WIN Newsletter - Spring / Summer 2016

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President's Note

Hello WIN Members,

First, I'd like to thank Linda Brown for stepping in as the interim president for the past two months and doing a great job. While I was in Australia and New Zealand working, traveling and having a great time, Linda kept things moving forward.

As you'll see in this newsletter, Linda and our dynamic committee chairs have some great plans in place. The grant process is on track and there are several rich opportunities for you to learn, network and grow as we continue to expand membership and our philanthropic support to make New Hanover County an even stronger community.

Realizing that my travel schedule the next few months (plus my house being for

sale) seriously conflicts with being able to attend meetings and follow-through, Linda has graciously agreed to continue as the acting president for the remainder of my term. It's definitely a win for WIN. Besides her interest in WIN, Linda has an impressive leadership history working with area nonprofits including the NC Holiday Flotilla, Harbor Island Garden Club, Wrightsville Beach Foundation and as a Board of Trustees member at Lower Cape Fear Hospice.

I was honored to be asked to serve as your president. As long as I'm in town, I plan to continue as an active WIN member so I look forward to seeing everyone at future WIN gatherings!

Warm Regards,
Syble Solomon
President, Women's Impact Network of New Hanover County

Grants Update

Your Grants Committee received 15 letters of interest from local nonprofits who are proposing initiatives that will address the WIN 2016 grant focus area – the environment. The committee is currently reviewing and ranking the 15 applicants. The top applicants will be invited to submit a full grant application.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the 2016 grant cycle:

- August 19 – Finalists' grant proposals sent to WIN member
- August 19 – September 2 – WIN members review and vote on proposals
- Early September – Grant winner is announced to WIN members

Education Update

Your WIN Education Committee is focusing on two goals identified by our membership.

The first goal is researching possible strategies and implications of adding smaller grant awards to WIN funding options.

At the upcoming **June 22 WIN social and education event**, we'll be seeking your inputs regarding what this means for WIN going forward. Your inputs will be used to develop options that will be presented to WIN members in a November 2016 members meeting. (You should have already received an invitation to the June 22 event.)

The second goal is to assist WIN members in learning more about vetting and voting for WIN grants.

We will have an **education and grants focused meeting on August 10** to share several strategies and tools that we hope will be helpful as you review the final 2016 grant requests.

Fifth Anniversary Celebration!

Your Special Events Committee has been busy developing our annual WIN celebration. Following are preliminary details. Additional information will be available later this summer.

Save the date! Invite your friends and colleagues!

WIN Fifth Anniversary Celebration
Celebrating Five Years of Women's Philanthropy Through Collective Giving
Friday, September 16, 11:30am – 1:00pm
Landfall Country Club
Featured Speaker: Judy Girard

The WIN 2016 Challenge!

Our Membership Committee challenges us to invite our friends and colleagues to join our WIN organization. The goal is to exceed 100 members by year-end.

Your name will be entered once for each new member you bring in between January 1, 2016 and September 15, 2016 to win a two nights stay at a three bedroom, oceanfront condo on Wrightsville Beach in the fall or winter (depending on availability). Thanks to WIN member, Magda Ratajski, for this generous offer of her condo!

An Idea for You

- *Your guests are welcome to attend any of the WIN social and education events.*

- *Who can you invite to the upcoming June 22 WIN social and education event? All you have to do is send them a note and this link to the evite!*

Please contact Michelle Clark, WIN Membership Committee Chair, with any questions or to get a membership form.

Membership Growth and Payment Changes

Our Membership Committee is pleased to announce that we now have 81 members!

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Suzanne Lafollette Black
Andi Clarkson
Donna Esteves
Ann Hale
Carol Kennedy
Cheryl Schramm
Lisa Sledzik
Sandy Spiers
Elaine Werner
Stephanie Meyers

Also, please note the following changes in the WIN membership dues payment schedule:

- **New member** dues must be paid by no later than May 31 in order to vote for a grant during that calendar year. If someone joins after May 31, their dues and voting privileges will be for the next year.

- **On-going member** payments are now due by February 15 in each calendar year. For example, your next payment is due on February 15 of 2017 in order to vote in 2017.

In the News …

In addition to developing this newsletter, your Communications Committee has worked with the local media to garner articles and mentions of the great work WIN is doing in the community. Here are recent articles from the Wilmington StarNews, Wilmington Business Journal and Landfall Living Magazine.

We encourage you to share these articles with your friends and post on your Facebook page to continue to grow interest in joining WIN.

2016 Calendar of Events

Grants Focused Events

- June 16 – Grant semi-finalists notified
- July 31 – Semi-finalists full grant applications due to WIN
- August 17 – Grants Committee Q & A with semi-finalists. Finalists selected.
- August 19 – Grant review materials available and membership voting begins

Member Focused Events

- June 22 – WIN social and education event
- August 10 – WIN education and grants event
- August 19 – Grant review materials available and membership voting begins
- September 2 – Voting period ends
- Early September – Winner announced
- September 16 – Fifth Anniversary Celebration
- October – Leadership Team transition
- November – Members meeting – discuss 2017 grant options / structure

WIN Member Spotlight – Melissa Phillippi

We are very pleased to shine the light on WIN leadership team member, entrepreneur and rising star in our Wilmington community, Melissa Phillippi.

1. **Who are/were your role models for "giving back" to your community and how did they influence you?**

   Our church is comprised of hundreds of small groups of people that meet weekly at different locations.Many of these groups take up a volunteer or giving cause that is important to the group members.

   Our group decided to cook and serve the homeless in downtown Wilmington once a quarter.When we arrived we met the group of volunteers that set up, serve food, and clean up EVERY Saturday in downtown Wilmington.

   They have a smile on their face and serve joyfully with grateful hearts.They do this even today and I am so inspired and challenged by them!

2. **What issues impacting our community are you most passionate about and why?**

   There are so many issues I see and wish didn't impact our community, such as violence, sex trafficking, child abuse, hunger, and homelessness.These issues tend to be more prevalent in impoverished

homes, where education is also limited.

So I think when I see someone lacking the basic human needs, living in a seemingly hopeless situation, that breaks my heart the most.

3. **What would you tell other women about WIN to encourage them to become involved?**

   Dr. Henry Cloud's new book is entitled, *The Power of the Other*, and among other excellent points, this book emphasizes that you can't do it all, that you must lean on the help of others.

   Giving collectively, and through an engine like WIN with a thorough researching and grant process puts me at ease that my dollars are being used wisely; I'm making a much bigger impact than I can alone; and, I will learn about charities and groups of people impacting this community that I would not have known about otherwise.

4. **Please tell us a little about yourself.**

   I am a Wilmington native, a Seahawk, and graduated from Laney High School, where I met my husband.We have two beautiful little girls, Pela, age 6, and Adelle, age 5.

   For a decade, I served others through financial planning and investment management.Through a series of events, I was introduced to my now business partner and his simple, but wildly effective performance management system and I found a new career that aligns my passion for helping people achieve greatness and helping businesses reach new heights through their most valuable asset, their people.

   We spun off our proprietary web-based tool in January 2015, naming the company after the tool, *Performance Culture*. After a year, we are growing our client base (even internationally); being spotlighted at the NCTA Tech Conference; and most importantly, making a real difference in lives everywhere. I'm so very grateful.

UPDATES – Grantees & NCCF

DREAMS of Wilmington, a local nonprofit that empowers youth through the arts, will be celebrating their new 240 foot community mural (the largest mural in Wilmington!) on June 11, with a grand unveiling ceremony open to the community.

The unveiling will be followed by a free concert in DREAMS's new community performing arts center, "The Garage @ DREAMS," featuring the Port City Music Festival. The mural unveiling will begin at 2:00 at the DREAMS Center located at 901 Fanning Street, and the concert will begin at 3:00.

More than 800 local volunteers participated in creating the "Forest of DREAMS" community mural and the projected was funded by over 50 local sponsoring organizations. To learn more about DREAMS, please visit the website.

Cape Fear Guardian ad Litem Association (CFGALA) continues to assist all children served by the Guardian ad Litem Program in many successful ways.

Most recently CFGALA unfitted a Child Waiting Room in the new Guardian ad Litem office so that children who attend court can have a child-friendly, child-focused space to wait until the judge is ready for them right across the street. This space greatly reduces stress, has reading materials, videos, games, art supplies and comfortable, private seating that allows them confidentiality.

In addition, CFGALA is piloting a lending library, starting with books that are age-appropriate for children 0-8 years. GAL volunteers can borrow books to engage their GAL children on visits as well as promote exposure to the value and joy of reading. The children will be given books to keep at various benchmarks while the Guardian ad Litem volunteer is involved. The local Guardian ad Litem Program presently serves 492 children in foster care with the compassionate and tenacious support of 142 volunteer-advocates who live

in our local community, including some WIN members as noted in their website.

Wilmington Health Access for Teens (WHAT) reminds us that good mental health strengthens our ability to cope with everyday hassles and more serious challenges. It is essential to creating the life you want. If you know an adolescent, young adult or parent that is facing challenges and don't know where to get started in pursuit of good mental health, please visit the website and contact WHAT at 910.790.9949.

The Carousel Center's mission is to meet the physical, emotional and psychological needs of children who have suffered physical or sexual abuse and to improve the community through child abuse education and prevention.

Our vision is that each child served will have a better life after they leave The Carousel Center.

Want to know more? Please visit our website.

And, we invite you to join us in our fifteenth annual Flounder Tournament on Saturday, June 18, at Carolina Beach! All proceeds will benefit neglected and abused children.

You will recall that WIN is one of nine regionally based giving funds at the North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF).

If you would like to make a gift in honor or memory of someone special in your life, NCCF welcomes contributions to the WIN's grantmaking fund. Simply visit the NCCF website and click on the GIVE NOW button in the upper left corner of any page. This will take you to a screen where you can direct your gift to the Women's Impact Network. NCCF can acknowledge your gift on our web page and newsletter or keep it anonymous, as you wish.

Have a question? Want to know more?

We are here to answer your questions and hear your ideas and concerns. And, we always welcome new members to WIN and to our various committees!

Your WIN Leadership Team

Linda Brown, Chair

Melissa Phillippi, Vice Chair

Nancy Scott-Finan, Recording Secretary

Susan Henley, Chair Grants Committee

Liz Kachris-Jones, Chair, Education Committee

Michelle Clark, Chair, Membership Committee

Leigh Johnson, Chair, Special Events Committee

Jane Martin, Chair, Communications Committee

Laurie Taylor, WIN Representative to NCCF

Syble Solomon, Immediate Past Chair

Angie Brewer, WIN NCCF Regional Director

This newsletter was developed with the assistance of Bon's Eye Marketing. Thank you WIN member, Sarah Bon!