

# Circle News

July/August 2021

## A call for Action to The Women's Giving Circle

First of all, thank you, for "Improving the quality of life for women and children in the greater Eau Claire area through collective philanthropy!"

Unfortunately, our circle has been growing smaller. Just prior to the COVID19 closures, we were proud to have broken the 300-member mark! Currently our membership total stands at 200, a full third less than the end of 2019. Because the amount of granting help that we provide to non-profit organizations in the greater Eau Claire area is based on a percentage of our members annual contributions, that means we are not able to provide as much support, in these times of even greater need, as we have had the honor of giving in the past.

What are some things can we do?

1. If you have not made your 2021 annual contribution, you can make your donation by following this link [ecfwi.org](http://ecfwi.org).
2. Spread the word about the Women's Giving Circle! Invite your friends, your family, and your colleagues to join!

3. Share our organization by bringing a guest to a Giving Circle event. We have started sponsoring in-person gatherings again!
4. Check out our Facebook page to keep in touch. We have even included a short video highlighting the group, please take a peek! @WGCEau Claire.
5. If you have additional ideas, please let us know.

We are very excited to share that the Women's Giving Circle will be celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022! We are looking forward to some special events in honor of that achievement! Keep tuned!!!

And speaking of anniversaries, thank you and a shout out to the Eau Claire Community Foundation for their upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, their well-attended Annual Meeting, and the highlight of our group in their recent newsletter! Members, Sue Bornick and Cindy Hangartner knocked it out of the park presenting while several WGC members (pictured) joined in the audience.



## Recent Women's Giving Circle Events -

Our May Spring Gathering was held virtually this year. We heard amazing stories from all nine of the non-profit organizations that you had voted to generously grant \$45,379 in November of 2020, received updates from each of our standing teams and awarded five \$25 gift cards to "Down to Earth Garden Center" to attending members and guests. It was a delightful evening!

The Evenings agenda:



### Spring Gathering Program

Celebrating this Year's Grant Recipients

Welcome ..... Jennifer McDonough

ECCF Update ..... Sue Bornick, ECCF Executive Director

**2020 Grant Recipient Spotlights and Team Reports** (Grant descriptions on back)

Family Resource Center ..... Jennifer Eddy

Bolton Refuge House ..... Pat Stein

Education and Program Team Report ..... Ann Lamoureux

Boys and Girls Club Greater Chippewa Valley ..... MarLee Johnson

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin ..... Melissa Cantwell

Grant Team Report ..... Diane Hoadley

Chippewa Valley Museum ..... Carrie Ronnander

Girls on the Run of the Chippewa Valley ..... Jeanne Jentsch

Membership Team Report ..... Cindy Hangartner

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation ..... Angela Quick

Literacy Chippewa Valley ..... Elizabeth Hart

Pablo Center at the Confluence ..... Michael Lee

Social Media Team Report ..... Lacey Logslett

Close ..... Ann Lamoureux

*Thank You to our Sponsor!*



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### 2020 Grants Recommended for Funding: \$45,379

**Bolton Refuge House, Inc.: Protect and Inspire, \$3732**  
Protect and Inspire offers children a safe, durable play space to use while accessing Bolton Refuge House support services. Due to traumatic experiences, many children exhibit impulse behavior that causes them to physically harm themselves. This grant will support the purchase of cork flooring that will minimize their potential for injuries.

**Boys and Girls Club Greater Chippewa Valley: STEAM and Positive Behavior Programming, \$4800**  
This STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) programming will introduce youth, particularly girls and minorities, to the skills necessary to succeed as leaders in the science and technology fields. Activities such as coding clubs will spark new interests, and positive behavior incentives will encourage academic success.

**Children's Service Society of Wisconsin: Building Families, \$6000**  
Building Families is a voluntary home visiting program based on the premise that offering parent education activities and support will empower families identified as being at risk. Its aim is to prevent child abuse, strengthen families, and ensure children's well-being through home visits beginning after birth and continuing until children enter school.

**Chippewa Valley Museum: Music of the North Object Theater Production, \$6000**  
Music of the North is an Object Theater show designed for elementary social studies and music curricula. It will provide a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching local history and culture, allowing children to see themselves and their traditions as part of this community. It will build students' understanding of the region's diversity and music culture.

**Family Resource Center: Triple "P" Positive Parenting Initiative, \$6000**  
The Triple "P" Positive Parenting Initiative is proven to decrease child abuse, improve parents' mental health, and increase children's academic success. By funding food, transportation,

child care, and tip sheets for parents, this grant will reduce obstacles to participation and increase the program's positive impact on families in need.

**Girls on the Run of the Chippewa Valley: Camp GOTR Program Initiative \$3569**  
This one week summer program will provide elementary school aged girls with opportunities for physical activity as well as social/emotional skill development during non-school times. Topics covered include emotions and friendships. Multiple camp sessions will be offered, and curricula will be implemented concurrently with physical activity.

**HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation: Compassionate Care Program, \$6000**  
The Compassionate Care Program for Female Cancer Patients supports the physical and emotional well-being of women undergoing cancer treatment. A complimentary boutique offers items such as hats and skincare products, while monthly "Look Good Feel Better" workshops help patients adjust to appearance-related side effects of cancer.

**Literacy Chippewa Valley: Eau Claire County Jail Women's Adult Basic Education, \$6000**  
This grant will support educational opportunities for incarcerated women. A certified teacher will lead classes with curricula that include GED prep, financial literacy, and industry-recognized work certificates. Women will also participate in a book club that allows them to have social interaction while exercising their literacy skills.

**Pablo Center at the Confluence: Robotics at the Pablo Center, \$3278**  
This two-week summer robotics camp will be offered to Eau Claire area high school students. The goal of participants will be to design, build, and program an 80-120 pound robot. In the process, students will gain workforce-ready skills and experiences in STEAM-related fields.

In June, we hosted an in-person Membership event at the Coffee Grounds. It was a delightful evening of socializing, sipping, and snacking! Fun was had by all! Thank you to our Membership Team for making the arrangements and providing the hors d'oeuvres and to Megan Kremer, of the Coffee Grounds, for the plentiful pours and lovely locale!

WGC Coffee Grounds event:



## Upcoming Women's Giving Circle Events -

### Women's Giving Circle Survey

Learning more about your experiences will help us to better serve our community and organization. Please take a few minutes to complete our Women's Giving Circle survey using [this link](#). Thank you for your time!

**August/September** - Be on the lookout for an in-person membership event announcement that likely will involve vino and vittles soon.

## Save the Dates -

**Women's Giving Circle Annual Meeting** will be held Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Eau Claire Golf and Country Club. You will have the opportunity to vote for our 2021 Non-profit Grant recipients as well as our incoming 2022 Women's Giving Circle Officers and Team Leaders.

**The Gift of Giving Breakfast** will be held Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 am at Florian Gardens. You will be introduced to our 2021 Non-profit Grant recipients and learn what they plan to do with the funds awarded them.

**Book Club meets Monthly on Mondays from 4:00-5:00 p.m.** and is being offered via Zoom and in person, at the Eau Claire Senior Center. It is open to any Women's Giving Circle member who is interested. Please join us! Contact Rebecca White Body, of the Eau Claire Community Foundation, at [grants@eccfw.org](mailto:grants@eccfw.org) to obtain a Zoom link or additional information. Upcoming reads:

- o July 26 - *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kid
- o August 30 - *Death Stalks Door County*, by Patricia Skalka
- o September 27 - *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict
- o October 25 - *The Liar's Bench*, by Kim Michele Richardson
- o November 29 - *Unsheltered*, by Barbara Kingsolver

**We are looking for volunteers!** Are you interested in helping with a special project or assisting with a mailing for the Women's Giving Circle or the Eau Claire Community Foundation? Please contact Jennifer McDonough, Women's Giving Circle Chair, at [jamcd4@yahoo.com](mailto:jamcd4@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Reminders -

- If you have not made your annual contribution to the Women's Giving Circle, please make that today at [eccfw.org](http://eccfw.org). The Women's Giving Circle thanks you and our local non-profits thank you too! Remember, the more members in our circle, the more we can give back to our community! As always, we welcome

you to invite your family, friends, and colleagues to be members of our circle too!

- Annual contributions for Team members and/or Grant readers must be made prior to participating in those activities and for all members prior to the annual meeting.
- Consider becoming a "Lifetime Member!" Convenience, favorable tax advantage, whatever your reason! If you have reached age fifty-five, you may choose a Lifetime Membership with the Giving Circle by making a one-time pledge of \$6000. This contribution may be paid in a lump sum or over three years.
- We would love to have you join a WGC Team: Education and Programs, Membership, Nominating, Social Media or help as a Grant reviewer. Contact Jennifer McDonough, Women's Giving Circle Chair, at [jamcd4@yahoo.com](mailto:jamcd4@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Welcome to our Newest Circle Members –

Emily Anderson

Teresa Hernandez

Jerilyn Jacobs

Carla Leuck

Bonnie Olson

And a very special thank you to our newest

"Lifetime" Members – Petey Ahneman and Linda Caillier

Thank you all for being a part of our circle!

## Grant News -

- Regrettably, one of the Grant Recipients is unable to utilize the funds awarded to them for the 2020 Grant cycle. Per Grant Guidelines those dollars have been returned to the Foundation. On a positive note, the funds have been included in our 2021 Grantable Funds for a total of \$43,930.
- The 2021 grant application window closed on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Grant Reviewers will soon be processing and recommending grant applications to come before the Membership at our Annual Meeting in November.
- The grants team is always looking for grant reviewers. We invite you to participate in the 2021 Women's Giving Circle grant review process. This is an opportunity for you to have an active role in how the WGC grant funds are distributed. This also provides you with an opportunity to better understand the needs of our community.
  - o No previous grant review experience is necessary, however, to be eligible to be a reviewer, your annual membership contribution must be paid by September 1, 2021.
  - o To participate in the review, new grant reviewers and previous grant reviewers not trained for the online process are required to attend one of the 2-hour Grant Reviewer Training sessions in September. All grant reviewers are encouraged to attend one of the training sessions as a refresher and to share your thoughts and experiences with new reviewers.
  - o Grant's reviewers will be reading and scoring the grant applications online at the Eau Claire Community Foundation's website. Reviewers will need access to a tablet, laptop, or computer to review grants. If you do not have one you can go to the Eau Claire Foundation office to use a computer there. All grant reviewers will be given a password to access the grant applications and scoring sheets.
  - o Grant review training for new reviewers is scheduled for the week of September 13<sup>th</sup>. The on-line review process begins September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Grants Team hopes to conduct this year's meeting in person on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>; however, a final decision regarding the meeting format will be determined closer to the date of the review. Final review scores are due

from reviewers on Tuesday, October 5th. If you would like more information about serving as a grant reviewer, please contact Grants Team chair, Diane Hoadley, at [hoadley17@me.com](mailto:hoadley17@me.com).

## Sponsorship Updates –

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Annual Meeting - Gold Sponsor, Northwestern Bank and Silver Sponsor, Royal Credit Union

Gift of Giving Breakfast - Gold Sponsor, Associated Bank and Silver Sponsor, Charter Bank

We are currently looking for additional Silver Sponsors for the November Annual meeting, and the December Gift of Giving Breakfast. If you would like to help sponsor either of these get togethers, please contact Erin Dayton, of the Eau Claire Community Foundation at [development@eccfwl.org](mailto:development@eccfwl.org).

## Mark Your Calendars –

We are working on events for August -October. Keep an eye on your e-mails. If you have suggestions you would like to share, please let us know!

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:00-7:00 p.m.** – Our Women's Giving Circle Annual Meeting will be held **in person**.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30-9:00 a.m.** – Our Gift of Giving Breakfast will be held **in person**.

Thank you for being a part of our circle and helping to accomplish our mission by, "Forging new relationships and building a community of thoughtful, effective, women philanthropists, who are diverse in age, interests and backgrounds."

Jennifer McDonough, WGC-Chair