


EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# Women's Giving Circle

NEWSLETTER  
March 20, 2023

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

 Monday, March 27

WGC Education Event -  
*Childcare Challenges in the  
Chippewa Valley: How it Affects Our  
Community* [Register Here](#) Hybrid  
event open to the public, held at the  
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library  
– Riverview Room. Social at 5:00,  
program at 5:30pm.

 Monday, May 1

Spring Gathering, 5:00 pm at the  
Brewing Projekt, Members & Guests  
Invitations are in the mail

 June 19

Wine, Women & Chocolate!  
The Coffee Grounds, 4-6 pm  
Open to Members & Guests

“Why WGC?  
Awareness,  
Impact,  
Community!”

# Women's Giving Circle

A Fund of the **Eau Claire Community Foundation**



## HERE'S TO 2023!

As you will see, we are off to a good start to 2023!! Our Circle Advisory Team is fully engaged & ready to get to work. WGC is poised to present educational events that create **awareness**, distribute grants to **impact** women and children, and provide networking events to build **community** among women with similar passions. We hope you can attend the Educational Event on March 27<sup>th</sup> at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library! Cheers to Year 16 of the Women's Giving Circle!!

Lacey Logslett, Women's Giving Circle Chair for 2023

# Community Impact



## HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE 2023 THE BEST YEAR YET!

Since the Women's Giving Circle fund was established in 2007, more than \$450,000 in grants have been awarded to impact the lives of women and children in the Eau Claire area, with \$49,600 awarded in 2022. And to ensure grant funding is sustainable into the future, the endowment fund has grown to over \$600,000. *Now that's making a difference!*

In 2023, WGC has big plans to increase its impact. Here's how you can help!

- **Make a special gift** to the WGC Operations Fund to help support events held throughout the year for Members and Guests.
- If you have ideas for a venue to host our events, **we want to hear from you!** We love to hear from our Members and gain insight on what you want from your Membership. In 2023, we would like to honor our history and our Founders while moving the Women's Giving Circle forward and increasing our impact.
- **Join us at the March 27 Education Event - Childcare Challenges in the Chippewa Valley: How it Affects Our Community** to learn more about childcare challenges in our area and the organizations that are working to address it. Our panel includes:
  - Renee Ernsting, Director of Child Care Partnership, a program of Western Dairyland
  - Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Retired Educator
  - Janet Black, REACH / Hand in Hand
  - Amanda Dohms, CVTC Early Childhood Education Program Director & Instructor

This is a hybrid event and will be held in the Riverview Room, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. It is open to the public and will start with a Social at 5:00pm then the Program at 5:30pm. Please invite a Friend to attend with you! [REGISTER HERE](#).

- **Join a Team!** 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 Dawn Yarrington [dawn.yarrington@claconnect.com](mailto:dawn.yarrington@claconnect.com) to learn more!
- By growing membership, we grow impact. We would like to celebrate our current members and share. 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?
- Social media is a great way to stay up to date on WGC happenings, and to share the good word about the good work. It will also help remind you of upcoming events and socials. Please **LIKE & FOLLOW Women's Giving Circle – Eau Claire** on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- One of our goals this year is to increase connection within our Membership. We hope to do this by highlighting members in our newsletter and on our social media pages. If the Social Media Team reaches out to you, please be sure to **connect with them!**

# Welcome!



## JOIN THE WGC BOOK CLUB

### New Members

Julie Thoney, Astri  
Graceheart, Samantha  
Kjelstad, Cathy Reitz, Mary  
Ellen Alea, Kristel Tavaré,  
Mary Ericksn, Laurie  
Powers, and Suzanne  
Becker

The WGC Book Club has been meeting for over 9 years and is always welcoming new participants. Book Club typically meets from 4:00-5:00pm on the last Monday of the month at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center & on Zoom. If you're interested in joining, contact Katherine Schneider at [schneiks@uwec.edu](mailto:schneiks@uwec.edu) for more information.

The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kristin Harmel  
February 27, 2023 • Katrinka

Horse by Geraldine Brooks  
March 27, 2023 • Judy

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus  
April 24, 2023 • Kathie

### Lifetime Members

Looking for 2023 members

## Spring Gathering

Our Spring Gathering will take place on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the impact of our most recent grantees and the impact of 16 years of philanthropy through the Women's Giving Circle.

Members and your guests are welcome to join us at the **Brewing Projekt**, 1807 N Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, beginning at 5:00pm. Register [here](#)!



## FUN FACTS ABOUT WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

- Here's how your \$250 membership contribution helps:
  - 50% is added to the WGC Endowment Fund to build for future granting
  - 45% goes to the WGC Grant Fund to finance each year's grants
  - 5% supports ECCF's costs of administering WGC Funds
- 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!

Lacey Logslett, Chair  
Jennifer Beckermann, Vice Chair  
Amy Kalmon, Secretary  
Ann Kaiser, Past Chair

Education: Dawn Yarrington, Chair • Katie Marach, Co-chair  
Grants: Liz Spencer, Chair • Cheri Weinke, Co-chair  
Membership: Carol Gabler, Chair • Karen Kohler, Co-chair  
Social Media: Carla Leuck, Chair • Connie Harkness, Co-chair



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The Circle Advisory Team & ECCF Staff at the Annual Retreat, held at Bernicke Wealth Management on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

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### GRANTS ANNOUNCED IN 2022

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 2022, the Women's Giving Circle granted \$49,600 to seven local non-profits. Congratulations to:

**Chippewa Valley Free Clinic** to continue offering women's health services for underserved women.

**Chippewa Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center** to support outreach to community partners & a Queer Prom.

**Family Resource Center** to reach more families with the Triple P Positive Parenting Program.

**Feed My People Food Bank** to expand their Childhood Hunger Program to reach rural Eau Claire County.

**L.E. Philips Memorial Public Library** to increase access to books in laundromat libraries.

**Literacy Chippewa Valley** to provide English Language Learning classes with childcare.

**Professional Dental Hygiene Express** to provide preventive oral care at Eau Claire Head Starts.

### Feed My People Food Bank – Childhood Hunger Program Expansion, \$7,500 awarded

Feed My People Food Bank will be able to purchase food to help alleviate childhood hunger in the Chippewa Valley. The last few years have shone a light on the increased struggles low-income families face and the need for new and expanded solutions.

FMP will pilot Pop-up distributions in school parking lots and will offer food at school events. Last year, FMP served over 200 households through these events and have a goal of expanding. During the summer, supplemental distributions will be added so families can receive food at least once a week.

Recently at a Pop-up distribution, FMP staff surveyed guests to see how inflation was affecting their children. The response was overwhelming. One mother shared "This helps me make it to paydays and gives my kids something to eat."



### JEANNE RICHIE MEMORIAL PUDDLE JUMP – APRIL 22, 2023

- Join with other WGC members for this fun, family-friendly 5k run/walk to benefit [Longfellow Elementary School](#). The Jeanne Richie Memorial Puddle Jump will be held at 9 am on Saturday, April 22nd at Phoenix Park. This event is the main source of funding for their after-school program and provides students with scholarships to participate in community programs. Click on "do you want to join a team" to become a part of the WGC group. Register by April 1st to guarantee a shirt! Registration is open now at <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/EauClaire/PuddleJump> or contact Lesley Fredrikson at [lesley@toesontheroad.com](mailto:lesley@toesontheroad.com) for more information.

# A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS

## THANKS

Thank you to these outgoing Circle Advisory Team (CAT) members. Ladies, your guidance & leadership is greatly appreciated!!

Jennifer McDonough, Past Chair  
Ann Lamoureux, Education Chair  
Petey Ahneman, Education Co-Chair  
Ami Christensen, Membership Chair  
Becky Schweinfus, Social Media Chair

## AS ALWAYS

Many thanks to the Eau Claire Community Foundation team for providing support and structure to WGC!



## WELCOME MISS MAGNOLIA DEAN GREEN!

•On February 28<sup>th</sup> my boyfriend Dave, his daughter Harper and I welcomed Miss Magnolia Dean Green. She weighed 5lbs 1oz & was 19" long. I'm happy to share the picture of our family below.



## 2022 WC Grant Recipients at December's Gift of Giving Breakfast



## THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

At the Gift of Giving breakfast in December 2022, WGC members were able to connect with grant recipients and attending guests. It was a fun morning spent learning more about programs that are impacting our community as well as an opportunity to connect with each other. After sharing breakfast together & visiting during the event, one of our current members offered to sponsor an attending guest. The guest accepted the offer and became a WGC member that same day!

Sponsorships are a generous way to bring in new members and another way to get more involved. If you are interested in sponsoring a new member, please let us know & we would be happy to help you coordinate!