



Annual Report

2018-2019

THE
BUSINESS
WOMEN'S
GIVING CIRCLE



at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Our goal

BWGC members are accomplished leaders drawn together by a passion to empower girls and women of all ages through philanthropy in the Northern Virginia region.

Mission

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.

Vision

The vision of the Business Women's Giving Circle is a community where all young women are empowered to make lasting impact through our legacy of collective philanthropy.

For more information about the Business Women's Giving Circle, please contact Sari Raskin at (703) 879-7641 or sari.raskin@cfnova.org.

Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



BWGC Leadership Team

Chair and Chair-Elect

Tanya La Force and Catherine Schott Murray

Immediate Past Chair

Faith Boettger

Grants

Amy Kay and Tessie Wilson

Membership

Melinda Merk and Marlissa Hudson

Network and Education

Sheila Murphy and Judy Redpath

Communications

Jen Dalton and Angie Delboy

Capacity Building and Engagement

Ashleigh Dorfman & Kathy Renzetti

Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Sari Raskin

We have
awarded
\$230,500 over
five years



INVEST.
CONNECT.
INSPIRE.



Thank You!

Thanks to our members and supporters, the Business Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) has grown since 2014 to be a premier giving circle in Northern Virginia. We **INVEST**. Our philanthropic investments of \$230,500 to organizations providing innovative programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Entrepreneurship have had measurable impact on the lives of over 2,100 girls and young women. As one program participant exclaimed, "Mom, I am good at math!" This young woman was among others who reported an average math performance increase of 267% after completing the SHINE program. Our pooled gifts and strategic investments made this kind of impact possible!

We are also grateful to our talented and generous members for contributing to the success of our events, committees, and grantee mentoring programs. Your time, talents and engagement have helped **CONNECT** and strengthen our Circle. Because of you, our award winning work in the community has been recognized. The Circle's inclusiveness and success **INSPIRES** others to get involved. Member Allison Marie, said it best, "Part of what's really special about the Business Women's Giving Circle is right in the name. This group brings together strong, driven women from all backgrounds and all careers, and gives them the opportunity to grow together - as philanthropists, as community members, as women - while simultaneously empowering the next generation of strong, driven women ... I've truly been inspired by this group."

Thank you for continuing to support this work to empower girls and young women and grow the BWGC impact.

— Your BWGC Leadership Team

Chair and Chair-Elect: Tanya La Force and Catherine Schott Murray

About

The Business Women's Giving Circle

We have impacted more than 2,100 young women

Making an Impact

More than 2,100 young women in Northern Virginia have been touched by grants exceeding \$230,500 in the past five years. Our model of collective philanthropy provides opportunities to make an impact financially and gives opportunities to engage and volunteer with our grantees to make a personal impression as well.

Annual membership is \$1,100 (tax-deductible); \$1,000 of the contribution goes directly towards annual grant making, and \$100 supports administrative expenses related to running the Giving Circle and hosting events throughout the year.

Member Benefits

Collective Philanthropy - Give back in meaningful ways that drive a greater collective impact through your annual membership donation*

Business Networking - Enhance and expand your professional relationships

Education Opportunities - Attend events that interest you, from educational opportunities to networking, we have something for everyone

Leadership Development - Opportunities to develop your Board experience and leadership roles in various BWGC Committees

Community Engagement - engage and enhance your involvement with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia



RESET: One of our grant recipients. *Serving all of Northern Virginia*

The grant will help to provide computer science, coding, physical science, and other STEM programs to Girl Scouts in Northern Virginia. Programs will enable Girl Scouts to achieve their STEM merit and leadership badges.

INVEST

You can invest as your timeline allows or let your annual contribution reflect your ongoing support! There are many ways for BWGC members to be engaged. Opportunities include working on BWGC committees, attending events, or volunteering with our grantees in the community.

GRANTS

Grants Committee Chair: Amy Kay | Tessie Wilson

The Grants Committee's work is the heart of the BWGC's mission. Our grants create the opportunities and impact for young women and girls in our community.

The Committee oversees the grant making process including evaluating grant applications, grant organizations, and recommending a member ballot for grant distribution.

The Grants Committee's work is intensive from September through December as they review proposals and educate the members-at-large about potential grantees so that all BWGC members are prepared to vote.

Ambassadors for each of our grantees help to identify enriching engagement opportunities throughout the year—giving members the opportunity to see our impact at work.

We have a growing endowment \$17,000

what can you expect?

- 2-3 in-person meetings and periodic conference calls during the grants process
- Potential grantee site visits

how can you be involved?

- Be a part of the grantmaking process
- Be a grantee ambassador representing organizations who are being considered for a grant
- Engage with grantees throughout the year

“Chairing a local non-profit, I was thrilled to join a strong network of women creating opportunities for young girls in Northern Virginia. My initial membership was a gift, my participation was my reward, and the group's impact inspiring.”

- Tessie Wilson, Chairman of the Board of College Access Fairfax and Treasurer of the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Committee Chair: Melinda Merk
New Member Welcome: Marlissa Hudson

The Membership Committee works to strengthen our Circle through member retention and new member recruitment.

Retain: Communicate updates to our members on the success of our mission, focus, and investment in the community.

Attract: Identify and encourage potential members to attend BWGC events.

Welcome: Partner with each new member to provide them opportunities to network with members and engage with current grantees.

How can you be involved?

- Volunteer to be a buddy to a new member
- Get to know existing members
- Encourage BWGC members to bring a guest to our meetings and events
- Create greater awareness by promoting the BWGC, our mission and accomplishments throughout our community
- Develop BWGC communications to update members on our progress, grantees, and engagement opportunities

What can you expect?

- Monthly in-person meetings or calls
- Deadlines around communication deliverables

NETWORKING & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NEC Chairs: Sheila Murphy and Judy Redpath

The Networking & Education Committee (NEC) offers opportunities for BWGC to network, learn about our community, and hear from experts on topics of interest. In addition to the scheduled events, two fun social pop-ups will be planned during the year.

How can you be involved?

Help plan or host one of the following events:

January/February: Annual Grantee Celebration

April: Education Event to support our focus area

June: Member-hosted Open House

September: Education Event

November: Member-hosted Holiday Open House

What can you expect?

Monthly in-person meetings or calls

“Thank you for this opportunity to photograph such an inspiring event (of the Business Women’s Giving Circle!). I have never been exposed to such devoted and loving women who care so much about developing young girls. I wish everyone could hear about this and jump on the chance to help all kids at all schools.”

*- Gwyneth McNamara,
George C. Marshall High
School Class of 2019*

CONNECT

BWGC members and friends gather throughout the year for a variety of events, including grantee celebrations, educational programs, and pop-up networking events. Members can attend as many events as they like and connect with leaders across the community as well as the organizations we have impacted.

Monthly Coffee & Networking Events

Get to know members and invite women you know in the community to learn more about collective philanthropy.

Annual Grantee Celebration

Join the community as we celebrate the impact of the grants made over the year and continue to expand our impact. Get to meet the organizations we have impacted and hear their story.

Education Events

Join members at various events throughout the year discussing STEM related topics as well as leadership and education insights for community leaders.

Open House Events

Get to connect with fellow members in information settings where we focus on getting to know each other and building relationships that last with like minded individuals.



INSPIRE

In five years, the women of the Business Women's Giving Circle have made a substantial impact on the lives of deserving girls and young women in Northern Virginia. We have granted \$230,500 to amazing organizations, which support more than 2,100 girls and young women.

The following is a brief summary of our 2014-2018 grantees. We are very excited about the impact they are having on girls and young women in our community. Our members should be proud of the role they played in helping them to achieve their goals!

2018 GRANTEES

A total of \$52,500 has been awarded to four local nonprofit organizations that provide science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to girls and young women in Northern Virginia.

RESET: \$12,500

Serving all of Northern Virginia

The grant will help to provide computer science, coding, physical science, and other STEM programs to Girl Scouts in Northern Virginia. Programs will enable Girl Scouts to achieve their STEM merit and leadership badges.

Space of Her Own: \$10,000

Serving Alexandria

The purpose of this grant is to provide fun and engaging STEM projects to vulnerable 5th grade girls in Alexandria, serving 12 girls with the SOHO-Del Ray program, and 12 with SOHO-West End. This grant will also provide STEM-related activities for up to 90 girls during grades 6-8 with the SOHO Club.

TrailsforYouth.Org: \$15,000

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will support the Girls Rolling and Learning STEM (GRLS) program. This weekly club will use bicycles and physical activity to introduce and educate STEM principles to primarily at-risk girls in grades 5-8. While working on and riding bikes, girls will learn concepts such as hydraulics, ratios, resistance, balance, energy and movement all while getting exercise.

Wesley Housing Development Corporation: \$15,000

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will provide a creative outlet for low-income minority middle and high school girls to express themselves while learning advanced technological skills through filmmaking.

2017 GRANTEES

The Business Women's Giving Circle awarded \$53,000 in 2017 to five nonprofit organizations and schools that provide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Leadership and Entrepreneurship programs to girls and young women in Northern Virginia.

George Mason University Foundation - FOCUS Academy: \$20,000

Serving all of Northern Virginia

The grant will help with the establishment of a new residential FOCUS (Females of Color Underrepresented in STEM) Academy on the George Mason University campus for high school students using the educational framework of the successful FOCUS (day) camp for middle school students.

Hillsboro Charter Academy: \$13,000

Serving Loudoun County

Funding will continue to support Girls in G.E.A.R. (Guiding Engineering, Aerospace, and Robotics), an exploratory STEAM leadership program where 4th/5th grade girls are facilitators to all students (K-5), including implementing new Boys & BOTS STEAM workshops using engineering, aerospace and robotics for hands on lessons and real world application.

Space of Her Own, Inc. (SOHO): \$10,000

Serving Alexandria and Arlington

Funding will enhance and evaluate mentoring programs by providing fun and engaging STEM projects to 36 vulnerable 5th grade girls and STEM-related activities for 80 middle school-aged girls and mentors.

Wesley Housing Development Corporation: \$5,000

Serving all of Northern Virginia

Funding will support at-risk elementary and middle school girls with a STEM-focused summer fashion design program that teaches in-demand creative, technical, and professional skills needed for their futures.

Year Up - National Capital Region: \$5,000

Serving all of Northern Virginia

The grant will support service delivery of Year Up's research-validated, career training program, specifically in the specialty tracks of Information Technology and Software Development to young women, ages 18-24.

2016 GRANTEES

The Business Women's Giving Circle awarded \$45,000 in 2016 to five organizations in northern Virginia.

SHINE for Girls

FOCUS: STEM AMOUNT: \$15,000 SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA

NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 250 (PROJECTED)

Funding helps provide innovative, curriculum-based programming for 5th - 8th grade girls from disadvantaged backgrounds in Northern Virginia. Using kinesthetic learning, SHINE combines formal dance training with rigorous math instruction to improve girls' math confidence and spark their interest in STEM.

Hillsboro Charter Academy: \$5,000

SERVING LOUDOUN COUNTY

Funding will help launch Girls in G.E.A.R. (Guiding Engineering, Aerospace, and Robotics), an exploratory after-school STEM program where girls become role models and guides to teach all 125 students (K-5) about engineering, aerospace and robotics through hands on lessons and real-world applications using technology tools.

Kashmir World Foundation: \$5,000

SERVING ALL OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Funding will support the DaVinci Challenge: Build a Drone Workshop for SuperHERo Girls, a hands-on, innovative STEM drone workshop that empowers middle to high school girls with leadership and entrepreneurial skills including critical thinking and collaboration via design, fabrication and operation of a drone with a mission focus to develop solutions for real-world challenges.

STEAMd, Inc.: \$10,000

SERVING LOUDOUN COUNTY

Funding will support STEAMd YOUiversity Girls, a program that will develop underserved girls in grades 3-12 with critical 21st-century skills, which will prepare them for post high school education to pursue careers in STEAM fields.

Space of Her Own, Inc. (SOHO): \$10,000

SERVING ALEXANDRIA

Funding will support this creative mentoring organization by providing six new fun and engaging STEM projects to 36 vulnerable 5th grade girls in Alexandria and Arlington and developing new STEM-related activities for over 64 girls and their mentors to enjoy throughout their middle school years through the SOHO Club.

2015 GRANTEES

Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead (GIRL)

FOCUS: STEM, LEADERSHIP, ENTREPRENEURSHIP | AMOUNT: \$10,000

NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 27

Provided leadership development to middle school girls while providing experiential learning in STEM and Entrepreneurship to prepare them for careers of the 21st Century and equip them with the essential skills of critical and creative thinking, communication, intercommunication, and collaboration.



"Danielle Blunt Craddock the founder and director of Girls Inspired & Ready to Lead, Inc. (GIRL), is dedicated to empowering and preparing today's girls for the challenges of tomorrow through promoting academic achievement, leadership development, community service, and the development of a positive self-image. GIRL also advocates for advancing females in STEM by instilling entrepreneurship, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and communication in future female leaders. Every aspect of GIRL speaks to the mission of the BWGC!"

– Ginger Bonin, Managing Director, KPMG, LLP

Empowering Leaders in STEAM “ENLIST II”

FOCUS: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, MATH | AMOUNT: \$10,000

NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 47 STUDENTS & 15 PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

Supported a twelve-week STEM/STEAM after school program for 3rd-6th grade girls through Marymount University’s (MU) partnership with Fort Belvoir Elementary School. Activities will be staffed by 15 MU pre-service teachers and supervised by mentor teachers, and will include a visit to MU.

SHINE for GIRLS

FOCUS: STEM | AMOUNT: \$20,000

NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 148

"Project Enlist II creates the perfect storm of passion, knowledge and leadership in a program that takes young girls and teaches them that they can be successful in fields like math, engineering and science. These students, guided by a Marymount professor Usha Rabdev and Fort Belvoir Administrator Nancy Rowland, strengthen their STEM skills through hands on learning and realize they are the leaders of tomorrow."

– Wendy Lemieux, Marketing and Communications Specialist, Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships



2014 GRANTEES

Females of Color Underrepresented in STEM

FOCUS: STEM | GRANT AMOUNT: \$20,000 | NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 80+

This week-long STEM summer camp program for middle school girls at GMU was designed to pique the interest of females of color by offering exciting hands-on and experiential learning in STEM and to empower them with leadership, entrepreneurial and 21st Century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.



"The GMU FOCUS STEM camp successfully accomplished all that we set out to do when we came together as the Business Women's Giving Circle. It embodies our mission of promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership and inventive opportunities for girls and young women."

– Lisa Poff, Director of Marketing and Communications, Bridgewater Wealth and Financial Management

NFTE Girls Entrepreneurship Camp

FOCUS: ENTREPRENEURSHIP | AMOUNT: \$10,000 | NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 7

We supported the creation of a two-week Girls Entrepreneurship Camp in Northern Virginia during the summer of 2015 that taught girls a range of business topics, offered field trips to local businesses, and culminated in a business plan competition.



"It was absolutely inspiring to watch middle school and high school girls presenting real business plans and to feel their passion for their projects. I think the NFTE program was such a great fit for BWGC because it was obvious that the camp empowered these young women and let them realize what they are capable of."

*– Autumn McCullogh,
Attorney, McCandlish Lillard, P.C.*

2014 GRANTEES

Empowering Leaders in STEAM “ENLIST”

FOCUS: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, MATH | AMOUNT: \$10,000

NUMBER OF GIRLS IMPACTED: 40+

This twelve-week STEM/STEAM after-school program for elementary grade girls through Marymount University’s (MU) partnership with Fort Belvoir Elementary School was designed to spark students’ enthusiasm and interest in STEM/STEAM. These activities were staffed by 15 MU pre-service teachers and supervised by mentor teachers.



“There is no doubt in my mind that the Ft. Belvoir students loved the program. They were engaged on a weekly basis and received positive reinforcement from their mentors, teachers and parents. Hopefully, this experience will encourage them to continue with STEM related studies through school and into college.”

– Lauri Isbrandtsen

retired Lockheed Martin Human Resources Director

The Business Women’s Giving Circle is a program of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia grows philanthropy to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation connects donors to community, and helps meet community needs with community resources. In 2018 it awarded more than \$7.1 million in grants and scholarships and reported \$56 million in managed philanthropic assets. Visit www.cfnova.org to learn more.

