

Circle of Impact

A bi-monthly newsletter



A Fund of the Eau Claire Community Foundation



2025 GRANTEE: FRIENDS OF THE L.E. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

WGC Chair Message

Greetings!

If you attended the Spring Gathering, you heard the exciting news that the Women’s Giving Circle’s endowment crossed the million-dollar line! Together, in less than 20 years, we have granted over \$600,000 to benefit women and children in Eau Claire AND we have built a \$1,000,000 endowment. Think about the good we have done, can do and will do forever more. Few of us, if any, could experience as individuals what it is like to be part of a million-dollar endowment, but collectively, here we are! Thanks for being part of the Circle.

Emily Moore

In this Issue:

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Let’s Get Social](#)

[Grant Team Updates](#)

[Leadership Opportunities](#)

[Special Meeting Recap](#)

[Endowment](#)

[Membership News](#)

[Education Team Update](#)

[Book Club](#)

Circle Advisory Team (CAT) Meeting





MEMBERS ONLY



Grant Reviewer Training:

July 15, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and July 20, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Eau Claire Community Foundation Office

Bring a GUEST

Education Event:

October 6, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Brewing Projekt

MEMBERS ONLY



Annual Meeting:

November 4, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Wild Ridge

Bring a GUEST

Gift of Giving:

December 1, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Florian Gardens

MEMBERS ONLY

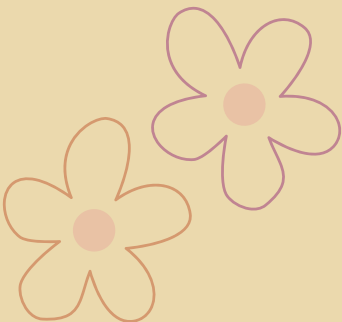


Merry Mingle:

December 17, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Carol Gabler's house

Let's get social and keep those connections thriving!

LET'S connect



By following us on social media, you'll be able to see the latest news, event details and exciting updates about our grant recipients.

Please click on the links below to go to our social media pages and give us a follow to stay informed about the most recent WGC news and events.

CLICK HERE!

Instagram



CLICK HERE!

Facebook



CLICK HERE!

LinkedIn



Grant Team Updates

Grant applications for the 2026 Women's Giving Circle grant cycle were due on June 1, and we are excited to share that 29 applications were received.

The Grants Team is now fully engaged in the review process. Grant review is a multi-step process designed to ensure that applications moving forward meet the requirements established by the Women's Giving Circle. Our goal is to review each application efficiently and fairly so that a strong slate of grant recommendations can be presented for approval at the Women's Giving Circle Annual Meeting on November 4.

29

Grants
Received



Become a Grant Reviewer

There is still time to participate in this important work! Grant reviewers play a key role in helping determine which organizations receive Women's Giving Circle funding each year.

Reviewer Training Sessions

Wednesday, July 15 | 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20 | 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Location: Eau Claire Community
Foundation Office



If you are interested in becoming a grant reviewer, please contact:
Katie Lambert – lambertk21@gmail.com
Mary Ann Ogan – maryann55@charter.net



Making an Impact!

Your generosity creates opportunities that last. Thanks to a \$7,000 Women's Giving Circle grant, the Children's Museum's Play for All program welcomed hundreds of families through reduced admission and affordable memberships—making hands-on learning, exploration and play accessible to more children in our community. Together, we're building brighter futures, one family at a time.

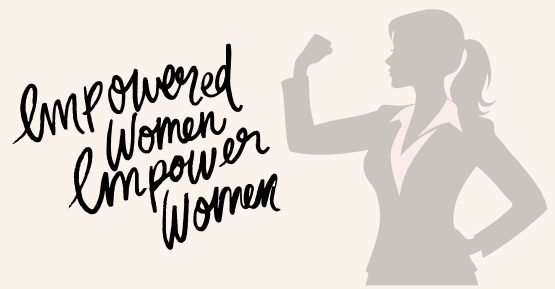
Leadership Opportunity with the Circle Advisory Team

The Women's Giving Circle is seeking nominations for members who are interested in serving in a leadership role on the Circle Advisory Team (CAT).

CAT leadership positions are one to three-year commitments and offer a unique opportunity to help guide the direction of the Women's Giving Circle while supporting our mission of creating meaningful impact throughout our community. Individuals who enjoy engaging in operations, working alongside exceptional teams, building relationships and helping bring ideas to life are especially well-suited for these roles.

Serving on CAT provides a rewarding opportunity to be at the center of the Circle's work—helping shape initiatives, support members and witness firsthand the impact our collective giving creates.

If you know a member who would be a great addition, or if you are interested in learning more yourself, please reach out to Angela Quick at angelamariequick@gmail.com with your recommendations or questions.




We would love to share what it feels like to be part of this incredible leadership experience.

Special Member Meeting Discussion (Held Virtually)



Twenty women attended the special meeting held virtually on May 27 to discuss potential recommended changes to the WGC Operational Guidelines. Those joining the meeting represented a wonderful mix of newer members, longtime members, leaders, and those who were curious. Topics of particular interest included the lifetime member age limit, how contributions are handled, opportunities for restricted gifts and the handling of unused grant funds.

Input provided during the meeting will be considered by the Circle Advisory Team. Recommended changes will then be forwarded to the ECCF Board of Trustees for approval. The final vote will be made by the WGC membership at the WGC Annual Meeting in November.



What is an endowment and why do they matter?

Endowments create funding stability and last forever.

The Women's Giving Circle is unique because some of our annual membership contribution is used to support the upcoming grant cycle and some of it is invested in the WGC endowment which is managed by the Eau Claire Community Foundation. This has been happening since the WGC began 19 years ago—some for near-term benefit, some for long-term benefit—year in and year out.

The endowment, which is the collection of “long-term benefit” contributions, has grown over time. Endowments grow through good investment management, adding earnings to the original donations.

As the endowment grows, so does the amount available to add to our annual pot of money to award grants. That's the magic—when you donate to the WGC, your gift is making an impact now AND your gift is building an endowment that provides a stable source of funding each year, forever.

2025 WGC Grants: \$47,169

Chippewa Valley Free Clinic: \$7,500
Addressing Health and Social Inequities in Women Living in Disadvantaged Conditions

Christ Church Cathedral: \$6,000
Needful Things Personal Care Pantry

Feed My People Food Bank: \$7,500
Project FEED School Markets

Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library: \$5,250
Eau Claire Children's Book Distribution Program

Home for Good of Eau Claire: \$7,500
Moms Mentoring Moms

Junior Achievement of WI North and West Central Region: \$5,928
Forming a Culturally Responsive Partnership to Enhance Financial Literacy Skills in Eau Claire's Hmong Community

Northlakes Community Clinic: \$7,491
Expanded Pediatric Clinic Speech and Occupational Therapy

Membership News

Wondering how to encourage new members?

The Membership Team would love your help in spreading the word about the Women’s Giving Circle. If you want to encourage a friend to consider the WGC, here are a few talking points:

- With collective giving, our contributions have increased power and impact in supporting women and children in Eau Claire County.
- You can participate as much or as little as you want – some people just want to contribute, while others want to socialize and get involved. Both styles are valued!
- If interested, you can pursue committee and leadership opportunities.
- You can take part in social, educational and informational activities.
- There are lots of opportunities for informal networking!
- The annual contribution of \$250 can be given in monthly installments, if desired.

Help spread the word—contact us for flyers or information.

Tiffany Leighton-Giffey Membership Chair (651) 357-3454 tlightongiffey@gmail.com

Becky Wood, Membership Vice-Chair (715) 450-1741 biwood2@hotmail.com

Contact Us!

The Membership Committee has been busy—and having a lot of fun!

After the wildly successful January information night, we welcomed new members to a small gathering this Spring. At this event, new members built relationships with each other and learned more about the organization. It was a delight, with new members leaving with new friends and great enthusiasm.

In May, the membership committee enjoyed meeting and mingling with attendees at the Spring Gathering. As a result of the event, we had 10 guests join! On June 22, we had Wine, Women and Chocolate at 2 Roots. Thank you to everyone who came out—it was a wonderful event, as always!

WGC Membership

259 Contributing Members 2025

268 Contributing Members 2026

70 Lifetime Members

Welcome New Members

Semone Thomas

Sue Heilborn

Laurel Keiffer

Becky Seelen

Maygen Lundgren Maple

Kathi Keute

Kelsey Britten

Mackenzie Dawson

Julie Holzinger

Judy Lien

Karen Boutiette

New Lifetime Member



Nicole Lasker

Thank you to all who have contributed so far this calendar year!

Education Team Update

A Wonderful Spring Gathering

On May 21, members and guests gathered at Florian Gardens for our annual Spring Gathering. With over 150 attendees, it was an evening filled with meaningful conversations, reconnecting with friends and welcoming new faces. Our keynote speaker, Carrie Ronnander, Executive Director of the Chippewa Valley Museum, shared exciting updates about the museum while offering a heartfelt perspective on the powerful impact of women's philanthropy. Her presentation was both inspiring and well received by all.





Education Team Update cont.

Save the Date!

Housing Insecurity in Our Community

Tuesday, October 6 • 4:30 p.m. | Brewing Projekt

Join us for an important community conversation featuring four local panelists who work directly with housing insecurity throughout the Chippewa Valley. Moderated by Patti Sontag and Haley Stowell, this panel discussion will include opportunities for attendees to ask questions. Following the event, plans are underway to offer guided tours of the Day Resource Center for those interested in learning more.

We'd Love to Have You on the Education Team!

Curious, compassionate and passionate about making a difference? The Education Team is always looking for new members!

Together, we identify important issues facing our community and create engaging educational programs that inspire learning, connection and action.

Whether you have fresh ideas, enjoy planning events or simply want to become more involved, there's a place for you on our team. Come help us educate, inspire and strengthen our community—we'd love to welcome you!



Book Club


Sherry Macaul and Kathie Schneider co-lead the book club at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center and welcome you to participate in the discussion any month you are available. Have questions or an idea for a book we should read and discuss in October? Contact Kathie Schneider at schneiks@uwec.edu.

Monday, July 27 – Discussion Leader: Laurel
The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

Monday, Aug. 31 – Discussion Leader: LuAnn
The Atomic City Girls by Janet Beard

Monday, Sept. 28 – Discussion Leader: Kathie
Tend to Your Spirit: Mindful Living with Chronic Illness by Julianne Lepp

Monday, Nov. 30
Select books for reading and discussion in 2027.



All meetings are from 4 to 5 p.m. at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center (1616 Bellinger St. Eau Claire).

To receive a Zoom link to participate online, please reach out to Kathie at schneiks@uwec.edu.

