Message From Our Chair

'Tis the Season ...

Dear Members:

At the holiday time, we often think of those who are less fortunate than we are. I can tell you that your Advisory Board is especially grateful for your ongoing support of those in need, which has enabled us to grant over $518,000 for Beaufort County charities in the last 18 years.

As you know, we have moved the WIP membership renewal to a calendar year, which should be much easier for you. Therefore, this holiday season, we are now making our Annual Fund Membership appeal for 2020.

We are particularly encouraging you to make your membership gift in December, as other members are "bundleing" their 2020 charitable gifts into 2019 for tax purposes. Others may wish to reduce the tax consequences of required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts by directing all or a portion of their RMD to be made payable to Women in Philanthropy.

We know that requests for your help are many. That's because the need is so great. We thank you in advance for considering our request that you please increase your annual gift to the next level - or pledge to become a Legacy Founder or Diamond Founder (see giving opportunities in the article below.)

Your gift will have a bigger impact and more meaningful difference when consolidated with other WIP women's contributions - that is the power of a women's giving circle.

Wishing you the Happiest of Holidays,

Kathi

Kathleen Bateson
Chair
Advisory Board
Be a Force for Good. Forever.

Year-End Membership Giving Opportunities

Along with the usual member tiers of giving, we are offering three new very special opportunities. These opportunities are geared toward our WIP goal of having endowment resources to distribute $100,000 in our 20th Anniversary year three years from now in 2023. So we must plan for success.

As you know, available funds to grant are calculated on a rolling financial 20 quarter basis. We need to seriously increase the endowment now in order to meet future granting goals. That's why it is so important for each of us to upgrade - and send in our WIP gift now.

New giving levels include the **Diamond Founder** ($3,000 pledged and paid at $1,000 per year for three years.) The Diamond Founder is modeled after our original 2003 Founders Campaign, in which 100 women pledged $3,000 ($1,000 per year) thereby seeding the Endowment, which allowed us to make our first grants of $6,000 in 2006.

An even newer concept is our **Legacy Founder** $10,000 Membership, which has two options:

1. An original $3,000 founder can make another $7,000 pledge at $2,333 for 3 years = $10,000 to be paid by our 20th Anniversary in 2023.

2. Or, a WIP member who did not have the opportunity to be an original Founder, can donate $3,333 for 3 years, which would also finish at $10,000. In either instance, a Legacy Founder need not make any future gifts to sustain her WIP membership. She will have accomplished her goal - and WIP's - of making a "forever" impact in Beaufort County.

If you're interested in making a legacy gift, please contact Kathi Bateson, chair, at 686-3945, extension 300.

Our current member contribution tiers include Platinum at $2,500 and above, Gold at $1,000-$2,499, Silver at $600-$999 and Bronze at $300-$599. Just to let you know, we only use these tiers for internal purposes to analyze giving patterns and plan future grant-giving.

**Remember: There is a tax advantage if you renew your membership this December** because many other members are "bundling" their 2020 charitable gifts in 2019 for tax purposes. Others may wish to reduce the tax consequences of required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts by directing all or a portion of their RMD to be made payable to Women in Philanthropy.

You can choose any of these options that you favor; however, please remember that the two most important factors are a renewal now and an upgrade for the future of the endowment.

You can send your check to Women in Philanthropy, c/o Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, 4 Northridge Drive, Suite A, Hilton Head Island, SC, 29926. Or, you can donate online here.
This fall and holiday season has provided several opportunities for WIP members to see the fruit of their giving ... throughout Beaufort County:

**Charlotte Forten Day Celebration**
On October 31, the Penn Center on St. Helena Island celebrated Charlotte Forten Day. Charlotte Forten was Penn School's first African American teacher, who began teaching during the Civil War.

This celebration took place on the new flooring at the Penn Center. This flooring was funded by a $10,000 2019 WIP grant. It provides a clean, usable learning space for children studying Gullah/Geechee culture and the history of St. Helena Island.

*The flooring at the Penn Center was funded by a 2019 WIP grant.*

**Bluffton Christmas Parade**
The Bluffton Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, brought out droves of spectators and floats in true community holiday spirit. A standout among the parade participants was the performance of the Bluffton Boys & Girls Club's West African drum and dance group, Umoja.

Umoja was funded by Women in Philanthropy in 2018 to teach Boys & Girls Club students the importance of preserving the music and dance of the Gullah/Geechee people. Your grant funded the instruments and attire students exhibited on their parade float. The kids were adorable!
WIP Holiday Party Highlights

A wonderful time was had at our 2019 Holiday Party, which was held Thursday, December 12, at Sea Pines Country Club.

The evening was full of food, drinks, games and conversation. Attendees had a fantastic time learning more about one another through a get-to-know-you bingo game. The winners received tickets to an Arts Center of Coastal Carolina production of Kiss Me Kate, which were donated by Kathi Bateson.

In the true spirit of the season, the party attendees provided donations to the Deep Well Project. A large haul of canned and dry food items from the party were donated the next day.
Marcia Collett, communications vice chair, (left) helped host the party, and Kathi Bateson, chair, (center left) kicked off the event. Elizabeth Loda, vice chair, (center right) and Anuska Frey, communications chair, (right) joined in the merriment.

The Sea Pines Country Club was decked out in full holiday decor. Here are Carole Galli (left) and Lesley Gilbert, education chair, (right) posing by the Christmas tree.
The hors d'oeuvres were a big hit. Barbara Pollard is seen here enjoying the coconut shrimp. Party attendees also brought food to benefit the Deep Well Project. The bags of canned and dry food items continued to pile up throughout the evening!

Advisory Board Notice

Have you ever thought about being on the WIP Advisory Board?

We are looking for an Advisory Board member to chair membership. All nine seats on the Advisory Board are working committee Chairs. We share and actualize the vision for WIP as designated by our Founders.

Join the efforts in leading WIP onto our 20th Anniversary in 2023. If you are interested, please contact Kathi Bateson at 686-3945, extension 300.

Welcome, New Member!

A new member has joined since our November newsletter. We wish a warm welcome to:

Lilli Anne Colbert of Port Royal Plantation

Sincerely,

Anuska
Anuska Frey
WIP Communications Chair

Marcia
Marcia Collett
WIP Communications Vice Chair
Women in Philanthropy
is a fund of

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY