

BWGC PAST EVENTS



2025 BWGC Annual Grantee Celebration

FEbruary 5, 2025 | WEDNESDAY 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (SHOW DATE FEBRUARY 11TH)

LOCATION: COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA - 3201 JEROME TOWN ROAD FAIRFAX, VA 22030



BWGC Grantee Celebration

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 evening event

Business Women's Giving Circle member donations made it possible for BWGC to grant \$75,000 to five nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia. Members and guests came together to celebrate the work of these incredible organizations and their leaders - Boolean Girl, Pink Space Theory, Space of Her Own, Sustainability Matters, Year Up: Talent for Tomorrow Alliance.

2024 GRANTEES FOR 2025 IMPACT



BWGC Grantee Engagement: Talent for Tomorrow Alliance, 2nd Annual Multiplying Potential Luncheon

Thursday, March 13 lunchtime event

BWGC members celebrated Talent for Tomorrow Alliance's commitment to collectively provide greater educational and career opportunities for young people in our community. A panel discussed the value of an ecosystem approach to address youth challenges and explored how collaboration within the nonprofit sector could impact more young people in our community.

2024 GRANTEES FOR 2025 IMPACT



BWGC Grantee Engagement: G.R.E.A.T. Math Minds Field Trip to Micron

Friday, March 14 morning event

BWGC members were invited to the G.R.E.A.T. Math Minds field trip to Micron where the girls learned about Dr. Kim Burnett's journey from elementary school to Micron, how to build a circuit, that Micron's Manassas campus builds chips for cars, and that 3500 chips are needed for just 1 car!



BWGC Education Event: Inspiring Action Through Math - "*Counted Out*" Documentary Screening and Discussion

Friday, March 14 evening event

BWGC hosted a local premiere of "*Counted Out*," a new hard-hitting documentary that shines a light on math as the foundation of democracy and economic opportunity. The documentary's personal stories revealed how math shapes our daily lives in ways we may not even realize. During the post-screening discussion, attendees emphasized the need for an educational shift to one that prioritizes real-world problem-solving and teaching *students*, not just material. Key action items from the discussion included:

- encouraging others to watch the film
- sharing our personal stories of overcoming challenges
- boosting student confidence through creative teacher training
- creating math camp for adults making math engaging and rewarding
- demonstrating how math and data literacy is important to our daily lives
- developing accessible math education kits
- bridging generational learning gaps with diverse learning resources
- support nonprofits that build confidence in math learning

CFNOVA Event: 2025 Shape of the Region Conference: Our Children

Tuesday, March 25 daytime hybrid event

This event provided insight on their research and findings around *Creating Safe, Supportive Futures for Northern Virginia's Youth*



BWGC Spring Education Event: "Developing and Using AI Responsibly for Social Good"

Wednesday, April 2 lunchtime event

BWGC members, guests and grantees came together virtually for a panel developed and moderated by Nanci Schimizzi. Panelists [Julia Stamm](#), Ph.D., Founder of She Shapes AI, [Swathi Young](#), AI/ML Strategy Architect & Technology Innovator, and [Rachel Gutierrez](#), Processes and Partnerships Lead, She Shapes AI, shared why they began working on AI ethics, gender equity, responsible use of AI and the potential of AI if done right. To continue exploration of this topic: [recording and links suggested by the panelists](#)

- [Event recording](#)

- [She Shapes AI](#)
- [She.AI](#)
- [Optim.AI](#)
- [Women Defining AI](#)
- Forbes.com Article "[How to Make Sure that Diversity in AI Works](#)" by Swathi Young
- [Discover AI in Daily Life](#) - Google's Applied Digital Skills provides teacher resources and are one of many resources available through searches and reputable sources
- [Women in AI](#)
- Dr Julia Stamm, Founder & CEO, She Shapes AI, julia@sheshapes.ai
- Rachel Gutierrez, Processes and Partnerships Lead, She Shapes AI, rachel@wsfr.ai
- Swathi Young, AI/ML Strategy Architect & Technology Innovator, chimera.swa@gmail.com



BWGC Grantee Engagement: Pink Space Theory's STEAM Night

Friday, April 25 evening event

BWGC conducted an activity for the G.R.E.A.T. Math Minds participants where they learned about probability in a unique and fun way.

BWGC Social: Meera Pillai's Dinner Outing

Thursday, May 15 evening event

Using our new BWGC social group on LinkedIn, Meera invited members to a pop-up dinner of networking and engagement



BWGC Coffee and Networking in Person

BWGC Social: New Member Coffee

Tuesday, May 27 evening event

What a great way to start the day with BWGC members getting to know one another



BWGC Grantee Engagement: Sustainability Matters Walk on the W&OD

Saturday, June 7 morning event

BWGC members joined Sustainability Matters' walk on the W&OD to celebrate National Trails Day and learned about native plants and why they are so important to our native wildlife. An added benefit was learning about the history of the trail and of one of Reston's historic sites.



BWGC Summer Social at Good Spirit Farm

Saturday, June 14 afternoon event

BWGC members and guests were treated to a guided wine tasting of award winning wines at BWGC member, Luanne Gutermuth, and her husband's winery.



BWGC Coffee and Networking in Person

BWGC Social: New Member Coffee

Thursday, August 7 morning event

What a great way to start the day with BWGC members getting to know one another



BWGC Spring Education Event: The Power of Giving: Making an Impact through BWGC and Beyond

Thursday, August 20 morning event

Members and guests came together for a meaningful networking breakfast focused on community and giving. The event included a mid-year update on our strategic plan, insight on the needs in our community and how CFNOVA and community organizations like Northern Virginia Family Services are addressing these needs. Resources were provided to understand the numerous ways to maximize personal charitable giving.



BWGC Fall Social | In Person

Wednesday, September 17 from 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Inca Social, 2670 Avenir Pl Vienna, VA 22180

What a lovely event bringing together BWGC members, grantees, and guests. Representatives from two of our grantees, Sustainability Matters and Year Up United, attended and provided an update on their work this year. We also welcomed our new members, Ann Durbin, Miranda Fulk, and Corinne Grimaldi, with a new member pinning ceremony.



The Business Women's Giving Circle Presented *Your Seat at the Table: Pathways to Board Service*

Wednesday, September 24 | Virtual Lunch and Learn

The discussion around Board Service brought the voices and experience of four powerhouse women to BWGC members and guests and shed light on the realities of board service, practical steps to get started, and how to position yourself to make meaningful impact. Take-aways revolve around Board service being for everyone, no matter title, age, or career level. It's about passion, preparation, and alignment with mission-driven work. By engaging early, asking smart questions, and cultivating relationships, you can find the right seat at the table. We thank moderator [Jen Dalton](#), and panelists [Cherylyn Harley LeBon](#), [Katie Nelson](#), and [Meera Pillai](#) for educating us on the nuances of Board Service!

Key Insights

BWGC's Grant Applicant Pitch Presentations ("Shark Tank")

Friday, November 14 | In Person

Reston VA

(24 members participated, 1 guest in attendance, 3 CFNOVA representatives)



Business Women's Giving Circle Holiday Social | In Person
Wednesday, December 3, 2025 from 6:00-8:00 pm
Herndon VA
(31 attendees/40 registrants)



2025 Raise the Region Gala - October 17

Members attended the CFNOVA Raise the Region Gala. Member Beatriz McNelly was highlighted in the video and Duane from Year Up United mentioned BWGC.

Strategic Planning



First Member Input Session: 2025 Strategic Plan
Monday, March 17 evening event in Vienna

Second Member Input Session: 2025 Strategic Plan
Friday, April 4 evening virtual event

Third Member Input Session: 2025 Strategic Plan
Wednesday, April 30 evening virtual event

Member Input through one-on-one conversations and coffees
May, June, July

PARTNER COLLABORATION

SIM Capital Area: Women's Group Networking Reception

Wednesday, March 12 evening event

BWGC members were invited to the reception celebrating Women's History Month!

EduTutorVA Fourth Annual Gala

Tuesday, April 8 evening event

A few BWGC members and partners attended this event for an opportunity to network and learn about metrics and outcomes of building the future workforce

Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) Celebration of Service

Friday, May 9 evening event

BWGC members were invited to celebrate NVFS' 100 year commitment to ensuring every person in our community has the access, support, and resources they need to reach their full potential

CircleUp DMV - Stronger Together: Supporting Community-Based Nonprofits in a Time of Crisis

Wednesday, May 14 evening event

BWGC was proud to be a co-host with [Philanthropy Together](#) and nearly a dozen area giving circles and philanthropy-supporting organizations. As a result of participation, a strong giving circle network was shaped around some of the take-aways:

- play an important role beyond funding by providing a platform to help nonprofits reach individual donors.
- elevate organizations that don't receive a grant but that we've researched and really admire
- invite people outside of our circles to meet grant applicants that were not selected
- host "house parties" around a theme (e.g., education, immigration) to help donors with particular interests connect with smaller nonprofits they may not already know.

NVFS Back2School Drive

Wednesday, July 23 afternoon event

Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) created a BWGC volunteer opportunity to support NVFS' Annual Back2School Drive. Members and our guests participated in sorting, counting, and collecting school supplies for local children in need.

Partner Collaboration: STEM for Her - Lead Her Forward

Wednesday, July 30 evening event

BWGC members came together for discussion and networking around the topic of "what's next for girls in STEM." Conversations with their youth leadership council was one highlight of the event.

Partner Collaboration: Money, Meaning & Mission: A Guide to Tax Savvy and Intentional Philanthropy

Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 am | In-Person

BWGC Members Emily Harper and Ann Durbin partnered to present [Money, Meaning & Mission: A Guide to Tax Savvy and Intentional Philanthropy](#) at NVFS Headquarters in Falls Church. They brought together their organizations, Monument Wealth Management and Northern Virginia Family Services, for an insightful presentation on the impact of recent tax code changes on charitable giving, tax-savvy strategies to help you maximize your philanthropic impact, and how to build a giving strategy that aligns with your personal values.

Community Event: Grand Opening of We Rock The Spectrum, Loudoun

Saturday, October 25, 10:00-5:00

Congratulations to BWGC member, Beatriz McNelly! She and Eileen Markis have opened **We Rock The Spectrum, Loudoun**, and members were invited to the grand opening! Plan a visit to this kid's gym focused on all abilities and movement, fun, and activity around the seven senses! Location: *21720 Red Rum Dr, Suites 177-182, Ashburn*
<https://www.werockthespectrumloudounva.com/>

Partner Collaboration: 3rd Annual Power of the Purse, by Suited for Change

November 13, 2025 | 5:30 PM

BWGC Member and Suited for Change Volunteer Stylist, Robin Finnell, invited BWGC members to the 3rd Annual Power of the Purse, Suited for Change's signature Fall fundraising event. Members enjoyed an evening dedicated to empowering women and celebrating community while raising funds to directly support **Suited for Change's mission** to equip women in need across the Washington, DC region with professional attire, job coaching, and ongoing support—helping them thrive in their careers and beyond. <https://events.handbid.com/auctions/power-of-the-purse-42971>

Business Women's Giving Circle - <https://www.cfnova.org/news-and-stories/press-releases/bwgc-2024-grants>