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In the Summer Newsletter:

Look for a recap of the May Full Circle meeting and the announcements of the 2024-2025 Circle leadership and 2024 grantees.

Committee Profile: Communications

The Communications Committee, affectionately known as ComCom, is how the Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle gets the word out—to its members, grantees, and friends, to others in the non-profit community, and to the greater Baltimore area.

The Committee produces a quarterly newsletter and the Year in Review, which serves as the Circle’s annual report (covering the fiscal year July 1-June 30), and maintains the Circle’s presence on social media platforms.

ComCom relies on its committee liaisons to provide the news for the newsletter and social media and reports for the Year in Review. Newsletters and the Year in Review are emailed to Circle members, grantees, and other friends of the Circle. The Circle’s social media presence, once just a Facebook page aimed at members, now includes LinkedIn and Instagram, where like-minded women can discover the Circle.

The Committee is always happy to welcome new members: communications@thebwgc.org.





Letter from the Co-Chairs

Welcome, Spring 2024!

Beyond our committees there are lots of great opportunities for learning and getting involved in the Circle. And we are excited to share some of them with you:

- We have begun to learn about how other giving circles use sponsorship support. An ad hoc committee met last year to start the process for the BWGC. Please let us know if you would like to be part of this work group (bwgcchair@thebwgc.org).
- The conversations sub-committee of the Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (REDI) Committee is planning a discussion highlighting what we learned from the Philanos conference. We also are planning to launch a third annual member survey in April. Please take part, if you can, in both these efforts so that your thoughts and feedback become be part of the conversation. We value your voice to help move the Circle and its work forward.
- The 25th anniversary of BWGC grant-making is approaching. We are thinking about how to commemorate the work of the Circle and celebrate the work of our grantee partners. If you in interested in being part of this group, please let us know (bwgcchair@thebwgc.org).

Put the May Full Circle meeting on your calendar – **May 15 from 5:00-: 7:15 P.M. at Chuzik Amuno Synagogue (for photos, please arrive at 4:15).** We will learn about the grants awarded for 2024, welcome new Circle leadership, and raise a glass to celebrate all you have made possible this year.

All the best,

Ann & Salli

Ann and Salli

We Give Summit

The BWGC goal to harness the power of collective giving is not unique. It is a world-wide phenomenon which will be on display at the virtual [We Give Summit: A Celebration of Collective Giving May 7-9.](#)

BWGC Co-Chair Salli Ward has been on the planning committee for this event and encourages Circle members to attend. In Salli's words:

"I participated in the We Give Summit 2023, which was a wonderful learning opportunity. When I saw an email inviting people to participate in planning the 2024 We Give Summit, I signed up. It has been very interesting to interact with others who share my passion. Please check out this year's We Give Summit; it is free and virtual, with lots to learn. There are still sessions available to watch on the [We Give Summit 2023 Replay](#), as well as videos from [2022 We Give Summit Replay](#). I invite you all to check them out."



Grantee Profile: Per Scholas Baltimore

Last fall, the U.S. Department of Commerce named Baltimore a National Tech Hub, heralding the potential for millions of dollars of federal investment in locally based technologies, and thousands of new tech jobs. Circle grantee Per Scholas Baltimore is well-positioned to reap the benefits of this federal investment.

Per Scholas – a driving force for racial and gender equity and economic opportunity in the tech sector – is training individuals from our diverse Baltimore community for high-growth tech jobs.

The Per Scholas Baltimore training site, launched in 2019, has expanded operations in response to growing local demand. To date, more than 310 learners have been trained. Every participant qualifies as low-moderate income under federal poverty guidelines; 87% of learners are persons of color, with more than 75% identifying as Black/African American or Hispanic/Latinx.

Per Scholas Baltimore has also achieved a significant increase in female enrollees -- now 45% of participants. With the help of the BWGC grant, Per Scholas aims to recruit and enroll 65 more women for its programs.

Participants engage in intensive full-time training and professional development for 10-15 weeks. They receive comprehensive support services, including wellness and financial coaching and links to external resources. After graduation, Per Scholas Baltimore connects participants with employment opportunities. Alumni are offered advanced skill building and professional development resources.

The outcomes of Per Scholas Baltimore's programs are impressive – not least an 85% graduation rate. Within one year of graduation, 85% of graduates secure employment, with an average starting wage of \$21 per hour. Many of these jobs offer benefits, including health insurance.

Per Scholas Baltimore is contributing to a thriving local tech sector by unlocking the exciting potential of a diverse and professionally trained Baltimore workforce.

*To learn more about Per Scholas Baltimore, the Education Committee invites members to attend the **Circle Forum April 25, 9-11:15 AM at the Roland Park Community Center, 5802 Roland Avenue, Baltimore**. Featured presenters will be Jessica Diaz-Council, senior managing director, Per Scholas, and Per Scholas graduate Sierra Evans.*



United Way
of Central Maryland



United Way of Maryland
CEO Franklyn Baker

March Full Circle

“ALICE” is an acronym that stands for “asset limited, income constrained, employed.” This was explained at the March 6 Full Circle meeting by Franklyn Baker, chairman and CEO of the United Way of Central Maryland. Eighty-eight people attended the meeting at Beth El Congregation in Baltimore, and 40 attended via Zoom.

ALICE describes people who hold one or more low-paying jobs but earn the bare minimum needed to survive, the large majority of whom are women. Since the caretaker in the family is also usually a woman, that makes her situation particularly untenable. In Baltimore City, 53% of women are at or below that threshold. They work in the food service and health care industries, for example, and are people who do work that is essential but who can't afford the essentials themselves. Baker described United Way programs targeted at these people and congratulated the Circle for making grants to these very women.

Greater Baltimore Households at or Below ALICE Threshold:	Baltimore City	53%
	Baltimore County	45%
	Harford County	37%
	Carroll County	32%
	Anne Arundel County	30%
	Howard County	24%

New Members

Gail Fishman
Georgette Frederick
Dana Gaskins
Kayleen Hillery
Ashley Mancinelli

Phyllis Panopoulos
Kristin Rowles
Hristina Schlaggar
Kathy Weiss

Did You Know?

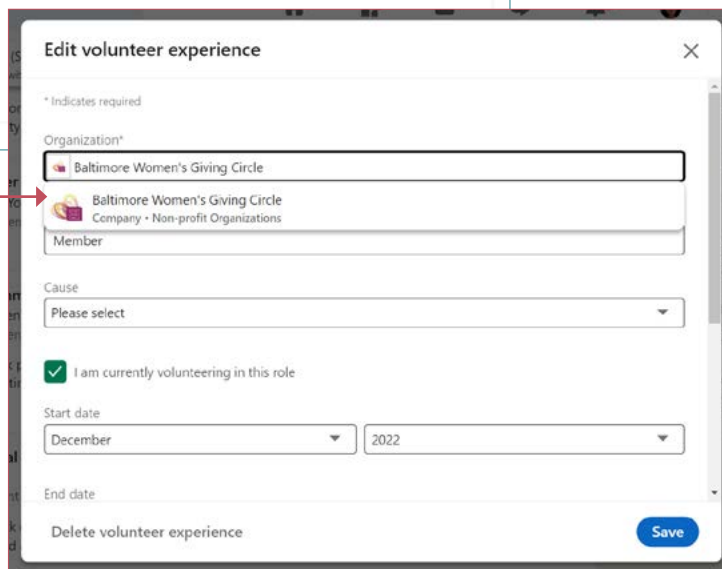
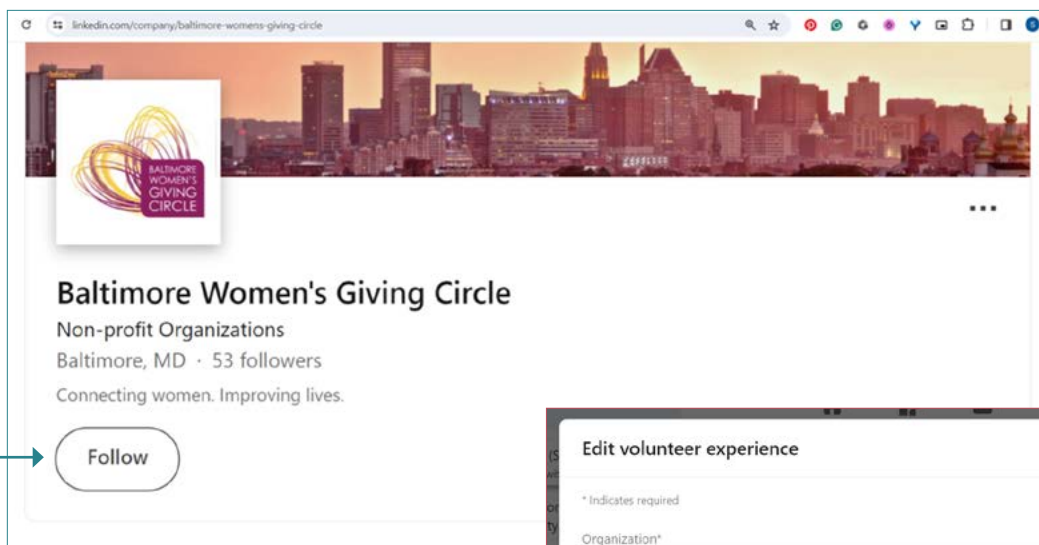
The BWGC has added LinkedIn to its social media presence in the past year. Members can spread the word about the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) through LinkedIn!

If you have a LinkedIn profile, you can help encourage those in your professional network to learn about and join BWGC. Here's how:

- Follow the BWGC LinkedIn page.
- Add "member" to your "Volunteer" section. Be sure to link to the BWGC profile when you enter the Organization name.
- If you serve on a committee, list this in the "Volunteer" section, too.
- Interact with BWGC on LinkedIn. Look for posts to like, comment on, and reshare.

Members are also invited to follow the Circle on Facebook and Instagram and to interact with and reshare posts on these platforms.

Let's spread the word together about the impact and community of BWGC and encourage our personal and professional friends on social media to join as we work to change the lives of women, children, and families in Baltimore.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

The Education Committee has been planning a busy spring.

The Circle Study subcommittee enlisted Franklyn Baker, president and CEO of United Way of Central Maryland, to speak at the March 6 Full Circle meeting (see page 4). In keeping with the theme “Women Working,” he spoke on “ALICE,” people who are “asset limited, income constrained, employed.”

And for the May 7 Circle Reads meeting, we have chosen \$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer. This event is open to the entire Circle.

Grantee Connect

Grantee Connect members are working full steam ahead to prepare for the May 8 Grantee Spring Forum. The Circle’s grantee partners will spend the morning addressing a groundbreaking topic they recommended: Community Centric Fundraising (CCF), a philanthropy model rooted in equity and social justice that prioritizes the entire community over individual agencies and views nonprofit work holistically, strengthened through mutual support between organizations.

Is this approach to fundraising feasible for Circle grantees? What does it take to implement? Participants will first hear from Dannielle Sturgeon, director of development at Baltimore Corps, and Dani Faulkner, a nonprofit development professional, who will engage in a conversation about CCF and how to apply its principles. After their presentation, grantees will participate in facilitated discussions with their peers around the model’s unique aspects and its potential for their organizations.

Grants

The Circle’s grant-making process for 2024 is well underway. Fifteen teams of 79 readers and team leaders, have reviewed and discussed 121 applications. After having made site visits, the teams are now in the process of formulating recommendations for funding. This year’s applicants include nearly 50 organizations that have never before sought funding from the BWGC. Fifteen applicant organizations have been in operation for five years or fewer.

Member orientation on the grants voting process will be held by Zoom on Tuesday, April 2 from 1-2:15 p.m. Any Circle member who wishes to vote on which recommended applications to fund must attend the orientation or watch the recording, which will be available via a YouTube link.



Grant reader workshop

COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

Membership

The Membership Committee has a new co-chair, Lisa Field. Lisa joins Lynn Brynes, the current co-chair. Meetings will now be held on the third Monday of each month using a combined in-person and Zoom format.

January was a busy month. There have been discussions of how to redesign the Membership Committee to keep it relevant, attract new members, and retain the current membership.

Dara Schnee and Jillian Pinkard hosted a Prospective Member Event on January 18, along with the Membership Committee. More than 20 friends and co-workers were invited to learn about the Circle and the impact of its pooled philanthropy.

A New Member Event was held on February 28 at the home of Suzanne Dagurt, for all members who have joined within the past two years.

Nominating and Leadership Development

The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (NLDC) has been busy. Members spent the fall talking with past and present BWGC leaders to develop a broad pool of potential candidates for 2024-2026. The "Pathways to Leadership" program in the fall helped members learn about the Circle's many leadership opportunities, after which members self-nominated and recommended potential candidates.

The Committee will present the candidates at the April Steering Committee meeting, and an electronic ballot will then go out to the entire membership for ratification of the proposed slate of officers. All officers and committee co-chairs for 2024-2025 will be announced at the May Full Circle meeting.

Post Grants

The Post Grants Mid-Year Review Meeting was held on January 24, 2024, with liaisons from all 18 grantees reporting. Almost all grantees are on track to achieve established goals and fully utilize BWGC grant funds. Representatives from Grantee Connect, the Communications Committee, Grants Committee and Circle Works attended to discuss how Post Grants liaisons can suggest grantees to participate in panel discussions, feature in articles, and be sites for Circle projects. Liaisons will be in touch with grantees in the coming months before the year-end reports to offer assistance.

The Circle Works subcommittee of Post Grants held its first meeting under the leadership of Phyllis Kolman and Susan Payne on February 27. The purpose of the meeting was to organize the group and discuss potential projects before recruiting additional members. The participation of Post Grants liaisons, who will have the most current information on grantee project needs, is particularly welcomed. Other Circle members will be sought as projects are identified and dates for initiatives scheduled. Any Circle member is welcome to join this subcommittee by emailing postgrants@thebwgc.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (REDI)

REDI's Conversations subgroup is exploring presenting a program in the spring on national trends in philanthropy and how those might impact the BWGC. Another subgroup is setting up meetings with other funders in the region to ascertain BWGC's role in the larger philanthropic community.

Grantees in the News

Some of the Circle's 2023-24 grantees have been featured in local news outlets recently:

Baltimore Outreach Services, Inc. (BOS): [Interview on Baltimore Positive](#)

HER Resiliency Center opens flagship center in Fells Point:

- [WMAR2 News article](#)
- [Baltimore Fishbowl Article](#)

Roberta's House, Inc.: [25 Black Marylanders to Watch for 2024](#)

Contributors

Kelly Chew

Ellen Cooper

Ann Daniels

Liz Dausch

Barbara Epke

Silvia Golombek

Sarah Grebow

Susan Hovanec

Carmina Hughes

Katie Lekin

Joyce Moskowitz

Ruth Sadler

Jane Strausbaugh

Salli Ward

Carol Yoder

Calendar of Events

5/1 Prospective member event

5/7 Circle Reads (\$2 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shearer)

5/8 Grantee Connect Forum

5/15 Full Circle Meeting