

Women's Giving Circle

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

Happy Winter? This weather reminds me of a saying my grandparents used to say, "In like a lion, out like a lamb." I wonder if our weather will go out like a lion instead bringing us more snow? No matter the weather, your Circle Advisory Team (CAT) has been hard at work planning for the upcoming year. We met as a team in January to look at the year ahead! Read through the newsletter to see what's coming up and how we celebrated the end of last year's grant process. Watch your mailbox for an invitation to the Spring Gathering!
- Jennifer Beckermann, WGC Chair

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

Mother Teresa

Spring Gathering - May 13th

The Brewing Projekt

Social - 4pm

Program - 5:30



MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

At the end of 2023, Sue McIntyre told the story of her long-time friend, Dr. Caroline Becerstock. When Dr. Caroline passed away she left a gift to Sue that has turned into scholarships for new WGC members. To date, Sue (and Dr. Caroline) have gifted 3 memberships! If you know someone that could benefit from such a gift, or have questions, please reach out to the ECCF office. 715-552-3801. We'd love to hear your nominations!

3RD ANNUAL PUDDLE JUMP

Once again, a group of women are gathering for the Jeanne Richie Memorial Puddle Jump on April 20th. This event supports Longfellow Elementary and their after school programs. Register by April 1st for the early bird fee. Go to: [Puddle Jump Link](#). Click on Groups/Teams and search for Women's Giving Circle to join the group. If you'd like more information, contact Lesley Frederikson at lesley@toesontheroad.com. The team will meet Lesley at the base of the Phoenix Park trestle bridge at 8:45 for a photo. Look for the WGC sign!

Welcome New Members

Erica Payne

True Vue

Judy Leary

New Lifetime Member

Cheri Weinke



Endowment Moment - Legacy of giving

An acorn is a small and unassuming seed that holds within it the potential for great growth and prosperity. The acorn analogy is often used to explain how small things grow into big and mighty things over a period of time. Seventeen years ago a group of women got together and planted an acorn seed that now represents over \$700,000! An endowment by definition is a long-term plan for philanthropic giving. You might say it is “deep-rooted.”

In the next few newsletters, we'll talk about ways to help grow our endowment and how this is the best way to have more dollars for granting now AND into the future.

First - make your annual contribution. Every member pays \$250 - \$112.50 goes into the grant fund, \$125 goes to the endowment, the remaining \$12.50 goes to the ECCF for their office support. Every year we take about 4% from the endowment and add it to the Grant Fund to be used for the current year's grants. The bigger the endowment, the bigger the amount that gets transferred to be used for grants.

4% of \$700,000 vs. 4% of 1,000,000 is about \$12,000 extra dollars....



Previous Happenings



Congratulations to the non-profits that were awarded grants at the 2023 Gift of Giving Breakfast:

- Altoona Boys and Girls Club \$5800
- Chippewa Valley Museum \$6500
- Chippewa Valley Youth Choirs \$2500
- Eau Claire Area Hmong Association \$6500
- HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital \$6000
- Lutheran Social Services \$7000
- Professional Dental Hygiene Express \$7000

In December, Flo Sheridan opened her home to host our annual Merry Mingle. As usual, there was plenty of food, friendship & laughter. This event is a nice informal way to get together and celebrate the collective philanthropy from our WGC family. It's also a great time to invite friends and introduce them to our circle!



More ways to be together

Book Club - The WGC Book Club meets on the dates listed from 4-5pm at the LE Phillips Senior Center.



Monday, March 25th
"Switchboard Soldiers" by Jennifer Chiaverni
Discussion Leader: Judy


Monday, April 29th
"Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom" by Llyon Woo
Discussion Leader: Mandy

Monday, May 20th
"Hidden in the Pines" by Victoria Houston
Discussion Leader: Sherry

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." – Frederick Douglass

Fun new events happening during the year!

Our Membership Team is hard at work planning new and different events for us this year. They have defined their mission to: Recruit, Retain and Re-engage all WGC members. The end of January they did a trial run for a pop-in coffee event. They met at Cabin Coffee in Altoona with new members and women interested in learning more about the WGC. It was a fun, informal event. Watch the newsletter and social media for upcoming opportunities!



STAYING CONNECTED

[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



Last Thoughts

Thank you to Ann Kaiser, Carol Gabler & Liz Spencer for serving on the CAT team these past few years! We appreciate your hard work and input at our meetings.

One of our members, Marie Leonard passed away in early December. In her obituary, Women's Giving Circle was mentioned. If you want to read the article you can find it here:

[Marie Leonard Obituary](#)

See you at our next event!
Jennifer Beckermann - WGC Chair