

October 7, 2021

Dear WGC Member:

On November 30, 2021, the Women's Giving Circle of Harford County will gather at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs for our holiday happy hour and Giving Tuesday celebration! At this celebration, we will present the second Members' Choice Award to a deserving nonprofit, selected by you, the local philanthropists who have helped WGC reach this milestone.

Help us make this happen!

Nominate an admirable 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 members 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 award. Now, the endowment fund has grown to more than \$159,000 and allows us to award the second Members' Choice Award in the amount of \$4,639.50.

The time to select our second Members' Choice Award recipient is now!

We will announce the winning organization on November 30, 2021 at our holiday happy hour and gathering to celebrate Giving Tuesday.

Help us find a worthy organization in Harford County. Our hope is to assist one of the new, small and underfunded nonprofits in the County.

- All WGC members (except for WGC Board members and committee chairs) may make one nomination by completing the [online nomination form](#). Consider the organization that you think deserves this award. Answer the questions and follow the instructions to submit a nomination. Note that the nominated nonprofit must be Harford County-based or support the needs of women and children in Harford County.
- A Members' Choice Award (MCA) Committee, appointed by the WGC board, will review all nominations and score them using a rubric based on the nomination form select up to five finalists.
- We will invite the member who nominated each of the finalists to a virtual meeting to be conducted on **November 2, 2021 between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.** by the MCA Committee. The Committee will hold a ten-minute moderated question-and-answer session with each nominator about how the funds could be used to support Harford's women and children. We will record each session.

- The MCA Committee will compile the videos and WGC members will receive a link to the recorded videos and a ballot. Each member can review the videos and vote for her top choice.
- The organization with the most votes will be our second Members' Choice Award recipient!

We hope you will join us on November 30, 2021, at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs, 1335 East MacPhail Road, Bel Air, MD 21015 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. 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:

- A member may nominate any 501(c)(3) organization that serves women and children in Harford County.
- 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 1, line 18, current year. Form 990 is available online at www.guidestar.org.
- You may use this dedicated log-in to GuideStar (<https://www.guidestar.org>) to find the Form 990 for the nonprofit you are nominating:

GuideStar Log-in: wgcmemberschoice@gmail.com
Password: Members2020+

We are excited to expand our support to Harford County's nonprofits. Building more than \$159,000 in our endowment fund is a tribute to your ongoing passion for personal philanthropy and for your compassionate support for our neighbors.

*** Attached please find an FAQ document to answer any questions you may have. ***

Should you have other questions about the award or the process, or need assistance to complete a nomination, please email the Members' Choice Award committee at: wgcmemberschoice@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your commitment to local philanthropy and for making this award possible!

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