



It takes a circle!

Early Fall 2025 Newsletter—Membership Issue

Dear Members, Partners, and Supporters,

With this newsletter, **we're launching a 99 GAL Friend membership campaign**, and we invite you to play a role in it if you can. We're excited and grateful to be at 115 members (the complete list is on our website), and we're demonstrably changing lives for the better in our communities every day.

We've decided not to set a goal for the number of members we hope to achieve by the end of 2025, since **every new member is a success and a cause for celebration!** At the same time, the higher our numbers are, the better, since the need for monetary support among underserved populations in the county is large and ever-increasing, and we already have a substantial list of possibilities for our initiatives in 2026. With your support, we're ready to take action.

We believe that the key is SPREADING THE WORD. We also think the personal touch is essential. We imagine you'd agree that there are MANY women in the county who would wish to join with us, but we're still a relatively new organization, and they may not have heard about us yet.

Can you help? Even 15 minutes of your time could make a difference.

Spreading the Word

If each of you would consider acquainting one woman with us, the results could be amazing.

We recommend that your prospective member visit our website to learn more (and possibly join on the site's donation page). If you wish to share her name and contact information with us (see bottom of the newsletter), we'll send her a personal invitation and a sign-up form. It could be that simple.

Those of us on the Membership Team have each committed to contacting at least 5 potential members, and we've learned that each of us has a different style and approach. **The important thing to remember is that women are almost always pleased to be asked, whether or not they join.** And the "ask" can be easy and friendly; no pressure. Whatever feels right to you.

Another idea is to sponsor a family member, friend, or acquaintance who may not be able to afford the fee in part or whole.

You may want to visit our website as a refresher, especially to see what grants we've awarded to organizations overall, and more specifically in those places where you live. And also to review the donation page.

Further, please keep in mind:

- Some members prefer to give financial support without participating actively in our work. Any involvement beyond a monetary contribution is voluntary.
- Also, because we're a nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status, all contributions are tax-deductible as permissible by law.
- And it would be helpful to us to receive the names of the women you approach, so we don't duplicate requests. Just let us know at info@99galfriends.org or give us a call as below and leave a message.

Our Membership Team



From L to R: *Janis Stoven, Barb Collins, Mary Lukehart, Dawn Witt, Lan Carpenter, Shirley Ward-Mullen.* Present but behind the camera: *Ellen Summerfield*

Janis: Yesterday I had breakfast with a neighbor/friend. I told her about 99 GAL Friends and gave some examples of what we do to support the community. I mentioned that the donation doesn't have to be a single payment, but she can sign up, for example, at \$25 per month for one year (\$300). She seems interested.

Lan: 99 GAL Friends represents to me the beauty of an ever-expanding circle of women gathering together to make a difference in our community. I love the idea that our focus is local and that despite being a relatively new group, we have already been able to help enrich and support people in our county. I am so glad to be a small part of this beautiful circle of women.

Mary: I love to talk up 99 GAL Friends whenever I'm out and about. Often people ask what I'm doing lately, and I tell them! I keep a stack of our brochures in my car and handbag, and they impress people. It's good for folks to take home something concrete. We'll gladly send brochures to you if you wish. Just contact us at info@99galfriends.org or give us a call as below.

Barb: Talking to people about 99 GAL Friends is only part of what feels good. Knowing about the benefits we bring to others in so many areas makes me feel that I'm doing a small part to help others. In these turbulent times, when people feel somewhat helpless, a 99 GAL Friends membership is a way to help in our own county.

Dawn: I've enjoyed hearing firsthand the heartfelt stories on how funds from our yearly memberships assist and inspire members of our local community. I'm proud to spread the word about this amazing organization, and I'm passionate about encouraging new members to help continue the mission of 99 GAL Friends.

Ellen: Please don't let the idea of telling others about us make you nervous. We're offering an opportunity as well as information. If you're a book club member, attend religious services, play pickleball, or take yoga classes, you may want to contact one or more women you know through these connections.

Sample email or note

Dear [Name],

Just a few words to say I'd love for you to consider becoming a 99 GAL Friend of Yamhill County. You can find details in the enclosed [or attached] letter. If you visit our website at 99galfriends.org, you'll see how much we're able to accomplish by joining together. Please let me know if you'd like further information or have questions. If you decide to join, I want to be the first to welcome you!

Thank you and all best wishes for the season,

[Your name]

P.S. Our motto: *If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*

Targeted approach

We're making concerted efforts to broaden our circle in terms of:

- **geographic diversity**—at this time, we have very few members from Newberg or any of the rural areas in the county. If you live outside McMinnville or know any women who do, you may be a perfect geographic ambassador.
- **age**—do you know any women who are younger than yourself? 😊 It would be wonderful if we could recruit women in their 50s, 40s, 30s, or 20s (aka Gen Z, Gen X, and Millennials).
- **ethnic and linguistic diversity**—while an estimated 74% of the population in Yamhill County identifies as white, that still leaves many women we could possibly approach. (If you're bilingual or fluent in Spanish or another language, we could especially use your help.)

Into the future

Our Membership Team is preparing a **campaign to invite women-owned businesses, women's professional associations, and women-focused nonprofits** to become 99 GAL Friend members. Can you think of any such groups we should approach? Kindly let us know!

If you wish to join a team

. . . please don't hesitate! You're welcome to attend one or two meetings as a guest before making a decision. See our website for a current list of Team members.

In particular, we need women who are interested in joining our **Women's Health Team**.

Ann Russell: Our Women's Health Team addresses both the physical and mental health of women in Yamhill County. Examples of grants awarded thus far include:

- a series of classes for prevention of postpartum depression
- cardiovascular health posters and female anatomical models for teaching
- a pilot exercise program for breast cancer survivors
- domestic violence survivor ER kits

We hope to award grants soon to improve women’s dental health. Please consider joining us if you have experience in any aspect of health, medicine, or wellness, or if you have a strong interest in enhancing healthcare for women and girls.

Also, our **Fundraising** and **Programming Teams** are both small and seriously in need of your participation. Have you written grants or organized fundraisers? Have you planned social or educational events large or small?

Just let us know of your interest and we’ll be in touch.

Focus and Organizational Teams

Focus Team Meeting Dates and Times

- Arts and Culture—meets once a month, dates and times vary
- Children, Education, and Schools—meets 4th Friday of the month, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Senior Citizen Welfare—meets last Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Women’s Health—meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Organizational Team Meeting Dates and Times

- Fundraising—meets by arrangement
- Membership—meets last Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Programming—meets by arrangement
- Publicity—meets by arrangement

And finally . . .



**THANK YOU from all of us at 99 GAL Friends of Yamhill County
for your interest and support!**

Please visit the 99 GAL Friends website by scanning the QR Code below.



Join 99 GAL Friends Today!
www.99galfriends.org/join-today

Please visit the Give a Little Foundation website by scanning the QR Code below.



Donate to Give a Little Foundation
www.givealittlefoundation.org/donate-now