



2025 IMPACT REPORT

INVEST. CONNECT. INSPIRE.

The mission of the Business Women's Giving Circle is to invest in innovative programs that empower girls and young women in Northern Virginia, connect meaningfully with members and grantees, and inspire others to join the power of collective philanthropy.

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia launched its Business Women's Giving Circle in 2014, the first group of its kind in the region comprised of women who are looking to empower girls and women of all ages through philanthropy in the Northern Virginia region.

BWGC has awarded more than \$660,000 to organizations providing exciting experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Leadership, and Entrepreneurship with measurable impact on the lives of over 4,200 girls and young women in Northern Virginia.



2024 GRANTEES FOR 2025 IMPACT

The Business Women's Giving Circle was pleased to again provide funding to outstanding nonprofits that worked with girls and young women to promote and encourage their interest and participation in STEM



Sustainability Matters: EcologiGALs (\$20,000)

EcologiGALs was a new, girls-focused program for Sustainability Matters, engaging 230 girls in grades 9-12 within Fairfax County Public Schools in ecology/environmental science fieldwork at their 1-66 landfill Making Trash Bloom site. Girls had the opportunity to engage with the innovative Making Trash Bloom program, to network with mentors including Smithsonian-Mason undergraduates, and to get in on the ground floor of a new program focused on environmental science.

Boolean Girl: Boolean Girl Clubhouse (\$10,000)

Boolean Girl's Clubhouse taught Northern Virginia-based 3rd to 8th-grade girls (~ 20% low-income) coding and engineering in a fun environment while fostering a supportive community of girls with similar interests. Older students served as instructors and assistants. It hosted 3-hour sessions in partnership with Marymount University at their Arlington location and included peer and mentor support.

Talent for Tomorrow Alliance (\$20,000)

Funding supported the Talent for Tomorrow Alliance's STEM training for 140 women in Northern Virginia to provide technical skills training, industry specific based-certifications, internships, and wraparound support to prepare women for in-demand jobs.

Space of Her Own (\$10,000)

Transforming spaces and transforming lives, SOHO empowered girls from underserved communities through one-to-one mentoring, art, STEM, and life skills development. Their creative and unique projects transformed spaces while engaging in hands-on STEM experiences and building positive bonds with trusted and committed mentors.

Pink Space Theory (\$15,000)

G.R.E.A.T Math Minds' three-year math enrichment program for elementary school girls enhanced 21st-century competencies, cultivating mastery in advanced math, coding, design thinking, and engineering. The program's long-term initiative builds confidence in trying something new, exploring ideas, and solving real-world challenges.

2025 IMPACT

The Women's Giving Circle is pleased to again provide funding to two amazing groups that worked with girls and young women to promote activities that encourage their interest and participation in STEM.

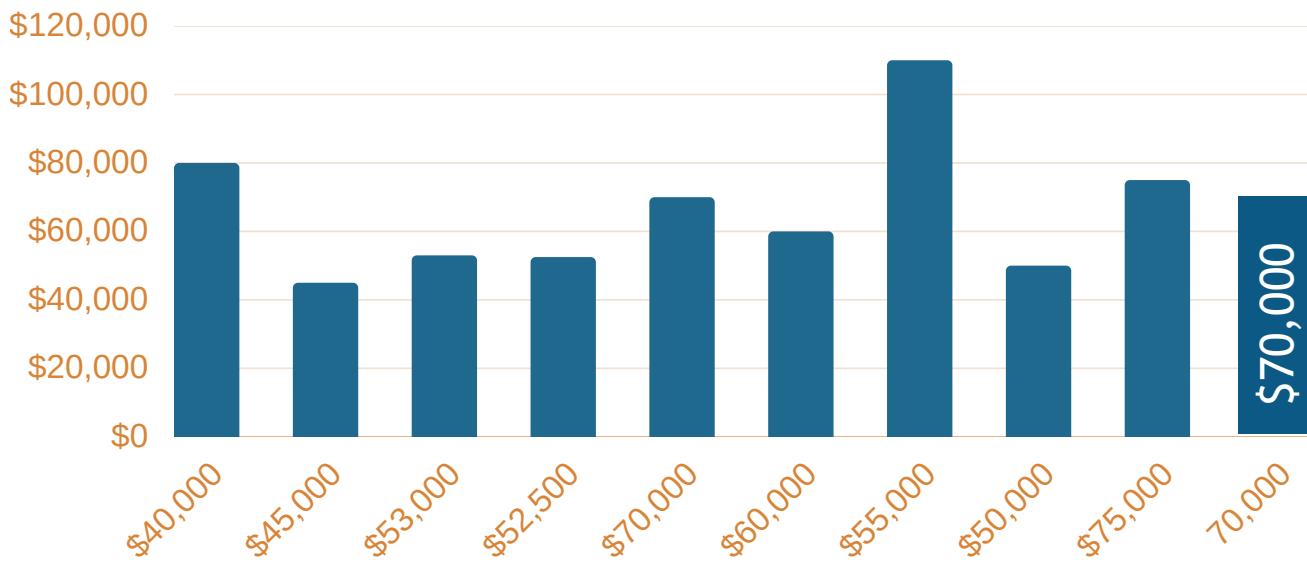
GRANTEES

OF GIRLS IMPACTED

MEMBERS



OVER \$660,000 GIVEN IN GRANTS



THE BWGC ENDOWMENT GREW TO OVER \$488,000

Since 2014, to support the long-term sustainability of the BWGC, a small portion of the annual grant pool has been allocated to the endowment. Additionally, members and donors have generously contributed to the fund over the years become members of the Legacy Society.

We Thank the Legacy Society Members for their Generosity
Judy Redpath, Catherine Schott-Murray, Patricia Timbrook-McMullan(deceased),
Sylvia K. Shugrue Irrevocable Trust, Karin Sugarman, Caimi-Markis

2025 MEMBERS & 2026 MEMBERS

Emerging Philanthropist (EP) | Founding Member (F)

Grace Anton (F)

Sarah Baker

Bernie Bradley

Kathy Campbell

Amy Cheung

Jen Dalton

Victoria Dietz

Leslie Dupree-Culman

Ann Durbin (NEW)

Susan Dykstra

Sue Fajer

Robin Finnell

Miranda Fulk (NEW)

Cate Fulkerson

Claudelle Gehy

Corrine Grimaldi (NEW)

Shima Goswami

Luanne Gutermuth (F)

Emily Harper

Nannette Henderson

Vinu Ilakkuvan

Neerja Jain

Michele Joseph (NEW)

Nishi Langhorne (NEW)

Tanya La Force (F)

Leslie Lewis

Natalie Lorenz-Anderson

Kirsten Ly (NEW)

Nicole Macdonald

Beatriz McNelly

Sheila Murphy

April Myers

Elizabeth "Beth" Napper
(NEW)

Laura Nash

Elli Nesbitt

Maureen Elizabeth O'Shea
(NEW)

Meera Pillai

Judy Redpath

Nanci Schimizzi

Amee Shah

Patricia Sparrell

Jennifer Taylor

Lori Ann Terjesen

Karen Tovey (F)

Brittany Wismer

Jay Yeo (EP)

Stefanie Zeldin Sigal (F)

2025 Grantees for 2026 Impact



2025 GRANTEES

Grants fund January - December 2026 Programs



EcologiGALs



TyeConnects
Technology Youth Empowerment

Girls in STEM



Mini Yappers



Talent for Tomorrow
Alliance

Latinas Leading Tomorrow (LLT): CORE (\$20,000) LLT will expand their proven CORE after-school leadership program to include a year-round, STEM-focused curriculum. This initiative will introduce middle and high school girls in Northern Virginia to fields such as engineering, technology, biology, robotics, mathematics, environmental science, and emerging technologies through hands-on labs, fieldwork, and project-based learning. The program combines technical learning with mentorship from Latina STEM professionals and leadership workshops emphasizing resilience, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

Sustainability Matters: EcologiGALs (\$20,000) The EcologiGALs programs immerse 70 middle and high school girls from historically underserved communities in hands-on environmental STEM experiences that foster curiosity, confidence, and leadership. By blending outdoor fieldwork, project-based learning, and exposure to women leaders in conservation and environmental science, the program empowers girls to see themselves as future environmental leaders while developing practical STEM skills. EcologiGALs will expand both summer and school-year programming at Fairfax Neighborhood and Community Services' community centers, growing to two additional sites.

Technology Youth Empowerment (TYE): Girls in STEM (\$5,000) Girls in STEM is designed to address the critical stage in middle school when many girls begin to lose confidence and interest in science and technology. TYE will serve 150 middle school girls (ages 11-14) across Fairfax County. Targeted outreach will focus on Glasgow, Holmes, Poe, and Key middle schools, and Robinson Secondary school, along with community centers and libraries that serve highly diverse populations. This is a new and dedicated track for girls and it builds on TYE's proven successful teaching model using the Curiosity First inquiry-based framework.

Wesley Housing: Mini Yappers (\$15,000) Through a structured curriculum by Wesley Housing's Youth Programs Specialist and Urban Smart Studios, participants will gain hands-on exposure to the technical and creative processes behind producing a television show. Sessions will teach girls how to plan and write scripts, operate production technology, edit video and audio footage, design branding and promotional materials, develop entrepreneurship skills, and pitch their work as a "mini business." The program focuses on real-world application of STEM skills and practices teamwork, leadership, and adaptability while building technical confidence.

Year Up United: Talent for Tomorrow Alliance (\$10,000) The Talent for Tomorrow Alliance (TTA) addresses racial, income, and opportunity disparities through a collaborative model that invests in the long-term success of a diverse, skilled talent pipeline. TTA partners represent five organizations providing young adults from high school through career entry with technical and essential skills, internships, and academic advising. Collectively, they provide training, certifications, and placements in fields like finance, IT, cybersecurity, and software development. Each partnering organization plays a distinct role in the student journey.

YEAR IN REVIEW

MEMBER GATHERINGS / GRANTEE EVENTS / SHARK TANK / SOCIALS / EDUCATION EVENTS / CFNOVA GALA



BWGC Coffee and Networking in Person

BWGC Summer Social at Good Spirit Farm

Saturday, June 19 from 2:00-3:30 pm | In-Person Event
Location: 28112 Braddock Road, Lorton, VA 20102
Cost: \$25pp



INVEST. CONNECT. INSPIRE.

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

Wednesday, April 2, 2024 | 12:00-1:00 PM | Virtual Event



Nancy Schimizzi
Moderator
Fair Oaks Strategies, LLC



Julia Stavri, Ph.D.
Founder
She Shapes AI



Smathi Young
AI/ML Strategy Architect
& Technology Innovator



Rachel Gutierrez
Processes and
Partnerships Lead
She Shapes AI



INVEST. CONNECT. INSPIRE.

LUNCH AND LEARN | SEPTEMBER 24TH | 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE: PATHWAYS TO BOARD SERVICE



Moderator: Jim Stolze
BWGC & NWBC Board Member
Diversions Entrepreneurship
Advisory Board Member
Founder, Brandables



Meera Pillai
BWGC, CFNVA, Educate Fairfax
Board Member
Brand & Chay McDonald Honest
of Diamonds



Katie Holton
NWBC DC Chapter President
Sales Uplifting



Cherylyn Harley-Linton
Independent Board Director
Waste Connection (IWC) &
Cooper (CPFC) Director & Chair
Glen's Concourse Practice Center
Engines



INVEST. CONNECT. INSPIRE.

August 20th | 8:00 - 9:30 AM The Power of Giving: Making an Impact through the BWGC and Beyond

Connect with Members & Discuss Philanthropy

Location: West Financial Services, 2010 Corporate Ridge McLean, VA 22102





Thank You for a Great Year and Here's to 2026!



Sue Fajer
Chair



Judy Redpath
Past Chair



Laura Nash
Network & Education



Nanci Schimizzi
Network & Education



Jen Dalton
Membership &
Communication



Neerja Jain
Grants



Amee Shah
Grants



2025 Steering Committee



Leslie Lewis
Ad Hoc Member



Gabrielle Webster
CFNOVA



Sue Fajer
Chair



Vacant
Past Chair



Laura Nash
Network & Education



Nanci Schimizzi
Network & Education



Jen Dalton
Ad Hoc Communication



Neerja Jain
Grants



Amee Shah
Grants



2026 Steering Committee



Vacant
Membership & Communications



Gabrielle Webster
CFNOVA

For more information about the Business Women's Giving Circle,
please contact bwgc.cfnova@gmail.com or call Gaby Webster at 703 - 347 - 7419