August 27, 2021

Dear WGC Member:

Last year, 2020, we celebrated the Women's Giving Circle (WGC) 10th anniversary of helping nonprofit organizations support women and children in Harford County by presenting our first-ever Members Choice Award to the Harford County Family Assistance Fund, selected by you, local philanthropists who helped WGC reach this milestone.

Help us make this happen, again!

Nominate a deserving nonprofit and tell us why it deserves this award. Then, after finalists are chosen, we will all vote to select the winning organization.

#### **About the Members Choice Award**

When they established the Women's Giving Circle in 2011, our founding women pledged to set aside 25% of each yearly contribution in an endowment fund. This fund empowers our members' contributions to grow far into the future.

They also agreed that, once the fund reached \$100,000, up to 5% could be used to supplement WGC's ongoing annual grant fund or to create a separate grant. This year, the endowment fund allows us to grant an award in the amount of \$4,639.50.

#### **The time to select a non-profit for our second Members Choice Award is now!**

We will announce the winning organization at our Giving Tuesday Celebration/Holiday Party on November 30, 2021, at the Maryland Golf and County Clubs.

Help us find a worthy organization. Part of our mission is to assist one of the new, small, and underfunded nonprofits in the County.

- On or about September 20, 2021, we will email all WGC members a link to four questions about the organization you think deserves this grant. Answer the questions and follow the instructions to submit. The nominated nonprofit must be Harford County-based and support the needs of women and children. The applications are due on or about October 11, 2021.
- The Members' Choice Award Committee, appointed by the WGC board, will review all applications, and narrow the contenders down to the top five.

- During the week of October 20, 2021, the Members' Choice Award Committee will hold virtual ten-minute moderated question-and-answer sessions with each nominator to learn more about the non-profit's mission and how the funds could be used to support Harford's women and children. The Q & A sessions will be video recorded.
- On November 8, 2021, members will receive a link to the videos as well as a ballot so that each member can vote for her top choice. Voting will close November 22, 2021.
- The organization with the most votes will be our 2021 Members Choice Award recipient!

We hope you can join us at our Giving Tuesday Celebration/Holiday Party when we make this surprise announcement and tell you about how the nonprofit plans to use the funds to help women and children in Harford County.

**More details to know:**

1. You may nominate any 501(c)(3) that serves women and children in Harford County OR an organization that has a program or a specific project that supports women and children.
2. The nominator must provide the organization's total expenses. Since we are focusing on new or small nonprofits, the organization's total expenses must not exceed \$1 million. You can find this information on the nonprofit's Form 990 – in Part I, line 18, current year. Form 990 is available online at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

You may use this dedicated log-in to Guidestar (<https://www.guidestar.org> ) to find this form for your nonprofit:

Guidestar login: [wgcmemberschoice@gmail.com](mailto:wgcmemberschoice@gmail.com)

Password: Members2020+

3. We ask that you refrain from contacting the non-profit during the nomination process. SHHH! This is supposed to be a SURPRISE!

We are elated to continue to expand our support of Harford County's nonprofits. Building more than \$100,000 in our endowment fund is a tribute to your ongoing passion for personal philanthropy and for your compassionate support for our neighbors.

Should you have questions about the award or the process, or need assistance, please email [wgcmemberschoice@gmail.com](mailto:wgcmemberschoice@gmail.com).

Donna Kreis, Chair  
Women's Giving Circle of Harford County

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Women's Giving Circle of Harford County

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