



# ***RWGC Circular Winter 2024***

- **Annual Business Meeting Recap - January 2024**
- **Upcoming Education Meeting Via Zoom -February 2024**
- **Awareness and Training Session on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Grant Decisions and Philanthropy -Via Zoom March 2024**
- **Grant Cycle 2024**
- **From the Membership Committee**
- **New Members**
- **Grow Our Circle**
- **Membership Structure**
- **Other Ways to Increase Our Grant Dollars**
- **Keep Us Up to Date on Contact Information**
- **Save the Date**

## ***Business Meeting Highlights – January 23, 2024 via Zoom***

**Lots to Celebrate!**



## ***Looking back - 2023's Top Ten List***

- #1 – Granting \$178,000 to eight deserving agencies**
- #2 – Unwavering focus on promoting racial equity in grantmaking**
- #3 – Sustainability of our membership**
- #4 – Adding 13 new members**
- #5 – Amplifying communication via Circulars, Facebook, LinkedIn and Channel 10 News**
- #6 – Having our June Breakfast to celebrate our grantees IN PERSON**
- #7 – New voices and new members serving on committees**
- #8 – Fostering deeper connections at three in-person social events**
- #9 – Delivering three impactful education sessions featuring community leaders**
- #10 – Circle Chair, Melinda Andolina serving as a panelist in a National Giving Circle conference hosted by Philanos in Baltimore, MD**

## ***Congratulations and Thanks to the 2022 Grantees and Their Circle Partners***

Our Circle is committed to 'following our money'. Circle Partners do exactly that while working alongside Grantees by establishing relationships, understanding achievements, challenges and the impact of our grants. Partner Committee Chair, Linda Josephs' inspiring stories about each Grantee Organization may be accessed via video in the Members' Section of the RWGC Website: [therwgc.org](http://therwgc.org)

- Agape Haven of Abundance - Nancy Bodziak
- Cameron: Respect and Responsibility for Girls - Claudia Weber
- Greentopia: Green Visions - Laura Cann
- Judicial Process Commission - Barbara Hufsmith/Emily Lambert
- Teen Empowerment - Joanne Guarnere
- Unity: Project Independence - Dianne Newhouse
- Urban League of Rochester - Marjorie Perlman
- Villa of Hope - Laurel Pace

### ***Making It All Happen in 2023***

Co-Chairs, Carol Hidy and Sue Moore, along with fifteen other Grantmaking Committee members carefully reviewed 23 applications, requesting over \$512,000. In the assessment process, aspects of racial equity were meticulously addressed. Members of the 2023 Grantmaking Committee included: Suzy Fitzgerald, Lee Fox, Rita Garretson, Sandy Greer, Kathy Hagen, Barbara Hufsmith, Linda Josephs, Emily Lambert, Cheryl Lawless, Jill Miller, Jeanne Morey, Laurel Pace, Marjorie Perlman, Sarah Swan and Ann Ward.

### ***2023 Grantees - \$178,000 Awarded***

\$25,000 - Agape Haven of Abundance  
\$25,000 - Center for Teen Empowerment  
\$20,000 - Friendly Senior Living  
\$25,000 - Friends of the Garden Aerial  
\$25,000 - Judicial Process Commission  
\$23,000 - Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach  
\$10,000 - Veterans Outreach Center  
\$25,000 - YWCA



### ***Financial State of the Circle - Money Matters!***

Jill Miller, Finance Committee Chair, added up the numbers: for 16 years the

RWGC has been giving grants to organizations helping girls and women from the Rochester region transition to economic self-sufficiency. In those 16 years, the Circle has given out \$2,176,000 in 147 grants.

More good news- Jill reported that our Circle currently has 161 members, \$190,000 to fund 2024 Grantee organizations and that we ended 2023 with almost \$7500 in our Operating Fund.

To learn more about donation amounts for recent years and details about the Circle's Operating Fund, please go to the Members' Page on the RWGC Website: [therwgc.org](http://therwgc.org)



### ***Celebrating Membership Anniversaries***

Our members are the framework that our Circle is built on. Without members and their ongoing commitment to the mission of the RWGC, we would not be able to partner in the community as we do.

In January 2024, we celebrated the following membership anniversaries:

**5 year:** Susan Ames, Kathy Farrar, Suzanne Fitzgerald, Rosemary Krugh, Louisa Pierson

**10 year:** Patricia Albanese, Jane Ellen Bleeg, Teri Davis, Nancy Loughran, Kate Massie, Angela Pichichero, Maryann Platania, Helen William, Kitty Wise

**15 year:** Melinda Andolina, Dianne Newhouse, Dorothy Pecoraro, Joan Rubin

**Sincere thanks to each of these women for their generous support over these many years!**

**Our members make it all possible. Thank you to each and every member for her support - be it financial or time spent on Circle work and activities or getting the word out to others about RWGC.**

**Learning Opportunities for  
the Rochester Womens' Giving Circle**

**Upcoming Education  
Meeting  
Via Zoom - Tuesday  
February 13, 2024**

**Our Guest Speaker will be  
Reverend Myra Brown**



Our program will feature Reverend Myra Brown from Spiritus Christi. We will find out how The Black Community Focus Fund (501c3) was instrumental in bringing together community partners to launch the federal funded Guaranteed Basic Income currently in place in Rochester. This two year program will be completed at the end of 2024. What have we learned that needs to continue?

Rev. Myra Brown founded Spiritus' Anti-Racial Justice Coalition, SPARC, a coalition of parishioners, community activists, youth and concerned citizens committed to the intentional work of eliminating racism in all its forms. Their projects include the Black Community Focus Fund and the Minister Franklin D. Florence Civil Rights Heritage Park.



*The Education Committee welcomes ideas for programs and speakers. New members for the Education Committee are always welcomed. Please contact Melinda Andolina at [Mdandolina@gmail.com](mailto:Mdandolina@gmail.com) to share your thoughts and ideas for future Circle Education Meetings or to join this vital committee.*

**SAVE the DATE: Thursday March 14, 2024  
5:30-7pm via Zoom**

***Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Grant Decisions***

Participate in an awareness and training session facilitated by Court Morse, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a Two-Spirit

activist, who has extensive experience in racial justice work across various sectors.

This session offers an extensive look into the critical aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and their influence on grant decisions and philanthropy. It will delve into the power systems predominantly associated with race, providing a platform to understand how racial biases function within mainstream culture. Participants will gain insights into creating a culture of inclusion and making committee decisions aimed at reducing bias in grant decision-making.

## ***Grant Cycle 2024***

The awarding of annual grants is the significant work of The Rochester Women's Giving Circle. The continuous generous contributions of our members in 2023 have made \$190,000 available for grants in 2024.

Our 2024 grant cycle is open. Notification to a number of organizations in the community has been sent. We welcome grant applications from non-profit organizations in Monroe County that help women and girls gain the education, training, skills, and jobs necessary to attain economic independence. We are especially interested in organizations working to reduce inequity and programs supporting underserved women and girls in our community.

Programs that serve males and females are eligible as long as our funds are directed to the women and/or girls in the program.

Grant awards range up to \$25,000. Applicants selected to receive grants will be notified in June.

Applications are being accepted through the Rochester Area Community Foundation online grant portal and may be submitted any time before March 1, 2024.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Carol Hidy and Sue Moore the Grantmaking Committee for 2024 is being finalized made up of members who are new to the grant making process and others who have done this work in the past.



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***From Our Membership Committee -***

## **The Circle Friend Program**

The Circle Friend Program was started in 2022 as an initiative to have long term Circle members meet with new members to introduce them in a personal way, to the workings of the Circle. The results have been positive with several friendships being made and some new members getting involved with Circle committees. We are looking for 2 or 3 members to become Circle Friends to our 2024 new members. Training (a one hour session) to learn more about the Circle will be available in April. Please contact Nancy Hessler ( [nhessler3@gmail.com](mailto:nhessler3@gmail.com)) to express your interest or answer questions about involvement.



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## **The Membership Committee**

A great group of women work together to make in-person meetings fun with good food and beverages. So sometimes it is not glamorous work doing set ups for events or clean up, BUT....we make it fun! The Membership Committee could benefit by adding 2 additional members. None of us can be at all the in person events which is why we need a few more people. Please contact either Teri Davis ([teridavis60@gmail.com](mailto:teridavis60@gmail.com)) or Nancy Hessler ([nhessler3@gmail.com](mailto:nhessler3@gmail.com)) declaring your interest.



## ***Welcome to Our Newest Members***

Please welcome our newest Circle Members:

*Linda Kilbourne, Margaret Frame, Suzanne Frame, Marsha Boelio,  
Alex Kuschel and Jacqueline Germanow*

We are very glad to have you with us.

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## Growing Our Circle

Current members are our Number 1 key resource for new members joining The Rochester Women's Giving Circle.



A one-on-one conversation or a personal invitation to a program or event is often appreciated. Continue to help grow the success of our mission by reaching out to those you know who might be interested in joining or in hearing about our Circle. You or someone you know can contact Nancy Hessler, Membership Co-Chair, at [nhessler3@gmail.com](mailto:nhessler3@gmail.com) for more information about becoming a member of The RWGC.

Here is some ready information to share with others:

### ***Our Mission:***

**We strengthen our community by enabling women and girls living in poverty to transition to a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency**

### ***Our Values:***

**Collaborative investing. Accountability, Fiduciary Trust, Excellence, Change Agent, 100% Volunteer**

### ***Our Vision:***

**We are responsive to the needs and resources available to women and girls in Monroe County, working with community partners and RWGC members to promote racial equity and reduce poverty**

### ***Our Strategies:***

**Be intentional in diversifying our membership -  
Strengthen information sharing to further our goals**



## Membership Structure

In September 2022, the RWGC members approved, by electronic voting, a change in our Articles of Operation. It impacts our hope to be a more diverse and inclusive organization as well as our commitment to collective giving and growing our capacity for grant making. The monies collected in each calendar year become the amount available for Grants the following spring. Our collective giving capacity is dependent on *annual membership financial contributions* and any other monetary gifts the RWGC receives in a given calendar year.

There are two options for *annual membership financial contribution*. Regardless of the option, all members are equal share holders in the activities and giving of the RWGC:

Sustainer is an Annual contribution of \$1050\* or more.

Catalyst is an Annual contribution of \$450\* - \$1049\*.

\$50 of each contribution supports our operating expenses.

The entire amount is tax-deductible.

There are two ways to send your annual membership contribution.

**By check**, make your check payable to  
**Rochester Area Community Foundation.**

Please write "RWGC" on the memo line.

If you are a new member, please write "new member"  
on the memo line as well.

Mail check to:

Rochester Area Community Foundation  
500 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14607

**By credit card**, you are able to make a secure credit card donation  
through the Rochester Area Community Foundation's website  
Click here for [Contribution by Credit Card](#)  
in the space for Additional Comments, please write for RWGC 2023  
membership contribution

*\*An additional \$30 is needed if paying by credit card to cover the credit card  
processing fees.*

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## **More Ways to Increase Our Grant Dollars**



Everyone I know has someone for whom picking out the perfect gift is IMPOSSIBLE! Why not give the gift that delights the receiver and strengthens the community? Honor a friend's birthday. Celebrate a daughter's or granddaughter's new job. A gift to the RWGC in honor of someone special in your life is a thoughtful and meaningful choice.



Whether long standing or new, membership in our Circle is meaningful to our members. The RWGC is an important commitment that we make in our lives. When the time comes to memorialize a life we have loved, please consider giving to the Circle in honor of that cherished member.

The RWGC carefully invests every gift in worthy ways to lift up our community.

If you would like to make a gift to the RWGC, please  
contact

**Melinda Andolina** [mdandolina@gmail.com](mailto:mdandolina@gmail.com)

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**Keep Us Up to Date on Contact Information**





Members, Please keep us up to date on your contact information. You can reach Teri Davis, Membership Co-Chair, at [teridavis60@gmail.com](mailto:teridavis60@gmail.com) to let us know of changes in your email, phone or mail address. We try to keep our Circle membership informed and up to date so we want to be able to reach you. Thank you.



*Save the Date*

**2024**

**Education Program** - Tuesday February 13 via Zoom

**Education Program** - Thursday March 14 via Zoom

**Social** - Monday April 15 at Temple Sinai

**Education Program** - Monday May 13  
at Asbury First United Methodist Church Gathering Center

**Annual Grants Breakfast** - Thursday June 13 at Temple Sinai

**Backyard Summer Social** - Thursday August 1

**Education Program** - Monday September 9  
at Asbury First United Methodist Church Gathering Center

**Social** - Tuesday Nov 12 at Temple Sinai

Rochester Women's Giving Circle | 500 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

[Unsubscribe rochesterwomensgivingcircle@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe.rochesterwomensgivingcircle@gmail.com)

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