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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Foundation to Advance Equity for Region's Young Women, and Girls, Increase Opportunities via Five Grants Totaling \$75,000

January 9, 2025 (Fairfax, VA)- The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's [Business Women's Giving Circle](#) announced five grants to organizations serving the region's young women and girls in STEM, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Mentorship Programs. To date, BWGC has awarded more than \$595,000 in grants that have impacted the lives of over 3,600 young people.

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia launched its Business Women's Giving Circle in 2014, the first group in the region composed of women looking to empower girls and women of all ages through philanthropy in the Northern Virginia region.

"The Business Women's Giving Circle begins our second decade of collective philanthropy and community engagement. This year, BWGC awarded \$75,000 in grants, bringing our total contributions to over \$595,000 in support of impactful nonprofit organizations focusing on girls and young women. These grants enable nonprofits to expand their programs in reach and content with the goals of building confidence, creating connections, and increasing knowledge of career opportunities. Our members represent diverse professions and various stages of careers, and they join for a range of meaningful reasons. These include pooling resources to amplify community impact, networking with other accomplished and interesting women, and sharing knowledge to inspire and empower the next generation to pursue their ambitions," said Sue Fajer, incoming Chair, Business Women's Giving Circle.

The following organizations received 2024 grants for the 2025 calendar year:

[Sustainability Matters: Ecologigals](#) (\$20,000) Ecologigals is a girls-focused program engaging 60 girls in grades 9-12 within Fairfax County Public Schools (with outreach targeted to girls and young women of color living in low-income homes) in ecology/environmental science fieldwork at their 1-66 landfill Making Trash Bloom site. The Grants Committee was impressed with their clear topical focus, the opportunity for girls to engage with the innovative Making Trash Bloom program, their mentorship network, and BWGC member engagement opportunities

[Boolean Girl: Boolean Girl Clubhouse](#) (\$10,000) Boolean Girl's Clubhouse teaches Northern Virginia-based 3rd to 8th-grade girls coding and engineering in a supportive and fun environment. The younger girls engage with graduates from the program who serve as instructors and assistants. The Clubhouse meets 14 times during the school year for 3-hour sessions. It is hosted in partnership with Marymount University at their Arlington location. The Grants Committee was impressed with the focus on peer and mentor support and the coding/engineering projects.

Year Up United (\$20,000) [Talent for Tomorrow Alliance](#), Serving All of Northern Virginia funds STEM opportunities for 140 women in Northern Virginia to provide technical skills training, industry-specific certifications, internships, and wraparound support to prepare women for in-demand jobs. The committee was impressed with the wrap-around services from high school through career progression, utilizing the strengths of each Alliance organization to support girls and young women through their journey. Besides Year Up United, the Talent for Tomorrow Alliance includes Genesys Works, New Futures, Per Scholas, and Spark the Journey,

[Space of Her Own \(\\$10,000\)](#) Transforming spaces and transforming lives, SOHO empowers remarkable girls from underserved communities through one-to-one mentoring, art, STEM, and life skills development. The committee was impressed with the creative and unique projects that transform spaces, give hands-on experience with STEM fields, and build positive bonds with trusted and committed mentors.

[Pink Space Theory \(\\$15,000\) G.R.E.A.T Math Minds](#) offers a three-year math enrichment program for elementary school girls to enhance 21st-century competencies, cultivating mastery in advanced math, coding, design thinking, and engineering. The committee was impressed with the program's long-term initiative that builds confidence in trying something new, exploring ideas, and solving real-world challenges.

The Business Women's Giving Circle will celebrate these 2024 grantees on February 5, 2025, at our Annual Grantee Celebration.

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About Business Women's Giving Circle (BWGC)

The mission of the Business Women's Giving Circle is to invest in innovative programs that empower girls and young women in Northern Virginia, connect meaningfully with members and grantees, and inspire others to join the power of collective philanthropy. Through this mission, BWGC supports nonprofit organizations and schools that provide STEM programs to girls and young women, preschool through college age, in Northern Virginia, with an emphasis on innovative program components such as entrepreneurship, leadership, and mentorship. For more information about BWGC please visit: www.cfnova.org/bwgc or www.bwgcnova.org. Please follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), .

About the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Founded in 1978, the Community Foundation has been the premier charitable partner trusted by thousands of generous Northern Virginians for decades. Our mission is to advance equity through philanthropy and community leadership. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation's vision is to build a community that works for everyone. Our Community Foundation serves the entire region, including Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park. For more information, please visit us at www.cfnova.org, or follow up on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).