



BALTIMORE
WOMEN'S
GIVING
CIRCLE

THE CIRCLE

A FUND OF THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | FALL · 2012

FOCUS ON DOTSIE BOYCE



Dorothy "Dotsie" Boyce describes herself as "just one of those 'work anywhere she's needed' people."

A founding member of the Circle, she's served as treasurer, assistant treasurer, and as a member of the Education, Grants, Visioning, Nominating, and Steering committees. She currently serves as co-chair of the Education Committee.

"I've been a social worker since I first moved to Baltimore," she explains, "which exposed me to a wide variety of community needs and issues. To be more effective, I went back to graduate school for an MSW, permitting me to focus on social welfare issues as I learned strategic planning and organizational skills."

The challenge of a burgeoning population of seniors has been Dotsie's particular focus. She helped develop Brightwood retirement community and served on boards of other organizations trying to improve life for older people. Now she's encouraging social work students to develop expertise in "this expanding but often overlooked area."

She describes her participation in the Circle as "one of my favorite activities. I'm constantly trying to recruit new members, as I'd like others to have the same opportunity for learning and pleasure." ■

THE REALITY OF POVERTY IN 2012: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POOR IN BALTIMORE CITY?

Of the 84,212 children enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools, 79 percent qualify for Free and Reduced Priced Meals. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 1 in 4 Baltimore residents is impoverished (defined as income less than \$23,000 for a family of four).

Over the coming year, members of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) will explore the meaning of these statistics and the causes and consequences of poverty on Baltimore's women and children. Becky Wagner, executive director of Advocates for Children and Youth, set the stage for the year in her powerful presentation to more than 200 BWGC members during the September 12th lunch meeting at the Cylburn Arboretum.

At the luncheon, Ms. Wagner provided each table with the profile of a woman working at a low-income job, which included her total income and expenses, as well as information about children and other family members living in the same home. In every profile, which reflected the reality for many women, expenses exceeded income; husbands or partners, if there was one, had a criminal record or no foreseeable employment opportunities, and children had special needs or wanted to play football or take music lessons. Circle members were

asked to prepare a monthly budget taking into consideration financial and other supports that might be available. This was a sobering and difficult exercise that demonstrated not only the inadequacy of existing financial support programs, but the stark choices faced by many low-income earners. Ms. Wagner closed the meeting by emphasizing how the grant-making initiatives of the BWGC, as well as advocacy, can help transform the lives of impoverished Baltimore citizens.

On December 5th, the Full Circle will meet at the Church of the Redeemer to learn about the male factor in female poverty. The following Full Circle meeting, on March 6th, will cover program and policy solutions to poverty such as work supports, mentoring, housing, and education. Finally, on May 15th the Full Circle will meet to approve about \$400,000 in grants to non-profit organizations committed to improving the lives of women and their families.

Details of these events and more can be found on the BWGC website at www.thebwgc.org. In addition, the BWGC will post educational materials and relevant news articles on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thebwgc. ■

CHAIR TALK



Gail Shawe and Kimberly Warren, Co-Chairs of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle

NEW INITIATIVES FOR BWGC

As new co-chairs of the Circle, we begin our year with some exciting new initiatives. Our spring membership survey and the Visioning Committee informed our decisions to launch a Circle Facebook page and to organize the "Meet and Greet" event with our new grantees.

We are fortunate to have a strong group of committee co-chairs who worked hard over the summer planning activities for this giving cycle. Congratulations to the Education Committee for presenting a very informative and thought-provoking Full Circle Meeting at Cylburn. The speaker, Becky Wagner, launched this year's theme of understanding poverty in 2012.

We have asked the co-chairs of the Grants Committee to help us explore opportunities to establish giving circles in middle and upper schools in the area.

This month we attended a National Conference of Women's Giving Circles in Austin, where we met members of 36 other circles, heard speakers, and explored best practices in the areas of governance, operations, and sustainability. We will soon share our new ideas and connections with all of you.

We are excited about new initiatives; most of all, though, we want Circle members to experience a sense of belonging and the satisfaction of learning and working together to help make a positive difference in the Baltimore community. ■

SURVEY RESULTS

Approximately a year ago, the BWGC Steering Committee decided to conduct a formal survey to assess the satisfaction and engagement of Circle members.

The survey was disseminated to the entire membership at the beginning of 2012, using the online tool, Survey Monkey. Some 170 of the Circle's approximately 350 members responded. The vast majority (88 percent) said they were extremely or very satisfied with Circle activities. Some 97 percent of the respondents said they participated in Circle activities, with 83 percent reporting they found those activities meaningful.

Many respondents also offered constructive comments focusing on two common themes: First, members said they want opportunities for deeper engagement with the issues reflective of the Circle's mission. They want greater understanding of funding and other grant-makers, small group discussions and other ways to be more fully and creatively engaged at educational meetings, and more interactions with Circle grantees and with each other. Second, members want more diversity of age and race within Circle ranks. They also want Circle activities to be more convenient for working women. Additional details from the survey are on the BWGC website, www.thebwgc.org.

Despite more than 11 years of success, the Circle cannot rest on its accomplishments. The survey was designed to be a catalyst for change. Committees currently are reviewing results, and exploring how to incorporate them into their future plans.

Members are highly satisfied

Members are drawn to the Circle's mission and are highly satisfied and engaged with the organization.

85% have been on a committee & 94% believe there are sufficient opportunities to participate

74% feel well informed about the Circle and grants

88% are satisfied with their involvement in Circle activities

88% view the Circle as a reliable source of information/insights on Baltimore's disadvantaged women and children

CIRCLE READS!

Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich
November 14th at 4:00 pm

Visit www.thebwgc.org for more information

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle is on Facebook! Individuals and organizations use social media, like Facebook, to share information, photos and links to articles of interest with anyone who: 1) has a Facebook account; and 2) has signed up to receive information posted by the "owner" of the Facebook page.

The possibility of a Giving Circle presence on Facebook was discussed in September 2010 at a meeting of the Visioning Committee, which had been charged to recommend ways to diversify the Circle's membership. The consensus of the committee was that Facebook was one way to reach a more diverse group of women, and the idea was referred to the Communications Committee. After much discussion and research, the Communications Committee agreed to recommend the creation of a Facebook page to the Steering Committee. This recommendation was based on the belief that a Facebook page would enhance the Circle's ability in the following ways:

- To recruit new members and maintain current membership
- To further involve and engage Circle members in Giving Circle activities, and encourage participation on Circle committees
- To educate and inform the community in a broader and more immediate manner
- To celebrate the success of the Circle and its grantees

The Steering Committee adopted this recommendation at its June meeting and approved a modest budget to hire Molly White, the consultant who advised the Communications Committee, to set up the Facebook page, and post relevant information throughout the next year.

As of October 20th, the BWGC Facebook site at www.facebook.com/thebwgc had about 75 "likes." BWGC members are encouraged to post on the page relevant articles, volunteer opportunities, and comments about BWGC events. ■

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MISSION OF MERCY: A MEDICAL HOME



Dr. Michael Sullivan and patient Peggy Bradley

Peggy Bradley works part-time as a cashier and as a server in the café at a large chain store. "I do my best to make shoppers feel welcome," she said.

When she receives attentive service herself, she's grateful.

"Everyone at Mission of Mercy is kind and considerate," said Bradley, who is 56 years old. "The doctors and nurses make sure I understand the treatment for my arthritis, allergies, and other problems, and they call to remind me of my next appointment. They even provide lunch on appointment days."

Bradley is one of about 500 adults who received care last year at Mission of Mercy's free monthly Mobile Medical and Dental Clinic at the Reisterstown United Methodist Church in Reisterstown, Maryland. The clinic provided nearly 1,500 medical and dental visits in 2011. About 52 percent of clinic patients were women aged 18 to 64, and eight percent were seniors. The Circle's \$20,000 grants in 2008 and 2011 helped underwrite the clinic's \$100,000 annual operating costs.

"We are the medical home for the working poor in our treatment areas," said Jennifer Charlton, Mission of Mercy's executive director. About 95 percent of the people attending the clinic are employed, but nearly all lack health insurance, she said. The few with insurance may not be able to afford medications. "Patients feel comfortable returning here," Charlton said. "They see

the same doctor and same volunteers. They know our staff, and the staff knows them."

The clinic van—a converted recreational vehicle—holds three compact offices where patients see a doctor or nurse for their primary medical care. Its pharmacy dispenses about 200 medications and filled 2,600 free prescriptions at the Reisterstown site last year. The van also carries equipment for a mobile dental clinic that is set up in a church classroom. The church provides space for a waiting room; an area for patient evaluation and assessment of weight, blood pressure, and vision; and a lunchroom.

Seventy percent of the Reisterstown clinic's patients have chronic illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, asthma, depression and anxiety, said Dr. Michael Sullivan, the clinic's medical director. Many initially delay seeking medical care because of worries about the cost. As a result, many arrive for their first visit with advanced illness, he noted. Keeping chronic illnesses under control allows patients to continue to work and care for their families.

The mobile clinic served about 3,700 patients in 2011 at five clinic sites in Maryland and two in South Central Pennsylvania. The Reisterstown clinic is one of 17 clinics in four states operated by Mission of Mercy.

Name of Organization:	Mission of Mercy
Name of Project:	Mobile Medical And Dental Clinic
Date and Amount of Grant:	\$20,000.00 in 2008 and 2011
Program/Grantee Website:	www.amissionofmercy.org
For More Success Stories:	http://www.thebwgc.org/grantees/stories



**BALTIMORE
WOMEN'S
GIVING
CIRCLE**

c/o The Baltimore Community Foundation
2 East Read Street
9th floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
www.thebwgc.org

FALL 2012

Through collective giving and collaboration, The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle at the Baltimore Community Foundation **seeks to improve life for disadvantaged women and their families in the greater Baltimore area.** The Giving Circle encourages members to participate in philanthropy through education, grant-making, and other community-based activities.



IN HER OWN WORDS

What are your plans and goals for this year?



PEGGY SCHAPIRO

Grants Co-Chair

I hope that each member of the Grants Committee will feel prepared for the granting process and will enjoy the supportive atmosphere of her fellow grant makers. Our goal is to fund organizations that make a difference.



BUNNY BERNSTEIN

Membership Co-Chair

My first goal is to get the membership in the Giving Circle above the 400 mark. Right now we are very close. My second goal is to become familiar with the processes of the Membership Committee and the Steering Committee so I am prepared for next year.



VIVIAN MANEKIN

Post Grants Committee

I am very excited to join the Post Grant Evaluation team. I am learning so much and enjoy seeing the follow through with the grant process. I participated in the Grants Committee last year, so this is very interesting.



BARBARA ORMAN

Circle Reads

Circle Reads provides BWGC members with the opportunity to read and discuss a book relevant to our mission. On November 14th, Melanie Styles from the Abell Foundation will facilitate a discussion of 'Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America.'

Editor: Rachel Forward

Contributors: Bunny Bernstein, Dawna Cobb, Anne Donahue, Elaine Freeman, Lynne Lamberg, Vivian Manekin, Barbara Orman, Peggy Schapiro, Gail Shawe, Kimberly Warren, Steffi Graham, Julie Rothman.

THE 21 ORGANIZATIONS LISTED HERE RECEIVED \$381,665 IN GRANTS IN MAY 2012.



ACTION IN MATURITY

Transportation and Social Services to Elderly Low-Income Women
\$9,485

To help 350 senior African-American women living in 3 federally-subsidized senior apartment complexes maintain independence

ADVOCATES FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA

\$20,000

To support an additional case management worker at the only accredited treatment center for torture victims in Maryland

ALTERNATIVE DIRECTIONS

Turnabout Program and Children of Incarcerated Parents Program
\$20,000

To help women re-enter society after imprisonment and facilitate children's visits to incarcerated parents

ASYLEE WOMEN ENTERPRISE

\$10,000

To provide safe housing, job skills training and help accessing legal and social services for women seeking asylum in Maryland

BALTIMORE CURRICULUM PROJECT

Wolfe Street Academy
After-School Academics
\$12,180

To provide 3 weekly after-school classes in reading, math, science and social studies to 75 children in grades 1-5

CAROLINE FRIESS CENTER, INC

Certified/Geriatric Nursing Program
\$15,000

To provide free training in the center's certified/geriatric program to 3-4 under or unemployed women

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF BALTIMORE

CASA For Transitioning Youth
\$20,000

To help fund the salary of a supervisor to oversee and train volunteers who provide guidance to female foster youth aging out of foster care

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES OF MARYLAND

The Ark Preschool
\$20,000

To improve language and social skills in homeless children ages 3-5 at the Ark Preschool and provide family support services

HOUSE OF RUTH MARYLAND

Latina Victim Services in Baltimore
\$20,000

To support a bilingual client service coordinator who provides crisis intervention and other services to at least 50 Latina victims of domestic partner abuse

INCENTIVE MENTORING PROGRAM

\$20,000

To expand tutoring and support services for struggling students in Dunbar High School and Baltimore's Academy for College and Career Exploration

LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION

Girls' Empowerment Mission (GEM)

\$20,000

To support the GEM program in Chesapeake High School, which aims to help girls from low-income homes complete their education and improve self-esteem

MARIAN HOUSE

Transitional Housing and Supportive Services
\$20,000

To provide housing, meals and transportation as well as educational, employment and counseling services to homeless women and children

MARYLAND FOSTER YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

\$20,000

To provide food, shelter, clothing and many other support services to youth aging out of foster care

MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS

\$20,000

To increase the number of low-income unemployed Baltimore City women receiving assistance with job-seeking and readiness skills from 100 to 150

MY SISTER'S CIRCLE

\$20,000

To provide girls from low-income families access to cultural, educational and recreational programs through mentorships

MY SISTER'S PLACE WOMEN'S CENTER

\$20,000

To provide meals and other services to homeless women and children

NIGHT OF PEACE FAMILY SHELTER

\$15,000

To provide food, shelter, case management and a nurturing environment at Baltimore County's only shelter serving low-income families with children

NORTHWEST HOSPITAL CENTER, INC.

Domestic Violence Program
\$20,000

To support case management staff for a program providing 24/7 emergency services for victims of domestic violence

OUR DAILY BREAD EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Services for Women
\$20,000

To support a professional placement manager who provides job placement and retention services for unemployed, working poor and homeless women

SAFE HOUSE OF HOPE

Drop-In Center
\$20,000

To extend the hours of this center in West Baltimore, which strives to help women in the sex trade pursue other paths by providing food, clothing, mental and physical health services, and GED and traditional job skills training

ST. MARY'S OUTREACH CENTER

Community Outreach, Information, Assistance and Referral Program
\$20,000

To help support the staff who provide direct assistance to seniors living in the Hampden area

GRANTS
2012

www.thebwgc.org
