

# Our Giving, Our Stories!

A series of giving profiles in celebration of Black Philanthropy Month

#WGCBPM2020  
#BPM2020



## Celebrating Black Philanthropy Month 2020

womensgivingcircle.org

### 3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, CATHY JESSIE BELL

Owner/Operator McDonald's Restaurants

The Women's Giving Circle of Howard County, Maryland is proud to elevate the voices and giving of our donors and friends throughout Black Philanthropy Month

one

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

Compassion is my driving force. I truly care about the well-being of people. Hope is essential to survival; tangible outcomes are what keeps hope alive. My daily work affords me the opportunity to interact with people from all walks of life. My philosophy is I shouldn't say "let me know if there is anything I can do to help; If I am able but not willing to deliver."

two

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

Giving is a part of my DNA. At the age of 11, I was in the 6th grade. I became intrigued with some kids in my grandmother's neighborhood. These kids were Foster Children; that were being housed in a strict limited environment. I would take all of my weekly allowance money to buy snacks, and toys to hand to those kids through the fence. These encounters brought a joy to my heart that has never stopped.

three

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

Giving is rewarding. However, once you are identified as a giver, you will receive unlimited requests. My starting point is children and public education. One of my fondest professional philanthropic projects was being a founding member of The Bright Minds Foundation for Howard County Public Schools. One of my fondest gifts of hope was when I spotted a former employee hustling on the corner of a village center. I approached him; I looked him in the eyes and said WHY? He responded, "I am a forklift operator, and I must have a license. Unpaid tickets have caused my license to be suspended. He gave me his full name and the ticket numbers, I went to the county and paid the bills. The rest is history.

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The Women's Giving Circle is proud to continue our support for National Black Philanthropy Month 2020!

The WGC is building a community of philanthropists and creating a permanent legacy to address the needs of women and girls in Howard County, Maryland.

"We are excited to continue our support of National Black Philanthropy Month" said Hina Naseem and Judy Smith, co-Chairs of WGC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. "Informing, involving, inspiring and investing in Black philanthropic leadership and giving are among the goals of this annual celebration and we are committed to advancing this important work in philanthropy, both in our community and across the country."

www.womensgivingcircle.org