



Women's Giving Circle Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary

A year ago, Deb Janz and the Board of Directors from the Marshfield Area Community Foundation saw the value to our community in establishing a Women's Giving Circle. During this past year, the Women's Giving Circle has given five grants to improve the lives of women and children in the Marshfield area. But what is Giving Circle? What has it done? How can interested women join?

The Women's Giving Circle is a group of women who have come together, pooled their dollars, decided where it is best to give their money, and have learned about their community and philanthropy. The concept behind of a giving circle is that pooled giving has greater impact on making a difference in the community. *"Doing together what none of us could do alone"* is a powerful slogan. All women are eligible to join. A contribution (minimum \$50) entitles each member to one year of membership and a vote as to how the money will be granted back to the community. For each gift, 50% goes towards establishing an endowment that will help women and children forever, 5% is used for administrative expense, and 45% is granted back to the community each year to projects that improve the lives of women and children.

In the first year Women's Giving Circle members reviewed grant applications and voted to give five grants, \$1050 to the Personal Development Center to support the purchase of Domestic Violence Education materials, \$1750 for Emergency Energy Assistance to economically disadvantaged women with children to help pay for home heating expense during this past winter in Marathon, Clark, and Wood Counties, and \$555 to Kiddie Kaboose to aid adolescent parents with child care needs while the parents attend high school and weekly mandatory Adolescent Parenting and Education & Support Programs. A total of \$3355 in grants were given.

On April 14, we celebrated the first anniversary of this fund and heard about how our grants have made a difference in our community at the Wine & Chocolate...Women and Giving Event. It was a nice night, time to reflect on the last year, and we began to expand our circle and giving for the coming year. If you were unable to attend and are interested in joining the Women's Giving Circle, just give me a call and we can discuss how you can make a difference. *Doing together what none of us could do alone.*



Amber Kiggens-Leifheit is the Executive Director of the Marshfield Area Community Foundation. Her column appears monthly in the News-Herald. She can be reached at 715-384-9029 or amber@marshfieldareacommunityfoundation.org