



The Women's Giving Circle of Harford County

The mission of the Women's Giving Circle of Harford County is to engage women of all generations in the power of community philanthropy.

The vision is to empower and mentor women as they develop in community leadership and effect change through collaborative giving.

As a Giving Circle Member you will join a gracious and giving group of women to learn firsthand about the needs of non-profits serving women, right here in Harford County.

Opportunities for participation abound. You can take part in the philanthropic decision-making process and have a direct role in deciding which programs to fund, or join one of our many other interesting committees. Do as little or as much as your schedule allows. Our members are hardworking and compassionate, from diverse backgrounds and from all areas of county. Young mothers and retirees, lawyers and physicians, homemakers and social workers, businesswomen and athletes, authors and musicians, we welcome one and all to join our mission and vision.

Who are Circle members?

Women of all ages from diverse backgrounds who want to participate in a gracious and giving group, whose mission is to improve the lives of women and their families in Harford County. We welcome new members, and enjoy the opportunity to work with like-minded women.

If I am interested or have a friend who is interested in the Circle, how can we get information?

Learn more about the Giving Circle by contacting: wgcharfordmembership@gmail.com, and/or attending one of the “***Sneak Peek, Party with a Purpose***” meetings structured for our members and prospective new members. These events are typically posted on our Facebook page, and you can check them out at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/892739014201608/>

How much is the annual membership?

\$550, if you are over 35 years of age. We are also happy to say we have a Next Generation Giving Level of \$350, if you are under 35 years of age, and you may remain at the lower level of Giving until you reach age 35, or for three consecutive years – *whichever is less*.

How much of my annual contribution is tax deductible?

All of it.

How is my contribution used?

The membership contribution is divided between the endowed and non-endowed fund, with the \$550 split three ways - 25% or \$125 goes to the endowed fund, 75% or \$375 goes to the non-endowed fund to be used for grant awards, and the remaining \$50 is considered an administrative fee. Please note, the breakdown percentages are the same for the lower level of giving.

How long is my commitment when I join?

The commitment is made year to year, one year at a time. If you wish, you may pay for more than one year at a time, but typically members renew their membership annually.

When is my annual contribution due?

By December 15th each year so we can determine how much money is available for the next granting cycle. However, new members may join at any time and existing members may renew at any time throughout the year.

Where can I find the membership brochure and form?

http://cfharfordcounty.org/literature_232157/Women's_Giving_Circle_Membership_Form

What payment method may I use?

You may pay by check, or online with a credit card.

To Pay by Check:

Please make your check payable to the Community Foundation of Harford County, and write, "WGC" in the memo line and mail with your membership form, to:

Community Foundation of Harford County
P.O. Box 612, Bel Air, MD 21014
Attention: WGC
www.cfharfordcounty.org

To Make an Online Payment by Credit Card:

You may go to the Community Foundation website at any time and access the same payment portal there: <https://cfharfordcounty.networkforgood.com/projects/19674-woman-s-giving-circle-of-harford-county>.

Does the WGC meet as a group?

Yes, there are three General Membership Meetings per year, and several committee meetings throughout the year. At the General Membership Meetings, the Executive Board and Committee Chairs speak about the current state of affairs, including the grant process and the years' grant recipients. The meetings are structured to keep WGC members informed, and are typically followed by open by a Q&A session.

May members bring a guest to a General Membership Meeting?

Yes, one time and subject to space. Members bringing a guest must RSVP with the guest's name and must accompany the guest to the meeting. However, the ***May General Members' Meeting is reserved for members only***, due to the schedule of that meeting, which is when new grants are voted and selected in a confidential session.

Do I have to join a committee?

No, not at all, but it is a great way to get involved and learn about the WGC.

May I join more than one committee?

Yes, but we recommend you first carefully consider the time commitment of each.

May members bring a guest to a committee meeting?

No, committee meetings are for WGC members only.

How are grants awarded?

WGC members are involved in all aspects of the decision-making process associated with grants awarded by the WGC. Members who volunteer to be grant committee members are tasked to review the submitted applications, and identify those that best address the WGC grant criteria through a scoring process, and that ultimately reflect our vision and mission.

Committee members' review, score and tally those applications that they wish to recommend for funding. WGC committee members who participate in the grant review process vote to select the proposed slate of new grantees, based on a cumulative voting process. The proposed slate of recipients is then voted upon by the full membership, and then reviewed and approved by the CF, before grants awards are funded.

Grant awards are up to a maximum annual grant amount of \$5,000. In addition, non-profits that have received a grant award for three consecutive years, may not apply for one year before their next grant application.

How can I participate in the grants review process?

Sign up to serve on the Grants Committee when you initially join or renew your membership, or at any time during your membership. Please understand, non-profit CEO's or ED's may not serve on the grants committee.

How does an organization receive information about applying for a grant?

Through the Community Foundation of Harford County website, in the form of a Grant Application. The annual grant application window typically opens in late January and closes mid-March.

Who are your typical grantees?

Our grantee agencies are diverse. They serve women and families of every ethnic, religious, racial and educational background. *They inspire us* to work hard on their behalf, because with our grants they can continue to do their important work. We're struck time after time by the legions of people working hard in the trenches with little money, enormous challenges and bigger hearts.

A full list of annual grant recipients may be found on the Women's Giving Circle website: <http://cfharfordcounty.org/womens-giving-circle>

What is the relationship with the Community Foundation of Harford County?

The WGC is a group of gracious and giving women that pool our funds through annual membership fees, to provide grants to non-profits that serve women and their families in Harford County. *We do not have a formal organization status, and so we are not a stand-alone nonprofit.* The umbrella above the WGC is the Community Foundation, which is the tax-exempt nonprofit organization, which we fall under, *as a donor fund.* *And this makes life a lot less complicated* for the Women's Giving Circle in many ways.

Can I review the WGC guidelines?

Yes, the link is below and also found on the website.

[http://cfharfordcounty.org/literature/54258/Women's Giving Circle Guidelines](http://cfharfordcounty.org/literature/54258/Women's%20Giving%20Circle%20Guidelines)

What if I have more questions?

We would love to tell you more about this fabulous group of women! Please email our Membership Committee, at wgcharfordmembership@gmail.com and Co-Chairs, Cathy Schmidt and Christine McPherson will be happy to speak with you. Thank you.