

WGC's Our Giving, Our Stories!

An ongoing series of giving profiles designed to amplify the voices of women and girls in our community.

In Honor of Earth Day



Celebrating Women's Giving in Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist Bess Caplan

Chair, Wilde Lake CARES (Community Action and Resources for Environmental Stewardship)

The Women's Giving Circle of Howard County, Maryland is proud to elevate the voices and philanthropy of our members and friends throughout the year.

one

what moves you to give your time, talent and financial resources?

As a Jewish person, I live and breathe "tikun olam," a concept in Judaism, which refers to action intended to repair and improve the world. From a young child I watched my parents and grandparents give their time to organizations that meant a lot to them. And when it was my turn to embody duty to the community, I sat deeply with "tikun olam." This concept drives my efforts to repair and improve the environment everywhere I go.

two

when did you start giving to issues that are important to you?

I began volunteering my time in high school. I was a member of Key Club and National Honor Society which had volunteer requirements. But I also volunteered with the Special Olympics, the Department of Aging and at many community tree plantings. When I studied the "tragedy of the commons" in college, I began to focus my volunteer efforts on the environment. The collective "tragedy" of a destroyed environment pulled at my heartstring and I was hooked.

three

what advice do you have for those interested in giving back?

Many hands make light work. There is always something you can do to give back. Maybe it's time, maybe it's money, maybe it's sharing an idea. Maybe it's just as simple as teaching your kids to pick up their trash instead of throwing it on the ground. Or as simple as sending a heartfelt message to your child's teacher. We can all contribute and we all should contribute. We're in this together.

#WGCOCOS #OURGIVINGOURSTORIES

The Women's Giving Circle is proud to amplify the voices and stories of women and girls in our community.

The WGC is building a community of philanthropists to address the needs of women and girls in Howard County, MD. www.womensgivingcircle.org

"We are excited to have built upon our support of National Black Philanthropy Month to develop "Our Giving, Our Stories" says Robin Stimson, WGC OGOS Chair. "Inspiring philanthropic leadership and increasing giving by amplifying the voices of women and girls are among the goals of this effort and we are committed to advancing this important work in our community."