

Giving Circles:

GROWING IN NUMBERS AND IN IMPACT

When like-minded people get together, great things can happen.

That's certainly true of the power of giving circles — and the two affiliated with the Community Foundation are no exception.

The **Rochester Women's Giving Circle** was created in June 2007 by Shirley King, Paula Carter, Amy Irish, Alyce Van Patten and Ellen Bevan. Now a group of 72, these philanthropic women combine their financial strength to help women and girls break the cycle of poverty and achieve their life goals.

"We all see the necessity for every woman to have her own purse — and control it," says Shirley King.

For an annual donation of at

least \$1,040, every member has the opportunity to participate in the grantmaking process. The dollar-in/dollar-out philosophy of giving circles means that donations in any one year are available for distribution that year via grants. In the past three years, Rochester Women's Giving Circle has distributed \$147,812 to 15 organizations, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Through their giving and outreach, the giving circle members "are all ambassadors for the Circle and, because of that link, are also ambassadors for women and girls in the community," says King.

The group hopes to be able to raise \$85,000 to give away during the 2011 grant process this spring.

For more information on the Rochester Women's Giving Circle, visit www.therwgc.org.

What RWGC Supported in 2010:



- \$8,000 . . . American Association of University Women's Girls Taking Charge
- \$10,000 . . . Ausangate's Women's Opportunity for Work
- \$5,750 . . . Brockport Auxiliary Service Corp.'s Leadership Academy for Girls
- \$5,504 . . . The Corner Place Tutoring Program
- \$7,106 . . . Safe Journey Survivor Resettlement Program
- \$8,640 . . . Volunteers of America's Working Wardrobe on Wheels
- \$10,000 . . . YWCA's School-Age Parent Program

NextGen Rochester, a giving circle of young professionals, also continues to grow in interest and in membership. NextGen's mission is to introduce philanthropy to individuals at the beginning or middle of their careers and provide them with opportunities to initiate positive changes in the community and make more of an impact by pooling their contributions.

In its first year, NextGen had 28 members who contributed at least \$100 to join and become eligible to vote on grants during the annual meeting. This year, membership in this unique philanthropic group has grown to 60, with the help of some creative matching opportunities by four members who attracted 12 of the new people.

With \$13,780 in grants awarded in December to eight organizations, this young professionals group

will have distributed \$23,480 to 14 organizations and programs in the past two years.

Giving circles are about much more than recruiting members and giving grants. Both Rochester Women's Giving Circle and NextGen are engaged in educating members and providing an insight into what our community needs and how those needs are being addressed. Both groups have hosted meetings with community leaders and visited or volunteered with various nonprofit organizations to see for themselves what is and isn't happening.

"NextGen members get involved in nonprofits at every level — by educating themselves through site visits, volunteerism, and financially," says member Adriane Smith.

What NextGen Supported in 2010:



- \$2,500 . . . ArtPeace
- \$2,500 . . . Cameron Community Ministries
- \$2,500 . . . Garth Fagan Dance
- \$1,150 . . . Heritage Christian Services
- \$2,100 . . . Junior Achievement of Rochester
- \$1,000 . . . Melissa's Living Legacy Teen Cancer Foundation
- \$750 . . . R Community Bikes
- \$1,380 . . . Writers and Books

These hands-on activities "demonstrate that young professionals care about giving back to the Rochester community," says Abby Adair Reinhard.

You can find out more about NextGen Rochester on Facebook, or follow members on Twitter at NextGenRoc.