

# Circle News

December 2021/January 2022

Happy Holidays from the Circle Advisory Team of the  
Women's Giving Circle!

In our last Newsletter, we requested a call for Action to our Women's Giving Circle Members, to help re-grow our circle. And you listened! Thank you!

A very special welcome to our newest "Circle" Members—

Jane Gobler

Cheryl Guettinger

Patty Sontag

Ann Julsrud

(Martha) Jane Mohler

Ann Tienor

Beverly Wickstrom -Returning

And a very special thank you to our newest "Lifetime" Member—

Caryn Linn

Thank you all for being a part of our circle!

Please continue to spread the word about the Women's Giving Circle and inviting your friends, your family, and your colleagues to join! A big thank you to those who have shared our organization by bringing a guest to a Giving Circle event. It has been wonderful to attend in person gatherings again! We have been very busy this fall!

## Recent Women's Giving Circle Events Include -

*The Merry Mingle* - Thank you to our host Carol Gabler, Founding Member and our beverage provider Sue McIntyre, Past Chair and to our CATEam ladies for the apps!



Our Book Club has been meeting Monthly on Mondays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. It is offered via Zoom and in person, at the Eau Claire Senior Center and is open to any Women's Giving Circle member who is interested. Contact Rebecca White Body, of the Eau Claire Community Foundation, at [grants@eccfw.org](mailto:grants@eccfw.org) to obtain a Zoom link or more information. Our next meeting will be on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. to plan the upcoming reads for 2022. Please join us!

Women's Giving Circle Annual Meeting, November – Sponsors Northwestern Bank, Royal Credit Union, and Crivello Carlson, S.C.



Gift of Giving Breakfast, December – Sponsors Associated Bank and Charter Bank.



Truly collective philanthropy in action! The Women's Giving Circle granted \$43,629 to our nine nonprofit recipients for 2021. Congratulations: Boys and Girls Club, Chippewa Valley Health Clinic, Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra, Feed My People Food Bank, Hope Gospel Mission, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation, L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, Lutheran Social Services, and Stand in the Light Memory Choir! To learn more about what these organizations plan to do with their grant, check out the [Volume One Article](#)

In total, the Women's Giving Circle has granted over \$401,000 toward our mission of improving the quality of life for women and children in the greater Eau Claire area since our inception 14 years ago!

Your dollars are making a positive and significant impact! It is your membership contribution that allows us to provide these grants. Your support and generosity are making a difference in our community!

Have you considered making an additional contribution toward next year's granting, gifting a membership for someone to join our circle, or becoming a lifetime member? 'Tis the season! Thank you, to those who have given a little extra holiday cheer this year!

**Kudos to the two Sue's** on their WEAU interview highlighting the Women's Giving Circle!

Sue Bornick, Executive Director of the Foundation, and Sue Tienor, WGC Past Chair, were on WEAU December 8th with Judy Clark, sharing the impact the Circle has had on our community in just 14 years and sharing the 15th Anniversary logo! I have included the [WEAU - Judy Clark Interview](#) in case you weren't able to watch it. Enjoy!

### Women's Giving Circle 2021 Membership Survey -

We received responses to our survey from 67 individuals, close to 1/3 of our membership, and actually a couple from non-members too, thank you! While there were a variety of reasons for joining the giving circle, it was clear that most respondents share a strong desire to learn about issues affecting women and children in our community and to leverage their charitable giving to improve the lives of women and children in the Chippewa valley. Over half of the survey participants also identified connection: meeting other civically involved women and broadening their network of friends. We learned about who our members are and what they like about the Giving Circle. We also learned about a few things we can improve upon. The feedback was enlightening and provides us with ideas and direction moving forward. We appreciate your time in completing the questionnaire. Thank you to Ami Christensen for her work collecting and organizing this data.

In 2022 the Women's Giving Circle will be celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Let's grow our Membership!

The more members in our circle, the more we can give back to our community! We welcome you to invite your family, friends, and colleagues! If each of us brings just one member into the circle, we can double our impact! We can do this!

### Upcoming Women's Giving Circle Events -

The Membership Team is working on an informal gathering at a local brew pub in late January or early February. Please plan to bring a guest! Keep an eye on your e-mail for upcoming information!

### Save the dates for 2022:

- **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** - The annual Women's Giving Circle Education Event. The topic is "Our Community Explores Affordable Housing." This will be a panelist format. It will be held virtually and in-person at the Eau Claire Golf and Country Club.
- **May 5<sup>th</sup>** - Women's Giving Circle Spring Gathering, at which we will hear from the nine-nonprofit organizations that received grants from our group in 2021 and the impact these dollars provided to them. And, we will be celebrating our 15-year Anniversary of the Giving Circle! Venue and details to be announced soon.

### Reminders -

- If you have not made your annual contribution to the Women's Giving Circle, please make that today at [www.eccfwi.org](http://www.eccfwi.org). The Women's Giving Circle thanks you and our local non-profits thank you, too! **To help the WGC plan more effectively, please consider paying your annual contribution in January in the years to come. Thank you!**
- 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 \$6,000. 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 and Outreach, 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.
- If you would like to help sponsor an upcoming event, please contact Erin Dayton [development@eccfwi.org](mailto:development@eccfwi.org) at the Eau Claire Community Foundation.

*As we are winding down on 2021 and welcoming in 2022 -*

Thank you to everyone for supporting me as the Chair of your Women's Giving Circle this past year! It has been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Thank you to all of the ladies of our Circle Advisory Team, the team members on the various teams and the Foundation staff.

I would especially like to thank those who are stepping down from the CATeam at this time: Sue Tienor, past Chair; Diane Hoadley, Grant Chair and Cindy Hangartner, Membership Chair. You all have been amazing to work with! Thank you!

And to our incoming ladies, a warm welcome to those who will make up our Circle Advisory Team and be leading our circle for 2022:

- Chair, Ann Kaiser
- Vice Chair, Lacey Logslett
- Secretary, Amy Kalmon
- Education Team: Chair, Ann Lamoureux; Co Chair, Petey Ahneman
- Grants Team: Chair, Jennifer Beckermann; Co Chair, Liz Spencer
- Membership Team: Chair, Ami Christensen; Co Chair, Carol Gabler
- Social Media Team: Chair, Becky Schweinefus; Co Chair, Carla Leuck

Thank you for being a part of our circle and helping us to carry out our mission of "Building the power of collective philanthropy throughout the greater Eau Claire area!" Have a happy and healthy New Year!

*Jennifer McDonough, WGC-Chair 2021*

