



THE *Heart* OF THE TRIANGLE

Sharing the vision and supporting the mission of the Triangle area non-profit community.

By Giving To Others, We Find Greater Purpose in Our Lives

by Judy Liu, MPH



As the summer ends and the weather cools, we need to be reminded there are those among us who are less fortunate. Some may be in dire need of food, shelter or medical care; others may need career counseling, clothing appropriate for the work environment, or just encouragement.

Since 2006, the Wake County Women's Giving Network (WGN) has mobilized the resources and talents of women seeking to learn about and positively impact the critical needs of women and children in Wake County. Their mission is to maximize women's leadership in philanthropy by engaging and educating members, increasing charitable contributions, and strengthening our community through the impact of collective giving.

Members of the network commit to annual financial contributions for three consecutive years. Those contributions are pooled each year and are used for grants to support nonprofit organizations serving women and/or children. A careful and collaborative grant review process culminates in an annual vote by Network members to determine grant recipients for the year. Since 2007 WGN has awarded more than \$1 Million in grants to area nonprofits! Grant amounts are most often in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 and support a variety of projects determined by WGN members to be high-impact.

Examples include:

- A new vehicle for the Read and Feed organization so they can serve nearly 100 additional children
- StepUp Ministry's Life Skills Program for single moms and their children
- The Women's Rescue, Recovery, and Rehabilitation Program of the Healing Place of Wake County

- The Boys & Girls Clubs' Collaborative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Initiative

The Women's Giving Network awards grants to:

- Organizations serving women and/or children in Wake County that address an emerging community issue and/or a critical community need

- Projects that are measurable and have a high probability of successful continuation beyond the grant period
- By joining and volunteering at WGN, individuals will be empowering and supporting women. Participants also are able to network with like-minded women and enjoy the camaraderie of associating with a cause-driven group. You can be confident that your contributions go to credible organizations that support our immediate community.

Each WGN member commits to contribute \$1,200 annually (or about \$2.75 daily) for three years. Annual distributions include \$1,050 for the annual grant-making pool, \$100 for administration and \$50 for the Statewide Women's Fund held by the North Carolina Community Foundation. Annual contributions may be made in one annual sum, in three payments (January, April, and July), or through stock transfer. Each current member is entitled to one vote on decisions that determine the organizations and programs that will receive annual grant funding. WGN is looking for committee members and interested leaders. If you are considering volunteering, please contact Quinn Novels, NCCF regional director at 919-256-6914.

The Women's Giving Network of Wake County (WGN) is a fund that is part of the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF). WGN is managed by its members through its leadership team, with assistance from the NCCF.

For information about the grant application process, visit www.nccommunityfoundation.org/section/wake-women/applying-for-grants

Natural Awakenings supports Triangle area non-profits by offering a free full-page feature article each month. It is a very visible platform from which an organization can tell its story and detail the services it offers. Please let us know if you would like for your non-profit organization to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Call 919-342-2831 or email TrianglePublisher@NaturalAwakeningsMag.com.