



# January Newsletter



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Hi,

Many of our inboxes are filling up with messages of hope for the New Year, and some contain “silver linings” takeaways from 2020. I’d like to add some of my own, for Philanos and the collective giving movement.

First, a shoutout to the eleven Philanos affiliates who recently received \$1,000 funding grants from Philanthropy Together to further their DEI work—see the list in **Network News!** I look forward to hearing stories about the impact of these small but meaningful grants.

To that end, our network relationship with Philanthropy Together has grown in extraordinary ways this year (see my [Blog Post](#) ) and we are thankful to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others for this effort to sustain and grow the entire collective giving movement. It could not have been launched at a more opportune time.

Finally, I know we can all relate to the impactful, amazing grants our organizations have made. My own affiliate, Women’s Giving Alliance (WGA), funded a navy veteran, Dee Quaranta, back in 2014 with \$100,000 to research how to better meet the needs of women veterans in Florida. We helped her hire a team of researchers at the University of Florida to tackle that question. By 2015 Dee had acquired a donated, unused building from the city of Jacksonville, and with a group of volunteers stood up Northeast Florida Women Veterans.

I reached out to Dee on Giving Tuesday to let her know about a new organization founded in part by Stephanie Ellis Smith (a member of Washington Women’s Foundation) called [giveblk.org](http://giveblk.org) which has created a database of Black-led nonprofits. Dee responded immediately, and I clicked on

the link to her website. I discovered that NEFL Women Veterans is now a fully functioning agency with a staff of 6, signature programs, and, importantly, nearly twenty other local and national funders. One of the biggest leaps of faith in “grassroots” funding by WGA brought home silver linings (and tears of joy) to me this past year.

Wishing all of you a healthy, purposeful 2021.

## Network News

### Collective Giving Goes into Overdrive

Philanos is proud to be one of the five networks, along with [Amplifier](#), [Asian Women Giving Circle](#), [Community Investment Network](#), and [Latino Community Foundation](#), that founded Philanthropy Together (PhT) in April 2020. It intends to expand the number of global giving groups to 3,000 (from an estimated 2,000), involve 350,000 individuals (from 150,000 currently), and foster \$1 billion of collectively made grants within 5 years.

PhT’s global initiatives will bolster all networks like Philanos as well as individual giving circles. With intensive PR outreach from the powerhouse firm, [Fenton](#), PhT is already elevating global conversation about the collective giving movement and [placing stories](#) about the field.

So what does PhT do and how is it different from Philanos?

Philanthropy Together intends to democratize and diversify philanthropy around the world by starting giving circles and supporting existing ones. It has four strategic, global focus areas:

1. **Showcase:** Expand awareness about giving circles (listen to PhT’s Executive Director, Sara Lomelin, discuss “[What Big Philanthropy Can Learn From Giving Circles](#)”)
2. **Scale:** Strategically grow circles and circle membership (learn about [Launchpad](#), the giving circle incubator that provides 5 weeks of virtual training for those who wish to start a giving circle and [Launchpad for Hosts](#) for those, like community foundations, interested in hosting one);
3. **Strengthen:** Build capacity, leadership, and knowledge sharing (discover the “[Community Calendar](#)” in which giving circles can share

their virtual events and learn of others, and watch for the first global giving circle directory in January 2021); and

4. **Sustain:** Support ongoing vibrancy of the field.

One way PhT will promote sustainability and vibrancy is through its “We Give Summit” in May 2021. The purpose of this celebration of collective giving is elevating the movement and spawning collaborations across networks and giving groups. Discussions, interactive sessions, plenary speakers and more will occur throughout the month.

Because Philanos had to cancel its planned PowerUP! in-person event for September 2021, we will be active presenters (and attendees) in the “We Give Summit”. Mark your calendar for the largest global gathering of everyday givers and stay tuned for details!

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## Eleven Affiliates Awarded DEI Grants

Philanos is proud to have 11 of our affiliates win \$1K awards to further their DEI practice.

Philanthropy Together made 25 grants of \$1,000 each to organizations that had participated in PhT’s six-month Racial Equity Community of Practice. Grants were made to attendees who had developed ideas about programming that would further their group’s DEI journey. The Philanos affiliates that were awarded are:

- **Anne Arundel Women Giving Together - MD, Giving Together - Chevy Chase MD, Impact Austin, Impact100 Philadelphia, ninety-nine girlfriends - Portland, OR, Women’s Giving Alliance - Jacksonville FL, and Women’s Giving Circle of Howard County - MD** each received funding to hire a trainer. Some will train their board, others their grants team, and some will train both board and members.
- **Impact100 Metro Denver, Impact100 South Jersey, Many Hands - DC and The Philanthropy Connection - Boston** each received funding to hire a facilitator or a coach to guide their DEI conversations.

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## Nominations Are Open for National Positions!

Philanos is at its best when it reflects the diverse voices of women committed to collaborating with others nationally to further the collective giving movement.

### **Announcing**

Philanos Board of Directors (3-4 positions)

Governance Committee (1 position)

**Submission Deadline: Friday, February 5, 2020**

Details [here](#).

### **January Webinar**

*The Power of Thinking Small: Smaller Grants Can Have Big Impact*

**When:** January 12

**Register by:** January 10!

Register

### **Save the Dates**

Does Your Strategic Plan Mirror Your Community's Needs? - February 9

The inaugural **We Give Summit** - Throughout May 2021

## **Affiliate Spotlight**

### ***Trust-Based Philanthropy***

by Buffy Beaudoin-Schwartz  
Women's Giving Circle of Howard County

Giving circles and collective giving groups across the country are increasingly listening, learning, and responding by incorporating Trust-



*ninety-nine girlfriends*

Based Philanthropy principles and practices throughout their grantmaking philosophy and seeking to help alleviate power imbalances.

And, Philanos is committed to being an ongoing resource and partner to our affiliate members across the country on the principles and practices of Trust-Based Philanthropy.

[Read More](#)

## News You Can Use

### Good Reads

- *A great dive into the work of Philanthropy Together and giving circle networks!* Amy Costello and Frederica Boswell. Dec. 24, 2020. [Giving Circles: A Growing Force for Democratizing Philanthropy](#). Nonprofit Quarterly. (Story and Podcast)
- *Giving to women and girls continues a steady rise even as it comprises a small share of overall charitable giving.* Fang Block. Dec. 8, 2020. [Giving to Women's and Girls' Causes in the U.S. Reached \\$7.1 Billion in 2017](#). Barron's
- *Preliminary evidence from a recent study suggests that foundations have acted decisively during the COVID pandemic, demonstrating leadership and swift action.* Emily Finchum-Mason, Kelly Husted and David Suarez. Oct. 23, 2020. [Philanthropic Foundation Response to COVID-19](#). Sage Journals | Research Article

### Resources

- [Best practices for Optimizing Virtual Presentations](#). Women of Color (WOC) in Fundraising and Philanthropy 2020 Virtual Symposium. A stellar, succinct three-page PDF of great things to know and do.

### Welcome New Affiliate

- Ojai Women's Fund, CA. [Read More](#)

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