GREENWOOD WOMEN Care
learn • give • grow

February '26 - July '26

LOOKING BACK

(as we move forward)

SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Event

3rd Quarterly Meeting

"Where Care Meets Community"

Future Meetings

Fall Potluck Social
Theme: TBD
Tuesday, September 22
5:30 - 7:00 pm
Camp Fellowship
457 Camp Fellowship Rd
Waterloo, SC 29384

Kick Off The Vote !
(Members Only!)
Monday, October 19
5:30 – 6:30 pm
Harley Family Center
1101 Main Street, South
Greenwood, SC

4th Quarterly Meeting

- Grantee's Corner
- Learn More
- Food For Thought
- Know Your GWC
- Get Involved

Monday, Aug 24, 2026
5:15 pm – 7:00 pm

~Celebrating our 2025 GWC Grant Recipients~

Greenwood Genetic Center

113 Gregor Mendel Circle
Greenwood, SC

"The State of the Arts in Greenwood"
Tuesday, November 17
5:15 – 7:00 pm
Arts Center of Greenwood
120 Main Street
Greenwood, SC

Rachel's Reflections

Summer has a way of changing our pace.

The calendars become a little less predictable. Vacations interrupt routines. School schedules disappear for a while. Even Greenwood Women Care experiences a quieter season between major events.

But insiders know that quieter doesn't mean on standby.

While many of us have been enjoying summer with family and friends, our committees have been hard at work preparing for what's ahead. Plans are taking shape. New ideas are being explored. Volunteers are giving their

Each grant begins with dozens of women making the simple decision to come together and invest in their community. We may never know every story that unfolds because of that decision, but we can be confident that our impact extends far beyond the moment a check is presented.

time behind the scenes so that when we gather again, everything is ready.

I've also found myself thinking about something else this summer.

We often celebrate the grants themselves, and rightly so. Since our first granting cycle in 2019, Greenwood Women Care has awarded $483,799 to local nonprofits serving Greenwood County. With another grant cycle quickly approaching, we're looking forward to reaching the incredible milestone of half a million dollars in collective giving after this year's grants are awarded.

But what I've been reflecting on most are the things we'll never be able to measure.

The child who discovers a love of reading because books became more accessible. The family that finds hope during a difficult season. The senior who feels a little less alone. The guest who chooses to become a member after witnessing generosity in action. A member who chooses to volunteer with a local organization after learning about their impact in the community.

Those are the quiet ripples of collective giving.

As another grant cycle approaches, one of the most exciting parts of this process is discovering which local nonprofit organizations are seeking support for new ideas, expanded programs, and opportunities to strengthen our community. I always look forward to learning about the creative solutions and meaningful work happening right here in Greenwood County.

As we look toward the months ahead, I hope you'll make plans to reconnect with us at the August Quarterly Meeting and our September Potluck Social. Whether you've attended every gathering this year or life has simply gotten busy, know there's always a place waiting for you.

Thank you for the generosity, time, and heart you continue to invest in Greenwood Women Care. Together, we're creating something that reaches farther than any one of us could accomplish alone, and I'm grateful to be part of it with each of you.

Until we gather again,

Rachel

Rachel Strayer
Chair, GWC Advisory Board

Several members of our collective giving group have shared heartfelt words about how much they love and appreciate GWC. They describe a sense of connection, purpose and real impact that comes from pooling their resources and voices together. Their comments remind us why this community matters so deeply.

MEMBERS' VOICES

One member expressed that she believes GWC is a “wonderful organization” that has been “remarkable to watch” in its development and that she continues to enjoy “watching its successes”.

Another believes that GWC leadership has done “a phenomenal job”. She commended how “organized GWC is” and its key role in “helping the community”. She appreciates being made to feel welcome even though she can’t often attend. This member enjoys interacting with other members and finds it especially interesting to meet those who have lived elsewhere since she has been a Greenwood resident most of her life.

One new member initially attended several times as a guest and learned enough to know that she wanted to join GWC. She felt comfortable right away.

Another member began her response by saying that she is “thankful that GWC exists” and is “proud to be a part”. She calls GWC her “do-gooders club”. She noted that her service on a committee “helped me understand things that I didn’t know as a general member” and allowed her to learn a lot and meet other members. (She would recommend committee involvement to all members!)

Although she grew up in Greenwood, this member notes that she has learned a lot from others in GWC who have different passions from her own. “Greenwood is very fortunate to have GWC!”, she said.

Others remarked:

“For the Advisory Committee to reach out to all members is so commendable - every aspect of GWC is done with such good taste and sensitivity!”

“Great, great group of ladies from all different areas…all that they bring to the table is really great!”

"I've lived in big towns before and never knew about the charities in those places."

“GWC is such a great organization! I wish I could be at more meetings. I’m happy to be a part of this group, rallying together to make difference in our community and partnering for greater impact”.

"Communication is rock solid!"

Additional Gifts Increase our Giving

With every annual contribution for GWC Membership, our Granting Fund grows by $450 to award in that year's grant cycle, and our Endowment increases by $100 to ensure our long-term financial stability. In this way, all of our members have an investment in the success of GWC's purpose to learn, give, and grow.

We are most grateful for every contribution, whether a renewal, new membership, or gift made "over and above" the annual amount! Each one enables us to be more impactful in our home community.

GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to honor someone with a gift to GWC, please download the form linked *here* or contact gwc@greenwoodcf.org

If you would like to make an additional contribution, you may do so *here*.

New Members!

(Since February 2026)

Dianna Akin
Debby Dunn
Angela Robinson Greer
Abbie Sladick
Mary Tickel

ICYMI...

Thanks to your commitment and support, Greenwood Women Care is making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and organizations throughout Greenwood County.

Every year we receive numerous applications from local nonprofits who are seeking funding from our organization. These nonprofits do vital work, and while we are proud to fund many of them, we are only able to meet about half of the total need. The reality is that community needs continue to grow—and we want to do more.

Since the founding of Greenwood Women Care in 2018, our annual membership contribution has remained unchanged at $550. To strengthen our impact and extend our reach, the Advisory Board has approved an increase of $50 to the annual membership contribution, bringing the total to $600 per year. This change will take effect beginning with this fall's membership renewal cycle.

Importantly, every dollar of this increase will go directly to our grant fund. There will be no change to the portion of each annual contribution allocated to administrative expenses or to our endowment. This means your increased contribution will directly translate into more grants awarded and more support for organizations serving our community.

We deeply value every member of Greenwood Women Care and recognize that the impact we make is possible because of your dedication, compassion, and belief in our mission. Your continued support strengthens our work and expands our ability to respond to the growing needs of our community.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable collective. Together, we will continue changing lives one grant, one project, and one opportunity at a time.

did you know?

...In a recent report entitled "The Landscape of Giving Circles/Collective Giving Groups in the US", researchers presented data based on their investigation of giving circle (GC) models and structures; activities and compositions; and specific, related topics, including the impact of participation in GCs on donors' giving and civic engagement, and relationships between GCs and their hosting organizations.

The report included statements and statistics pertinent to our efforts here in Greenwood. A few details of particular interest are:

- **GCs are found in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.**
- **The mean for membership is 116, the median is 50 members, and the mode is 100.**
- **There are a growing number of younger members in GCs; however, the majority remain in the 45-64 age range.**
- **The minimum dollar amounts required from members to vote on funding recipients (per event or year) ranges from $4.00 to $2 million. The average annual donation amount is $1,312.**
- **Less than a quarter reported dedicating funds to building an endowment. [*We are ahead of the game on this point!*]**
- **Three quarters reported having constant (retained) memberships.**

The research findings noted here confirm that we are engaged in nurturing an exciting way for Greenwood women, and our whole community, to thrive!

2025 Grantee Corner

The Period Project was this year's recipient of the GWC Women's Health Grant! The amount awarded to this important non-profit totaled $5,750. According to Grants Manager Catherine Davis, the goal of The Period Project is to reduce barriers to accessing period supplies and to distribute products to women and girls in need in Greenwood County. This is accomplished by providing period products free of cost, distributed in convenient "period packs". These packs ensure women and girls can attend work or class and afterschool activities without interruption while maintaining dignity and menstrual health. With the help of the Women's Health Grant, The Period Project was able to distribute 1,660 packs (1,280 student packs and 380 adult packs), far exceeding the original goal of 900 packs! These packs were distributed to the Greenwood District 50 Nursing Department, eight local middle and high schools, and four frontline assistance agencies: Boys and Girls Clubs of the Lakelands, Food Bank of the Lakelands (formerly Food Bank of Greenwood), La Clinica Gratis (free clinic), and Greater Greenwood United Ministries.

Learn More

(To See Recent Event Recaps, Click on Titles Below)

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

A PLACE FOR YOU

NEW MEMBERS

PARTNERSHIPS!!

AN EVERGREEN EVENING

And...

our most popular #FoodForThoughtFriday social Media post was on 02-02-26.

there were 741 views!

every "like, comment, and share" introduces more people to gwc and the impact we are making.

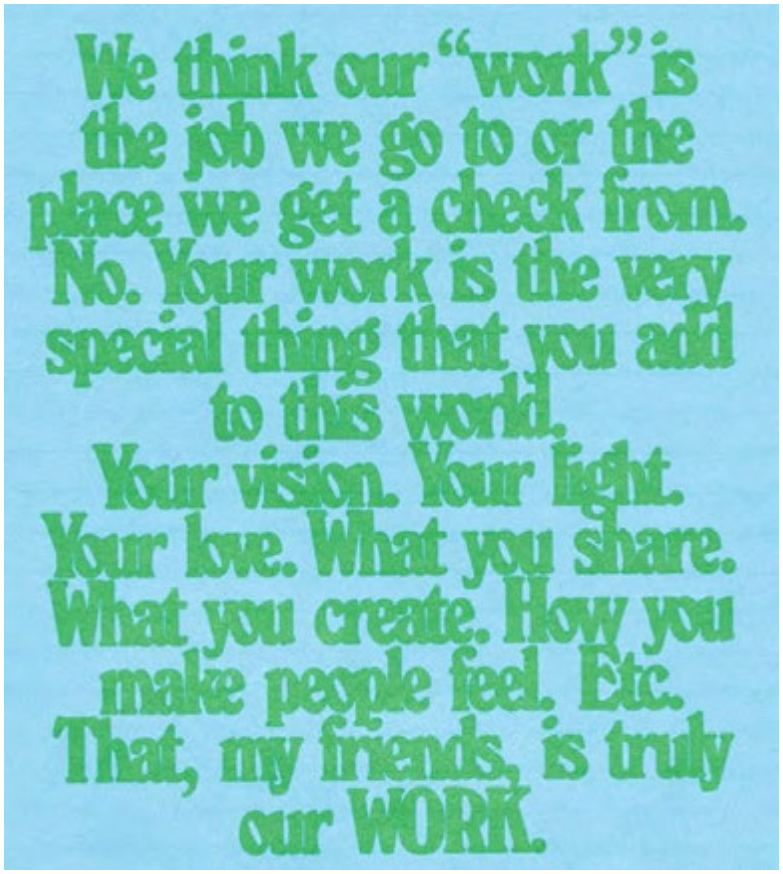
currently, we have 1,205 followers on our facebook page.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 1,500 followers by the end of 2026!!

we hope we can count on you to keep our momentum going.

please *like* our GWC Facebook and Instagram pages and visit them often!

(you can do so from the bottom of this newsletter)



1. An Exciting New Mentoring Program

2. GWC 101 Everything you never knew you didn't know about GWC

BET YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THIS --->

(If not, use your camera on your cell phone
and aim it at this image...then click on what pops up!)

Are you interested in being on a committee? We would LOVE to have your talents put to good use with all those currently volunteering! What better way to foster great relationships with all the amazing members of GWC and, at the same time, play a bigger part in GWC's success? Look at the options and see where you might be able to help. More details can be found **here**.

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* click to link *

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