



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lu and Sarah Griffin joined Burke Women's fund and realized the membership allows them to stay informed on the issues affecting women in Burke.



Amanda Icard and her daughters, MariBeth Icard and Jennifer Icard-Abernethy, all of Rutherford College, joined the Burke Women's Fund.

Special to The News Herald

As Mother's Day approaches, we often pause to consider how much our mothers mean to us. We think about what wonderful role models our mothers are and how much we cherish our time with them.

Some women in Burke County have found a unique way to celebrate the special relationship between mother and daughter. They have joined the Burke Women's Fund as a mother and daughter team. The Burke Women's Fund, operating under the auspices of the Community Foundation of Burke County, was created in 2009.

Women contribute to a fund that supports Burke County women and children. The members select grant recipients and honor them at an annual banquet.

Mothers and daughters who have joined the BWF together have found the experience to be special. Laurie Miller, of Morganton, joined the BWF along with her daughter Emma in hopes that her daughter would see firsthand how powerful collective giving can be.

"Emma was in high school when we first joined the BWF," Laurie Miller said. "As two females helping other women and their families, I perceived our membership as an opportunity

Collective Giving

Burke mothers, daughters join to help others

for Emma to see how a group of women can help others in our community."

Laurie says that she wanted her daughter to realize at an early age the power of collective giving and the importance of volunteering.

"I remember when we discussed joining BWF together," Laurie said. "We decided Emma's annual contribution would be a quarter a day. Her monetary donation has emphasized the importance of assisting others as well."



Emma not only learned about the importance of collective giving, she also gained a new perspective on her mother.

Emma Miller said

"While BWF has given us events to attend together, more importantly, my appreciation and gratitude for my mom has grown exponentially," Emma said. "The Burke Women's Fund supports various groups in Burke County and learning about these groups makes me so thankful for the daily support I receive from mom."

To many of the mothers and

daughters who have joined BWF, joining as a team has given them something different to share as mother and daughter.

As Caroline Avery of Morganton, who joined with her daughter Margaret, said, "The mother-daughter membership offers us something educational, community-oriented and fun to do together. In lieu of a day of shopping, we can talk about ways to improve life for Margaret's classmates or Caroline's peers.

"We share common concerns and debate best solutions. It is a meaningful partnership for us, but we still enjoy an occasional day of shopping!" Caroline and Margaret also stressed how rewarding it is to be a part of a diverse group of women whose sole purpose is to help other women.

Not only do mothers and daughters stay connected with each other through their joint membership, they are also able to feel connected to the women in Burke County.

Lu Griffin and her daughter Sarah, of Valdese, saw joining the BWF as an opportunity to stay informed about issues facing Burke County women.

"Our mother/daughter membership in the Burke Women's Fund has helped my daughter Sarah stay connected

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Mother and daughter Laurie and Emma Miller joined the Burke Women's Fund and realized the power of collective giving.



Mother and daughter Caroline and Margaret Avery are part of the Burke Women's Fund and experience educational and community-oriented fun.

Giving

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with Burke County as an NCSU undergrad student and continues today as she studies in pharmacy school at Campbell University," Lu said. "We share an interest in many of the issues affecting women and children in Burke County and are appreciative for the foresight and efforts of the founding members of the BWF."

Her daughter Sarah agrees.

"Many of the Burke Women Fund's events have occurred when I've been home on a college break or weekend, and I've been fortunate to attend them and learn firsthand of issues affecting women and children in Burke County," Sarah said.

Amanda Icard and her daughters, MariBeth Icard and Jennifer Icard-Abernethy, all of Rutherford College, joined the BWF as mother and daughters.

"We are proud that through our small monetary gifts and participation in the Burke Women's Fund we have made a difference in the supportive services

offered in our county to empower women and children," the Icards said.

"The BWF allows us to share with others the same well defined goals that we have for each other as a family. It is a wonderful feeling be able to help unlock human potential despite social or economic background," she said.

"The Burke Women's Fund allows us to help build independence, help others overcome obstacles and challenge all women to be successful, happy and healthy. Burke County is a better place because of the Burke Women's Fund."

If any mothers or daughters are interested in becoming members of the Burke Women's Fund, visit the Burke Women's Fund website at www.burkewomen'sfund.com, or visit the Community Foundation of Burke County website at www.cfburkecounty.org and click on the BWF tab.

Or call one of the co-chairs of the BWF membership committee, Laurie Miller 828-433-1416 or Mary Ellen Wiese 828-874-3098.

Nancy Taylor is the executive director of the Community Foundation of Burke County.