

## One of Many—Just What is a Giving Circle?

The concept is as simple as it is powerful. A giving circle is formed when individuals come together and pool their dollars, decide together where to give the money (and other resources such as volunteer time), and learn together about their community and philanthropy.

Within these basic parameters, giving circles and shared giving take myriad forms. No giving circle looks or acts exactly like another. Indeed, the opportunity to shape a group to meet the particular needs of a community and the particular interests and capabilities of donors remains one of the most appealing aspects of a giving circle.

Some giving circles—such as the five-person Brooklyn, New York-based group *One Percent for Moms*—are small enough to meet in a living room and make all decisions through discussion and consensus. Others—like the 57-member Latino Giving Circle hosted by the Chicago Community Trust—partner with a local organization, such as a community foundation, through which they make grants and receive some administrative support. The Washington Women's Foundation in Seattle engages more than 400 women and operates with its own nonprofit status and a staff of four. Members' donations to giving circles range from less than \$100 to more than \$100,000 each year.

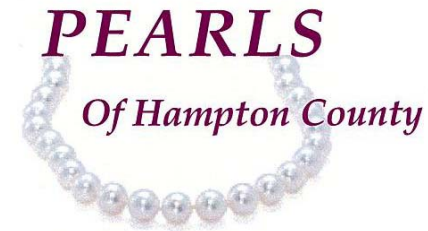
### What are common elements of a giving circle?

- Membership is diverse, inclusive and active.
- Members often contribute equal amounts and make multi-year pledges.
- Members determine where and how the money is distributed.
- The circle addresses specific community needs.
- Members learn more about philanthropy, funding, grantmaking and community issues.
- Members provide much, if not all, of the circle's administrative support.
- Community or public foundations often host giving circles. Host organizations hold the circle's funds and can provide other services.

### What are the benefits of joining a giving circle? Giving circle members:

- Engage in strategic group decision-making;
- Learn about the grantmaking process;
- Understand philanthropy as a vehicle for social change;
- Connect with communities and causes they care about;
- Participate in a network of people who share interests and values; and
- Leverage financial contributions, volunteerism, and expertise.

The majority of the giving circles (68 percent) had a host organization that, at the very least, received the donors' contributions and wrote the checks to the recipient organizations once grant decisions had been made. More than half (52 percent) kept their money in a donor-advised fund at their local community foundation. The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, with offices on Hilton Head Island, provides staff and administrative support for PEARLS of Hampton County. For more information about the Community Foundation, please visit the website at [www.cf-lowcountry.org](http://www.cf-lowcountry.org).



Connecting women who care with causes that matter

## PEARLS of Hampton County Launches Inaugural Newsletter

We are pleased to present the inaugural newsletter for PEARLS of Hampton County. PEARLS, which stands for Philanthropic Empowerment Among Rural Lowcountry Sisters, was founded in 2007 after a series of focus group events held in 2006.

Now at 78 members, PEARLS of Hampton County is gearing up for a successful second year of operations.

### Highlights from year one:

- Advisory Board Members have met 13 times to discuss the goals and progress of the group.
- Recruitment efforts led to an 78 women-strong membership.
- The First Annual Celebration had an audience of more than 125. A motivating speech was given by June Bradham, Founder and President of Corporate Development.

### Year two goals:

- Produce and distribute a newsletter to the membership three times a year.
- Recruit members for two committees—Recruitment/Retention and Grantmaking.
- Determine community focus area, grantmaking goals and guidelines.
- Build membership to more than 100.
- Award inaugural grants.
- Hold Second Annual Celebration.

## Committee Chairs Named

The Chairs for the two new committees have been recently selected. Please contact them directly if you are interested in serving on a committee.

Recruitment/Retention: DeThane Johnson ([hjohnson@hargray.com](mailto:hjohnson@hargray.com)) and Lizzie Young ([younliz@hampton2.k12.sc.us](mailto:younliz@hampton2.k12.sc.us))

Grantmaking: Madeleine McKenzie ([madeleinemck@yahoo.com](mailto:madeleinemck@yahoo.com))



PEARLS of Hampton County Advisory Board Members

## In the Next Issue...

In the next quarter, the Advisory Board will identify three potential community focus areas for our grantmaking. These will be outlined in the next newsletter and all members will be provided an opportunity to respond with their input.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding PEARLS, please contact any member of the Advisory board.

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### Advisory Board

Ms. Gwendolyn J. Bampfield  
 Mrs. Ethel B. Denmark  
 Mrs. Kari Foy  
 Mrs. Peggy Grill  
 Ms. Jeanette G. Harley  
 Ms. DeThane M. Johnson  
 Mrs. Jill Knight  
 Ms. Donna Mann  
 Ms. Madeleine McKenzie  
 Ms. Elise McQuire  
 Mrs. Peggy S. Parker  
 Mrs. Rhonda Willis  
 Ms. Lizzie Young



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## PEARLS Progress

In early 2007, the PEARLS Advisory Board began meeting to discuss the development of the giving circle. Here is a synopsis of the questions they posed and the answers to date.

What is the purpose or mission of the circle?

Mission Statement: **Connecting women who care with causes that matter.**

Guiding Principles: **To promote philanthropy among women by empowering them to make a difference in Hampton County by building and strengthening programs through the power of joint contributions.**

What will the name be? **Philanthropic Empowerment Among Rural Lowcountry Sisters (PEARLS) of Hampton County**

Who are our potential members? **All women of Hampton County**

What will be the size of the membership contribution, and for what period of time?  
**Annual membership contribution of \$200**

Will there be other categories of membership available? **Not at this time**

Will there be a size limitation to the circle? **No, unlimited**

How will members be recruited? **Membership Committee established May 2007  
Potential membership list developed and reviewed.  
Each Founding Sister to invite 2 to 3 members by January 1, 2008.**

How do we go about sharing information on the giving circle and securing the actual gift?  
**Each Founding Sister communicated information to potential members, article in Community Foundation annual report, PEARLS newsletter, Annual Event**

What is our initial membership goal? **75 members by the end of 2007  
Achieved 78 members as of August 2008**

What do we do after obtaining a commitment from our friend??  
**Secure gift, add to mailing list.**

What committees will we have?  
**1. Recruitment/Retention 2. Grantmaking/Program**

Will an underwriter be sought for start-up costs?  
**Corporate gifts in the amount of \$1,000 secured to cover Annual Event**

What is our timeframe to accomplish our start-up goals? **July 1, 2007 membership kick-off**

## PEARLS Members—78 and Growing!

Ms. Hattie Murdaugh Askew  
Ms. Mary Ann Atkins  
Mrs. Cecilia W. Baker  
Mrs. Lisa P. Ball  
Ms. Gwendolyn J. Bampfied, Esq.  
Mrs. Brenda Batten  
Ms. Alice M. Behlin  
Ms. Ruth A. Benson  
Mrs. June Bilka  
Ms. Faith Blumenstock  
Ms. M. League Boylston  
Ms. Kim Brant  
Ms. Marcella Brown  
Rev. Eunice B. Bryant  
Ms. Judy Causey  
Mrs. Mary Ann Crews  
Mrs. Jennifer Crosby  
Ms. Coletta Cuyler  
Mrs. Ethel B. Denmark  
Ms. Andrea A. Elliott  
Mrs. Vivian S. Ellis  
Ms. Paula T. Flowers  
Mrs. Joye R. Foster  
Mrs. Kari Foy  
Mrs. Mary Ann Foy  
Ms. Elease Gant

Ms Sabrena P. Graham  
Mrs. Peggy Grill  
Mrs. Rhonda Hardison  
Pastor Jeanette G. Harley  
Ms. Lynette Harley  
Ms. Alice B. Hazel, CPA  
Ms. Amber L. Hazel  
Mrs. Gray L. Henderson  
Ms. Sheila H. Hodges  
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins  
Mrs. Sara G. Hunter  
Ms. DeThane M. Johnson  
Mrs. Donna Kinard  
Mrs. Jill Knight  
Mrs. LaClaire Laffitte  
Mrs. Catherine EH Larsen  
Ms. Tameaka Legette  
Ms. Donna Mann  
Mrs. Cecilia McKenzie  
Ms. Madeleine McKenzie  
Mrs. Elizabeth J. McNeer  
Ms. Elise McQuire  
Ms. Carrie Michaels  
Ms. Dorothy V. Moore  
Ms. Christie Murdaugh  
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Murdaugh

Mrs. Maggie Murdaugh  
Dr. Fayette B. Nick  
Ms. Lawton Clarke O'Cain  
Mrs. Peggy S. Parker  
Ms. Bridget G. Peeples  
Ms. Elizabeth C. Peeples  
Mrs. Martha Platts  
Mrs. Hannah B. Priester  
Ms. Vonda Priester  
Ms. Michelle Purdy  
Mrs. Vivienne B. Richardson  
Ms. Mary Ann Sowell  
Mrs. Marjorie M. Thomas  
Mrs. Alison H. Tucker  
Ms. Maxine Tuten  
Ms. Janice West  
Ms. Mary Ann Westendorf  
Mrs. Anna C. White  
Ms. Cathaleen W. Williams  
Ms. Elaunda R. Williams  
Mrs. Rhonda Willis  
Ms. Alice G. Wright  
Mrs. Mary Wright  
Ms. Deanne H. Yeomans  
Ms. Myrna F. Youmans  
Mrs. Becky Young  
Ms. Lizzie Young

## A Message from your Chairwomen



Chairwomen, Peggy Parker and Gwen Bampfied

Building legacy, producing powerful impact, while working with like-minded women ...that is the work of PEARLS of Hampton County.

The time is right for increased investment in women's philanthropy. We believe the potential is great for identifying new donors, tapping into new wealth, and improving our community by addressing issues tied to our grantmaking in the areas of arts and culture, community development, education, health, and human services.

PEARLS offers an exciting and innovative way for women to become involved in philanthropy and in making a difference in our community. After a full year, 78 members, and contributions of nearly \$17,000 we are in an excellent position to move forward and widen our circle. Just think, if all 78 current members make an annual gift in 2008 and 22 more women join—totaling 100 members—our funds will total over \$35,000!

How do we widen our circle?

We take advantage of every opportunity to talk about the work of PEARLS of Hampton County, to our friends, neighbors and associates. Pass along a membership brochure or this newsletter to spread the word about our work. Let's double our membership and increase our ability to carry out our mission to inspire and educate women to become philanthropic leaders!