



Handbags that Help (HTH) educates, inspires, and increases the number of women committed to philanthropy in order to strengthen community and demonstrate the impact that can result from informed, focused grant making.



November 2011 Issue

Who We Are

HTH is a women's giving circle formed in June 2007 by local women committed to dramatically improving lives throughout the greater Hancock County community by collectively funding significant grants to charitable projects and programs and increasing philanthropy in our community.

HTH is an independent philanthropic organization hosted and supported by The Community Foundation. The Community Foundation staff members provide assistance and guidance to HTH where needed, including advising HTH regarding tax and legal matters. All policy, decisions and grants made by HTH and its voting membership are done autonomously.

Our Purpose



HTH's purpose is to:

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

Giving Wisely

HTH is committed to providing its members with the skills and knowledge needed to make wise social investments. To this end, HTH organizes educational programs covering a variety of topics related to philanthropy.



Where Will the Money Go?

Our group has 75 memberships, comprised of 51 Individual Voting Members and 90 Joint Memberships. This year, we will be granting \$37,716.00 directly into the community including \$37,500.00 from memberships and \$216.00 from the HTH endowment fund. HTH has announced that this year's grant focus is Youth and Young Adult Wellness.

Where do I find more information?

Visit us online at www.community-foundation.com. You can find full meeting minutes along with additional information about HTH, upcoming meetings and events, grant forms, newsletters, and frequently asked questions along with our bylaws.

2011-2012 Guiding Circle

The Guiding Circle is the executive committee which oversees HTH. It consists of eight members of HTH, each of whom must be an Individual Voting Member.

Members of the 2011-2012 Guiding Circle include:

Julie Anderson, Chair
Kolleen Kirk-Rill, Vice Chair
Kim Stumpp, Secretary
Judy Pusateri, Treasurer
Kristen Johnson, Communications Sub-Circle Chair
Jeri Bjorling, Grants Sub-Circle Chair
Donna Ruse, Program Sub-Circle Chair
Sandy Hansen, Member At Large

The full Request for Proposal (RFP) is available at www.community-foundation.com and has been distributed via email and announced in the Courier. The grant proposal deadline is December 15th and all applications must be received by 4:00 in order to be considered for this year's HTH grant cycle. The Grant Sub-Circle will then be hard at work reviewing grant proposals, meeting with the applicants, and preparing a ballot of finalists for our March meeting. If you would like to be part of this committee, contact Marie Swaisgood, Community Foundation.

Grant Focus: Youth and Young Adult Wellness

Handbags That Help is announcing a grant initiative to help improve the lives of individuals living in Hancock County. Proposals are being requested from local nonprofit organizations for programs that are focused on building strong families with an emphasis on youth and young adult wellness (up to age 25). Programs considered for funding may include, but are not limited to, the areas of mentoring, suicide prevention, eating disorders, gangs, pregnancy, poverty, and other mental and physical health topics. Handbags that Help strongly encourages collaboration among organizations. Grant funds may be awarded as a single grant of **\$37,716** or as multiple grants totaling up to **\$37,716**.

***If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or would like a Guiding Circle Member to speak at a meeting, please feel free to contact Sandy Hansen, Member-at-large and your voice on the Guiding Circle, at 419-425-4224 or shansen@bright.net.*

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 14, 2011 @ 9:30AM HTH Meeting- First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall - Our program will include an update from last years' Grantees; the Blanchard Valley Hospital Caughmann Clinic and Century Health. Also joining us will be individuals involved in the Flood mitigation and they will be providing an update and Q and A. **Please RSVP to mswaisgood@community-foundation.com or by calling 419-425-1100.** * Guests are welcome!!!!

February 26, 2012 @ 3PM Educational Opportunity - Behind the Scenes with Gliding Stars - Members will have the opportunity to speak with Cindy Bregel, Gliding Stars Director and watch rehearsal for the March program all at the Cube.

March 14, 2012 HTH Meeting- Findlay Inn and Conference Center - To best serve all of our members, we will be having two separate meeting times for this VERY important meeting - 9:30 - 11:30AM OR 4:00 - 6:00PM. At each meeting there will be an opportunity to listen to presentations of the proposed grantees before you vote to determine the grantee(s). Each meeting will provide an opportunity for members (no guests please) to adjourn to the restaurant for lunch or dinner on your own to discuss the voting options available. If you cannot attend, your ballot will be sent to you. **Your RSVP is very important for planning purposes. Please RSVP to mswaisgood@community-foundation.com or by calling 419-425-1100.**

April 11, 2012 @ 4:30PM Celebration Meeting - Findlay Country Club - Come celebrate with HTH as we award grants.

2011-2012 Members

As philanthropists united by the founding values of Handbags that Help, we commit ourselves to the community in which we live and to those who need our resources, our ideas, and our collective power.

• Sharon Aller • Julie Anderson • Mary Lou Anderson • Kelly Atkins • Robin Ayers • Ruth Ball • Amy Ballinger • Barbara Dysinger • Connie Barron-Smith • Kimberly Bash • Jeri Bjorling • Sara Bova • Julie Brown • Kathleen Brubaker • Sherri Brumbaugh • Leah Buchanan • Cheryl Buckland • Janelle Busdeker • Lynn Child • Nichole Clement • Nora Cochran • Anni Collette • Mary Jane Cosiano • Anita Criblez • Angela Crist • Carol Dale-Joseph • Jane Davis • Linda DeArment • Barbara Deerhake • Jana Doone • Vanessa Edwards • Myra Egbert • Lynn Ellerbrock • Virginia Erner • Leigh Esper • Katherine Fell • Bev Fisher • Anita Fitzgerald • Beth Flowers • Aleta Foust • Janet Frech • Jean Garner • Barbara Gebhardt • Heather Granger • GiGi Griffith • Linda Gruenemeyer • Mary Halvorsen • Mary Beth Hammond • Sandy Hansen • Stacy Hartman • Sherri Haushalter • Carol Hauzie • Peggy Havens • Suzi Healy • Kathy Heintschel • Jane Heminger • Shirley Hewitt • Kay Hill • Betty Hipp • Jackie Hitchings • Terri Hooper • Lisa Houck • Nancy Hutchinson • Joanne Ingold • Ann Jaffe • Darla Johannsen • Kristen Johnson • Mary Johnston • Shelly Joseph • Kerry Kirk • Diana Kirk • Kolleen Kirk Rill • MaryKay Kochheiser • Kay Kose • Kathy Kreuchauf • Gwen Kuenzli • Pam Lather • Linda Lotz • Jennifer Lysaght • Dorothy Maclaren • Denese Malacos • Margaret Malaney • Ann Malarky • Carol Mallett • Gene McEvoy • Tracy McMath • Carol Metzger-Sturgeon • Lydia Mihalik • Deborah Mihalik • Linda Miller • Cheryl Miller • PJ Milligan • Nancy Moody-Russo • Ann Moore • Kathy Morgan • Amber Moser • Lindsay Needler-Turner • Dionne Neubauer • Beth Niemeyer • Tina O'Dell • Diana Ostrander • Kathy Peiffer • Robin Pfeiffer • Virginia Pilstl • Erin Poling • Isabelle Pratt • Judy Pusateri • Jo Ann Reeds • Stacey Reineke • Sandra Reinhardt • Donna Ridenour • Robin Ridge • Carol Roessing • Connie Rooney • Marty Rothery • Donna Ruse • Suzy Sackmann • Mary Jo Schaller • Ami Simmermeyer • Karen Smith • Linda Spahr • Elaine Stansberry • Nancy Stephani • Sandra Stoll • Kim Stumpp • Jennifer Swartzlander • Chris Thorton • Beth Waddell • Julia Walsh-Zitcovic • Karen Wentz • Anni Wilcox • Nancy Wilder • Susan Williams • Julie Williamson-Wright • Fritzi Winkeljohn • Judy Withrow • Patt Wittwer • Carri Wurm • Mariann Younger • Beth Zachrich • Joyce Ziegler

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please contact Marie Swaisgood at MSwaisgood@community-foundation.com

A Message From Judy....



As we move into the holiday season, this is a great time to look back and reflect. One of the things that always come to mind for me is how Handbags that Help had raised my awareness about the community in which we live and has changed the way that I look at simple luxuries that our family is blessed to have.

I joined Handbags that Help in the fall of 2009 out of curiosity. I had no idea what HTH did, who was part of this wonderful group of ladies, or even what their purpose was. I figured the only way I was going to learn more is to join.....and am I ever so glad that I did. As I look back, I am ashamed to admit that I knew nothing about the struggles that face the Findlay/Hancock County area. After each HTH meeting, educational opportunity, and Guiding Circle meeting, I walked away shocked, empowered with knowledge and felt obligated to make changes that would make our community a better place.

Since joining HTH, and seeing the true need within our community, I no longer purchase a \$400.00 summer pool membership, but instead take my children to the city pool and donate the difference to charity. (And the funny part is, my kids don't know the difference, nor do they care.) My husband and I have also chosen to forego exchanging

Christmas gifts among ourselves since neither of us are truly in "need" of anything. Instead, we adopt two local families and ensure that children in our community wake up to the magic of Christmas.... just as all children should. As a family we deliver the gifts, food, and other necessities to the adopted families on Christmas Eve to be sure that our children learn that it is truly better to give than receive. When I shop for school supplies, I buy two of everything and donate the extras, and when my children need new socks, underwear, and T-shirts.... I am reminded that children in our community also need these things. So I purchase extra and donate them. I also never donated to Chopin Hall before, but after learning through HTH how they help our community, I now do everything I can to support such a great charity. And it's not all about donating money or physical items.... It's about caring and knowing how to make a difference *anyway* you can.

My family has been blessed this past year, but because of HTH, I am truly aware of the difficult times our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and our community face. We pray this holiday season brings peace to their souls, their heavy hearts are lifted, they draw strength from all of those that care about them, and they be surrounded with true happiness. May you and your family have a Silent Night on Christmas Eve to reflect on everything that you have to be thankful for and remember the true reason for celebrating the season. God Bless and may you have a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2012!

~Judy Pusateri, Guiding Circle Treasurer

