

[3 Questions With BRONWYN BELLING & LINDA EGGBEER]

ANNE ARUNDEL WOMEN GIVING TOGETHER [AAWGT]

Anne Arundel Women Giving Together is working to improve the quality of life for women and families in Anne Arundel County, Maryland



We recently spoke to Bronwyn Belling and Linda Eggbeer - who are both past presidents and who currently help lead their Web/IT and Marketing and Communications efforts - and invited their thoughts on their current work - take a look!



What's the most interesting effort your circle is focusing on right now?

We're working hard to simplify and improve our entire grants process by carefully considering the many things we've learned over the past year. We're using ideas generated by this year's grant reviewers and our Racial Equity Study Group as well as thinking through the best practices other giving circles and the philanthropic community are employing. While we're still in the iterative stage, it is a process that is stretching us. We expect it to yield positive results for our grant recipients and for AAWGT, an organization deeply committed to continuous improvement.



What is something your circle is currently challenged by?

AAWGT's Racial Equity Study Group, which has met monthly since January 2019, recommended this spring that a DEI Committee be created to conduct a comprehensive examination of the way the organization functions with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Due to COVID and the time and care we took in assembling the diverse group that we did, we finally were able to convene our first in-person meeting last week. The conversation made clear that there are a range of viewpoints about how we should go forward, including what we should focus on first. This is challenging but not surprising as we work to create and implement a plan that will serve our organization well.



What Philanos resource has been most helpful to you this year, and why?

We've used a number of resources including Philanos' excellent webinars that are offered throughout the year, the website (particularly DEI in Action), the Comms Club, and direct connections to other giving circles facilitated through Philanos.

PHILANOS IS THE LEADING NATIONAL WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE NETWORK

Philanos' mission is to inspire women's philanthropic leadership and to equip and strengthen collective giving organizations through education and collaboration that promotes informed, impactful grant making in communities.