



WOMEN'S GIVING NETWORK OF WAKE COUNTY

a program of

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Winter 2018

Network Awards \$95K in Grants in 2017

The Women's Giving Network of Wake County awarded \$95,000 in grants to three agencies at its annual Grants Luncheon held Nov. 9 at the Park Alumni Center.

Speakers from each of the funded programs, and from organizations funded in 2016, spoke about the importance of the work they are doing in our community.

The three organizations are:

- **Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences — \$14,000**
- **JusticeMatters, Inc.— \$56,000**
- **Raleigh Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness — \$25,000**

Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences

The Girls in Science program has been operated by the Museum for 25 years. The Girls in Science: Future Focus will build upon this successful program by adding a focus on the recruitment of minority and/or low-income girls to STEM academic and career paths. Through engaging science experiences and interactions with STEM professionals, girls will be driven to pursue a career in STEM and plan their pathway to that future.

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WGN: Changing Lives for more than 10 Years

Editor's note: Liza Roberts presented the following remarks at the Network's annual Grants Award's Luncheon.

What an honor, and how much fun it is to be here today. All of you – this remarkable group – represents so much to me, and more importantly, so much to our whole city. The Women's Giving Network represents compassion. You represent empowerment, engagement, impact and real change. You make a difference, a huge one, in the lives of women, children, families – and as a result, everybody else, too – in an amazingly efficient way.

This group was great then, and it's even greater now, because years of this kind of giving have now compounded, funding programs and spawning new ones that provide nutrition, health care, literacy, counseling, life skills, shelter, education, mentorships and so much more to people here who need all of it.

— Liza Roberts

When I first learned about the Women's Giving Network of Wake County, it was 2007. My family and I had moved to Raleigh a year earlier. This group was just getting started because a group of four smart, resourceful, and philanthropic friends – Noel Lichtin, Beth Briggs, Liz Fentress, and Teena Anderson (whom I did not yet know, but would soon) – found themselves at yet another uninspiring, expensive fundraiser for a cause they actually cared a lot about.

It was one too many, and they wondered aloud: What if next time, we skip the flowers and the fancy invitations, and all of this expense, and

simply give our money directly to a nonprofit that needs our support?

On the spot, each of them wrote a check, piled it on the table, and made a pledge to decide together, unanimously, what to do with their combined sum. Just money, no party: four times the amount of money they would give alone, bundled together for four times the impact.

They focused their philanthropy on women and children and invited more friends to join them. Within a few months, Noel, Beth, Liz and Teena had gathered 60 more members, had enlisted the professional advice and

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Grants Luncheon Draws a Crowd



The annual Grants Awards luncheon on Nov. 9 allowed charter members of the Women's Giving Network of Wake County to meet newcomers and catch up with old friends. For the second year, table decorations were provided by past grants recipients.



The 2017 Grants WGN Committee. Molly Painter, top row center, was chair.



Photos by Susan Byrum Rountree and Louis Duke at NCCF.

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JusticeMatters, Inc.

In 2018, JusticeMatters will change the lives of approximately 100 abused, neglected, abandoned or otherwise dependent children and their caregivers, and women and child survivors of human trafficking. JusticeMatters provides preventive and restorative trauma-informed legal services to low income, traumatized children and their relatives/caregivers to help them obtain a permanent legal status in a loving, safe and stable family.

Their efforts will prevent foster care placements, increase stability and safety for children, and pair children with resources in the community through referrals from the social worker who works with the lawyer.

Raleigh Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness

On a single night in January 2017 over 800 people in Wake County were homeless. Many of these were homeless single women and unaccompanied children, and many were among fastest growing homeless population in Wake County: people over 55. The Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness coordinates the homeless support services with 11 community shelters including the Helen Wright Center, Salvation Army, Families Together, Interact, Raleigh Rescue Mission, Healing Transitions, and others. This year, the organization will open a "one-stop shop" multi-services center for people at-risk or experiencing homelessness.

"Human trafficking, homelessness and empowering girls are critical issues in our community," says WGN president Laurie Hughes. "These organizations are instrumental in making a difference and WGN is proud to support them."



WGN Leadership Committee

Laurie Hughes, President
Kella Hatcher, Immediate Past President
Jenny Eury, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Grele Barrie, At-Large Member
Hayden Constance, At-Large Member
Jesma Reynolds, At-Large Member

GRANTS COMMITTEE
Molly Painter, Chair*
Donna Anderson
Kathy Burns
Beverly Clark
Hayden Constance
Mary-Owens Fitzgerald
Sandy Pearce
Tricia Phoenix
Debbie Ratliff

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Lee Hayden, Co-Chair*
Pam Prather, Co-Chair*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Amy Pirozzolo, Chair*
Jenny Eury*

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Susan Byrum Rountree, Chair *
Holly Ivel

* Leadership Committee Member

New Member Profile

Lisa Grele Barrie

Meet Lisa: entrepreneur, philanthropist, gardener, theatre buff, and soon to be Membership Chair of the WGN. She joined the WGN in October after connecting with Laurie Hughes and Amy Pirozzolo at the Walter Magazine WINnovation event in September. "I had been aware of the group and their remarkable history of community impact ... but it was Laurie's personal outreach that sealed the deal for me!"



Being membership chair is the perfect fit, she says, since she has a passion for philanthropy and a professional career connecting resources to needs. "I'm excited to share the story of WGN and how it's transformed the lives of countless women and children in this community.

"Hearing the stories from the nonprofit recipients at the annual luncheon or other education events – connecting real people to a contribution you made – is a remarkable feeling. [The WGN] provides a tremendous source of awareness and education about critical issues facing women and children in our community. And it's a fantastic opportunity to network and learn from some very inspiring and dynamic women."

Lisa, who recently stepped down as CEO of the NC Theatre after 13 years with the company, recently launched a leadership development consulting company, Grounded_LGB LLC. A native of Connecticut, she and her family moved to the Oakwood/Mordecai neighborhood of Raleigh in 2002. She belongs to the Raleigh Professional Women's Forum, the Oakwood Garden Club, the Harvard 100, the Betty Eichenberger Adams Society at CAM and serves as co-chair of Raleigh City Farm.



Save the Date
First Annual Membership
Meeting & Social
5:30 p.m.,
February 8, 2017

NC Community Foundation
Offices
3737 Glenwood Ave.,
Suite 460,
Raleigh, NC 27612

resources of the excellent North Carolina Community Foundation. The Women's Giving Network of Wake County was born.

I was so lucky to have heard about it then, and to have become one of those first 64 founding members. I remember so well our first grants luncheon, when we gave an amazing \$64,000 in grants to organizations and programs that would help women and children immediately, and directly. It was so exciting. I felt as if I had given \$64,000 myself! That's how good it felt.

This group was great then, and it's even greater now, because years of this kind of giving have now compounded, funding programs and spawning new ones that provide nutrition, health care, literacy, counseling, life skills, shelter, education, mentorships and so much more to people here who need all of it.

Joining this group made me feel great about giving, but it also gave me more, and taught me more, than I ever could have predicted.

I joined this group for the same reasons I've stayed a member ever since. Namely, the opportunity to band together with like-minded women to make a powerful difference through what I think of as the multiplier effect: The idea that my own modest contribution would be multiplied by the number of members. The idea that this joint effort allowed me to be part of something much larger than myself, with the power to do more good – that first year, 64 times as much good – as I could ever hope to accomplish on my own.

The sheer, immediate, efficiency also appealed to me: Money gathered together, money given out, impact made, lives, hopefully, changed.

And I was also powerfully drawn to the education I knew I'd get if I joined this group: I was new to Raleigh, and eager to learn all about it, and I knew that if I got involved in trying to figure out where this group's funds should be allocated, I'd learn a huge amount about the city - its needs, and its strengths, its difficulties, and its people.

What I didn't know that I'd get out of it, though, turned out to be just as important as those other things that I did. Because when I joined this group, and I dove in, joining the grants committee, visiting nonprofits, hosting membership recruitment events, and eventually chairing, I didn't know that I'd learn so much about Raleigh that I'd eventually want to start a magazine to tell its stories.

I didn't know when I started that I would get to know so

many smart and committed women who would teach me so much.

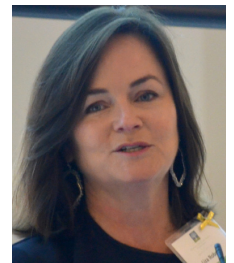
I didn't know, frankly, that I could be a leader in this kind of a community-centered way – that I could make a difference in the place I lived. I'd been a journalist for many years, and journalists stick to the sidelines. We're supposed to, anyway. We're discouraged from getting involved in civic life, for fear of becoming unobjective. So for many years, wherever we'd lived, I did just that.

But here, with this group, I realized that I didn't need to stick to the sidelines anymore, and I really didn't want to. Eventually, I also realized I didn't need to stick to the sidelines even if I also wanted to tell a community's stories. I realized I could join in, I could be an active participant, I could learn from some real pros just what that meant – founder Noel Lichtin has been a very special mentor of mine in that regard – and I could try to make a difference.

And I realized that there was nothing keeping me from using all of that as fuel for storytelling and journalism as well. In the process, I became frankly electrified by the potential.

This realization still fuels me today -- the idea that a modest individual contribution, if combined with the concerted efforts of others, and given careful consideration, focus, and direction, can truly change a city.

And it's so simple. It comes down to cooperation, and a straightforward idea. All it took was four resourceful, innovative, philanthropic women deciding it was true. Thanks to them, and thanks to every member who has sustained, grown, and led this group since, as of today we will have contributed an extraordinary \$1.17 million dollars to our community, bringing real, tangible, meaningful change to thousands of lives.



Liza Roberts is a journalist and founder and former editor of Walter Magazine.

That's why I'm a member, and that's why I will proudly stay one. I am so honored to be a small part of the Women's Giving Network story.

– Liza Roberts

