



BALTIMORE  
WOMEN'S  
GIVING  
CIRCLE

Connecting Women  
Improving Lives

# THE CIRCLE

A FUND OF THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | FALL 2017

## FOCUS ON HYA HEINE

Hya Heine had always heard good things about the BWGC from friends, so five years ago she finally decided to become a member.



She liked that the BWGC was getting money to the right places in Baltimore that could help underserved women and children. Hya, who celebrated her 90th birthday this summer, says that since joining, she has learned a tremendous amount about Baltimore nonprofits.

Initially, Hya sat on the Grants Committee. As a member of the Grants Committee, she saw that the BWGC is truly "making a difference in the lives of those people we set out to help." "On the whole," Hya explained, "the money goes to all the right places."

Now she is an active member of the Education Committee and has graciously opened her home to the Committee for its monthly meetings.

Hya would like to see the Circle achieve more diversity among its membership. She is also excited about the new website and is confident that it will make it easier for members to access information about the BWGC. ■



Vivian Manekin, Ganesha Martin, The Honorable Robert Kershaw, Nancy Blackwell, and Jodi Dunn.

## SEPTEMBER FULL CIRCLE MEETING

### PANEL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

The well attended Fall Full Circle meeting of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle took place on September 13 and featured a panel discussion on Juvenile Justice.

Circle co-chairs Jodi Dunn and Vivian Manekin opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests, including representatives from ten of our current grantee organizations, along with Phoebe Stein, Executive Director, Maryland Humanities and Laury Scharff, Chair of The Jewish Women's Giving Foundation. Karen Singer, a new BWGC member, invited Circle members to save the date for a poverty simulation program to be hosted by the United Way on January 17, 2018 titled 'Walk a Mile'. Watch for more detailed information about this important event.

Penny Cordish, Education Co-chair, introduced the Juvenile Justice panelists Ganesha Martin, Chief, Department of Justice Compliance and Accountability/External Affairs for the Baltimore Police Department; The Honorable Robert Kershaw, Judge-in-charge Juvenile Justice Center, Circuit Court of Baltimore City; and Nancy Blackwell, Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA).

Ganesha Martin opened the discussion by first laying out the juvenile justice issues in Baltimore City, stressing not only that human beings are involved but that justice issues themselves are complicated especially when you consider the environment in which a child was "conceived, nursed and reared."

Hardships that children might deal with include malnutrition, under education, neglect, trauma, violence and few or no positive role models. Martin balanced these against what police have with them - guns, handcuffs, and tasers, which, she noted, are not the tools that can help. Yet she stressed what we all know--that children are resourceful and resilient and that if they can be involved in programs based on best practices, many of which include police officers, a better environment can be created for both.

The Police department uses a 2-pronged approach in dealing with juvenile offenders. First, remove violent repeat offenders from the community and ensure that while behind bars they have access to basic schooling, job and or trade skill training, anger management, etc. Second, develop diversion programs, like the one currently being piloted at the Western

## CHAIR TALK



Jodi Dunn and Vivian Manekin

As we begin our second year as Co-chairs of the Circle, we are continually amazed at the dedication of our members and especially the leaders of our committees. Our work requires an incredible amount of planning and coordination, yet it is always done professionally and with good humor (a huge plus in volunteer work!)

We began the year with a Steering Committee meeting getting to know each other better and brainstorming ideas for growing and maintaining our membership. A new ad hoc committee, headed by Anita Pomerantz, will be exploring these ideas during the coming year.

At our Full Circle meeting on September 13th, we gained valuable insight into the Juvenile Justice system by hearing different perspectives from a very knowledgeable panel. They shared with us the incredibly complicated but hopeful work of redirecting youth who are experiencing trauma and have extremely limited resources. We were also excited to engage with some of our most recent grantees who joined us at the meeting to share their passion and dedication for the work they do.

Congratulations to our website committee, headed by Janice Williams and Cathy Neuman, which has worked tirelessly to bring us our new website. We love the bright design, improved navigation, new images and great new features that members requested.

Finally, thanks to our hard working membership committee, we have over 30 new members who need mentors. If you have been an active member for a year or two, you have the experience needed. Mentors "show new members the ropes", introduce them to other members, join them at a meeting, or just share a cup of coffee and get to know each other. It would be great for all involved! If interested, please email the mentoring co-chairs: Marsha Ramsay (marsharamsay@msn.com) or Hilary Campodonico (hilarycampodonico@hotmail.com).

We look forward to another year of connecting women and improving lives. We are all very lucky to have each other and this work that binds us. Thank you all.

— Jodi Dunn and Vivian Manekin,  
Co-chairs of the Circle

## THE BWGC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

After more than two years, over 60 active participants, plus a survey of the entire membership, and thousands of hours – we did it! The new website is up and running. Following our opening Full Circle Meeting, the site was launched the next day on September 14, 2017. Most of us just logged on, as we usually do, to the same address, and to our great surprise found vibrant colors, lots of pictures and easy-to-navigate information.

Along the way, we discovered some new features. We can now:

- Add committee meetings and events to our calendars from the website by clicking the icon next to the event.
- Join a committee with a quick email link to the committee Co-chairs.
- RSVP to selected events from the Calendar.
- Update our membership information (phone number, address, email, etc.) using My Account.
- Access all content and events from the Dashboard.
- Utilize the website on all types of devices (desktops, tablets and phones).
- Use our own unique ID and password to get into "My Circle".
- Search the site by entering the subject.

Beyond features and functions, our website helps inform our members, prospective members, grantees, potential grantees, and anyone else interested in seeking information about philanthropy and women in philanthropy. Collectively, we all gain a deeper appreciation of our mission, values and impact.

What's next? We have just started a new chapter, but a website is never finished. Our BWGC website will continue to need pages filled with fresh content, pictures that detail and celebrate our grantees, programs and work, and articles that keep us informed and enthusiastic about our mission. So stay tuned, stay connected, and we hope you will log on and explore our beautiful new site at: [www.thebwgc.org](http://www.thebwgc.org). ■



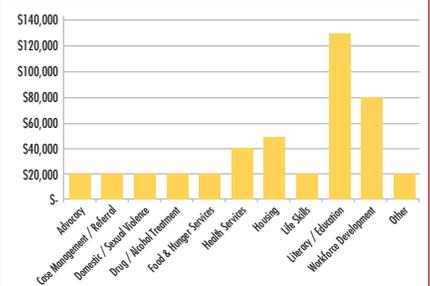
## GRANTS UPDATE

The new grants season has begun! Over 375 organizations received an email notifying them of the opportunity to apply for a grant beginning October 1. We also invited nonprofits to attend one of our two applicant information sessions on October 4 and 5. Awards will be made in June 2018.

Please join the exciting process of evaluating grant applications by becoming a grant reader. We would welcome your participation on one of our grants teams. It's not too late!

If you have not read grants before, please join us for an introduction to the grants reading process on Thursday November 2nd from 9:30 to 11:30 to learn what grant reading is all about. You will get an introduction to evaluating grant applications, making site visits, and presenting recommendations to the full Circle. Evaluate an actual, submitted grant and see if you agree with others whether it should have a site visit. This meeting is open

### BWGC 2017 GRANTS BY CATEGORY



to returning grant readers or to any other members who intend to vote and want a refresher.

To RSVP to the New Grant Readers training or to sign up for the Grants Committee please email us at: [grants@thebwgc.org](mailto:grants@thebwgc.org)

### New Grant Reader Training

Thursday, November 2, 9:30-11:30  
Courtyard Room, Central Presbyterian Church  
7308 York Road (use parking lot off of York)  
Towson, MD 21204 ■

District; these are located within each of the district police stations and offer community-focused programming to provide youth a safe and fun place to be.

Judge Robert Kershaw's presentation followed, and he said that in his opinion there is a positive convergence in leadership at the Dept. of Social Services, the Dept. of Juvenile Justice, the Baltimore City Police and other organizations to focus on evidence-based approaches that are proven to be effective.

Kershaw pointed out that the human brain does not fully develop until age 25 or 26 and that full development depends on adequate nutrition, no ADHD, enough exercise and sleep, and no trauma. Not surprisingly, most of the children he sees in his courtroom suffer from a lack of one or more of these essential requirements.

Judge Kershaw described his court's three-fold purpose – to address children's welfare, delinquency and accountability.

Child welfare, Kershaw says, is all about keeping kids safe from abuse and neglect. However, family reunification is always the goal if can be done safely, ideally within 15-20 months. Research shows that keeping children away from relatives for long periods of time misses a huge opportunity to help families do better.

Delinquency pertains to juveniles who have broken the law. And these children (and their parents, depending on the circumstances) have to be held accountable. But with the right programs and outside placements, when necessary, it is possible to get back on a positive track.

Accountability, Kershaw stressed, does not mean punishment. Research shows that punishment does not work and that punishment alone tends to reinforce stereotypes and lead to further bad behavior.

Kershaw also supports connecting juveniles to programs with professionals so children have the tools they need to change their behavior and find positive outlets.

Nancy Blackwell of CASA, our third panelist, comes to juvenile justice work as an advocate for youth. CASA often opens lines of communication between youth and foster parents or the courts and provides one on one support for children in need of an advocate.

Blackwell provided the example of one boy in the foster care system who was consistently missing his curfew so he could travel back to his old Baltimore City neighborhood. The court's solution was to reassign him to foster homes farther and farther away from his neighborhood as a deterrent. It did not work. His CASA volunteer found that he was going back to his old neighborhood to take care of his baby while his girlfriend was working. CASA was able to work with the judge to change his placement to be closer to his girlfriend and baby and he now has own apartment and is in a work program.

A common theme across the various panel presentations was the understanding that children who come into contact with the juvenile justice system are just that - children. Kids whose brains are not developed, whose long-term thinking skills are non-existent, who face a wide range of physical and mental health stressors that potentially impact them even before they are born. Yet they can be strong, resilient and creative survivors who deserve support and access to programs that realistically meet their needs, and those of their families.

An interesting question and answer period followed the panel discussion and we were left with much to think about and what needs to happen in order to improve the juvenile justice system in Baltimore and help those youth that are struggling to a better future. ■

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# GOUCHER PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM

Founded in 2012, The Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP), a division of Goucher College and recipient of a two-year \$50,000 grant from the BWGC in 2017, aims to provide a liberal arts college education to students incarcerated in Maryland state prisons. The BWGC was an early supporter of this program and has awarded it 3 one-year grants in the past.

The GPEP program that our grant supports offers transferrable college credit courses to approximately 50 female inmates at Maryland Correctional Institute-Jessup (MCIJ). Each student takes a minimum of two courses per semester out of eight that are currently being offered. Faculty from Goucher College and other area colleges travel to the prison in Jessup to teach the courses. There is no charge for tuition or books.

The demand for the program is so great that inmates often must wait two years to enroll. Since students put in a full day of work in prison industries, they must learn to manage their time to fit in homework and studying. The program boasts an admirable 88 percent retention rate.

Many of the students are from communities historically and systematically denied access to quality education. GPEP students gain a tool that can never be taken from them: an education that prepares them for a lifetime of professional, social, and political engagement. It also serves as the foundation for meaningful, well-paid employment. The vast majority of prisoners eventually returns to a society where some form of higher education is almost a requirement for financial sustainability.

Amy Rosa, Executive Director of GPEP says, "Giving meaningful education in prison is an incredibly powerful way to partner with adults in disrupting cycles of poverty. We fail when we imagine that for our most vulnerable students a GED and a paycheck-to-paycheck job would be sufficient."

Benefits of higher education extend to the cell blocks, too. Students can serve as leaders and mentors, improving an environment often clouded by anger and boredom. As Rosa says, "the liberal arts offer all sorts of benefits that stay in place whether or not the person will go home".

Investing in quality higher education for women incarcerated in state prison makes sense: Students' investments in their own educations make an incredible difference in their futures as well as for their families and communities. As stated by former GPEP student Stephanie Spicer while she was incarcerated, "When I'm released, I'll have a foundation to lean on. I want to make better choices." Stephanie has made a successful transition back home, now working and raising her daughters. In addition to Stephanie, currently there at least 5 students who participated in GPEP while in prison who are now enrolled in college outside of prison and working to finish their BA degrees.

This multi-year grant from the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle will help these students lay the foundation for their futures. Through hard work, perseverance, and investment in education, GPEP students transform their own lives, the lives of their children and families, and the communities to which we all belong. ■



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

FALL 2017

Through collective giving and collaboration, The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle seeks to **empower women and their families in the greater Baltimore area to achieve self-sufficiency.** The Giving Circle encourages members to participate in philanthropy through grant-making, education, advocacy and community-based activities.



## IN HER OWN WORDS

### What are Your Plans and Goals for the Year?



#### **JENNIFER YEAGLE**

Membership

*As co-chair of the BWGC's membership committee, I am excited to introduce prospective members to the Circle and the many ways in which the Circle helps women and children throughout the Baltimore community. I hope to help grow the membership and recruit the next generation of Circle members.*



#### **SUSAN TALLES**

Education

*As the new Education Committee co-chair, I am hoping to foster an environment where all of our committee members have input in the planning of Full Circle, Circle Forum, Circle Advocacy and Circle Reads events. Through the cooperative work of these subcommittees, I hope we can continue to provide informative learning opportunities for the entire BWGC membership.*



#### **MARA BRAVERMAN**

Grants

*I look forward to supporting the important work of the many members of the Grants Committee who evaluate applications, as well as all the Circle members who vote on which applications to fund. My focus will be on looking for ways to make the grants process easier for both applicants and BWGC members.*



#### **PAT LASHER**

Post Grants

*The Post Grants Committee acts as a liaison with the grantees as they undertake and complete their projects and programs and committee members provide an important link between the Giving Circle and the Grantees. As the new Post Grants co-chair, I look forward to supporting the work of our committee members and hope to help streamline the reporting process.*

# THE 19 ORGANIZATIONS LISTED HERE RECEIVED \$440,000 IN GRANTS IN 2017



## TWO-YEAR GRANTEES:

### GOUCHER PRISON EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

General Operations

\$50,000

To provide a college education to nearly 100 female inmates housed in Maryland's prisons, giving these women the foundation for future employment and a better life for themselves, their children and our communities. Participants are far less likely to return to prison than non-participants. In 2016, Goucher received permission to confer a bachelor's degree to prison students. The Goucher Prison Education Partnership boasts an admirable 88 percent retention rate.

[www.goucher.edu/academics/other-academic-offerings/goucher-prison-education-partnership](http://www.goucher.edu/academics/other-academic-offerings/goucher-prison-education-partnership)

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF BALTIMORE

Sarah's Hope Family Center

\$50,000

To help support a comprehensive family shelter that provides 24 hour services for 150 homeless families in the Sandtown-Winchester area of Baltimore City each year. Sarah's Hope strives to keep families together, helping them attain permanent housing after an average stay of four months. Children's services include onsite therapeutic day care and Early Head Start, school enrollment and tutoring, onsite primary health care with referral to offsite providers for specialty care, and daily recreation and social activities designed to promote social skills and reinforce learning. Sarah's Hope also offers an academically enriched summer camp.

[www.vincentbaltimore.org](http://www.vincentbaltimore.org)

## ONE-YEAR GRANTEES:

### ASYLEE WOMEN ENTERPRISE

General Operations

\$20,000

To provide housing, counseling, and community to asylum seekers until they obtain work permits and/or approval of their asylum case, which often takes a year or more.

[www.asyleewomen.org](http://www.asyleewomen.org)

### MIRIAM LODGE WEEKEND BACKPACKS FOR HOMELESS KIDS

Backpacks

\$20,000

To provide food for the weekend for homeless children, and expand the number of Baltimore schools served from six to eight, benefitting more than 150 children every week throughout the school year.

<https://www.miriamlodgesb.org/weekend-backpacks>

### BALTIMORE OUTREACH SERVICES

Journey to Independence and Self Sufficiency for Homeless Women and Children

\$20,000

To help homeless women and children acquire stable housing and the resources to remain housed and independent, via counseling, treatment for mental and physical health needs, education, and job preparation and placement.

[www.baltimoreoutreach.org](http://www.baltimoreoutreach.org)

### BIOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF MARYLAND

General Operations

\$20,000

To train 10 single mothers, who are unemployed or underemployed, for careers in laboratory science.

[www.biotechmd.org](http://www.biotechmd.org)

### BUILDING SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

General Operations

\$20,000

To enable high achieving Baltimore City high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue careers in the science and technology fields through a structured program of internships, seminars and mentoring, and increasing the number of students served from the present 72 to 150.

[www.buildingsteps.org](http://www.buildingsteps.org)

### COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

Fostering Futures Expansion –  
Women's Initiative

\$20,000

To add and train staff to advocate for the needs of older youth in foster care, and to identify and work to overcome problems that hinder self sufficiency when youth age out of foster care.

[www.casabaltco.org](http://www.casabaltco.org)

### HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS

Caring for Homeless Children  
and Young Families

\$20,000

To provide primary pediatric and family medicine services, along with behavioral healthcare, to young women and children without homes via the Health Care for the Homeless' mobile clinic.

[www.hchmd.org](http://www.hchmd.org)

# GRANTS 2017

[www.thebwgc.org](http://www.thebwgc.org)



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## HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT

### General Operations

\$20,000

To help expand a year-around academic program, from the present 180 Baltimore City middle school students to 285 students. The program aims to help middle school students prepare for success in high school, college and beyond.

[www.higherachievement.org/baltimore](http://www.higherachievement.org/baltimore)

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## MISSION OF MERCY

### Medical and Dental Care for Women

\$20,000

To provide medical and dental care to 400 uninsured women and children via Mission of Mercy's mobile clinic in Reisterstown. Services include physician/dentist visit, laboratory testing, prescription medications and referrals for free care from cooperating specialists.

[www.amissionofmercy.org/maryland-pennsylvania](http://www.amissionofmercy.org/maryland-pennsylvania)

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## MOVEABLE FEAST

### Culinary Training Program

\$20,000

To provide high quality, culinary arts training to 13 women to enable them to find employment in the food services industry.

[www.mfeast.org/services-programs/culinary-training/](http://www.mfeast.org/services-programs/culinary-training/)

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## NORTHWEST HOSPITAL CENTER

### DOVE: Social Work and Emergency Client Assistance

\$20,000

To provide evening and weekend individual counseling and group therapy to women who have experienced domestic violence via a part time social worker, and to supplement emergency funds for clients who need help paying for rent, transportation, food, diapers, and other necessities.

[www.lifebridgehealth.org/northwest/northwesthospitaldomesticviolenceprogram.aspx](http://www.lifebridgehealth.org/northwest/northwesthospitaldomesticviolenceprogram.aspx)

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## PRO BONO COUNSELING PROJECT

### Terapias para Familias, Parejas e Individuos

\$20,000

To expand its Spanish language therapeutic counseling services by increasing its outreach to Latinas focused metropolitan organizations, matching 60 Latina women and their families with volunteer therapists and community services; recruiting an additional 10 Spanish-speaking, culturally knowledgeable therapists; and providing a continuing education workshop for more than 30 licensed clinicians to increase awareness of the unique clinical needs of Latinas who have experienced abuse.

[www.probonocounseling.org](http://www.probonocounseling.org)

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## READING PARTNERS

### Reading Partners Baltimore: One on One Literacy Tutoring for Low Income Students

\$20,000

To expand this community-driven literacy tutoring program from 19 to 20 Baltimore City elementary schools, serving more than 1,100 students, and pilot an innovative summer reading program to cement student proficiency in reading, and help prepare students for the 2017-18 school year.

[www.readingpartners.org/location/baltimore](http://www.readingpartners.org/location/baltimore)

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## ST. FRANCIS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

### Power Project

\$20,000

To supplement a tuition-free after school program for 48 children ages 5 to 15 in Baltimore's Reservoir Hill area, and provide academic tutoring, art instruction, life skills and mentoring.

[www.stfranciscenter.org](http://www.stfranciscenter.org)

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## THE ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

### Enoch Pratt Free Library Book Buggy

\$20,000

To supply books, computers, educational materials, and enrichment activities to Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Centers and daycare facilities, helping children in underserved communities develop pre-reading skills and boosting mothers' skills as their child's first and most significant teacher.

[www.prattlibrary.org/bookbuggy/](http://www.prattlibrary.org/bookbuggy/)

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## THE SAMARITAN WOMEN

### Vocational Baking Enterprise

\$20,000

To provide vocational training and paid employment in a real world baking business, part of a comprehensive residential treatment program for women who have endured domestic sex trafficking.

[www.thesamaritanwomen.org](http://www.thesamaritanwomen.org)

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## URBAN ALLIANCE FOUNDATION

### High School Internship Program - Baltimore

\$20,000

To provide workforce development, financial literacy, and life skills training to 50 low-income Baltimore female high school students via workforce and college readiness classes, a 10-month paid internship, case management services and post-graduation career guidance.

[www.theurbanalliance.org/locations/baltimore/get-involved/](http://www.theurbanalliance.org/locations/baltimore/get-involved/)

GRANTS  
2017

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[www.thebwgc.org](http://www.thebwgc.org)

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