**LETTER FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS**

This past spring, **Women United in Philanthropy** completed its second grant season, and by all counts, it was a tremendous success. We enjoyed both the familiar satisfaction of making a meaningful contribution to the community as well as the unexpected excitement of ending the grant cycle with more than we had anticipated. At our first annual Grant Award Luncheon, which was attended by nearly 100 women, we celebrated two notable achievements of the past year: 1) our membership has grown to over 200 members, and 2) our Collective Fund, which is the source of our common service grant in support of women and children, reached a total of $33,825. Both numbers exceeded our projections and confirmed for us just how powerful an impact women can have when they care about their community, pool their resources, learn together, and act collectively. Forgive the pun, but there is only one response to such accomplishments: “WUP PEE for the amazing women of WUP!”

This year’s grant making was full of happy surprises. We began by soliciting proposals from around the community and received a total of fourteen. After narrowing down the field to two final agencies: the Children, Youth & Family Services, and Social Services, the $10,000 grant will be used to provide counseling work with sexually abused children. The second event will be held November 13, at 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Kakie Brooks’ home in Ivy. Also by way of follow-up to our ‘07 grant awards, we will be hosting two in-home gatherings this fall to hear more about the project that our philanthropic dollars are funding. The first will be held on September 17, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Kakie Brooks’ home in Ivy. Our guest speaker will be Jacki Bryant, Executive Director of Children, Family & Youth Services, who will update us on their counseling work with sexually abused children. The second event will be held November 13, at 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It will feature Susan Donovan, Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee, who will discuss their efforts to support local students from immigrant families. We hope you will attend these events, which will open our minds and hearts.

As always, we invite your participation on our committees and your attendance at our events. Women United in Philanthropy grows as an organization when you tell us who you are, and we thank you for your continued support. As a result of this truly meaningful endeavor. And finally, a huge thank you to the Jefferson Area United Way for its ever reliable administrative help.

Warmly,

Liza Borches, borches@volvoofcharlottesville.com, 295-4125

Kakie Brooks, kgibson112@aol.com, 244-3601

**Collective Fund to a grand total of $33,825. That put us in the fortunate position of being able to make two grants this year a full grant of $30,100 to the IRC, and a surprise, partial grant of that total to our Collective Fund. It was two grants that were both exciting to see the Internet's connectivity at work and heartening to witness such a chain of generosity among our members.**

Since the 07 grant cycle was completed, our Steering Committee has been careful-ly reviewing how to fine-tune our grant-making process. We have learned a good deal in the past two years about how to educate ourselves on the needs of low-income women and children in our commu-nity, how much time to allot for the grant making season, how to make the most of site visits, and how to evaluate grant proposals with efficiency and rigor. In the coming months, we will be sharing with you refinements we are making to our grant-making so that our collec-tive impact becomes stronger than ever.

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Membership Opportunities and Calendar
Effective August 2007

The Women United in Philanthropy (WUP) membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 for both General and Donor Memberships.

A WUP General Membership is $75 and covers the cost of 1-4 annual educational programs and events as well as communication with members through newsletters and other mailings. The General Membership of $75 is not tax deductible since it covers program costs only. Members may bring guests to most of the educational programs and events which provide opportunities for like-minded women to meet others with similar interests in philanthropy and our community.

WUP Collective Fund
In addition to being a General Member, an individual may choose to also be a Donor Member by making a contribution of $500 or more. A Donor Member contribution to the WUP Collective Fund is 100% tax deductible and funds our annual human services grant. All contributions to the WUP Collective Fund, whether less than or more than $500, are welcome and are tax deductible, but only an annual WUP Collective Fund contribution of $500 or more permits participation, as a Donor Member, in the annual grant-making and voting process.

WUP Collective Fund Grants
The WUP Collective Fund grant-making process begins in January of each year with a call for proposals from local human services agencies announcing the grant amount available in the WUP Collective Fund. The total amount available for a grant is based on contributions made through December 31 of the previous calendar year.

The WUP Collective Fund Grant Committee works throughout the first half of the calendar year to evaluate grant requests and recommend two finalists for grant consideration. Donor Members may participate in this process which involves reading proposals, attending discussions and making site visits to agencies applying for a grant. All Donor Members are notified of the two finalists and may vote for one. Donor Members who are not able to commit the time to serving on the WUP Collective Fund Grant Committee may vote for one of the two recommended finalists.

WUP Membership and WUP Collective Fund Timetable
While General and Donor Members are accepted at any time, there is a formalized timetable, described above, that enables our leadership to plan and budget for educational events, and allows our Collective Fund Grant Committee sufficient time to complete its due diligence regarding grant requests.

Therefore, our WUP annual Membership Drive runs from September 1 to December 31. General Memberships collected during that time apply for a full calendar year, beginning the following January 1.

Contributions to the WUP Collective Fund, of any amount, on or before December 31 of any year will fund a grant the following year.

Donor Member contributions (or any contribution) toward the WUP Collective Fund which are dated after January 1 will be counted toward the following year’s grant.

For example, if in August 2008 an individual contributes $575, $575 will be a 2009 General Membership and $500 will be a Donor Member contribution to the 2009 WUP Collective Fund.

WUP Membership Drive Bonus
New members joining during our annual Membership Drive, which runs from September 1 to December 31 of any year, become members for the remainder of the year in which they pay and the following calendar year.

Women United in Philanthropy warmly welcomes all and hopes to grow our membership each year. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Liza Borchess Kakie Brooks
Steering Committee Co-Chair Steering Committee Co-Chair
lorches@bluebroidcharlotteville.com kgbehon12@aol.com

Connectivity, Community and Continuity
At our spring luncheon on May 14, Andrea Pactor, the program manager of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, gave an inspiring talk on women’s philanthropy and the nature of giving circles. “Connectivity, community, continuity, that’s what giving circles are all about,” she explained. A natural extension of women’s gift for forging connections, giving circles mirror the social circles women form naturally. Across the nation, women’s philanthropy is on the rise, and giving circles are part of the reason. Pactor said, “In the past 15 years, 100 women’s funds across the country raised more than $400 million to support programs in communities from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon.” She went on to say “the official number of giving circles is about 400,” but there are probably many more.

Once organized into giving circles, women in a community find their voice and are able to become agents for change. The communal aspect of the circle impels people to hone their values and learn what they are really supporting. Ms. Pactor reiterated the role of giving circles in addressing a community’s most pressing social issues. She pointed out that WUP shares characteristics with nineteenth-century “cent” societies in which women set aside a penny a day for philanthropic purposes, as well as with the recently formed “impact 100” groups in which 100 women have pooled their contributions to make one large grant of $100,000 for maximum impact.

Ms. Pactor also challenged Women United in Philanthropy to extend the work of the organization. Use the World-Wide Web, create a blog, make a video on YouTube. The point, she stressed, is to get the word out about the problems in one’s community and to publicize possible avenues for change.

Did You Know?

• Giving circles give a lot. The 145 giving circles surveyed by the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers have raised nearly $90 million and granted nearly $65 million. In 2006 alone, they donated $13 million for community needs.

• Giving circle members number in the tens of thousands.

• Giving circles are everywhere—in 44 states and in small towns and big cities.

• Giving circles are diversifying, attracting donors of different ages, races, and backgrounds. Some target a particular age group or ethnic group.

• Giving circles have staying power. Nearly a third of circles surveyed have been through more than five rounds of grantmaking.

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2007 Revenues, Expenses, and Grants
Total General Memberships ($25 at $75/each) $9,275
Newsletters, mailings, etc: $ 1,604
Luncheon expenses 3,363
Operating fund (8/2/07): 4,967
Total Donations to Collective Fund From Donor Members $18,500
Additional Donations 15,325
Total: $31,835

Grant to International Rescue Committee $9,300
Grant to Children, Youth & Family Services 14,450
Additional Donations $3,825

Volunteer Needed
Can you volunteer to help us keep our web site current? Please contact Deborah Conway dclcs8@virginia.edu

DIRECTOR OF IRC REPORTS TO WUP on November 13
All members are invited to our second fall meeting at Deborah Hayes’ home on November 13 in Ednam Forest at 11:00 a.m. Susan Donovan, Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee, will report on the activities of the agency in our community. She will also talk of plans to use the $10,000 grant from WUP.
Please join us to meet other WUP members and learn more about one of the vital programs in our community. A light lunch will be provided and guests are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, by November 3, please contact Deborah Hayes at deborah@deborahhayes.com.