

EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# Women's Giving Circle

NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 15, 2022

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

 March 3

Our Community Explores Affordable  
Housing: *You Could Be Surprised  
What That Means* [Register Here](#)

Spring Education Virtual Event,  
Open to the Public, 6-7:30 pm

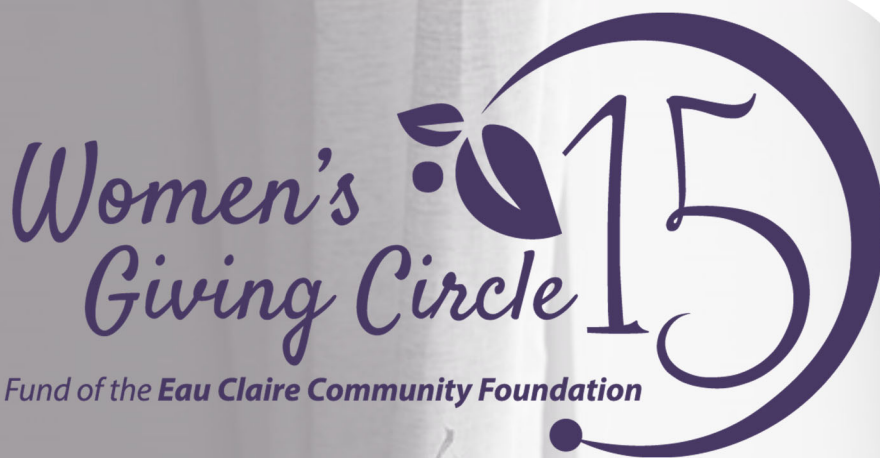
 April 19

Wine, Women & Chocolate  
Social Event K Point Brewing at The  
Coffee Grounds, Members & Guests,  
3:30-6 pm

 May 5

Celebrate 15 Years of Impact  
Annual Spring Gathering, Eau Claire  
Country Club, Members & Guests,  
5:30 pm

“Why WGC?  
Awareness,  
Impact,  
Community!”



## HERE'S TO 2022!

Would you agree 2022 is the time to get re-engaged as a community to make a difference? WGC is poised to make that happen for you with educational events that create **awareness**, grants to **impact** women and children, and networking events to build **community** among women with similar passions. Like the “Tap A Friend” event at Growler Guys on February 7! Let’s make WGC’s 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year the best yet.

Ann Kaiser, Women’s Giving Circle Chair for 2022

# BANNER YEAR!



## HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR THE BEST YEAR

Since the Women's Giving Circle fund was established in 2007, more than \$400,000 in grants have been awarded to impact the lives of women and children in the Eau Claire area, with \$43,000 awarded in 2021. And to ensure grant funding is sustainable into the future, the endowment fund has grown to more than \$600,000. *Now that's making a difference!*

In 2022, WGC has big plans to increase its impact. Here's how you can help!

- Make a special gift to the **15th Anniversary Grant Campaign**, with the goal of awarding a record \$50,000 in 2022 to build up women and children. Check your email for details, or email [kaiserann81@gmail.com](mailto:kaiserann81@gmail.com) [Click Here](#) to contribute by March 31.
- Join the March 3 **Spring Education Event** to learn about homelessness in our area, and the organizations that are working to address it: Judi Moseley, Billie Hufford, Amy Giani, and Chris Maslonkowski. This is an online only event, open to the public, and runs from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Invite anyone who might be interested! [Register Here](#).
- The **Education Team** is one of four WGC Teams that plans annual events that raise awareness of issues impacting women and children in our community. More Team members are needed, and you could be just the person that can add value. Email Education Team Chair Ann Lamoureux [annklx4@gmail.com](mailto:annklx4@gmail.com) or Co-chair Petey Ahneman [a\\_petey@hotmail.com](mailto:a_petey@hotmail.com) to learn more.
- By growing membership, we grow impact. So how about **asking a friend to join you** at the next WGC event you attend to introduce them to the purpose, activities and faces of WGC? **Wine, Women & Chocolate** is a casual, fun, no pressure opportunity! Mark April 19 from 3:30-6 on your calendar and watch for more information coming via email and social media.
- Social media is a great way to stay up to date on WGC happenings, and to share the good word about the good work. **LIKE & FOLLOW Women's Giving Circle – Eau Claire** on Facebook and LinkedIn



Welcome!

New Members **Laureen Bickel, Sue Ellen Kowieski, and Angela Quick**

Congratulations!

Lifetime Members  
**Laureen Bickel and Rosemary Bounds**

The WGC Book Club has been meeting for over 8 years and is always welcoming new participants. If you're interested in joining, contact Rebecca at [grants@eccfwi.org](mailto:grants@eccfwi.org) for more information.

Handle with Care by Jodie Picoult  
Monday, February 28, 2022  
4-5 pm on Zoom

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett  
Monday, March 28, 2022  
4-5 pm on Zoom

Easily Amused by Karen McQuestion  
Monday, April 25, 2022  
4-5 pm on Zoom & LE Phillips Senior Center

## SPRING GATHERING

A very special 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Gathering will take place Thursday, May 5, to celebrate the impact of our most recent grantees, and the impact of 15 years of philanthropy through Women's Giving Circle. Members and your guests are welcome to join us beginning at 5:30 pm at the Eau Claire Golf & Country Club, 828 Club View Lane, Altoona. Watch your email and social media for event and registration details coming soon!



# Have you ever wondered?



## FUN FACTS ABOUT WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

- Here's how your \$250 membership contribution helps:
  - \$125 goes to the Grants Fund to be distributed the following year
  - \$112.50 goes to the WGC Endowment Fund where earnings are distributed each year, and future giving continues to grow
  - \$12.50 helps to pay for the operations of WGC, including education and social events, and support from Eau Claire Community Foundation staff
- WGC is unique because your giving helps now, and helps for the future by building the WGC Endowment that now totals over \$600,000!
- WGC has a Lifetime Member option, where members 55 years and older can make a \$6,000 contribution to sustain their membership for a lifetime, may be paid over three years.
- Every year Circle Advisory Team (CAT) volunteers lead WGC efforts. Thank you CAT Members!
  - Ann Kaiser, Chair
  - Lacey Logslett, Vice-chair
  - Amy Kalmon, Secretary
  - Jennifer McDonough, Past Chair
  - Ann Lamoureux, Education Chair
  - Petey Ahneman, Education Co-chair
  - Jennifer Beckermann, Grant Team Chair
  - Liz Spencer, Grant Team Co-chair
  - Ami Christensen, Membership Chair
  - Carol Gabler, Membership Co-chair
  - Becky Schweinefus, Social Media Chair
  - Carla Leuck, Social Media Co-chair

## GRANTS ANNOUNCED IN 2021

In September each year, the Grants Team begins its grant application review process. The slate of awardees is presented to membership for approval at the November Annual Meeting, and then awards are presented at the Gift of Giving Breakfast in December. In 2021, Women's Giving Circle more than \$43,000 in grants to nine local nonprofits. Congratulations to:

**Boys and Girls Club Greater Chippewa Valley** for a sensory room and trauma coping skills

**Chippewa Valley Free Clinic** to improve women's health care

**Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra** for a "Family and Friends" performance of Ravel's "Mother Goose"

**Feed My People Food Bank** for a school pantry program

**Hope Gospel Mission** for a women and children outdoor recreation space

**HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation** for the Compassionate Care Program

**L.E. Philips Memorial Public Library** for laundromat libraries

**Lutheran Social Services** for in-home family therapy services

**Stand in the Light Memory Choir** for technology improvements.



## WGC GRANT RECIPIENT STORY

### Kids' Books Added to Eau Claire Laundromats

From Leader Telegram, January 24, 2022

To help promote early childhood literacy further into the community, the local public library has placed a set of children's books at Eau Claire laundromats.

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library launched its new outreach program, Eau Claire Laundromat Libraries (in January).

At seven Eau Claire laundromats, the library placed boxes containing a set of books for children in English, Spanish and Hmong languages.

Families visiting the laundromats can read with their children while their clothes are washed and dried, or bring a book home to return at a subsequent visit. People do not need to have a library card to borrow these books or take them to a checkout.

The Laundromat Libraries program was developed in collaboration with UW Extension. Books are donated by The Women's Giving Circle Fund of the Eau Claire Community Foundation, United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley, APA's Magination Press and Too Smart to Fail, in honor of Kari Stroede.



2021 WGC Grant Recipients at December's Gift of Giving Breakfast



# A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS

## THANKS

WGC Member Diane Hoadley helped us to plan for the year ahead by facilitating a Circle Advisory Team work day in January. Thank you for your time and talent Diane!

## KUDOS

Congratulations to the Membership Team, Chair Ami Christensen and Co-chair Carol Gabler on a very successful outreach social at Growler Guys!

## AS ALWAYS

Many thanks to Executive Director Sue Bornick, Operations Director Erin Dayton, and the whole Eau Claire Community Foundation team for providing support and structure to WGC!

“It has been rewarding to meet so many women interested in getting to know each other and wanting to enrich the lives of women and children,”  
Carol Gabler  
Founding Member



New member Angela Quick, with her guest Samantha, and WGC lifetime member Petey Ahneman, at the February 7 “Tap A Friend” social at The Growler Guys



## A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Well, maybe not quite a thousand, but this picture represents a lot of different thoughts for me. Angela is a new member, and a grant recipient for her employer, HSHS Cancer Center. She brought her sister-in-law as a guest, because she thought she'd like the way WGC approaches philanthropy as well. They spent a lot of time visiting with WGC Lifetime Member Petey Ahneman, who is the Education Team Co-chair. It represents the range of motivations, inspirations, viewpoints and backgrounds that come together in WGC. I thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and conversation as well. I met a longtime member with a very interesting life story that I learned for the first time. I met a guest who is a self-proclaimed COVID refugee, and is grateful for the opportunity to build community around a common cause. And I was able to get to know fellow WGC members better, forming closer bonds. A great way to spend a few hours on a Monday!