

Circle of Impact

A bi-monthly newsletter

WGC Chair Message



Hello members,

Have you heard there is an effort to increase the Women's Giving Circle endowment to a level where we will be able to of grants at the \$10,000 level? It seems like a worthy goal for several reasons including:

- **Members asked for it.** For many years members have been asking for this level while at the same time not wantir to reduce the number of nonprofits that receive funding.
- **It is a trying time for nonprofits.** The cost of operations continues to increase, and some sources of past funding are no longer available.
- **Nonprofits have limited resources.** We want local nonprofits to use their time wisely, and when they invest effort in writing a grant, we want to help them bring more o their vision to life.

In short, there is a strong desire to better support women and children in Eau Claire! If the timing is right for you, you are invited to learn about the 20th Anniversary Milestone Fund. Contact Joe Carlson at joe.carlson@eccfwi.org at the ECCF office and a WGC member will reach out to you.

Emily Moore

Circle Advisory Team (CAT) Meeting



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Bring a
GUEST 

Education Event:

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

**MEMBERS
ONLY** 

Annual Meeting:

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

Bring a
GUEST 

Gift of Giving:

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

**MEMBERS
ONLY** 

Merry Mingle:

Dec. 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

The grant cycle is well underway. This year there are 41 grant reviewers, composed of trained, volunteer Women's Giving Circle members. They are reviewing 26 grant applications using a scoring matrix. The applications scoring the highest are reviewed by the Grants Team for final recommendation to CAT and approval by the ECCF Board of Trustees. The final approval is done by the Women's Giving Circle at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to all our grant reviewers for dedicating time to this important work!

Throughout the year, the Grants Team is committed to process improvement. This year, changes were made to the application based on an opportunity identified during the preliminary review process in 2025. This year a table that auto sums financial questions was added to the application, making it both clearer and simpler for the applicants!

We have 41 grant reviewers and 26 grant applications



Grant reviewer training session held Monday, July 20.

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! Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Grant Recipient



Your generous donations to WGC in 2025 helped provide 1,500 books in English, Hmong and Spanish for children ages 0-8 that may not have reading material in their homes. Thanks to the \$5,250 grant given in 2025, this program will distribute diverse, high-quality children's books throughout the community to facilities often visited by underserved families in our community, including laundromats, food pantries, WIC office, Community Table, Bolton Refuge House and Owen Park playground!

Nominations for Circle Advisory Team (CAT) are Open!

Are you interested in taking on a leadership role within the WGC—or do you know someone who would be a great candidate?

Open CAT positions include:

- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer, pending membership approval of this new position
- Vice Chair for each standing team:
Education, Grants, Membership and Social Media

Self-nominations are encouraged. Please contact Angela Quick at angelamariequick@gmail.com by Sept. 4 to nominate yourself or another member, or to learn more about any of these opportunities.

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



ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting on Nov. 4 will include several opportunities for members to vote. If you need to vote electronically due to a disability, please contact ECCF (office@eccfwi.org) so that we can try to make an appropriate accommodation.



Membership Team Reflects on Member Growth

At the beginning of the year, the Membership team sets a goal for the coming 12 months. What can we achieve in one year? For 2026, we decided to aim high. Our goal was to increase our active membership to 275. As of Aug. 3, we had gained 51 new members this year and reached that goal exactly!



As we reflect on the momentum and growth we've achieved, it's clear that many efforts are contributing to our progress. Women's Giving Circle is increasing its visibility in meaningful ways. Our Social Media and Communications team is expanding our digital reach, while our Membership team is building relationships with prospective members at events and through thoughtful follow-up. Our Education team continues to coordinate impactful programs, and our Grants team remains committed to ensuring our funds make a difference in the Eau Claire community. Just as importantly, members like you are helping spread the word and invite others to be part of our mission.

Lastly, we suspect our growth is in part due to the increasing needs we see in our community as nonprofits face increasing financial pressures and seek new ways to meet growing community needs. Women's Giving Circle is gaining more relevance as we strive to improve the lives of women and children in Eau Claire County. These trends emphasize why membership growth is so important: The more women who contribute, the more grants we can provide, so, although we've met our 2026 goal, we're not done! We hope you'll continue to help Women's Giving Circle grow.

If you're interested in getting involved in the Membership team or any of the other teams, let us know.

Contact Us!

Becky Wood, Membership Vice-Chair (715) 450-1741 biowood2@hotmail.com

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

WGC Membership

259

Contributing
Members 2025

275

Contributing
Members 2026

72

Lifetime
Members

Welcome New Members

Beth Crotty

Sue Brown

Julie Poquette

Leslie Lyons

Sharyl Wojciechowski

Cheryl Cramer

New Lifetime Members



Diane Hoadley

Barbara Arnold

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

MEMBERSHIP

WINE, WOMEN & CHOCOLATE

Recap 



“

We had 62 members and 23 guests attend Wine, Women and Chocolate at 2Roots on June 22.

It was a wonderful event.

The wine and pizza at 2Roots, coupled with the chocolate supplied by Sweet Driver made for a decadent, delicious evening. It was such fun sharing with guests about Women's Giving Circle and connecting with new and old friends.

As always, this remains a favorite event of many! Thanks to all who attended!



THANK YOU!

We're grateful to everyone who joined us for this special evening. Your support makes our community stronger.



Education Team Update



Save the Date!

Housing Insecurity in Our Community

Tuesday, Oct. 6 • 4-6 pm | The Brewing Projekt

OCTOBER

6



The Education Team has been meeting this summer to plan the Fall Educational Event which is entitled “Housing Insecurity in Our Community.” The event will occur on Tuesday, Oct. 6, starting at 4:00 p.m. for registration and the program starting at 4:30 pm, at the Brewing Projekt, 1807 N Oxford Ave, Eau Claire.



The program will consist of a 4-person panel of experts involved with housing shortages and the unhoused in our community. The speakers include Anna Cardarella from Western Dairyland, Paul Savides of the JONAH Affordable Housing Task Force, Semone Thomas from Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley – Beacon House and Mara Langreck, from Lived Experience Advisory Board.



Education Team Chair, Patti Sontag and Co-Chair Haley Stowell will moderate and will ask pertinent questions regarding the unhoused and housing insecurity. The audience will be given the chance to ask questions at the end. Light snacks and beverages for purchase will be available.

**Tour of the Day
Resource Center**



At the event, participants will have the opportunity to sign up for a tour of the Day Resource Center. More information will be available soon.





Education Team Update cont.

We'd love to have you on the Education Team!

Curious, caring, 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!

If you're interested in joining the Education Team or attending a team meeting, contact Brenna at office@eccfwi.org



Ways to get involved

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, 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.
Discussion Leader: Kathie

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



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



UPCOMING
WGC
MEMBER
EVENT

Ways to get involved

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Mahjong, Anyone?!

One of our members, Sarah Fabiny, has offered to host an opportunity to get to know other members while playing Mahjong. This event is for people who are familiar with the basics of Mahjong. She has graciously offered two dates. Space is limited, so if you want to come, please RSVP to sarah.fabiny@gmail.com.



Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 5 pm

-and-



Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 9:30 am



A huge thank you to Sarah for coming up with this idea and offering her home and excitement for Mahjong!



Ways to get involved

Servant Leadership Opportunity for Senior Women



Two years ago, the WGC hosted an Education Event about servant leadership with speaker Tom Thibodeau that was very well received. He shared how adopting a servant leadership philosophy strengthens organizations, inspires volunteers and creates lasting positive change in communities. Several women expressed interest in learning more.

“ This fall the Pablo Foundation and Chippewa Valley Learning and Retirement are co-sponsoring two sessions that may interest senior women in the Women's Giving Circle. WGC member Carol Gabler commented, “Servant leadership has an unwavering focus on people and the community. When I think of the women I have met through the WGC,

I feel like the upcoming program on servant leadership is a perfect way to learn and grow together!”

**If interested, look for the
registration information on the next page.**



You're Invited!

A TWO-SESSION SEMINAR FOR SENIORS

Learning About Servant Leadership

Join us for two engaging sessions designed for seniors who want to grow, learn, and make a meaningful difference in our community. Discover how servant leadership can enrich our lives, strengthen our relationships, and inspire service to others.



Tom Thibodeau,
Distinguished
Professor of
Servant
Leadership at
Viterbo University



Rick Kyte
Director of the D.B.
Reinhardt Institute for
Ethics in Leadership,
Viterbo University

SESSION 1



Learning About Servant Leadership for Seniors

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Discover the meaning and value of servant leadership and how you can use your wisdom, experience, and compassion to mentor, volunteer, and lead by example in today's world.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- What is servant leadership?
- Leading through kindness and service
- Finding purpose and connection in retirement years
- Ways seniors can positively impact family and community

SESSION 2



Nonprofit Connection Group

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Connect with nonprofits in our community that have been certified in servant leadership and learn how they make a difference.

Find out meaningful opportunities to get involved through volunteering, mentoring, advocacy, and service projects.

LEARN ABOUT:

- How servant leadership strengthens organizations
- Community needs and opportunities
- Volunteer experiences for seniors
- Ways to share your talents, wisdom, and life experience
- Building a stronger community together



SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Presentation 10:30 – 11:30 am
Q & A 11:30 am – Noon



LOCATION

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
Riverside Room
400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire, WI



*Coffee, tea, and muffins
will be provided!*

**ALL SENIORS
ARE WELCOME!
BRING A
FRIEND!**

THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



**RSVP by
Sept. 20**



Questions? maivue@pablofoundation.org

maivue.pablofoundation.org

A Different Way to Give:

IRAs and Gifts of Stock



When considering a charitable gift, many people naturally think of writing a check or making a cash contribution. There may be other options which can be both charitable and tax-efficient and will help to grow Women's Giving Circle granting.



Individuals age 70½ or older, can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from their IRA. Making a QCD may reduce your taxable income and can count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).



Making a donation of stock or securities can have a dual tax benefit. You may avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated stock and can receive a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the securities. Stock can be transferred to ECCF, it is then sold and sale proceeds occur as a gift from you.



A QCD or Gift of Stock can be directed to the Women's Giving Circle 20th Anniversary Milestone Fund. Contributions are added to the Women's Giving Circle Endowment Fund and help to grow the grant amounts.

Visit with **Joe Carlson** at joe.carlson@eccfwi.org to learn more about these ways to give. ECCF can work alongside your financial advisor to process either IRA or stock gifts.



DONATE