



WOMEN'S GIVING NETWORK
OF WAKE COUNTY

SAVE THE DATE!

2022 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 1st 6:00

President's Letter from Amy Pirozzolo

Dear WGN Members,

Almost two years into the pandemic, the Women's Giving Network's mission to **support charitable organizations serving women, children and families in Wake County** has never been greater. These organizations need our support like never before. Demand for their services is growing exponentially while COVID, staffing challenges and cost increases are making their community outreach more challenging. And we collectively continue to deliver.

My sincere gratitude for your continued generosity in 2021 which enabled us to award \$105,000 to three amazing organizations in our community at our annual IMPACT Celebration event on November 4, 2021: \$45,000 to the [Diaper Bank of North Carolina](#); \$40,000 to [New Leaf Behavioral Health](#) and; \$20,000 to [The Crying Place](#).

The IMPACT celebration was delightful as Laurie Hughes and Pam Prather shared a new cocktail/mocktail recipe and we spent a few minutes socializing before the formal agenda! We were also thrilled to have Beth Briggs and Noel Lichten (two of the four founders) join us to share their story about the birth of WGN 15 years ago. Thanks to Lisa Grele Barrie for making this possible! And finally, after the grant awards were presented, we heard from Melinda Taylor on the impact WGN had in helping BLOOMHERE get started in 2019. If you were not able to join us, you can watch the replay [here](#).

Thanks again to Allison Costanzo, Lisa Grele Barrie, Laurie Hughes, Karen Johnson and Meredith Bell for all they did to make this event extra special.

As we finish the year, I would like to thank two special women who will be rolling off the leadership committee this month. Sandy Pearce has devoted countless hours to WGN, first as a volunteer on the Grants Committee for three years and most recently as the Co-Chair for our Education Committee over the last three years. In this role, Sandy was instrumental in creating a strong, repeatable approach to these events. I also want to thank Julie Rufenacht, who served as our Membership Chair for 2021 and implemented a new virtual orientation session to help new WGN members meet each other and learn more about the organization. Please join me in thanking Sandy and Julie for their many contributions.

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Finally, I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of WGN in 2021. Bank of America not only contributed to our grants pool but also increased their support this year so that Attended Events could host our virtual events! And WALTER Magazine continued to help increase awareness for WGN and our grantees by including us in the WINI and WINnovation events and with a feature story on our 15th anniversary. When possible, please continue to support these generous organizations in other areas of your personal and professional life, to show our gratitude.

I would like to invite each of you to share the WALTER Magazine article featuring WGN with prospective members in your network. We have included sample text in this newsletter to make this easy for you. We remain 100 members strong, but as you know, the more members we have, the more money we can collectively give back to the community!

We continue to do our best to provide you with INSIGHT and INSPIRATION with the hopes that our collective efforts drive a greater IMPACT than we could have done alone!

Wishing you and your families a safe, healthy holiday season!

Yours in service,

Amy Pirozzolo



INTRODUCING THE WGN 2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS

At the 2021 IMPACT Celebration, WGN awarded \$105,000 in general operating support grants to three impactful organizations to further the work that they are doing to improve the lives of women and children in Wake County.

Diaper Bank of North Carolina - \$45,000

Providing dignity to low-income residents across NC through the distribution of free hygiene products and connection to support services, DBNC's work removes barriers to education, employability and well-being.

New Leaf Behavioral Health - \$40,000

Founded on the belief that effective mental health care should be affordable and accessible to all, NLBH provides free and sliding-scale services and utilizes a comprehensive approach to treatment that leads to lasting, positive change.

The Caring Place - \$20,000

Empowering homeless, working families by providing transitional housing as well as life skills training and financial literacy education, TCP fills a critical void in Western Wake County's efforts to end homelessness.

Congratulations to these outstanding organizations! Their resilience, commitment and creative thinking during these unprecedented times make our community a better place to live and work. Thank you to the 2021 Grants Committee for your dedication and hard work conducting due diligence on behalf of the WGN Membership: Meg Croxson (Chair), Rebecca Anderson, Maggie Barlow, Briana Beanland Campion, Sarah Décarpentrie, Carolyn Fendelman, Elaine Hubal, Sue Jinks Robertson, and Cynthia Rowe.

WGN LEADERSHIP/INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WGN Membership Chair

Are you well-networked in our community or simply have a passion to help grow the WGN giving circle? We are looking for someone to chair our Membership Committee for 2022-23. This is a really exciting role, at the heart of our organization. This volunteer role is part of our WGN Leadership Committee and attends our monthly meetings. In addition, this person will:

- Work hand-in-hand with our Communications Committee to find new ways to promote awareness of WGN to prospective members
- Create nurturing strategies for prospective members after initial introduction to WGN
- Facilitate orientation/onboarding sessions for new members once or twice annually
- Maintain records of current members and alumnae
- Support annual renewal outreach and communications
- Work with NCCF liaison

No experience? No worries! Amy and the WGN Leadership Committee are here to support you/help you every step of the way!

Support Marketing /Communications Efforts

Do you have an interest in marketing or to learn about marketing? No matter how long you've been a member, or your background, if you would you like to help shape how we raise awareness, communicate WGN's value and help members learn about pressing issues and needs facing women and children in Wake County - *while getting to know more amazing members* – it has never been easier to get involved!

From small ad hoc projects to longer-term strategic plans, there is a wide range of initiatives to help with in 2022. Anyone interested to learn more, contact Kristen Kiernan (KristenTKiernan@gmail.com).

PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR NETWORK

We encourage you to share your passion for WGN with others. Below is suggested text to share in an email with prospective members in your own personal network!

Your Greeting,

I am a part of the Women's Giving Network (WGN) of Wake County, which is a giving circle of the North Carolina Community Foundation. **Our mission is to support charitable organizations serving women, children and families in Wake County.** We seek to provide members with **insight** and **inspiration** and hopefully drive greater **impact** for our community through the power of collective giving.

It is a fabulous group of women I think you would really enjoy. I would love to have you attend our upcoming annual member meeting with me on February 1, 2022 to learn more! I will share the invite for our annual meeting as soon as it is available.

In the meantime, attached is a link to a story in [WALTER Magazine, featuring WGN's 15th anniversary.](#)

Your signature