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Message from the Co-Chairs

When we looked back at the past year and thought about our vision for the coming one, we were reminded about the first time we met as co-chairs. On April 5, 2020, we met by phone and decided that a major goal was to add to the social fabric of the Circle and to increase the sense of community among Circle members.

Little did we know what was in store for the Circle, the grantees, and the world!!

Here we are one and a half years later, and we have learned what resilience looks like. We don't need to repeat the many ways the Circle and grantees have coped, because we have all been part of that tremendous effort.

We don't know when we will be able to operate in person, but we do know that membership has renewed robustly and that we already have 23 new members! That's amazing.

So, it is with tremendous gratitude for past efforts and with total confidence in the future that we say "Thank You" to each and every Circle member and grantee.

You are the best.

Maitha & Susan



Social Media

We are proud of BWGC, our members, and our grantees! The members of Social Media have been busy posting our proudest moments on Facebook and Instagram at least twice a week. Now you can help BWGC by “sharing” our posts! This will help us market our organization, attract new members, recognize the good work that our grantees are doing for the Baltimore area, share BWGC events and accomplishments, and inform people about what BWGC has to offer.

Social media is important because it allows us to reach, nurture, and engage with our target audience.

It's easy to share!

Facebook: Hit the “share” button

Instagram: Go to the three little dots above the post and “share”. You can tag: **#theBWGC**

YouTube: Search **The BWGC**

Send newsworthy information about the Circle, our members, and our grantees to: socialmedia@theBWGC.org

Social Media Training was held on October 27.

It covered Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, including: how to create an account, how to protect your account, and how to view, comment, and share postings. Follow-up social media training will be offered soon.

Thoughts From a Member

When I joined the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle in 2002, I was working full-time as Executive Director of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. Although I supported the goals of the Circle, the demands of my job precluded becoming actively involved in committee work or even attending most of the full Circle events.

By 2006 I realized it was time to retire. I was apprehensive about giving up the stimulation and challenge of working. I was fearful I would not be able to find meaningful activities in

retirement. How wrong I was. Once I let the Circle know that I wanted to become involved, I had plenty to keep me busy. I chaired Grantee Connect, co-chaired Post-Grants and the Nominating Committee and served as a grant reader. There were also regular Steering Committee meetings.

Becoming involved with the Circle has been one of my most rewarding experiences because I was able to continue to use my administrative and organizational skills and to feel challenged. I've worked with smart, interesting women and made new friends. The Circle has given me more than I have given it, and I feel grateful to have found stimulating work and new friends in my retirement.



Winnie Borden

2020-2021 GRANTEE PROFILE:

MedStar Harbor Hospital Mobile Health Center

MedStar Harbor Hospital's Mobile Health Center was established in 2019 and a vehicle was launched in 2020. The Center provides critical health services to women in South Baltimore who do not have traditional access to care. It offers primary care, patient education, and crisis intervention through a new 40-foot van fitted with two private exam rooms and an interview area.

On a bi-weekly schedule, the van spends a half day each at three elementary schools (women can walk in after leaving their children at school); at The Well, a women's center for healing from trauma; and at a housing community for the elderly. The truck is staffed by a driver who doubles as registrar, a nurse practitioner, and a community health worker who does the work of a social worker as well as providing access to resources. The ultimate goal is to provide quality holistic care to women who may not have access to traditional health services. By addressing the immediate needs of South Baltimore neighborhoods, the mobile center improves the health of the entire community.

The Mobile Health Center is now vaccinating adults and adolescents for COVID through its mobile clinics and is preparing to provide flu vaccines and COVID boosters to seniors once it gets clearance. It also provides HIV testing and education through its Community Health Worker aboard the Mobile Health Center. It is hoping to increase foot traffic to the Mobile Health Center this fall. Its grant from the BWGC helps support this program.

Once a patient receives care, she will have access to a Community Health Advocate (CHA) who will assess the patient's needs beyond traditional health services. The CHA engages in one-on-one dialogue with a woman to understand the barriers she is facing. The CHA may connect a patient with housing, behavioral health treatment, food access, job assistance, substance use disorder treatment, safe sex education, clothing, basic needs and other social services. Through these resources and subsequent follow-ups from the CHA, women will gain the power to take ownership of their healing journey.



MedStar Harbor Hospital's Mobile Health Center

Post-Grants Update

On September 14, the Post-Grants Committee (PG) held its closing meeting, focusing on last year's grantees' accomplishments. Despite the year's challenges, all 25 grant recipients used their BWGC grant funds to accomplish their stated missions, even though the grant applications had been completed and programs planned months before the pandemic. We have been impressed with the grantees' ability to quickly pivot and change processes in response to COVID. Those programs that were classroom-based saw a decrease in the number of participants, but programs addressing domestic violence and food scarcity experienced greater volume.

The new PG year began with a Zoom meeting on September 29. Over the course of the year, liaison teams will periodically check in with their assigned grantees to provide support and learn about any significant changes since the grant funds were received. The Post-Grants process is an essential part of the Circle's reputation for due diligence. Grantees often report that receiving a BWGC grant contributes to their success with other funders.



Adelante Latinai (A recent grantee)

New Members

Susan Coller
Danielle Curry
Nancy Denebeim
Jean Denison
Lena Dension
Nancy Farmer
Amy Fulton
Nancy Funk

Brigid Goody
Leida Lamas-Sheldon
Brooke Lierman
Lauren Madsen
Karen Meadow
Lisa Pass
Jennifer Perl
Sarah Perl

Paula Rees
Elaine Richman
Noelle Savage
Annette Saxon
Jane Selwach
Helle Tondro
Jamila Webb

Full Circle and Education Committee Meetings

This year the theme for both Full Circle and the Education Committee meetings will be Health Disparities and Inequities.



Vinny DeMarco

FULL CIRCLE MEETING

This year's first Full Circle meeting was held September 29 on ZOOM with 102 members in attendance to discuss health disparity and inequity.

SPEAKERS:

- **Vinny DeMarco**, President of the Maryland Citizens' Healthcare Initiative,
- **Michelle Spencer**, Associate Director of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative.



Michelle Spencer

The presentation was recorded and will be available on the BWGC YouTube archives shortly. YouTube can be accessed by going to the www.theBWGC.org website and clicking on the  arrow icon at the bottom of the page.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

September 21 (ZOOM)

SPEAKER: Panagis Galiatsatos, MD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Community Engagement Co-Director and Founder of Medicine for the Greater Good

Dr. Galiatsatos spoke about the deleterious effects of cigarette smoking in East Baltimore. He displayed a map of East Baltimore that showed that residents of more socio-economically advantaged neighborhoods have an average life expectancy of over 80 years, while residents of poorer neighborhoods only 2 miles away have life spans of up to 20 years less. One culprit leading to this disparity: cigarette addiction

and resulting lung disease. He explained that in communities with reduced life spans, stores selling cigarettes are abundant and access is easy.

To fight this negative health disparity, Dr. Galiatsatos has initiated a program with two main goals: educating school children and adults about the addictive and dangerous health implications of cigarette smoking and encouraging grassroots lobbying to raise the age to purchase cigarettes in Maryland to 21. He enlisted trusted members of the community, such as ministers and schoolteachers, to spread important information and to “buy-in” to health outcomes that will benefit the community. He emphasized that it is important for the community to view these health ambassadors as “one of their own.” Following a massive campaign of letter writing by Baltimore City school children to Governor Hogan and testimony before the Maryland Legislature, the age for purchasing cigarettes in Maryland was raised to 21.

You can view the entire ZOOM presentation at: <https://youtu.be/QGpuL9jvqVo>



Dr. Galiatsatos

Upcoming Meetings

Education Committee Meetings:

NOVEMBER 9, 10:00 A.M. (ZOOM)

SPEAKER: Adam Rosenberg, Executive Director, Center for Hope, and Vice-President of Violence Intervention and Prevention, LifeBridge Health

DECEMBER 9, 9:30 A.M. (ZOOM)

SPEAKER: Lauren Schavitz, Social Worker and Executive Director, CHANA

Full Circle Meeting:

DECEMBER 8, 11:30 A.M. (ZOOM)

SPEAKER: Redonda Miller, MD, 11th President of Johns Hopkins Hospital



Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (REDI)

On September 23, the REDI Committee emailed all members updating them that it would not seek ratification of proposed language changes at this time. REDI will continue to meet regularly, and check-in weekly. If you are interested in being involved, contact REDI@theBWGC.org.

Membership Committee

As part of the Membership Committee's bold goal of 500 members by March 31, 2022, we are targeting younger prospective members in a variety of exciting ways. We believe that this effort to diversify will be a benefit to the longevity and scope of the BWGC and thus to the Baltimore community. One initiative is to highlight and encourage familial connections within the Circle! Mothers and daughters, aunts and nieces, mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law, etc. There is a lovely history of these connections already, and we hope members will reach out to local family and draw them into the Circle by sharing their experiences, inviting them to prospective member events, and including them as guests to virtual and in-person events.

Making a commitment to the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle a family tradition is a beautiful thing! For more information contact membership@theBWGC.org.

Mother-Daughter Members

Marsha Ramsay and Hilary Campodonico have long focused their mother-daughter activities on family gatherings and travel. Since 2013, BWGC has been in the mix. Marsha, retired from an extensive environmental career, joined BWGC in 2007. Hilary, at the time employed in clinical social work with children and families, came on board six years later "at the suggestion of my mother, after hearing about the women of the Circle and the ways in which women and families are supported and empowered."

They have worked together as co-chairs of Mentoring. Marsha serves on Circle Works, which Hilary co-chairs, and both have worked on Grants.

BWGC involves just part of the women's volunteer energies. Marsha has been active in supporting environmental groups as well as organizations she learned about from the Circle. Hilary, a stay-at-home mother, has been active in her children's schools as well as with Itineris, which serves adults on the autism spectrum.

As Marsha says, "Hilary and I have had a wonderful experience working together with BWGC. We encourage all mothers to involve their daughters in a new and rewarding way, not just teaming up on family dinners and child-care!"



Marsha and Hilary

Other Membership News

The Membership Committee is delighted and proud that 35 new members were added to the BWGC in 2020-21 while doing everything virtually!

Our first event this year was held on September 14 "in person" and outdoors at Jane Rodbell's home. There will be another event in December. Please send the names and contact information for anyone you know who would like more information about the Circle to membership@theBWGC.org.



Circle Connectors Host New Member Stroll at Cylburn Arboretum

On October 3rd, new members gathered for a guided tour of Cylburn Arboretum hosted by Circle Connectors, a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. Susie Reichmister, chair of the Circle Connectors, and Nell Strachan, a long-time Circle member and active volunteer at Cylburn, welcomed eleven new Circle members and one guest - who joined the Circle the following week! It was a perfect Sunday morning full of sunshine and plenty of conversation as new members mingled and strolled through the gardens.



Talent Search

Looking to be more involved in the Circle? Why not try one of these committees?

POST-GRANTS COMMITTEE:

postgrants@theBWGC.org

The Post-Grants Committee establishes a relationship with new grantees and monitors their accomplishments and progress throughout the grant period. Committee members serve as liaisons to conduct site visits and interviews with grantees.

GRANTEE CONNECT COMMITTEE:

granteeconnect@theBWGC.org

The Grantee Connect Committee fosters relationships among prior grantees and assists them in their non-profit work by presenting programs in which they have a special interest. The time commitment is minimal and flexible.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

membership@theBWGC.org

Circle Works: Circle Works is a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. It provides support for grantees with in-kind donations and enrichment activities for the women and their children.

Circle Connectors: Circle Connectors is a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. Each new member is assigned to a connector. The goal of the Connector Program is to facilitate a meaningful and long-term connection to the Circle.

GRANTS COMMITTEE:

grants@theBWGC.org

The Grants Committee oversees the grant-making process for the BWGC. Organized in teams, grant readers review grant applications, conduct virtual or real site visits, and recommend selected programs for funding.

e-news Contributors:

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