

# Are you looking for a new way to make a difference in your community?

The Giving Circle is a way for people to come together – bringing their time, talent and resources together to support solutions to issues they care about.

## How does a Giving Circle work?

The Circle meets monthly October through June to learn about community issues from local experts, review grant proposals and interview nonprofit organizations that have applied for funding. Each Circle Member contributes \$250 into a pool of funding which the group distributes into grants for local programs. Not interested in a monthly meeting? Make a donation of any amount as a Circle Friend and be a part of making a difference.

Meetings are the fourth Thursday of most months, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We get to know each other, welcome new members, and learn about how to make a difference in the place where we live.

## Benefits

*I enjoyed meeting other kind-hearted women that were interested in helping others. Being new to philanthropy, it was such an eye opener to see how a small group of women could make such a big difference!* —A Giving Circle Member

*Thank you so much. These funds will have a direct impact on the lives of the youth we serve. We are so fortunate to have been put in touch with a group of wonderful and giving individuals who are working together to make our community a better place.*

—Columbia River Mental Health Services

## History

This program of the Nonprofit Network has distributed more than \$42,000 in 16 grants. The first

Giving Circle awarded funding for helping youth at risk such as art therapy for teens living on the streets; work readiness supports for young people challenged with potentially debilitating mental health diagnosis; and a counseling program to assist with parenting skills.

In 2008 funds was granted for **early childhood programs** including training materials for preschoolers affected by meth; and educational materials to assist young children who are homeless to prepare for school.

In 2009 funds assisted **vulnerable elderly**. The Circle funded a series for grandparents raising grandchildren; expanded financial counseling services for seniors threatened by foreclosure; and offered transportation assistance for seniors falling through the cracks of other funding.

The 2010-2011 grant cycle focused on issues of **housing and homelessness** providing resources and emergency supports for people homeless or at risk of homelessness including youth, teen parents, victims of domestic violence, and people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

In 2011-2012 the group will focus on programs providing **Access to the Art** for people with disabilities, or others who have little or no experience with the arts.



Information on the grant cycle and applications for funding are available at the [Nonprofit Network website](http://www.nonprofitnetworkwa.org).

Giving Circle donations are accepted online. [www.nonprofitnetworkwa.org](http://www.nonprofitnetworkwa.org)

**How to Join**—We welcome you to contact us for more information and to attend a meeting. There is no cost for attending. We invite you to join us soon!

[givingcircle@nonprofitnetworkwa.org](mailto:givingcircle@nonprofitnetworkwa.org) • 360.735.7110 • Look for us on facebook!

 **Nonprofit Network**  
Southwest Washington

Nonprofit Network of Southwest Washington is a Washington State Nonprofit corporation registered with the Secretary of State Charities Program.

(800) 332-GIVE (Washington only)

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