



S P R I N G 2 0 1 5

connecting for change

Women's Giving Network

OF WAKE COUNTY

a program of the North Carolina Community Foundation

The Women's Giving Network of Wake County is a program designed to maximize women's leadership in philanthropy by engaging and educating its membership, increasing charitable contributions and strengthening communities through the impact of collective giving.

2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS

In November, 2014, the Women's Giving Network of Wake County was proud to award grants totaling \$120,500 to four area nonprofits that support women and/or children.

InterAct –Provides safety, support, and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault. WGN's grant provided \$45,000 for expansion of wrap-around support services for victims including the Lethality Assessment Program. *See InterAct page 6*

Note in the Pocket –Providing clothing to impoverished and homeless children in Wake County with dignity and love. WGN's grant provided \$38,500 to grow beyond one paid staff member to support two additional new staff members. *See Note in the Pocket page 6*

Haven House Services – Work with families, schools, government agencies, the courts and other organizations to help kids find their way to a positive, productive life. WGN's grant provided \$27,000 for expansion of the Skills 4 Success program to serve more middle school girls. *See Haven House page 6*

NC Arts in Action – Helping children reach their full potential using performing arts as the catalyst to build focus, discipline, self-esteem, teamwork and leadership. WGN's "seed grant" of \$10,000 provided for expansion of AIA to two high-poverty Wake Co. schools. *See NC Arts in Action page 6*

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear fellow Women's Giving Network Member,

You are making a difference. Because of you and our 2014 grants, a homeless child will be given two weeks worth of seasonally appropriate, carefully matched and sized outfits that she can take pride in wearing to school; a woman abused by her boyfriend will not become a woman murdered by her boyfriend; an at-risk seventh-grade girl on a path of self-destruction will get focused attention to shift her path by learning strategies for success; and a fourth grade boy will experience for the first time the joy, self-discipline, and sense of accomplishment through learning dance in a new class at school.

Knowing that my Women's Giving Network membership is having this kind of positive impact on these lives is reason enough for me to feel good about joining WGN. And for every one of these lives impacted by our 2014 grants, there are many more impacted by over \$900,000 worth of grants WGN has awarded since 2007. The overall impact of WGN grants gives me a tremendous sense of satisfaction in the strategy of collective giving – a feeling that I hope you share.

The idea of collective giving was first explained to me by a friend in WGN. After hearing her talk about her involvement with an interesting group of women engaged in the kind of philanthropy I cared about, I took the plunge and joined. Much of my professional life has focused on juvenile law, and it's fair to say I was more familiar with the needs and problems of children and families than with solutions. Yet through my involvement on the WGN education, grants, and leadership committees, my knowledge of community needs increased, and my eyes were opened to a world of innovative, quality solutions implemented by area nonprofits to address the needs of women and children.

At the end of January, we had the chance to hear a bit about those community needs and the impact of our grants at a WGN new year gathering hosted by Jackie Saber. Speakers at our gathering were Regina Petteway, new WGN member and Interim Director of Wake County Human Services, and Dallas Bonavita, Executive Director of Note in the Pocket, one of our 2014 grant recipients. Our 2015 leadership team was excited to kick off the new year with some philanthropic energy, and we are enthusiastically generating ideas and strategies to make 2015 and beyond the best it can be. But our enthusiasm and efforts will not be enough without your participation. The rest of this newsletter will tell you more about ways you can participate in WGN. Please know that the simple fact that you are a WGN member is **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in your community.

It is a privilege to serve as your president and work with such a talented and dedicated group of women. I look forward to meeting many more of you this year as we come together to support the needs of women and children in Wake County.

Warm Regards,
Kella Hatcher

THANK YOU Pam Dowdy!

We express a huge thank you to our outgoing WGN President, Pam Dowdy. Pam served as president for two years using her calm, cheerful, and thoughtful way of guiding our group. We are so grateful for Pam's wonderful representation of WGN in our community, and for her valuable leadership skills. Pam was instrumental in helping to build and improve WGN processes and policies that will have a positive, lasting impact on WGN for years to come. She took on many tasks, large and small, visible and invisible, to support and further the WGN mission, and we were so lucky to have her at the helm.

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED: THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE WGN SURVEY!

A big thank you goes to the 38% of WGN members who took our 2015 membership survey in February! This response percentage is higher than the survey response rate in recent years, so we really appreciate your participation (although we'd love to hear from every one of you)! Please know that your answers and comments are very important to us. The WGN leadership team is going over the survey responses in detail, and using those responses for strategic planning.

In our next newsletter, we will tell you more about both – the 2015 survey responses AND the strategic direction of WGN. In the meantime, your feedback is already being heard. You told us you wanted to know more about our grant recipient organizations and you will see that in this newsletter we are providing you not only with information but with hands-on ways to connect to those organizations.

We also appreciate your responses to the interest survey. If you expressed interest in committee work on this survey, you can expect to be contacted in the near future by a member of the WGN leadership team, but feel free to get in touch with us first! If you did not get the chance to fill out this survey, it is never too late to let us know you are interested in volunteering with WGN! See the article in this newsletter titled “Increase YOUR Impact by Volunteering” for more information.



INCREASE YOUR IMPACT BY VOLUNTEERING!

Our organization is managed by member volunteers working in various roles. Through volunteering with WGN, your ability to **IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY** as a WGN member increases, and you may just find your volunteer efforts **IMPACTING YOU** more than expected as you meet more people and learn more about your community and WGN. For more information about any of the following volunteer opportunities, contact [Katie Crumpler](#).

New One-Time-Task List: Let us know if you would like to be on a list of volunteers willing to be contacted about one-time tasks. Task examples: bringing food or drinks to an event, helping with an event, hosting an event in your home or business, helping with a communications or publicity project.

Committee Work: WGN has five committees who need members: Grants, education, membership, special events, and communications. [Click here to see committee descriptions.](#)

“First 2000 Days” Representative: If you have a special interest in early childhood education, this may be the job for you! See article in this newsletter “Collective Support for Early Childhood Education” -- *Page 4*.

WGN Leadership: We are always seeking to engage new leaders to steer our organization and help us grow into the future. If you are potentially interested in WGN leadership, let us know!

AMBASSADOR? ME? YES, YOU!

Did you ever think of yourself as an ambassador? Well, you are an ambassador for WGN . . . whenever you tell a friend about WGN or bring a guest to an event. Step up your ambassador status by helping us extend our reach in the community. Your help can come in many forms:

- Gather a few guests at lunch in your work conference room or a restaurant to tell them about WGN-- a WGN leadership team member would be happy to join you to explain our organization.
- Connect WGN with your community group (Rotary, professional group, or other club) – WGN can provide information for you to distribute or a WGN leader can speak to your group in a formal or informal setting
- Open your home for an informal WGN member/guest social
- Invite a small group to your home for coffee or drinks- you host, a leadership team member speaks
- Keep bringing guests to WGN events!

We hope you can help us inform the Wake County community about the great work that our Women's Giving Network is doing, and help us grow our membership! If you are interested, please contact [Kella Hatcher](#).



COLLECTIVE SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Women's Giving Network of Wake County has agreed to join in with other North Carolina women's giving funds to voice collective support for the importance of early childhood education in our state. We are seeking one or two WGN members to act as our representative of this state-wide initiative.

In August of 2014, 29 representatives from 14 of our state's women's funds gathered in Raleigh and agreed to form a loosely organized coalition to support what is called the "First 2000 Days" message - which is that early childhood education matters. The executive director of the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation ("NCECF") presented a powerful slideshow which highlighted the statistics in our state, deficits, and suggested strategies for improvement.

Our fund will support the statewide initiative by hosting the First 2000 Days presentation as a joint event with some other local women's funds, and is hoping to additionally support the effort by having two representatives from our group volunteer to represent our voice with the statewide group. The commitment is not financial, but is a chance to meet other advocates within the women's philanthropy community and add our voice to the joint statewide effort. Any members who are considering this exciting opportunity to put our voices to work for the children of our state and have an interest in early childhood education, please contact [Katie Crumpler](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Total grants: Did you know that since 2007, WGN has awarded \$901,500 in grants? (You can read about all of our grants [here](#).)



Statewide Women's Fund: Did you know that \$50 of your annual pledge to WGN is dedicated to the [North Carolina Statewide Women's Fund](#) who awards grants on an annual basis, and that each year one of WGN's members serves on the Statewide Women's Fund grants committee?

Education resources: Did you know that there is incredible information about needs in your community at your fingertips on the WGN website? The WGN education committee compiled a number of links to reports and websites specifically designed to inform WGN members about the needs of women and children in Wake County. [Click here](#) to start learning!

Renewal term: Did you know that once you reach the end of your initial five year commitment to WGN, your membership renewal can be for two or five years but you must complete a membership renewal form to keep your membership? (Membership and renewal forms can be found [here](#).)



New website: Did you know that WGN has a [recently redesigned website](#) where you can get information on WGN's mission and approach, the grants process, past grant awards, volunteer roles and how to get involved, educational resources related to needs in our community, and more?



Endowment: Did you know that WGN has an endowment fund also administered by the North Carolina Community Foundation, providing WGN with permanency as well as an income stream to support operational items such as event expenses? Consider contributing to the endowment in honor of a friend or family member who shares your concern for the needs of women and children in Wake County.

CONNECT WITH WGN'S 2014 RECIPIENTS AND LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY NEEDS

This year we are striving to give WGN members opportunities to connect directly with our most recent grant recipient organizations. Take advantage of these opportunities to learn about the organizations that you funded, to learn about needs in your community, and to connect with other WGN members!

INTERACT: Hear the *Courageous Voices* served by Interact

InterAct would like to invite all WGN members to learn more about the work the WGN 2014 grant will support at its *Courageous Voices Tour*. Through hearing the inspiring stories of courageous individuals, you will learn how InterAct's programs serving victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence are saving and rebuilding lives. A special tour with the opportunity to ask questions and enjoy lunch with other WGN members is taking place on April 22nd at 11:30 am; details will be provided in WGN emails and web postings. To attend a tour on a date other than April 22nd, register at: <http://interactcourageousvoicestour.eventbrite.com>. For more information about InterAct's programs and volunteer opportunities, visit www.interactofwake.org.



NOTE IN THE POCKET: Connect (or Run!) with Note in the Pocket

Note in the Pocket invites WGN members to participate in its upcoming *Socks and Undie 5K Rundie* and *Kids Fun Run* on May 9th on the Dorothea Dix course in Raleigh. To learn more about this event, click on the "Socks and Undie 5K Rundie" icon on the [home page for Note in the Pocket](#). If you are interested in being part of a WGN team for this run, please contact [Kella Hatcher](#). Note in the Pocket will schedule a tour for any WGN member Monday through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. or Fridays between 10 a.m. and noon. WGN is also working with Note in the Pocket to provide members with a group volunteer opportunity in the fall.

[Click here](#) to learn about volunteer opportunities.



NC ARTS IN ACTION: Treat Yourself to a Dance Performance with Arts In Action

WGN members are invited to attend a final performance or class at Knightdale Elementary, one of the first two schools in Wake County to receive the NC Arts in Action program, thanks in part to WGN's grant. During class observations and final performances, the pedagogy will be explained and members may ask questions.

- Class Dates are April 1, 8, 15, 22 or May 1 at the following times:
[9:15 a.m.-10:05 a.m.] [10:15 a.m.-11:05 a.m.] [11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.]
[1:40 p.m.-2:30 p.m.]
- The Final Performance is May 7 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (50 minutes long).
Details related to an informal WGN gathering for the 6:30 p.m. performance will be provided in WGN emails and web postings.



If you are interested in attending either a class or the final performance, please contact Susan Garrity at 919-602-2490 or sgarrity@nc.rr.com at least one day in advance.

HAVEN HOUSE: Stay Tuned for a Future Event

Haven House invites WGN members to learn about its mission, programs, and volunteer opportunities by visiting its website [here](#). WGN is looking forward to coordinating an educational program with Haven House in the near future. . .stay tuned. (See next page related to future plans!)



LOOKING AHEAD . . .

With Spring in the air and a new grants cycle beginning, your WGN leadership team is working to bring you the following. . .

- **Strategic Planning and Action:** With a recent member survey and leadership team strategy meeting under our belts, committees are working to put new plans and strategies into action . . . watch for details in the next newsletter!
- **April 22nd:** Interact Courageous Voices Tour and lunch for WGN members (see page 6)
- **May 7th:** Arts in Action Final Dance Performance and WGN gathering (see page 6)
- **May 9th:** Note in the Pocket Socks and Undie Rundie (see page 6)
- **WGN group volunteer opportunity** (watch for details on an event that brings WGN members together for a group opportunity to perform volunteer work at Note in the Pocket)
- **Fall Education Panel** (our education committee is coordinating a special event for WGN members with a panel of experts addressing community needs)
- **First 2000 Days collaborative** (see page 4)
- **Fall Awards Luncheon with a new twist!** Our Special Events Committee may surprise you with their innovative plans for this year's luncheon. . . stay tuned!

WOMEN'S GIVING NETWORK 2015 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kella Hatcher, President

Virginia Price, Grants Chair

Kelly Caldwell, Education Chair

Pat Wilkins, Membership Chair

Laurie Hughes, Communications Chair

Pam Dowdy, Special Events Chair & Immediate Past-President

Jackie Saber, Statewide Liaison

Paige Haensel, Financial Liaison

Marilyn Stevens, At-large member

Allison Atkinson, At-large member

[Katie Crumpler](#), Regional Associate for the North Carolina Community Foundation and the WGN staff liaison