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**BALTIMORE WOMEN JOIN FORCES TO AWARD  
OVER \$300,000 TO 19 LOCAL NONPROFITS**  
*Seek to improve life for women and their children*

*(Baltimore, MD, 08/11/09)* The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) is awarding \$318,000 in new, one-year grants to 19 Baltimore-area nonprofit organizations. The BWGC, a group of more than 300 women who pool their charitable dollars—each member contributing \$1,100 annually—assists disadvantaged women and their families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Selected from 82 applicants, the 19 organizations run programs that match the BWGC's goal of improving life and promoting self-sufficiency for economically disadvantaged women and their children.

“An incredible number of organizations in this area are doing wonderful work and really making a difference in the lives of women,” says BWGC Co-chair Pat Joseph. “We make our grant decisions only after participating in an educational program that gives us a better understanding of the obstacles confronting many of our citizens and the organizations trying to help them, meeting with the organizations and the people working directly with those who need a leg up.”

Since its founding in 2001, the BWGC has awarded over \$1.6 million in grants to more than 100 local organizations. A fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), the BWGC was started by 52 women with the assistance of BCF and has grown to more than 300

members. “The BWGC was started with a \$10,000 grant from BCF, which also has given us much organizational assistance over the years,” says Beth Lebow, co-chair of the BWGC.

Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle grantees serve women and their families in the following key areas: literacy/education, job and career training, life skills, housing, mentoring, parenting skills, healthcare services, and domestic violence.

The 2009 BWGC grantees include:

**Action In Maturity - \$8,167**

To help seniors live independently by providing them with transportation to shopping and cultural and social events.

**Baltimore Outreach Services - \$20,000**

To provide support services to women and their children living in this emergency shelter.

**Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity - \$20,000**

For the Family Services Program, which helps CHH client families purchase and keep their homes.

**Greater Homewood Community Corporation - \$20,000**

For the Experience Corps program, which places older adult volunteers in Baltimore City elementary schools to serve as tutors, mentors, and classroom aides.

**House of Ruth - \$20,000**

To provide a therapist to work with children who have witnessed domestic violence.

**Karma Dogs, Inc. - \$720**

To provide monthly interactions with therapy dogs to 120 child victims of domestic violence at the Family Crisis Center.

**Marian House - \$20,000**

To expand services to newly reunited families of women recently released from prison and their children.

**Maryland New Directions - \$20,000**

To provide employment and career counseling to unemployed and underemployed women in Baltimore.

**My Sister’s Place - \$20,000**

For a specialist to help link homeless women to assistance programs and community resources.

**Our Daily Bread - \$20,000**

To support the salaries of an employment counselor, an intake coordinator, and manager for the organization's employment center that helps women in transition.

**Partnership for Learning, Inc. - \$6,900**

For Each One Reach One, a mentoring and literacy program offered to first-time, non-violent female offenders in lieu of punishment.

**Public Justice Center - \$20,000**

To expand the organization's program for foster youth to two additional schools.

**Salvation Army - \$20,000**

To support Booth House, an emergency and transitional housing shelter for women and their children.

**The SEED School of Maryland - \$20,000**

For the summer orientation program offered to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students entering the SEED School in the fall.

**Sidran Institute - \$19,960**

For workshops to train parents based on the "27 Secrets to Raising Amazing Children" program.

**Sisters Academy of Baltimore - \$20,000**

To support a mentoring program for 20 high school aged alumni of this Catholic middle school for girls from low-income Baltimore neighborhoods.

**St. Agnes Foundation - \$20,000**

To provide healthcare services to 200 immigrant women in Southeast Baltimore through the Esperanza Center.

**St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore - \$20,000**

For the Adelante Familia program, which seeks to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic violence in Spanish-speaking immigrant families.

**University of Maryland Medical System - \$12,005**

To provide healthcare services and medical mentoring for 20 girls, ages 12-18, through the Pediatric AIDS Program – Spreading Our Wings.

**ABOUT THE BALTIMORE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE**

Through collective giving and collaboration, the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle at the Baltimore Community Foundation seeks to improve life for disadvantaged women and their families in the greater Baltimore area. The Giving Circle encourages members to participate in philanthropy through education, grantmaking, and other community-based activities. Since its

founding in 2001, the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle has granted more than \$1.6 million to nonprofit organizations serving women and their families in the Baltimore area. More information can be found at [www.thebwgc.org](http://www.thebwgc.org).

**ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

The Baltimore Community Foundation distributed \$28 million in 2008 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$143 million, BCF comprises more than 600 different charitable funds. BCF invites donors to *Invest in Baltimore* through its civic agenda, which combines economic development with poverty reduction by making strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth, education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore. More information about *Invest in Baltimore* as well as support for individual donors' philanthropy and more can be found at [www.bcf.org](http://www.bcf.org).

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