Frequently Asked Questions

2019

- **What does Women of Impact do?**
  - Women of Impact Boone County is a group of women who share a common desire to give back to our local community. Our collective impact is greater than each of our single efforts, with a goal to grant $10,000 every quarter to one charity that serves Boone County. The original group to use this model for a women’s giving circle was in Jackson, Michigan in 2006. Groups now exist in communities throughout the United States and Canada.

- **Why should I join?**
  - There are many benefits to joining Women of Impact. First, we compound our impact across the membership when we jointly contribute to one organization each quarter. A large impact comes from each one hour meeting. Second, you will learn in greater detail the needs of your community by having both the opportunity to advocate for a nonprofit that you support and also by hearing the presentations made throughout the year (12 total presentations each year). Additionally, you will be guided in your charitable giving, receive training resources from the Community Foundation of Boone County, build a stronger network of women and be the driving factor for change in our community. The larger the group becomes, the more money will be donated to deserving agencies, projects and organizations.

- **How do I become a member?**
  - Make a commitment to support Women of Impact Boone County plus a total of four (4) Boone County charities per year by completing a membership commitment form and making the annual endowment contribution.

- **What is the annual financial commitment?**
  - For general members - $500 total annual commitment: $100 contribution to the Women’s Fund Endowment and $400 total to Boone County charities paid quarterly in $100 increments.
  - For shared general member - $250 total annual commitment: $50 contribution to the Women’s Fund Endowment and $200 total to Boone County charities paid quarterly in $50 increments. Shared members jointly pay $500 annual but only receive one (1) vote at meetings.
  - For associate members (limited to age 30 and under) sponsored by a general member - $100 total annual commitment: $20 contribution to the Women’s Fund Endowment and $80 total to Boone County charities paid quarterly in $20 increments.

- **Is my annual contribution tax deductible?**
  - Yes, your contribution is fully tax deductible.

- **What happens if I join mid-year?**
  - You commit to making the full amount Endowment Fund contribution based on your membership type and you must donate to each charity selected at the meetings that occur on and after the date you join.

**DATES:** March 6 • June 5 • September 10 • November 20

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. social gathering, 6-7 p.m. meeting

**IMPORTANT:** Be prepared to nominate, vote and donate.
- May I pay my financial commitment all at once by writing a check to the Community Foundation of Boone County Women of Impact?
  - Yes, you may make your full contribution at the beginning of the calendar year by check or online.

- May I attend a meeting as a guest before I join?
  - Yes, you may attend as a guest, but you may not nominate a charity to be chosen, nor may you vote.

- What happens during the social time?
  - We network, nominate organizations and prepare for the opportunity to be asked to present. We socialize and continue to build the strong sense of community that makes Boone County a better place to live.

- What happens at the meetings?
  - Members nominate organizations to be considered. Three charities are randomly chosen at each meeting to make a presentation. Each speaker who was indicated on the nomination drawn has five minutes to advocate for the charity’s cause followed by five minutes to answer questions from the group. Then all women vote. Votes are counted, and the charity obtaining the most votes receives our quarterly grant.

- What organizations are eligible to receive a Women of Impact grant?
  - Any 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves Boone County. If the organization does not have an office in Boone County, but has a program with direct services to Boone County that would be where the funds are used, it is eligible. Organizations are vetted through CFBC’s annual compilation of nonprofits serving Boone County as well as reputable sites such as GuideStar and Charity Navigator. Nonprofit organizations affiliated with religious organizations are also eligible as long as their services address a societal need and are not restricted based upon religious affiliation. A charity that is awarded a grant may not be nominated for the next 7 meetings (2 years).

- How are the Women of Impact grants managed?
  - CFBC and the grantee will enter into a Grant Agreement. The grantee will be expected to provide a simple impact report on outcomes of grant funds within a time period most applicable for funded program or initiative, but no more than twelve (12) months after executed Grant Agreement. The organization that won the previous year in that quarter will be provided a few minutes during the meeting to thank the members and provide information about how the grant will be used.

- What happens if I don’t like the charity that is chosen?
  - Part of your written commitment on the membership form is to support the charity chosen by the majority of women, even if you did not vote for that organization or are not in favor of the program or organization. Your quarterly contribution will still be granted to the chosen charity.

- What happens if I cannot attend the meeting?
  - You may ask another member to act as your proxy to vote for you. You may either entrust them to vote for an organization, or they can be in touch with you during the meeting to determine your selection. Members who do not pay in full at the beginning of the year will be asked to complete a credit card authorization form. The card will be charged automatically each quarter, regardless of whether you are able to attend the meeting.

- How does Women of Impact communicate?
  - Primarily by email. Information and meeting details will also be housed on the Community Foundation of Boone County website and Facebook page. There is also a members-only Facebook group.