



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

Message from Angela, WGC Chair

A Culture of Giving

As I wrap up my time as Circle Advisory Team Chair, I'm filled with gratitude for the Women's Giving Circle and the incredible community we've built together. This past year has shown me, again and again, how powerful it is when women come together with purpose. We listened, learned, and gave generously—strengthening nonprofits that are making a real difference in the Chippewa Valley.

What makes our Circle special is more than the dollars we grant. It's the culture of giving we've created: one rooted in compassion, collaboration, and a shared belief that our community thrives when we support one another.

My hope as I step out of this role is simple—that the lasting impact of our work continues to be felt across our community. The connections we've made, the organizations we've supported, and the spirit of generosity we've nurtured will carry forward long after any one term of leadership ends.

Thank you for the honor of serving and for all you do to uplift women, nonprofits, and the people of the Chippewa Valley. Our best work is still ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela".

DID YOU KNOW?

If your 2026 membership contribution is made by year-end, it may be eligible for a 2025 tax deduction. Please note "2026 membership" on your donation so it is recorded correctly, and so our friends at ECCF can ensure proper recognition for 2026.

Inside this newsletter—take a look back at the highlights from our recent events.

WGC Annual Meeting



Gift of Giving Breakfast



Merry Mingle



Annual Meeting Recap



The WGC Annual Meeting was held on Nov. 3 at Wild Ridge. During the meeting, we heard from our 2025 Circle Advisory Team (CAT) Chairs, who shared their committees' accomplishments over the past year.

Members also voted to approve the recommended grant recipients, awarding **\$47,169** in local community grants to support women and children in the greater Eau Claire area.

The meeting was a wonderful opportunity for members to reflect on this year's impact and learn more about what's ahead in 2026.

Thank you
2025 Circle Advisory Team Chairs



Outgoing Circle Advisory Team: Jane Gobler, Membership; Deb Fischer, Grants; Angela Quick, CAT Chair; Melanie Baumgart, Education, Liz Wolf Green, Social Media; and Jennifer Beckermann, Past Chair. Emily and Cindy will carry us into 2026.

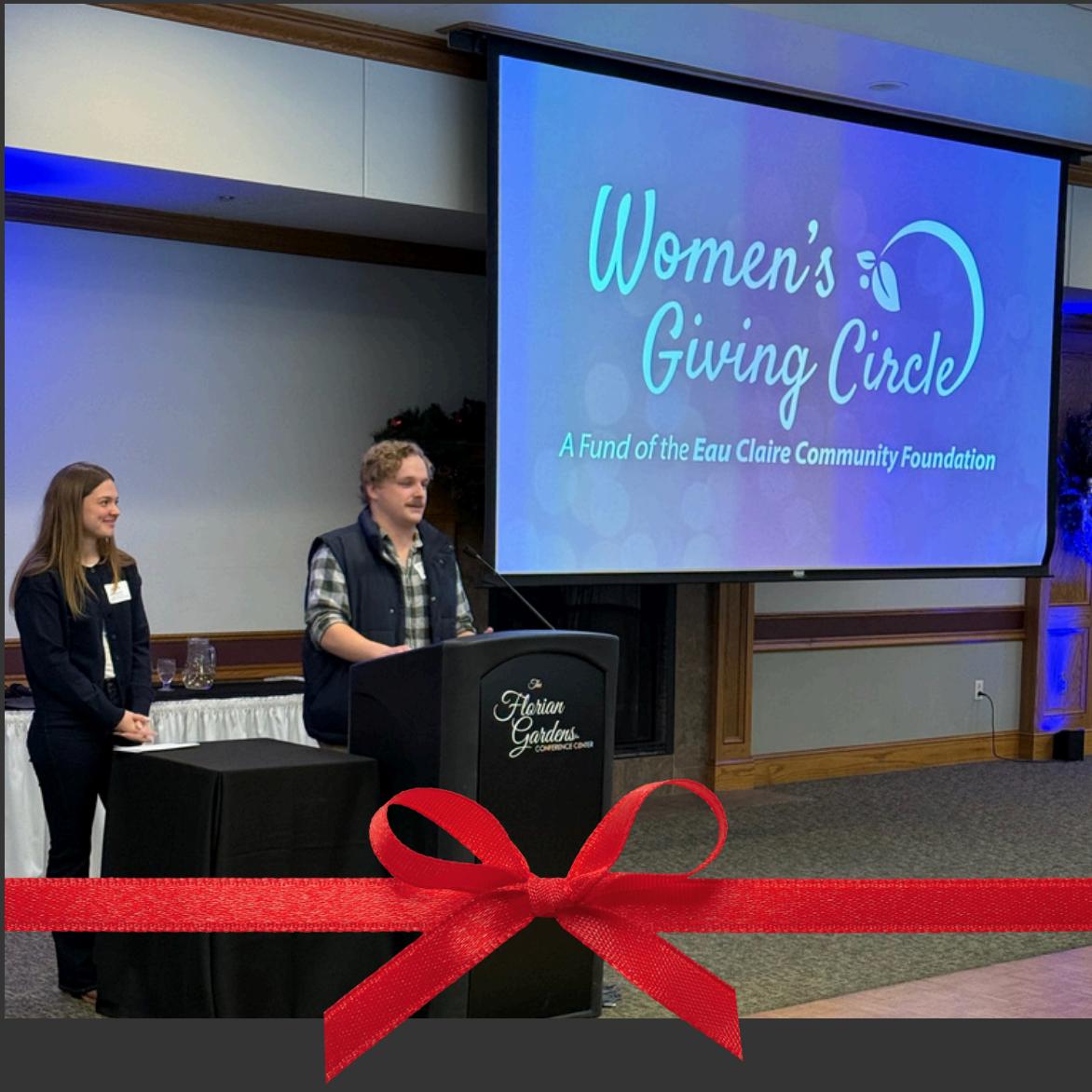
Introducing the 2026 Circle Advisory Team Chairs

NEW



Circle Advisory Team (Left to Right): Patti Sontag, Education Team Chair; Cindy Hofacker, Secretary; Emily Moore, CAT Chair; Tiffany Leighton-Giffey, Membership Team Chair; Rachel Franke, Social Media Team Chair; and Jeanie Lubinsky, Grants Team Chair. Not pictured: Lesley Frederikson, CAT Co-Chair.

Gift of Giving Breakfast Recap



On Dec. 2, our Gift of Giving Breakfast brought community members together for a warm morning of connection, good food and updates from our 2024 WGC grant recipients. Guests heard how WGC funding supported camp experiences and mentoring for youth at Big Brothers Big Sisters of NW Wisconsin; summer programs and Lemonade Day at the Boys & Girls Club; expanded access to learning through play at the Children's Museum; engaging history exhibits at the Chippewa Valley Museum; Books for Babies and translated literacy materials from the Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library; and financial literacy education through Junior Achievement of Wisconsin.

It was a powerful reminder of how WGC grants are turning generosity into real change for women, children and families in our community.

Merry Mingle 2025



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Lan Pham Vu

Kristin Walukas

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Lorene Liddle

Cindy Hangartner

2024 Contributing member count: 235

2025 Contributing member count to date: 254

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

We really encourage you to join a team to meet other members, share your talents and make a difference.

Email: office@eccfwi.org to get in contact with the team's chair to learn how you can get involved in any way you can from a small to a bigger contribution we always welcome you and your talents!



Education & Program Team

This team plans and hosts the spring educational event for the community. They also provide resources and create educational opportunities for circle members to learn about various issue affecting women and children in the greater Eau Claire area. 2026 Chair Patti Sontag, Co-Chair Haley Stowell.

Grants Team

This team manages the procedures for the annual grant process. Members of this team train members of the WGC to become grant reviewers to help evaluate proposals and recommend funding for next year. 2026 Chair Jeanie Lubinsky, Co-Chair Pat LuCore.

Membership & Social Team

This team provides information to prospective members, welcomes new members and facilitates the participation in activities and teams. 2026 Chair Tiffany Leighton-Giffey, Co-Chair Becky Wood.

Social Media Team

This team prepares and maintains all written and promotional materials on the WGC Website and on other social media. We're could really use a few more friendly faces to join our Social Media Team. If you enjoy taking photos, sharing stories or are simply curious about how Facebook and Instagram work, we'd love to have you. No experience needed—we'll learn together. 2026 Chair Rachel Franke, Co-Chair Jen Conaway.

Stay connected by following us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram for updates, stories and ways to get involved!

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