



## ***A New Year for Women's Philanthropy***

**Happy New Year!** Join us in welcoming 2008 with the continual generosity that makes the Eau Claire community such a wonderful home.

Last year, through months of visioning and planning, the Women's Giving Circle sculpted with great care the bolder elements of our organizational structure. We are now focused on the more delicate chiseling of the detailed ways in which we will provide a legacy of giving to present and future generations of women and children. Inspired by the support of the Eau Claire Community Foundation, we have a shared sense of the power of collaborative philanthropy.

With each step forward, we enrich our lives as well as those of the women and children we serve.

2008 will mark the first year of our grant cycle, and we are pleased to put our hard work to good by distributing funds to community programs for both initial and sustaining needs.

The Women's Giving Circle works to educate members about the critical issues facing women and children in the Eau Claire area that our dollars can address.

Thank you for your dedication to the women and children of Eau Claire.

### **6 "Cs" of Giving**

1. **Create** something
2. Bring about **Change**
3. **Connect** with a cause
4. **Collaborate** with others for a larger effort
5. Share a **Commitment** to the cause
6. **Celebrate** and have fun!

## ***Why Join a Women's Giving Circle?***

Women's Giving Circles are becoming an important force in philanthropy nationwide because donors who participate in giving circles value these benefits:

- Deepened understanding of issues important to donors, through educational programming;
- Opportunity for networking and socializing with other women with shared values;
- A greater level of involvement with nonprofit organizations through the creation of partnerships;
- An understanding of the return on investment in nonprofit organizations through ongoing involvement;
- Hands-on grantmaking experience; and
- The opportunity to learn more about their community.

For a current article about Women's Giving Circles see ***Sharing the Wealth: Giving Circles*** Family Circle Magazine, December 2007.

**Recommended Reading:**

*The Transformative  
Power of Women's  
Philanthropy: New  
Directions for  
Philanthropic  
Fundraising, May 2006*  
**Editors:** Martha  
A. Taylor and Sondra  
Shaw-Hardy

**Recommended Eating:**

**Ruth's Yummy Pumpkin-Apple-Cranberry Muffins**  
2 ½ C. unbleached all-purpose flour  
2 C. sugar  
1 t. pumpkin pie spice  
1 t. baking soda  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 C. solid packed pumpkin (organic if you have it)  
½ C. Canola oil  
1 C. peeled, finely chopped Granny Smith apple  
1 C. chopped fresh cranberries  
In a large bowl, combine first five ingredients, set aside. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, pumpkin, and oil. Add liquid ingredients to dry ingredients, mix until just moistened. Stir in fruit. Spoon batter into paper lined muffin tins filling ¾ full. Sprinkle struesel topping over batter. Bake in preheated 350 degrees F oven for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

**Streusel Topping:**

In small bowl, combine 4 T. all-purpose flour, ¼ C. sugar, ¼ C. brown sugar, and ½ t. cinnamon. Cut in 6-8 t. unsalted butter until mixture is crumble. Add ½ C. old-fashioned oats and ½ C. chopped walnuts

## ***A Word From the Chair***

Dear Members . . .

The story is told of the spiritual master whose disciples wanted to know what sort of meditation he practiced each morning in the garden. "When I look carefully, I see the rose bush in full bloom."

"Why would one have to look *carefully* to see the rose bush?" they asked.

"Lest one see not the rose bush," said the Master, "but one's preconception of it."\*

As I have more closely looked at the remarkable early developments of our Women's Giving Circle, I have tried to abandon my initial preconceived notions of what we could be, replacing them with a more real-time vision. I hold in my head and heart what I now understand more fully to be our mission and our potential. This is the result of daily, passionate dialogue with fellow WGC members. As we continue to define the organization we wish to be, we are also fulfilling a yearning that lies in each of us to be more whole by helping women and children piece their lives back together.

For now, many of our plans seem like photographs of flowers on seed packets.

## ***Highlights of 2007***

- The Eau Claire Community Foundation founded the Women's Fund: The Giving Circle.
- 110 Donors committed to addressing the needs of women and children by pledging a minimum of \$1000 over a 4-year period.
- A working structure for WGC was developed.
- Over 40 women volunteered their time and talents in Team membership
- 9 women volunteered to fill leadership roles with the Teams
- Many other women shared their time and talents as Team members, working together to create the reality of the Women's Giving Circle
- The first Annual Meeting was held in November.

We ponder them anxiously during winter months, looking so forward to planting them and then watching them fulfill the promise the picture on the package has made to us. And yet, the actual flowers we will behold are so much more in that, like the women and children we will assist, they are not stationary and posed; they are vibrant, striving to absorb the elements they need to thrive and bloom as each was designed to do.

At present, we are expending the lion's share of our time preparing the WGC garden. We are defining its parameters and content, as well as the roles of those who will tend to its progress. The more we build a strong, nurturing foundation, the better we will be able to serve and foster the growth of others.

In short time our preparation will be complete. Ours will be the humbling bliss known to all gardeners who witness the early shoots of those whom they've nurtured. We shall kneel hand-in-hand as they emerge bold and determined, thanks to the dirty knees and green thumbs of those who have given them hope and opportunity.

Take care,  
Ruth

\*Thank you, Anthony de Mello, for this story

Thank you to all who have made the Women's Giving Circle possible through your efforts, your inspiration, and your confidence in the future for our community!

### **Ways to Participate and Looking Ahead . . .**

In 2008, you will be invited to programs and events including Grant Team Meetings, Educational Forums, Membership Recruitment gatherings and the like. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to enjoy some or all of these events, and remember to *encourage your friends and neighbors to attend WGC events and programs!*

The WGC Circle Advisory Team members, via the Education Team, will send newsletters (paper and electronic versions) that will include information about upcoming WGC events and meetings. [0]All this and more will be available on our WGC website, which can be found as a link at [www.eccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.eccommunityfoundation.org).

Many thanks to the members who contributed to the November 2007 gathering, including the anonymous donor who kindly paid for the room rental, the folks who baked all the delicious treats, and guest speaker Betsy Barnes for sharing information about taxes and charitable giving. Participants engaged in activities that were reflective, heart-warming, and inspiring. While we understand that not all members were able to attend, know that you were missed!

The great thing about being a donor to a giving circle is the networking, socializing, learning and collaborative grantmaking opportunities provided to donors. As a donor to the Circle, you can be as involved or as uninvolved as you wish. Below please find a variety of ways to engage with other WGC donors, programs, and events.

### **A Place to Start . . .**

Commit to making an annual contribution; encourage participation of individuals and organizations that support the mission and goals of The Circle; sponsor and attend meetings and events!

### **. . .And So Much More!**

Each of the Teams listed below would welcome your time and talents. All members are eligible to participate just use the contact information to indicate your interest.

### **Circle Advisory Team**

CAT oversees the business as well as the overall direction of the Women's Giving Circle, in addition to planning and hosting the WGC Annual Meeting (November 2008.) The Annual meeting will be designed as an opportunity to hear from WGC leadership about the activities of the past year and plans for the future. In addition to the regular business portion of the meeting (election of officers etc, reports from the chair and teams chairs) the program may include guest speakers, possible reports from past grantees,

Contact: Ruth Wallace, 715- 8434-9356 or [ruthwallace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruthwallace@sbcglobal.net)

### **Education and Program Team**

The EPT plans programs, provides resources, and creates educational opportunities for the Circle Members to learn about various issues affecting women and children in the Eau Claire Area and general issues of philanthropy and Giving Circles.

The EPT will plan educational opportunities for members and their guests designed to build skills and knowledge for effective philanthropy. News, announcements, and resources will be posted on the website as well as published in the newsletter.

Contact: Jane O'Meara, 715-834-8866, [jane.omeara@gmail.com](mailto:jane.omeara@gmail.com) or Lorraine Henning, 715-878-4224, [hennings@discover-net.net](mailto:hennings@discover-net.net)

### **Grants Team**

The goal of the Grants Team is to develop and maintain granting procedures to fulfill the mission of the Women's Giving Circle.

In the fall of 2007, the Grant Team had an educational meeting to learn about the process involved in evaluating a grant proposal. Members worked in small groups, read sample proposals, rated them and discussed the outcomes. An ad hoc Team was established to work on developing the grant application forms, criteria, grant training and evaluation worksheets that will be used during this first pilot year. The ad hoc Team members are co-chairs Pamela Macal and Carol Gabler, Debi Levin-Stanevich, Margaret Becker, Catherine Sinkewicz, and Beth Hicks. In January the grant forms, criteria and evaluation worksheets were completed. The Team is now developing the training for the grant reviewers.

Once we see how many grant applications are received in this first grant cycle, we will be contacting Team members to see if they are available to assist with the grant review process. The Grant Application is now available at the Foundation and the website, with a due date of April 17, 2008. Reviewing the grants will take several hours, and all grant reviewers must have attended one of the following grant training sessions: Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 pm, at Weld, Riley, Prens & Ricci, 3624 Oakwood Hills Parkway, Eau Claire, or Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, at Larson Allen, 2411 N.Hillcrest Parkway, Altoona. Please email Pamela at [pmacal@wrpr.com](mailto:pmacal@wrpr.com) if you can attend. The sessions will be about 90 minutes long.

The grant review Team will evaluate the proposals and recommend proposals for the approval by WGC members. We have \$10,000 to grant this year. Please encourage any agency that works with women

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Foundation  
306 South Barstow  
Suite 104  
Eau Claire WI 54701

715-552-3801  
715-552-3802(fax)

*Grants Team, cont.:*

and children to apply. We expect to grant \$10,000 in 2008.

Contact: Pamela Macal, 715-577-4779, [pmacal@wrpr.com](mailto:pmacal@wrpr.com) or Carol Gabler, 715-835-4024, [cgabler@charter.net](mailto:cgabler@charter.net)

**Membership and Outreach Team**

The MOT will provide information to prospective members and welcome new Circle members, and facilitate their participation in activities on Teams. The Team will also plan new member orientations and events for WGC members and prospective members during the year, support membership renewals, and will work closely with all other Teams to plan and implement WGC events. Watch your email and the website for an announcement of the **WGC May Membership Event**. This event will focus on new member recruitment. Each current member of the WGC will be asked to invite a non-member guest to the event, where the primary emphasis will be social, but where we will also inform guests about the goals of the WGC and provide an update on grant applications.

Contact: Helen Nordstrom, 715-835-1884, [crn@mac.com](mailto:crn@mac.com) or Renee Larson, 715-835-6439, [rslarson@larsonmanagement.com](mailto:rslarson@larsonmanagement.com)

*The Mission of the Eau Claire Community Foundation Women's Giving Circle is to raise money and distribute contributions to projects and initiatives that improve life for women and children in the Eau Claire area.*

**EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
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[www.eccommunityfoundation.org/givingcircle.html](http://www.eccommunityfoundation.org/givingcircle.html)