



February 2017

Connections

A fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation

Hestia closes in on \$350,000 in grants to programs for women and girls in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. Thank you!



Hestian Emily Hughes shares her experience at the Women's March on Washington — page 3

In August 2017, Stacey Burns will celebrate 19 years with the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan as their Educational and Employment Services (EES) Coordinator. From her office located on the North Central Michigan College campus, she has helped thousands of women who want to enter or re-enter the workforce or gain new skills through training and education.



Hestia Hero:
Stacey
Burns

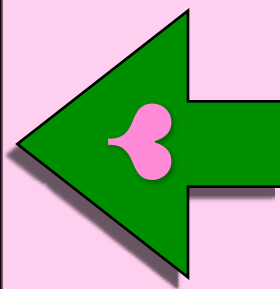
During the past fiscal year, Stacey has been instrumental in connecting 72 women to \$132,244 in educational scholarships—of these, \$12,500 is from Hestia serving 13 women. During the past fiscal year, Stacey assisted 315 with job search assistance, career guidance, academic advising, GED information, advocacy and referrals and educational scholarships. Stacey also oversees the Working Wardrobe program which, last year alone, provided 23 women with more than \$997 in clothing vouchers to purchase work and job interview clothing.

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Hello Fellow Hestians,

Happy 2017! Hestia had its ups and downs in 2016. We lost founding member Allyn Sheperd, and we welcomed 11 new members. We saw increased threats to access to women's healthcare and we vowed to carry on. We saw the election of people opposed to women's right to chose, and still vowed to carry on.

We questioned whether our membership criteria should be changed, and had the most spirited exchange of ideas we've ever enjoyed. The majority of our members wanted to keep the membership at \$1,000 per year with two people able to share one membership, but the discussion whether to stay there or to create a way for women to join at a lower contribution gave everyone different perspectives to think about.



This year we are refining our grant process to make it easier for applicants while still maintaining quality of the evaluation process and accountability that our dollars are being used as we intend them to be used. This refinement will require a change to the timing of the grant cycle defined in our by-laws so stay tuned for news on that.

Hestia's very purpose is to have a positive impact in our community, but we need leaders within the organization to make that happen. I encourage any one of you who would be willing to play a more active role in the management of Hestia to join the Executive Committee. Don't think that being out of the area part of the year prevents the ability to participate—it doesn't. Several of our officers are stepping down after years of service and we need some new members to pick up these responsibilities. It's a very enjoyable way to be more involved and work with some fabulous women!

— Denise Simon, Chair

News from the Grants Chair ...

Since our inception in 2005, Hestia Women's Giving Circle has granted almost \$350,000 to improving the well being of women and girls in Charlevoix and Emmet counties. This is a history you should be proud of, and one we are working hard to improve upon.

After much deliberation about how to simplify our granting process while maintaining our high standards, the Executive Committee decided it was time for a change. We are moving to a simpler, one-page application (available at www.c3f.org under the Hestia page in the Grants and Scholarships section) and a May granting cycle. Our Grant Committee, which all members are welcome to join, will review each applicant carefully to ensure that we are meeting our fiscal and ethical responsibilities to the Circle.

By moving our grant cycle to May (from February), we hope that we increase both the number of members who can participate on the committee, as well as attract more and varied applicants. Our decisions about the grants will be relayed to the applicants by late May, and the checks given out in June, at our annual meeting. We hope that this change makes it easier for organizations to budget for their grants.

We will be contacting the local schools and service agencies, as well as our previous grantees, to let them know about the change in our policy. If you hear of any interesting project that needs funding, be sure to recommend that they contact us at info@hestiacircle.org or go to the www.C3f.org website to download an application.

Being on the Grant Committee is a fascinating experience, and gives us a unique window into the needs of women and girls in our community. All members are encouraged to participate—we all bring different backgrounds and skills to the table. The unique combination of women in Hestia is why we are truly making a difference in the lives of women and girls in our area.

If you are interested in serving on the Grant Committee or would like more information, please contact Mary Jean Meyerson directly at maryjeanmeyerson@gmail.com or by phone 231-838-6859.

— Mary Jean Meyerson, Grant Committee Chair

... and an update from the Membership Chair

Greetings to all Hestia members and potential Hestia members. As membership chair, I would like to welcome and thank our newest members, *Susan Clarke, Carrie Corbin, Cynthia Donahey, Melissa Georges, Emily Hughes, Sheridan Jones, Mary Parker, Kimberly Rowland, Carol Smelt, Donna Stine and Sherri Vazales*, who joined Hestia in 2016 and 2017.



Some of the 2016 Hestia grant recipients

A huge thank you also to all renewing members. We appreciate your choice to continue to support Hestia. With your donations we have helped so many women and girls to live healthy, productive, fulfilling lives in the past 10 years.

As a member of Hestia you have the opportunity to contribute more than just dollars, although if that is what you choose, we certainly respect that. However, we do encourage you to also attend our annual meeting/grant giving reception/party in June. It is a great chance to meet other Hestians and to meet the grant recipients and see the joy on their faces as they accept their

awards. It is also a moment to learn more about the organizations we support and how they support our mission.

If you want to be more involved, then please attend our Executive Committee (EC) meetings (all members are invited to participate in these quarterly meetings) and possibly even consider joining the EC or the Grant Committee so that you can contribute your special skills to support Hestia's mission and learn much about our community while doing so.

Just a note to clarify our relationship with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCCF). Hestia is a donor-advised fund within the foundation making all donations tax deductible. CCCC reports to us the names and amounts of Hestia donations received. If you have any questions about your membership status or donation history, please contact membership chair, Julie Burgess at jclaire321@hotmail.com or 231-357-2928 rather than calling CCCC directly.

— Julie Burgess, Membership Chair



Hestia members Julie Burgess, Melissa Keiswetter and Gretchen Olsen at the 2016 annual meeting.

3:36AM on Saturday, January 21, 2017. The bus full of women and men from northern Michigan jostles me out of a weak version of sleep. In the hazy fog I see another bus lumber by. What is that on the passengers' dozing heads? Pink hats. They are going to the March along with the only other vehicles on the road this early morning. Every rest station has lines snaking out of each bathroom (men and women's both). Some of the restaurants have run out of food and yet everyone is groggily smiling and friendly.

We are headed to the Women's March in Washington DC to stand for the basic human rights that are due to all people throughout the world. Stand we did. For six hours the crowd could not move forward or back due to the unexpectedly high numbers of people that turned out in "solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families—recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country" (mission statement of the March). I stood with my mom, aunts, and friends from across the U.S. By 2PM we did march down Independence Avenue to the Washington Monument and finally to the White House.

It was the first time since October 2001, when I visited the site where the twin towers had



Hestia member Emily Hughes and her mom, Carol Recker-Hughes of Fayetteville, NY, at the recent Women's March in Washington, DC.

Women's March: Standing up for our rights, our safety, our health and our families



stood, that I felt such a somber uniting force in our nation. Chanting marchers slowed and quietly laid our banners along the gates of the White House in honor of what took place on January 21, 2017. The march was supposed to be over there, but we kept marching through the streets. No cars tried to block our way. We will continue marching in our homes and communities, just as our foremothers and forefathers did, for the inalienable rights we were given by being born in a free world. There are many ways that we can continue to march. I am happy to share ways I know with anyone interested and learn from you, too: emhughes25@gmail.com | 315-427-1167 | or stop by for a cup of coffee 7407 S State Road, Harbor Springs.

Your fellow Hestian, Emily Hughes

Thank you Stacey Burns, Hestia Hero!

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As one EES program participant said of her experience, "The assistance from Stacey and the WRCNM has helped me get my college career moving and being a single mother that makes a world of difference." Another program participant said, "I want to show my kids you can do anything if you work hard and really try your best. I'm going into the criminal justice field to one day become a probation officer."

Stacey's work was also recognized by the Women's Independence Scholarship Program (WISP) which is a national non-profit organization working to enhance efforts to end domestic violence by offering scholarships to survivors of intimate partner abuse. They recently made a donation in honor of the WRCNM to an organization called A Window Between Worlds. The donation was made to express their appreciation and gratitude for support provided to survivors of domestic abuse through the WRCNM's Educational and Employment Services program.

Stacey works with North Central staff to host an annual Non-Traditional Career Day. The December event was attended by 65 young women—9th and 10th graders—from 13 northern Michigan schools. The event offered these young women inspiration for the future and awareness of non-traditional careers areas. This awareness is crucial in finding a career path that leads to in-demand, high-skill and high-wage employment.

— Jan Mancinelli, Vice Chair

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is named for the Greek goddess Hestia, who expresses her love and concern for others through thoughtful acts.



Details about Hestia's 2017 Reception and Annual Meeting coming soon!

Check us out on Facebook!

Recycle this newsletter ... share it with a friend and/or potential grant applicant!

Interested in expanding your involvement? There are many ways to participate in Hestia, including serving on the Grant and Executive committees. Contact any EC member for more information!



Petoskey High School debate team veterans gathered this summer to celebrate their recognition on a road sign at the southern entry to the city of Petoskey as four-time consecutive Tier 1 state champions. Included in the photo (from left) are Paige Petrowski, Declan Akins, Grace Marshall and Alex Esterline; missing is Megan Keller. Hestia is a proud supporter of grants that fund scholarships for some debate team members.

Hestia Membership as of February 2017

Founding members in italic

New members in blue

*Cameron Brunet-Koch**Sally Bund*Julie Claire Burgess*
 Sally Cannon*Christine Carpenter***Susan Clarke***
*Sarah Cohen****Carrie Corbin***Betty Davis***Cynthia Donahey***
 Lulie Eide*Carol Ellstein*Margie Fitzsimons***Melissa Georges***
 Julie Greenwalt*Jane Harris*Clare Heidtke*Miriam Hollar*
Emily Hughes*Pat Jeffs***Sheridan Jones***Cathy Kalahar*
 Melissa Keiswetter*Nancy Koehler**Martha Lancaster**
 Claudia Lutosky*Jan Mancinelli*Barbara May*
 Mary Jean Meyerson*Val Meyerson*Jane Mooradian*
 Trish Murray*Diane Neal*Carin Nielsen**sujo Offield**
 Gretchen Olsen***Mary Parker***Barbara Perreault*Mary Reilly*
 Kay Root*Kimberly Rowland**Denise Simon****Carol Smelt***
 Sara Smith***Donna Stine***MaryLou Tanton*Shelby Tauber*
*Maureen Trerice****Sherri Vazales***Jill Whelan*
 Gail Willens***Janice Wittich***Trish Woolcott

Executive Committee: Denise Simon, Chair • Jan Mancinelli, Vice Chair

•Gretchen Olsen, Treasurer • Nancy Koehler, Secretary

• Mary Jean Meyerson, Grant Committee Chair •

Julie Burgess, Membership Chair • Christine Carpenter, Past Chair •

Martha Lancaster, Sara Smith, Diane Neal, Barbara Perreault, Members at Large