



Empowering Community Leaders Network, Inc.

ECLN's quarterly newsletter

From the desk of the ECLN President - Phyllis York



It is incredibly exciting and a great pleasure to share with you ECLN's inaugural newsletter as we celebrate our fifth year anniversary. It was a challenge for our publisher to condense the articles for the newsletter format because our organization has accomplished much. Our signature Mentoring Program for Middle School girls, Sisters Wholesome Aspiring toward Greatness has been tremendously successful. Of special note, this newsletter and subsequent publications will feature a different S.W.A.G. Member and their recent accomplishments or achievements. Thank you for your steadfast support!

In this issue:

- Welcome from our ECLN President
- S.W.A.G. Abroad
- S.W.A.G. Activities
- S.W.A.G. Volunteers
- S.W.A.G. "SHINE"

ECLN Inc. Fundraising during COVID-19

As nonprofits throughout the world respond to COVID-19, ECLN, Inc. continues to adapt to the demands of this uncertain time with nimble flexibility and innovative programming.

ECLN designated May 5th, #GivingTuesdayNow, to be responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas most nonprofits sought funds for specific programming, the ECLN Board of Directors authorized fundraising efforts that supported our most important stakeholders, our S.W.A.G. girls and their families. On Giving Tuesday, ECLN raised over \$3,000 for the Hope Fund, a fund specifically designed to support S.W.A.G. girls and their families who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. The majority of funds were directly raised from the ECLN Board, a testament to our on-going commitment to S.W.A.G. To learn more about how you can get involved, please visit us at eclninc.org.



"Teamwork makes the dream work...." - John C. Maxwell

S.W.A.G. ABROAD

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Making International Connections

The medical missionary, Dr. Sanders Anderson and her team delivered the dresses to little girls in Haiti, India and Romania last year. For the past two years, S.W.A.G. Members designed and sewed 50 dresses for this purpose. When the families came for medical treatment, the girls were gifted a dress. How cool was that? ECLN formed this partnership with Dr. Anderson five years ago in 2015. For three consecutive years, dresses were given to girls at an orphanage in Mar Rouge, Haiti. The last

two years, the medical team did not go to Haiti due to the political and social unrest in the country. Moving forward, S.W.A.G. Members will change their impact focus to support young girls in the Frederick community.

Making Local Connections

The S.W.A.G planning team has created exciting events in the past and are planning more for the future. Examples include:

- Social Services Crib Crawl
- Glade Valley Food Bank
- Pollinator garden planting in Fountain Rock Nature Center
- Sewing hats and scarves for children in need



Sponsorship opportunities are now available to support 2020 programming. Visit us at eclininc.org/donate to learn more.



S.W.A.G. EMPOWERS

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Stilettoes in STEM: Empowerment Breakfast

On Saturday, November 16th 2019, the S.W.A.G. organization hosted an amazing breakfast completely focused on women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and empowering girls to be more curious and confident about those topics. Members of S.W.A.G., their parents and a friend were all invited to join the fun event at the C. Burr Artz Library. The morning started with a delicious breakfast, sponsored by local grocery stores and

S.W.A.G. members, followed by a panel featuring three women with careers in STEM:

- Ashlee Watts: Data Manager/Protocol Monitor for Emmes
- Shalotta Jones: Design Release Engineer for FCA Fiat Chrysler Automobiles
- Bridget Russell: Quality Engineer for ACell

After the panel, the members broke into small groups to complete a design challenge. The groups were presented a challenge to design a catapult to launch mini marshmallows! Each group was given three tries for hitting the target and awards were given in the following categories:

- The Accurate launch: whose catapult was closest to hitting the target on the ground.
- The Long launch: whose catapult could launch a marshmallow the farthest.
- Most Economic design: whose catapult used the least amount of materials.
- Most Creative design: winner selected by all attendees.

Fun was had by all while learning how easy it is to design something from scratch when you work through a design process!

“...everyone learned just how easy it was to design something from scratch when you work through a design process.”

*-Bridget Russell,
Event Coordinator*



S.W.A.G. member emcee for the Stilettoes in STEM breakfast

S.W.A.G. ACTIVITIES

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Finished dinner taught by Master Chef de la Cruz

The Infographic below shares the community-focused work that ECLN, Inc. has initiated during COVID-19.

ECLN, INC.
OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19
 IGNITING AWARENESS, CONFIDENCE & EXCELLENCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS



With your support, we continue to make a difference

-  WE CONTINUE TO ATTEND WEBINARS AND HOLD STRATEGIC MEETINGS ON HOW TO ADAPT CURRENT SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF S.W.A.G. MEMBERS
-  WE CONTINUE TO DISTRIBUTE EMAILS TO S.W.A.G. MEMBERS, DONORS & VOLUNTEERS ALIKE TO SHARE UPDATES AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES
-  WE PROVIDED SPONSORSHIP OF MOTHER-DAUGHTER COOKING CLASS TAUGHT BY A PROFESSIONAL CHEF
-  WE ARE DESIGNING A NEWSLETTER THAT WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ABOUT THE LATEST ECLN, INC. UPDATES

VISIT US TODAY @ ECLNINC.ORG

....”The cooking class was GREAT!!. It was really cool and it a fun mother/ daughter bonding activity”.

-Patricia Burbano
S.W.A.G. parent

A collective “thank you” to our dedicated ECLN, Inc. Board of Directors.

Your commitment to the vision and goals of S.W.A.G is greatly appreciated!

Marielle Avila, Treasurer

James Kelly, Secretary

Tsehai Crockett-Lynn

Leslie Kinkead, Vice Chair

Phil York, Board Chair

Brenda Jones

Phyllis York

Dr. Angela Sims

Ruby Tarenyika

Dr. Lorenzo York

S.W.A.G. VOLUNTEERS

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A message from our Volunteer Coordinator

Wow, S.W.A.G. has completed its 5th year! Despite the year being cut short by the pandemic, we did accomplish many of our goals. Of course the program would not be the success it is without the help of our adult volunteers who give of their time to attend weekly sessions, the skills they offer coming from a variety of backgrounds, the treats they provide the girls, and all the planning that

happens in the background, plus more. The program started with just one volunteer, six were added in the second year, another new addition the third year, five more the fourth year and another five this past year. There are more folks coming onboard as we write this newsletter. As the Volunteer Coordinator, I get to see the enthusiasm all of our volunteers exude and it is exciting. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each and everyone of our volunteers for your contribution, big and small, to S.W.A.G.

“.....I get to see the enthusiasm all of our volunteers exude and it is exciting.”

*-Shireen Schmidt,
Volunteer Coordinator*

As we continue to grow, so do our needs. We're looking for assistance in:

- marketing and graphic designer
- social media platform creator
- videographer and photographer
- grant proposal writer
- S.W.A.G. historian just to name a few!

If you are inspired to get involved with the S.W.A.G. Volunteer Team, then it's time to get more information. To protect our students' well being and provide confidence to their parents, the onboarding involves an application process including a background check, interview and training. Please contact me for more information at skschmidt.74@gmail.com.



S.W.A.G. “SHINE”

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Meet Kaylie Musard

Our S.W.A.G. members excel in many areas. Our very own Kaylie Musard had a successful wrestling career at Walkersville Middle School as the only female on the team! She competed in coed matches facing some of the area’s most experienced wrestlers. Why wrestling you may wonder? Kaylie’s

love for intense challenges and drive to push herself attracted her to the sport.

Kaylie’s hard work and dedication coupled with her committed coaching staff led her to finish the regular season with the regional crown resulting in a first time state competition appearance. Kaylie finished second in the state competition and gained confidence and experience that’s made her love wrestling even more. In reflection, her biggest lesson learned is that “progress is so much better than perfection.” Kaylie plans to keep wrestling and is looking forward to another successful season.

Keep up the hard work. Your S.W.A.G. family will be cheering you on!

“.....progress is so much better than perfection.”

-Kaylie Musard



Kaylie Musard (second from left) during state wrestling awards ceremony

S.W.A.G MOVING FORWARD

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2020-2021 Academic School Year

As we embark on the summer break, the S.W.A.G. planning team is actively planning for next year. Our approach is to build another exciting year, with the added twist of ensuring all activities have a virtual alternative. Some of the activities include, but are not limited to:

- Sewing hats and scarves for children in need
- Virtual and in-person college tours
- Leadership and teambuilding activities
- Self-care learning sessions
- Annual Empowerment Breakfast

“Teamwork makes the dream work...”

-John C. Maxwell



Annual Fundraiser Luncheon

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER AND STAY SAFE

We hope to see you in September!



Sponsorship opportunities are now available to support 2020 programming. Visit us at eclninc.org/donate to learn more.

Let's stay connected! Follow us on



@eclninc