



Women's Giving Circle of Harford County August 2019 Newsletter

Message from the Chair

It's been a VERY busy summer for the Women's Giving Circle Executive Committee and I am pleased to tell you that we recently completed the transition to Growfund!

As you know, in early 2019, the Community Foundation of Harford County (CFHC) unexpectedly notified us of several changes affecting the administration of our funds including "freezing" the admin fund; executing a new fund agreement for the grant fund with a new fee structure; and no grant making support for the grant committee.

Conscious of our fiduciary role, the Executive Committee had to make some difficult decisions quickly in order to fulfill the WGC's mission and vision. The first order was to ensure that the 2019 grant cycle would continue as planned and that the changes did not affect or impede this process. We were successful and the grant committee concluded its work on time, culminating in 13 awards for 2019 totaling \$43,905.

To address the issues as presented to us and to take full advantage of the opportunities presented, I am excited to tell you about the Board's 2020 Vision that was presented to and ratified by membership at the May 21, 2019 meeting:

Maintain the endowed (Legacy) fund at the CFHC

The endowed fund will hereinafter be referred to as the Legacy Fund - a name that recognizes the permanence of our collective philanthropy. Maintaining the Legacy Fund at the CFHC offers the WGC the opportunity to continue its

collaboration with the Community Foundation.

Create a Legacy Grant from the annual distribution of the Legacy/endowed fund

This is a “special grant” awarded each year that the CFHC sets a distribution in accordance with its spending policy. An ad hoc committee of the Grant Committee will develop guidelines and recommendations for the grant award. The Legacy Grant offers the WGC the opportunity to design a unique grant that targets a need, fills a gap, etc., to impact the community.

Allocate 100% of membership fees to the grant fund to accelerate the WGC’s impact

In response to recommendations from two Founding Members and comments from several members expressing an interest in how the WGC can “do more” for the community, 100% of membership fees (less the \$50 allocated to administration) will be allocated to the grant fund. The WGC has awarded grants totaling more than \$353,000 in the last nine years, but we can do more. Had this change been enacted last year, we would have had an additional \$11,000 available for 2019 grants!

Transfer the admin fund to Growfund

The CFHC advised us that they can no longer administer the WGC’s admin fund, so at the CFHC’s request, the Executive Committee has identified another 501(c)(3) entity to provide fiscal sponsorship. Growfund will collect the admin fee and reimburse WGC expenses allowing us the opportunity to continue to operate as usual and for our volunteer Board members to receive reimbursement of WGC expenses incurred (name badges, postage, etc.).

Establish the grant fund at Growfund

In addition to administering the WGC’s admin fund, establishing the grant fund at Growfund offers several advantages:

- A flat fee of 1% to disburse funds to our grantees. This is less than the 1.25% charged by the CFHC for 2019 grants, and significantly less than the 5% and 10% fee that would have been phased-in by the CFHC for grants awarded in 2020 and 2021 (and future years).
- Growfund is a custom online platform developed by giving circles, for giving circles.
- Growfund offers real-time account access AND unparalleled transparency for both the WGC members and the Executive Committee. A member can pay dues, receive an immediate receipt, and check her account status at any time! The Committee will have real-time access to reports and can review transactions and check balances at any time!

The move to Growfund for administration of the WGC's admin and grant funds means that, effective immediately, in order to be a member of the WGC, a woman must pay a \$550 (\$250 for Next Generation members) membership payment annually to Growfund.

Donations in any amount to the Legacy/endowed fund held by the CFHC while welcomed and deeply appreciated will not be considered the membership contribution. In response to the discussion at the May 2019 meeting, we committed to revisiting the allocations after one year.

On behalf of the WGC Executive Committee, I want to thank our members who attended the May meeting for the thoughtful and respectful discussion and the support shown during and after the meeting and during this transition. We are deeply grateful for your trust and we will continue to responsibly and effectively fulfill our mission.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to discuss your concerns or questions. Please contact me at wgchco@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Kim Malat, Chair



***It's Time to Renew Your Membership!
We're Getting Ready for our 10th
Anniversary!***

To Join the WGC or to Renew WGC Membership:

Annual membership is \$550, if you are age 35 years or older. The Next Generation giving level of \$250 is for women under age 35. For both levels, \$50 is used for administrative expenses and the balance goes to grants that are awarded the next year.

As always, you have the option of making a single or recurring payment for both membership and general contributions of support. Growfund is currently working to expand its options for giving circle members. In the near future, you will be able to create your own Growfund account which will allow you to view your personal donations to the WGC at any time. Until then, please contact Donna Kreis at dlkreis@comcast.net if you have questions about the receipt of your payment.

PLEASE NOTE THIS SPECIFIC CHANGE:

Two transactions – one for the grant fund and one for the administrative fund - are necessary to join or renew. Below is a link to instructions for each transaction and the link to pay by credit card.

You may pay by check, electronic check, or credit card. If you have any questions, please see us at a WGC event or send an email to wgchco@gmail.com

[Directions Link](#) (Opens in New Window) [Pay Here With Credit Or Debit Card](#)

Invoices will be sent in September to those whose payment is due in 2019.



Update From the Grant Committee

The Harford County Education Foundation (one of our 2019 grantees) invited the WGC to read two chapters of *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* as part of its "One Harford, One Book" program. As always, our members were happy to help! On August 2, 2019, Rosemary King Johnston, Alice Welsh Leeds and Jodi Marschauser read chapters 51 and 52. Jessica Moser produced the video of the reading and it is available on our Facebook page.

Terri Garland will chair a subcommittee to develop guidelines and recommendations for the Legacy Fund. The group will make recommendations to the Grant Committee on the purpose, structure and process for a competitive Legacy Grant, and the Grant Committee will then present its recommendation to the Board for approval.



***General Membership Meeting September 26, 2019
Meet the 2019 Grantees!***

Join us on September 26 at 8 a.m. at Harford Community College, Chesapeake Hall where we will officially recognize the 2019 grantees. Each grantee has been invited to set up a display to showcase their program. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the grantees and hear more about their programs and WGC's support.

A continental breakfast will be served.

Members are invited to bring a guest to introduce the WGC. This is an informal, no obligation opportunity to share our mission with like-minded women.

[Grant Awards & Membership Meeting](#)

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)