



Dear ACC Members,

As we embark on a new year, we have much to be grateful for and much to look forward to. In 2020, we granted \$220,000 to over 20 agencies that do vital work for children and families in Western Washington. This is remarkable given the constraints we experienced due to the Covid pandemic. Thank you all for your perseverance and creativity to make this happen. *Each* and *every* Circle project is so important to fulfilling our mission.

Our 2021 annual Celebrate the Children (CTC) event will once again be a virtual campaign. It will kick-off on October 20th and run through November 5th. The CTC Committee is working very hard behind the scenes to create an inspiring, user-friendly, virtual experience. This event is absolutely crucial for our grant funding. In 2020, we surpassed our goal of \$100,000. We have set a new goal of \$125,000 for our 2021 Celebrate the Children Virtual Giving Campaign. In order to reach our goal, we will need "all hands on deck". Please submit emails of friends, family, co-workers, etc. who may wish to contribute to our important work. We are once again striving for 100% participation from all ACC members. Last year, the Fr. Mychal Judge Circle reached 100% participation. Let's follow their lead and see how many Circles can achieve this. Every single donation is significant no matter the size.

Our annual Memorial Mass is scheduled for Thursday, November 4th at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Magnolia. We will be celebrating the lives of many dedicated ACC members who have passed away over the last two years. It is always such an honor to gather and remember the women who have paved our way. We do not know whether there will be a luncheon following the mass this year due to the uncertainty of Covid, but we will share information as it unfolds.

I was hopeful to restart in-person board meetings in September, but with the arrival of the Delta variant and the radical increase in state cases, I have decided to continue Zoom board meetings until our January 2022 meeting. I hope many of you can join these meetings, as all are welcome and encouraged.

The all-ACC Labor of Love (LOL) online auction will run from Feb. 4th to Feb. 14th this year. The Labor of Love Committee will be reaching out to the Circles regarding donations in November, so be thinking of broad-appealing items to donate to this fun online auction.

Your determination through the pandemic has been inspiring. It has not been easy and our organization has risen to meet tough challenges with creativity and grace. As the pandemic lingers, we must take care of ourselves and know that we are enough right here and now. We can take great solace in the truth that our grant giving has made the lives of children and families in our communities safer, healthier and more hopeful. I am so honored and grateful to be a part of an organization with such dedicated, compassionate women. The opportunity to bring greater peace and promise to those we serve is a blessing and a privilege.

Much Peace,

Helen Santucci
ACC President
Member of the Katie McKay Circle