

What Is A Giving Circle?

The "giving circle" model 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 learn together about their community and philanthropy.

The concept behind a giving circle is that pooled giving can have a greater impact in a community.

Giving circles simply make sense. The research definitely shows that donors can accomplish more good, learn more, make better decisions and have more fun when they give together. Giving circles make even more sense when you consider how busy we all are in this day and age. What a tremendous opportunity to improve your community with little investment required.

The Community Foundation

The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation serves as the sponsoring organization for Handbags That Help. The Community Foundation provides fiscal and program sponsorship for HTH including the provision of nonprofit status to the project; assistance with administrative tasks and publicity efforts; providing input and advice to the sub-circle committees; acknowledging and managing contributions; and authorization for payment of grants and expenses from the funds.

The Community Foundation's Board of Directors has authorized the voting members of HTH to approve all distributions from the fund.



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What is Handbags That Help?

Handbags That Help (HTH) is a women's giving circle committed to improving lives throughout the greater Hancock County community by collectively funding significant grants to charitable projects and programs and increasing philanthropy in our community.

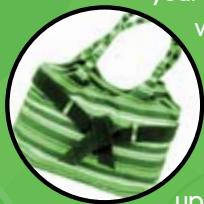


Our Purpose

- Cultivate women as informed philanthropic leaders.
- Create a new and substantial pool of money from women.
- Identify appropriate and timely opportunities.
- Allocate funds based on majority preference.
- Accomplish change.
- Celebrate impact.
- Attain recognition as a "difference maker," a valued and significant resource.

Our Members

All women are invited to participate in this women's giving circle. An annual contribution of \$500 for your membership entitles you to one vote as to how the money will be granted. Joint memberships of 2-5 women are also available.



The degree of your involvement is up to you. There are four member meetings held each year. You may also choose to serve on one of the committees, called sub-circles, which support HTH .

Our Grantmaking

Every dollar generated through HTH membership contributions is passed directly on to the community through grants voted on annually by the members. The Grants Sub-Circle reviews all grant proposals and selects finalists for consideration by the membership.

Our Funds

HANDBAGS THAT HELP

All HTH membership contributions are held in a fund at The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation until it is time to distribute the grant(s).

FRIENDS OF HANDBAGS THAT HELP

This fund supports the administrative costs such as meeting expenses, printing and postage. Gifts from local businesses, organizations, individuals and HTH members help to sustain this fund. All members are required to give \$30 annually to this fund to support administrative costs.



HANDBAGS THAT HELP ENDOWMENT FUND

This fund was established by an anonymous donor as a show of support for Handbags That Help in its inaugural year. This fund is a permanent endowment fund for the women's giving circle. Each year, funds will be available for HTH use, according to The Community Foundation's spending policy. Alternately, we can choose to defer using those funds and let the endowment continue to grow. Gifts to this fund are always welcome.

HTH Committees

GUIDING CIRCLE

The Guiding Circle serves as the executive board for HTH. Members include the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Member-At-Large; along with the Chairs of each of the three sub-circles. Members of the Guiding Circle must be Individual Voting Members of HTH.

GRANTS SUB-CIRCLE

The Grants Sub-Circle determines grant priorities based on member interests, evaluates grant proposals and selects grant finalists for consideration by the membership. Of the three sub-circles, the grants sub-circle requires the greatest time commitment and the most members to accomplish its goals.

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-CIRCLE

The Communications Sub-Circle works with The Community Foundation to maintain the website, produce newsletters, issue press releases, photograph events and recruit new members. They also schedule Guiding Circle members to speak to local organizations.

PROGRAM SUB-CIRCLE

The Program Sub-Circle plans meetings and makes all meeting arrangements including location, menu, program topics, decorations, theme etc.

Schedule of Meetings

JULY 15 - MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE

To participate in the officer elections and the Interest Inventory survey (which establishes grant priorities) you must have your application and membership donation in by July 15.

SEPTEMBER MEETING - MEMBERS ONLY

Elect officers and announce grant priorities for proposal requests.

DECEMBER MEETING - MEMBERS & GUESTS

Program features a women-focused or philanthropy-focused topic.

MARCH MEETING - MEMBERS ONLY

Grant finalists make presentations to the membership. Members vote to select final grantee(s).

APRIL MEETING - MEMBERS & GUESTS

A time to celebrate! Grant checks are awarded. New member recruitment begins.