



Rainbow Village Better Together Women's Giving Circle

Newsletter 2025



Better Together Events

The Women's Giving Circle hosts quarterly events that provide an opportunity for liked minded women to come together to have fun, learn something new, spread the word about the mission and goals of the giving circle and grow the circle wider! These events may include speakers, food & beverage, networking, games, prizes and usually a little something else to add to the fun!

ABOUT

The Women's Giving Circle was established as a means for women with a passion for philanthropy & volunteerism to connect while increasing awareness about family homelessness and promoting the concept of "giving" of one's time, talent and treasure.

Mission

Through engaged & collective philanthropy, the Rainbow Village Women's Giving Circle seeks to raise funds designated for the Aspire Residential Program and the Thrive Alumni Program and to allocate a portion of those funds towards grants for our residents/alumni.



2025 Events

Social

March 6
August 21

Volunteer

May 7
October 9

Award Ceremony

December 9

Dates subject to change.
Check website for most up to date information.

Message from Rainbow Village CEO, Melanie Conner



I shared this last year, and I feel the need to say it again... I am continuously amazed by the incredible impact a group of united women can have when they come together to "be the change they wish to see in the world." Here are just a few of the highlights from 2024:

We hosted two Better Together events: "Beautifully Balanced or Controlled Chaos" led by Guest Speaker, Stephanie Wolfe, and a Panel Discussion on "The Power of the Pack" with Panelists Shelby Crews, Anika Doucette, and Donnette Sturdivant. We also organized a volunteer engagement event to assemble Mother's Day floral arrangements and write notes of encouragement for 30 amazing moms!

In 2020, the Women's Giving Circle debuted a groundbreaking concept – microgrant awards for which residents and alumni could apply. Throughout the year, the Circle, made up of a mix of caring individuals, faith partners, and community and corporate leaders – raises funds for families in need that are awarded at a Microgrant Award Ceremony. Marking the 5th Annual Microgrant Awards, this year's event was held on December 10 at 12 Stone Sugarloaf – resulting in an award total of \$25,910.32 to benefit 28 households!

The Award Ceremony is my favorite event of the whole year. I get to channel my inner Oprah and give away money to families who not only need it but deeply, deeply appreciate it. What happens here is a blessing to everyone involved, and there is rarely a dry eye in the room. I'm amazed by how this event has grown year after year. We hosted our first event in 2020 via Zoom with an attendance of 15 people. This year, our attendees numbered 100. Over the last five years, through the generosity of our Women's Giving Circle, we have gifted a total of \$102,604.32 to families in need."

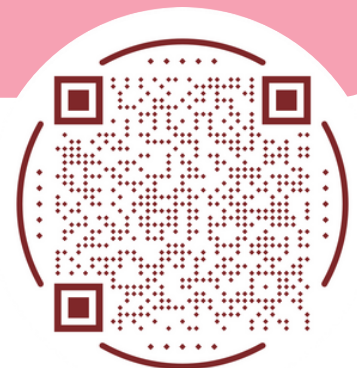
I would like to give a special shoutout to our Presenting Sponsor of all the WGC events this year, Northside Hospital. I'd also like to thank VyStar Credit Union and the Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for being Aspire Sponsors for the Microgrant Ceremony. These organizations have a history of supporting Rainbow Village and their financial support made it possible for us host another amazing celebration.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make 2024 a remarkable year for the Women's Giving Circle through event attendance, inviting guests, spreading the word, sponsoring, and joining the circle. If you're not yet a member, I encourage you to consider joining us in 2025 and be part of the journey to transform the lives of the families we serve. Learn more about the Circle at [www.rainbowvillage.org/women-giving-circle](#) or simply scan the QR code!

Peace and Blessing,

Melanie

“ Be the change you wish to see
in the world. ”
Gandhi





5th Annual Microgrant Award Ceremony

The highest honor of the evening – the Barbara Howard High Achiever Award – recognized Shushana, a single mom of three. After moving from Florida in 2021, she fell on hard times and had nowhere to go. She found Rainbow Village in 2023. She was working full time and set the following goals with her Success Coach: increase her income and credit score, continue her education, obtain permanent housing, and master budgeting. In just a little over a year, she witnessed a 134-point jump in her credit score – making her a member of the 700+ club, received a promotion and significant salary increase at her job, and enrolled in Gwinnett Tech to pursue a degree in Psychology. In October 2024, she purchased a home.

Grants awarded to 28 recipients

- Eliminating or reducing debt
- Assistance with vehicle repairs
- Bonus for achieving a 700+ credit score
- Bonus for residents who have become homeowners
- Paying high school senior fees
- Rental assistance for 2 alums who had emergency medical expenses

\$25,910.32
Awarded



JOIN THE CIRCLE



WGC Members commit to donating a minimum of \$1000 annually to provide individualized Success Coaching for each resident of Rainbow Village and to fund the "Be The Change" Microgrant Program.

2024 Members

Katrina Avey
Sandy Barber
Natalie Batchelor
Carol Berlin
Debbie Bilbro
Rosalie Clough
Susie Collat
Melaine Conner

Shelby Crews
Carol Deloach
Charyl Johnson
Sharon Diggs
Charisse Excell
Robin Holland
Titania Huff
Deborah Latham

Deb LoPresti
Marsha Lorentzen
Jan Martinez
Robin Mauck
Jan McPheely
Marian Miller
Shannon Parris
Mona Reiser

Donnett Sturdivant
Brandy Swanson
Lyndsay Taylor
Lisa Thompson
Jan Trantham
Deon Tucker
Wanda Weager

2024 Sponsors

*Thank
you!*



**NORTHSIDE
HOSPITAL**



For more information about the circle, joining or
sponsoring,

contact: Michelle Alcorn
malcorn@rainbowvillage.org

Scan the QR Code

<https://rainbowvillage.org/womens-giving-circle/>

