



# Newsletter

## Philanthropic Empowerment Among Rural Lowcountry Sisters

February 2014

### Message from the Chair



Dear PEARLS Sisters,

The PEARLS Giving Circle is growing, active, and strong. With the endowment steadily increasing, we now have over \$123,000.00 in our endowment fund and are again able to award \$5,000 to Hampton County grant projects this spring to support women's health. Our current membership is 73 members, and many of these women are taking active roles in PEARLS opportunities to make a difference. Some sisters serve on the board, others on the PEARLS' Girls Task Force or as an "Auntie" to mentor a young girl, and still others on one of the PEARLS' subcommittees, such as the grants or annual meeting committees. All PEARLS support everything this group does through their annual giving.

After successfully meeting the board members' 2013 challenge to reach a membership of 70, we now focus on our next goal - the 2014 Annual Meeting. This committee is already working hard to make this day a fun time for our sisters. This event is a time to reconnect and increase your awareness of all that PEARLS is doing to achieve its mission to connect women who care with causes that matter. It also is a time to expand our vision to other women who may not be a PEARL yet, but who we know love this county and already willingly give to it through their constant service. We hope to have a record number of sisters and invited guests at this year's meeting.

With our mission and these goals before us, they inspire us to grow and to make an even greater impact each year as we work together. I am proud to be a part of the legacy this group is building. From the work being done by our grant recipients to our partnership with Columbia College to mentor a group of young girls from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through high school, PEARLS is a positive influence in the lives around us. Let me encourage all our members to think of other women who would enjoy the philanthropic work we do. As July 1 marks the start of a new PEARLS' year, please do not hesitate to recruit these ladies to join our circle. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, April 27, and plan to invite a friend so she can learn how meaningful it is to be a part of this group and can witness the power of philanthropy.

*Rhonda Willis* – Chair, PEARLS of Hampton County

## Save the Date for our Annual Meeting



### A 'Round the World' Tea

Sunday, April 27, 2014

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Open Arms Fellowship

*Print invitation to follow*

*Cost to attend \$7.00*

### Recipes Needed

We are creating a PEARLS of Hampton County cookbook to be distributed at our upcoming Annual Meeting and need more recipes to fill it up!

Please jot down your favorite recipe (don't forget your name) and return it in the postage paid envelope so that it may be included.

### Welcome New and Returning Members

A big welcome to all of our new members and those PEARLS who were gone for a bit, but are now back and as committed as ever. Thank you!

#### New Members:

Debbie Brown	Lenaco Annette Mole
Dr. Raedell Brown	Liz Orr
Mayor Francenia Ellis	Dana Pierson
Martha Ann Gooding	Fran Sauls
Libby Husky	Maude Saunders
Ellen Maner	Latisha Scotland
Deborah Martin	Charisse Smalls
Deborah McTeer	Judith Speights
Georgeanne Mintner	Ann Womble

#### Returning Members:

Hattie Askew	Vivian Ellis
Lisa Ball	Elease Gant
Brenda Batten	Margaret Greene
Egeria Bostick	Maggie Murdaugh
Marcella Brown	Vonda Priester
Sylvia Brunson	Angela Strother

## 2014 Grant Program

The grantmaking focus of PEARLS of Hampton County is strengthening families and individuals in the areas of arts and culture, community development, education, the environment, health, and human services. With this in mind, the advisory committee establishes the criteria for each cycle of funding for grantseeking nonprofit organizations.

The grantmaking focus for 2014 as determined by the membership is Women's Health. The application process is currently open and will close on March 7. Grant awards will be announced at the PEARLS Annual Meeting on April 27.

## PEARLS Girls News and Events

There were 11 PEARLS Girls and guardians present at the meeting on January 13. PEARLS member, Lin Laffitte was present and spoke to the girls about the proper way to greet someone. The students from Columbia College was also present and did an interactive program with the girls that highlighted the importance of good choices.



*(Lin with a PEARLS Girls member, having fun while highlighting the importance of looking people in the eye.)*



The field trip to Columbia College was held on January 25 and 11 PEARLS Girls attended. They were able to tour the campus, visit the dorms and also attend the EDventure Children's Museum. The President of the College made a point to stop by and greet the girls.

"It was such an honor to meet the PEARLS Girls and their families when they visited Columbia College," said President Beth Dinndorf. "Their future is so bright and our students are thrilled to work with these girls who are preparing to be leaders in their school and community."

## **PEARLS Member Dues**

Just an FYI - our membership year is July 1 through June 30. The minimum contribution for membership is \$100 per year. We will begin sending member updates with renewal letters in late May/early June.

If you have just become a member in 2014 - thank you! Unfortunately, we cannot pro-rate member dues, but if it helps to push your annual payment back a bit until fall, please feel free to do so. You will still be considered a full member of PEARLS!

## **2013 - 2014 Advisory Board**

Rhonda Willis, Chair  
Gwen Bampffield  
Ethel Denmark  
Sally Hiers  
Jackie Hopkins  
Jill Knight  
Peggy Parker  
Lizzie Young

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