



S U M M E R 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.

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IMPORTANT DEADLINE

Your 2015 pledge payment is due no later than July 31st! Your timely payment is much appreciated and critical to a successful 2015 grants process.

Save the Date!

August 11th, [NOTE IN THE POCKET](#)– WGN has set a time between 5-7 PM to sort clothes and help in other ways at [Note in the Pocket](#), one of our 2014 grantees. Come learn about what they do, and work alongside other WGN members! There is limited space, so please sign up ASAP if you are interested by contacting [Kelly Caldwell](#).

October 7th, [HAVEN HOUSE](#) – The WGN education committee is coordinating an educational panel of experts to discuss at-risk youth at [Haven House](#), one of our 2014 grantees. The event is from 11:30 AM to 1 PM and will include lunch. Watch for details later this summer!

A Message From Our President



The fact that you are a WGN member means that you are engaged in the needs of your community, and that's no small thing! It's no small thing because most of us feel lucky to keep up with the needs of our immediate circle of people (ourselves, family, friends, school, work!). As a WGN member, you've added "community needs" to your list of priorities, and your community is indeed benefiting.

We are pleased to bring WGN members a number of events this year to provide you with opportunities to learn about community needs, connect with past grant recipients, and gather with fellow WGN members. Some of those events have already occurred this year but there are more to come, and you can read about all of them in this newsletter. Besides events, your WGN leadership team has been busy working on strategies and policies to improve our organization's overall strength and sustainability. You can read about that work in this newsletter also, and we encourage you to share your ideas and feedback with the leadership team anytime.

Most importantly, grants season has begun. This is "most important" for a few reasons: First, our high impact grants are the main reason most women join or stay with WGN and grants are the core of our organization. Also, the grants process itself (getting LOIs and applications) is a major way we connect with our community and it's wonderful to see so much meaningful nonprofit work being accomplished in Wake County. Finally, we are very proud of the quality of our grants process and hard work our grants committee engages in to determine a slate to present our members!

Those "most important" grants are only possible because of you, our members. Please know how much we appreciate your membership! We are glad you are part of WGN and we hope that you find great satisfaction in all of the good that your WGN membership is doing in your community.

All the best,

[Kella Hatcher](#)

President, Women's Giving Network

Update on 2015 Grants Process

The WGN Grants Committee kicked off the 2015 grant season this spring, and they have been working hard. This year, we received 41 letters of inquiry ("LOIs" or pre-applications) from area nonprofits. The committee carefully reviewed LOIs and invited 14 organizations to submit full applications for consideration. THANK YOU, Grants Committee – we appreciate your contributions of time, effort, and wisdom to this core work of the Women's Giving Network!

Member Survey Results

For this year's member survey, we were pleased to have a 38% member participation rate, which is higher than in years past. **Here are some key findings from those who responded to our 2015 survey:**



How do you value aspects of WGN membership? Most of you (94%) view grant funding as an extremely valuable aspect of your WGN membership. After grant funding, educational opportunities to learn about community needs are also important to our members. Networking, socializing, and volunteering with WGN are important to many members but to a lesser degree.

How are we doing with impact? Most of you are happy with our impact (47% said "excellent" and 39% said "well," 11% "neutral," 1 person "not very well").

Satisfaction with grants process: Most are happy with the process (very satisfied 63%; moderately satisfied 20%; 3 people neutral; 2 people somewhat dissatisfied; and one person not satisfied). A number of comments in this question and another praised the grants process, and a number of comments related to wanting more information on grant organizations and evaluation to assess past grants and grant impact (and we are working on this – see page 4!).

Level of interest in events: Members are most interested in educational events (very interested 56%; somewhat interested 44%). Hybrid events that are a combination social/educational were the next most popular, followed by social/membership events.

Best times for participation in WGN: Our members vary a lot on when they are available, so even though there was a bit of preference shown, it's clear that offering opportunities at different times is important. The most popular timeframe is overlapping with the lunch hour, second most popular is morning, and third most popular is early evening.

Volunteering: Our new "one time task" volunteer opportunity was the most popular, followed by the grants committee. For those not interested in volunteering, the most common reason was because they were already busy volunteering elsewhere, followed by a lack of time in general and afraid the timing won't fit with their schedule. Some of you also said volunteering is not why you joined.

Factors influencing decision to renew: This question asked for a narrative answer and we received a range of comments, with most comments related to liking collective giving and/or belief in the impact/causes. Other comments related to: financial considerations; appreciates evening events in order to participate; wants broadening of education process and advocacy; likes that we don't have expensive events; cares about high impact grants and strong leadership.

Structure of WGN membership: 60% felt no change to the structure of the membership was needed. 20% would like to see a change in the commitment time period only, 10% would like to see a change in the pledge amount and commitment time period, and 1 person wanted to see the pledge amount only change. The most common comment reflected the opinion that time commitment of 5 years may be too long, followed by comments suggesting different ways to structure a lower pledge amount.

Strategic Planning: Your Feedback In Action

Our leadership team put your survey feedback to work right away in our strategic planning for this year and beyond. At our strategic planning meeting earlier this year, we examined not only this year's survey results but also surveys from 2013 and 2014 to inform our planning. We identified challenges our organization is facing along with things we are doing well, and then set out to identify strategies to address our priorities.

Here are some of the strategies that your leadership team decided to put in motion to improve organizational strength and stability:

Organize events to connect our members with WGN's 2014 grant recipient organizations.

The goal is education about community needs; education about how our funds were used; and an opportunity to gather with other WGN members. *So far this year there have been 3 such events, and 2 more are planned in 2015.*

“Re-decorate” our fall awards luncheon – that is, consider various changes to add new flair to our annual event. *“Redecoration” plans are currently underway!*

Implement an improved grant evaluation process to better assess previous year's grant recipients. *Already this year, we have implemented a new process and tools for evaluating past grants.*

Distribute seasonal WGN newsletters. *You're reading the second one now!*

Process and policy work to improve WGN leadership succession planning and to increase committee involvement. *Our leadership team just voted on an interim policy for leadership succession planning.*

Provide a volunteer opportunity for WGN members to gather and do group volunteer work for an organization. *A volunteer event at Note in the Pocket is already planned – see page 1!*

Host an education panel event in the fall. *Our education committee is in the process of planning an event at Haven House– see page 1!*

Review WGN Operational Guidelines to consider needed revisions. *All policy work undertaken by the leadership team that impacts operational guidelines would be integrated into proposed operational guideline revisions and ALL WGN members will be given an opportunity to review proposed revisions, provide input, and vote on finalization of changes.*

Examine the possibility of new materials and means of reaching out such as WGN “business cards,” new member “packet,” social media presence, and new logo.

Examine the structure of the WGN membership and whether the current structure is the best for organizational strength and stability. *The leadership team has determined that structure changes will not be proposed in 2015. Special study should take place before this issue is addressed, and our survey showed most members are satisfied with the current structure. If and when the leadership team takes up studying this issue (after 2015), any proposed changes would be presented to the full membership with an opportunity for feedback prior to voting from the full membership.*

Work on a member cultivation system related to our member records, system of contacting members, etc. *WGN membership and the NCCF have been collaborating to improve our system.*

Clarify pledge obligation via potential changes to commitment form and other policies. *Efforts are underway and a revised form has been created.*

Meet Katie Crumpler



[Katie Crumpler](#) is our staff liaison between the Women’s Giving Network and our host, the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF). “I love seeing what you do together – collective giving is incredible,” she reports. “Your giving at nearly the \$1 million mark this year is fabulous.” Katie was most impressed with the first annual luncheon she attended in 2013. “Seeing past grantees come together and to hear their powerful stories was very moving to me,” she recalls.

Employed by the NCCF for two years, she also is in charge of growing two other Women’s Giving Circles in the area - The Art of Giving, jointly sponsored by the Triangle Community Foundation, and a circle in Cary. She serves as Regional Associate for the Northern Piedmont, which covers Cary, and the counties of Wake, Johnston, Franklin, Vance, and Granville. “I work with advisory boards in all six counties and assist fundholders and donors with more than 200 endowments in those areas,” she explains.

A native of Linville Falls, NC, Katie graduated from UNC Greensboro with a degree in political science and history in 2006. She earned her Master’s in Public Administration in 2008 from NC State University. Her mother worked at the Crossnore School, a children’s home in the mountains, while she was growing up, and Katie grew up watching her advocate for the school. “I admired what she did so I wanted to focus my career in non profit work.”

Katie worked for two other statewide nonprofits before coming to NCCF. “I like working at the state level and connecting with regional volunteers. It’s a great opportunity to learn about all pockets of North Carolina,” she reports.

Katie lives with her husband Ryan, and loves to read, garden, cook and travel. She welcomes WGN members to visit her at the NCCF offices on 4601 Six Forks Road in Raleigh.

2014 Grantees Events

The 2014 grant recipients have sponsored events to highlight their mission and invited all members of WGN to attend. The visits have been extremely informative and in some cases fun! Please join us at future posted events!

InterAct

On April 22nd, WGN members attended InterAct's Courageous Voices Tour and lunch.



NC Arts in Action

NC Arts in Action hosted a final dance performance at Knightdale Elementary School on May 7th.

Note in the Pocket

On May 9th, Note in the Pocket organized its 2nd annual Socks & Undie 5K Rundie and Kids Fun Run at the Dorothea Dix Course in Raleigh.



Thank You to All Our Members

Annette Anderson
 Donna Anderson
 Janet "Kelly" Anderton
 Allison Atkinson
 Blanche Bacon
 Romy Barefoot
 Audrey Black
 Holly Bowles Blanton
 Stacy Bluth
 Kay-Frances Brody
 Julia Brown
 Perrin Burton
 Kelly Caldwell
 Mary Beth Carpenter
 Janet Chesson
 Beverley Clark
 Mary Clayton
 Bennett Cotten
 Brenda Coules
 Hayden Constance
 Sandra Deutsch Crane
 Teresa Davison Daniels
 Marcia Davis
 Debbie Day
 Vivian Doelling
 Katina Dorton
 Margaret Douglas
 Pamela Dowdy
 Charman Driver
 Gail Ferri
 Mary-Owens Fitzgerald
 Jan Floyd
 Janis Frantz
 Laura Frushone
 Susan Garrity
 Kathleen Gormley
 Linda Grew
 Pickett Murray Guthrie
 Paige Haensel
 Katherine Anne Hamlin
 Kella Hatcher
 Eileen Hendren
 Laurie Hughes
 Holly Ivel
 Eve Jones
 Mary June Jones
 Caroline Kadis

Claudia Kadis
 Stefanie Kahn
 Rosemary Kenyon
 Avery Sloan Knight
 Helen Landi
 Jenny Loftin
 Britt MacNabb
 Mary Mahoney
 Carolyn Maness
 Jane Mann
 Sara May
 Mary Cynthia Monday
 Danita Morgan
 Mary McGranahan Moss
 Laura Swisher Nye
 Molly Painter
 Regina Petteway
 Ann Pflugrath
 Margie Pipkin
 Kipp Cohoon Powell
 Katherine Pretzer
 Virginia Price
 Debra Ratliff
 Liza Roberts
 Jackie Saber
 Sheila Saeed
 Lisa U Sandman
 Heidi Sandreuter
 Cindy Ashburn Schneider
 Marilyn Stevens
 Kari Stoltz
 Nancy Sumner
 Kimberly Quarles Swintosky
 Nancy Teague
 Jeanne C. Tedrow
 Tisha Sue Turner
 Christine F Wagner
 Debra Watkins
 Kathy White
 Nancy White
 Patricia Wilkins
 Elizabeth Williamson
 Pamela Wimbush-Cady
 Ann Wooten
 Mary Brent Wright
 Karen Zelden

EMAIL PROBLEMS: In order to receive communications from WGN, be sure to add **[nccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org)** to your email's safe senders list. We have learned that some members are not receiving communications from WGN because emails are falling into junk mail folders. Email is our primary means of communication with our members. We use email for event invitations, for sending out our newsletters, and for other important information.

TO STAY INFORMED: Check out our website for lots of WGN information and news, including newsletters, at <http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/section/wake-women>.



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

This Newsletter was produced for you by
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