



## WOMEN'S GIVING NETWORK OF WAKE COUNTY

*a program of*

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Fall 2018

### Prepare To Cast Your Vote for New Grantees

Where did the summer go? It is hard to believe we are at the beginning of the fall season. This new season brings much excitement within WGN. In the upcoming weeks, WGN members will cast their vote to award the newest generation of grant recipients. It is also a time to thank our committees for all their hard work. Our committee members dedicate their time and energy to maintain and foster WGN's presence in our community.

The aforementioned ballot you will be receiving is in the process of being prepared by the Grants Committee, led by Molly Painter. This amazing group of 12 women has been meeting for months. They have diligently reviewed and scored every grant applicant so you can be confident all the programs that make it to the ballot are worthy of funding.

Membership chair, Lisa Grele-Barrie worked tirelessly exploring and cultivating new WGN relationships. Because of Lisa's efforts, WGN and Bank of America have formed an alliance to sponsor five WGN junior

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### Grants Committee

### Making a Difference for Women & Children

As with many groups, especially those made up of women, we discover the most meaningful connections through personal relationships. It is the same for me with the Women's Giving Network. I have been a member for 10 years, but it wasn't until I participated on the Grants Committee and the Leadership Team that I really became engaged with the WGN. I have met confident, smart and philanthropic-minded women who believe that as a group we can make more of a difference in Wake County than we can as individuals. It's not only about collective giving, but about really getting to know women who are part of the WGN, or part of the non-profits we support.

*"As an Interior Designer, I loved seeing an example of how I could use my skills to not only help my clients, but to help my community. I have grown into myself with the help of the WGN."*

*—Molly Painter,  
Grants chair*

These women desire to make a difference. They are making it happen through their work, volunteering or their knowledge of what is lacking in Wake County and what can be done to combat the growing needs.

Take Charlotta Sjoelin from A Lotta Love as an example. She saw the run down, stark, uncomfortable shelters in our area and as an Interior Designer wanted to help make them functional, welcoming and cozy for the heartbroken women and children living there. She gave up her day job and started A Lotta Love. I met Lotta while on a site visit at the Wrenn House. She is dynamic and persuasive. I was immediately drawn to her.

Thanks to the WGN, A Lotta Love was the recipient of a 2016 grant. As an Interior Designer, I loved seeing an example of how I could use my skills to not only help my clients, but to help my community. I have grown into myself with the help of the WGN. Lotta and I are currently partnered to renovate another shelter in Raleigh, and I'm grateful for the relationship we formed during the WGN Grants process.

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# Meet the WGN Leadership Team

*The Women's Giving Network of Wake Co. is led by an energetic team of women committed to providing financial support for women and children in our midst. We'd like to take a few moments to introduce you to this dynamic group.*

## Laurie Hughes, President

Six years ago, Laurie attended the WGN annual grants luncheon as a guest of a founding WGN member, Carole Wilson. Laurie was so impressed how a group of women coming together can make an impact on our community that she wanted to be a part of it. In her career, Laurie has had various positions in the financial service industry, the most recent as an analyst in the hedge fund arena. She has also volunteered with the UNC Ronald McDonald Family Room for the past seven years. She and her husband Alan have three grown children: Brian 27, Andrew, 25 and Cara, 23.



## Hayden Constance, President-elect

When Hayden moved to Raleigh from Washington, DC, six years ago, she quickly wanted to plug in to the area's volunteer community. A new friend told her about WGN. She joined the Grants Committee right away and has been a member for four years. Hayden's corporate career was with Verizon in marketing, strategic planning and sales. With her two daughters grown, she has since worked as a Senior Leadership consultant to Global 100 companies. Hayden and her husband also have two granddaughters. Daughter, Brittany moved to Raleigh over the summer and is one of our new junior members.



## Jenny Eury, Corresponding Secretary

Jenny, who joined WGN two years ago, continues to be impressed with the organization's philanthropic focus and community impact through collective giving. She enjoys having the opportunity to network with women who share her interest in making a difference in the lives of Wake County women and children. On the leadership team, Jenny keeps the minutes at the Leadership Team meetings and also takes photos at WGN-Wake County networking events to be shared with current and potential members. She recently retired from IBM after 33 years in Information Technology. Her time is now focused on volunteering with various organizations, primarily WGN. This year she took up indoor cycling.



## Lisa Grele Barrie, Chair, Membership Committee

Lisa joined WGN last October after meeting Laurie Hughes and Amy Pirozzolo at Walter's WINnovation event. She knew of the organization and was impressed by our mission and impact on women and children in the community. As Membership Chair, Lisa is leading the effort to cultivate, recruit and retain our membership. The goal for 2018 is 100 members granting over \$100K, and we are nearly there! Lisa is also excited about the new Junior Membership program to engage women under the age of 40 in philanthropy. Lisa's career spans more than 35 years of sales, marketing, fundraising, consulting and nonprofit management. Last year, she launched a leadership development consulting company, Grounded\_LGB LLC after stepping down as CEO of NC Theatre. Lisa and her husband have two sons and two cats.



## Susan Edwards, Member-at-Large

Before becoming a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch, Susan had only worked for nonprofit organizations. Cathy Stuart, a family friend and founding member of the Women's Giving Network, told her about WGN and she became our first junior member. Now she serves as Junior Membership Class Advocate. She lives with her boyfriend, Corey, who is a probation officer for Wake County, and their dog, Winnie, who is Chief Squirrel Inspector for their back yard. She took the Polar Plunge when the temperature was 0 degrees outside while attending graduate school in Wisconsin. "The water was warmer than the air outside!" she says.



## Kella Hatcher, Past President

Kella liked the idea of women pooling their resources and wisdom to carefully determine ways to make a significant positive impact on the well-being of women and children in her community, when she joined WGN six years ago. Much of her career has been spent in juvenile law and child advocacy. She currently serves as Executive Director for the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, a legislative study commission that makes policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly to prevent child fatalities and promote child well-being. Kella and her husband have two sons, 24 and 22, plus two "senior" pets – a cat and a dog. She's begun a new phase in life with two kids out of college. The change, she says, has been bittersweet.



*Continued on the next page*

# Meet the WGN Leadership Team

## Lee Hayden, Co-chair, Education Committee

When she joined WGN in 2017, Lee was drawn to our philanthropy and the focus of women and children in Wake County. Lee is now Director of Operations & the Newcomer Ministry at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. Lee and her husband, David, have four adult children and one happy English Springer Spaniel. Last fall, Lee danced to an accordion player on a cliff overlooking Nice, France, and under the stars in Lyon, surrounded by dear friends, as their tour boat glided down the Rhone River.



## Pam Prather, Co-chair, Education Committee

Pam, who is a friend of Laurie Hughes', joined in January of last year at Laurie's invitation. Semi-retired from her career as an immigration paralegal, she now occasionally works at Wake Tech as an ESL Instructor. Pam is an active volunteer with several different areas of interest. She and her husband, King, have been married 33 years and have three adult children: a son, 31, and twin girls, 30. Pam has worked extensively in the relocation of Montagnard refugees in North Carolina. She is a longtime supporter of Planned Parenthood, and serves as a Guardian ad Litem for Wake County. Pam and her husband spend a lot of their time in Asheville, where he serves on the Board of Trustees for UNC Asheville, and she sits on the Board of the Governor's Western Residence.



## Molly Painter, Chair, Grants Committee

Molly was searching for ways to get involved in helping non-profits in Raleigh when she learned about the WGN and joined 11 years ago. As chair of the Grants Committee, she keeps the leadership team up to date on our grant process. Molly recently has taken time away from MWP Interior Design, to concentrate on volunteer efforts... She now serves at several nonprofits on a more consistent basis, after learning about many of them through the WGN grants process. Molly and her husband, Michael, have three daughters.



## Amy Pirozzolo, Member at-Large

Amy was new to the Triangle and wanted to give back locally she didn't know where to start. She joined WGN three years ago, learned about the needs in our community and the incredible organizations dedicated to helping women and children. She's met some outstanding women whom she now call friends. After serving as Membership Chair, she is now a Member at-Large and serves on the Grants



Committee. Amy is head of Marketing for a non-profit organization, Fidelity Charitable, and it's her dream job. She and her husband have five children, three girls and two boys ranging in age from 33 to a high school freshman. Amy is ferociously dedicated and loyal – as a friend, worker or volunteer (sometimes to her demise.) And she believes that “the meaning of life is to find your gift and the purpose of life is to give it away.” (Pablo Picasso)

## Jesma Reynolds, Member at-Large

A member for two years, Jesma joined WGN for its impact on the lives of women and children in Wake County. “It's so powerful to hear firsthand stories from grant recipients about how WGN has provided transformative funding to their organizations,” she says. She's been involved in different aspects of design and publishing for most of her career was co-founder and creative director of Walter magazine. Jesma is married with two college-age sons.



## Susan Rountree, Chair, Communications Committee

Susan joined WGN in 2017 after attending a grants awards luncheon. Seeing that there was a call for help on the Communications team, she volunteered. An author and former freelance writer, Susan is now director of communications for St. Michael's Episcopal Church. She and her husband have two grown children and a new grandchild, who happily pulls her away from working to his home in Manhattan. She also writes a monthly column in the Sunday News & Observer.



## Quinn Novels, NCCF Liason

Quinn is a Regional Director at the North Carolina Community Foundation, and provides leadership for six affiliate foundations in the Northern Piedmont region. She supports the affiliate's work in developing strong boards, promoting philanthropy, conducting grantmaking, and serving as community leaders. Prior to joining the NCCF, Quinn was a Relationship Manager at United Way of the Greater Triangle, where she had the opportunity to cultivate relationships with individuals and companies and helped to build strategy around individual donor engagement. In her spare time, Quinn enjoys spending time with her family, friends and cute pup Pedro, traveling, and doing fun fixer-upper type projects at her new home.



*Pop Up Social at the Angus Barn*

## WGN Members and Guests Gather To Learn More about Our Mission



*The Women's Giving Network held a pop-up social July 10, attended by more than 30 people. Pictured: NCCF board member Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, Cristina Michael and WGN past president Kella Hatcher.*



*From left, Corresponding Secretary Jenny Eury; WGN president Laurie Hughes; NCCF Liason Quinn Novels; and Member at-Large Susan Edwards*



## VOTE, from page 1

members. To date, our membership has grown 25 percent under her leadership.

Education co-chairs Lee Hayden and Pam Prather have been behind the scenes creating a new educational event. This event will highlight the Raleigh Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness program. Mark your calendars for September 18th. This committee also includes member, Kim Barber.

Susan Rountree is our communications chair and she is the creator and producer of this newsletter. It is a valuable source of information and provides a perfect snapshot of what is going on in WGN. Feel free to forward it to friends and colleagues to let them know about the impactful network you belong to.

## GRANTS, from page 1

Through the thoughtful and thorough grants process, I have also increased my awareness of other needs in Wake County, learned about the numerous non-profits that are meeting these critical needs and have discovered new organizations each year.

I'm always incredibly encouraged by what these non-profits provide, but most importantly by the folks at the helm, like Lotta. I'm very thankful for my committee who is currently reading and scoring 18 grant applications. We started in early June with 50 Letters of Intent. We meet the first week in September to discuss, research, hash out and ultimately select 9 to 10 Wake County non-profits for site visits.

After digging in and getting to know the non-profits, we will then send five to you for a vote. Many months of hard work, discussion and personal relationships go into our process to provide these five finalists.

Make sure to vote!! I am proud of our committee comprised of Donna Anderson, Kathy Burns, Beverley Clark, Mary-Owens Fitzgerald, Linda Parks, Sandy Pearce, Tricia Phoenix, Amy Pirozzolo, Quinn Novels, Jesma Reynolds and Deb Rodman. We look forward to sharing our recommendations with you in October.

– Molly Painter, Chair Grants Committee

The Leadership Committee has been planning the annual Grants Award Luncheon. We are honored to have NC First Lady Kristin Cooper in attendance and WRAL Debra Morgan as our Emcee. The luncheon will be hosted at the NC State University Park Alumni Center on November 8th. This event is sure to sell out, so please purchase your tickets early.

The Leadership Committee is comprised of the committee chairs and Members at-Large Jesma Reynolds, Susan Edwards and Amy Pirozzolo; Past President, Kella Hatcher; President-elect, Hayden Constance; Corresponding Secretary, Jenny Eury; and NCCF liaison; Quinn Novels.

Clearly, we are making a great deal of progress at WGN. You should

feel certain your decision to be a WGN member has been a wise one. WGN committees are made up of extraordinary women. They know how to get the job done and have fun doing it!

There is always a need for help on our committees, so if you have interest in joining any of them please let me know. Thank you to our committees and thank you for being part of The Women's Giving Network of Wake County.

Warm regards,

Laurie



*Molly Painter, second from left, retired to follow her passion, working with the homeless.*

# WGN Welcomes New Partners for IMPACT Luncheon

Join us for an evening of inspiration, creativity, wisdom, and education. Local women entrepreneurs will share their individual journeys, from challenges to successes and ideas to lessons.



## WALTER WINnovation 2018

CELEBRATING **WOMEN**  
AND **INNOVATION**

**Friday, September 7**  
**The Umstead Hotel & Spa**  
Guests will enjoy startup workshop, networking, cocktail hour, dinner & refreshments.

PRESENTED BY **Bank of America** SUPPORTED BY **DIAMONDS DIRECT**

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
For more information, please visit [waltermagazine.com/savethedate](http://waltermagazine.com/savethedate)

Featuring

 <b>EMILY SEXTON</b> The Flourish Market	 <b>LINDSAY ZANNO, PH.D.</b> Paleontologist, NCMNS	 <b>CICELY MITCHELL</b> Art of Cool Festival	 <b>MELISSE SHABAN</b> Virtue Labs	 <b>SEPI SAIDI</b> Sepi Engineering
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WGN is excited to welcome WALTER magazine as the media partner of our annual IMPACT Luncheon in November. We invite the membership to attend their fourth annual WINnovation at The Umstead Hotel & Spa on September 7!

This event celebrates women in innovation through shared wisdom from local leaders embracing the entrepreneurial spirit. Presented by Bank of America with support from Diamonds Direct and featuring these panelists: Cicely Mitchell, Art of Cool festival; Melisse Shaban, Virtue Labs; Lindsay Zanno, Paleontologist, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; Emily Sexton, The Flourish Market; and Sepi Saidi, Sepi Engineering.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**WGN IMPACT Luncheon**  
**Thursday, Nov. 8, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
*Tickets for members and guests*  
*On sale the week of Sept. 10. Watch your email!*

Presented by **Bank of America** 

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## Welcome New Members!

Tristina Eaton  
Fara Palumbo  
Virginia Parker  
Edythe Poyner

### New Junior Members

Wendy Artis  
Jennifer Badham  
Briana Beanland  
Brittany Constance  
Molly DeCola  
Susan Edwards  
India Prather



## Y'all Come!

Mixer at the Loading Dock!  
Learn more about one of WGN's 2017 grant recipients  
[The Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness](#)  
and enjoy complimentary beer from a local brewer

Bring a guest!

Tuesday, September 18  
5:30 – 7:30pm  
The Loading Dock  
1053 East Whitaker Mill Road  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
Free on-site parking

Please [RSVP HERE](#) by Friday, September 14