

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, CYNTHIA JONES

Professor of Law, The American University Washington College of Law

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?

I am inspired to participate in criminal justice reform because I feel that our system of justice is unfair to poor people and people of color. As a public defender, I saw first-hand how racial disparities and poverty can lead to pretrial detention, longer prison sentences, and wrongful convictions. Later, as the Director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, I was able to implement reforms to fix some of these systemic problems. It is some of the most rewarding work I have ever done.

two

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

In law school I discovered organizations working on criminal justice reform. I am now part of those organizations. I give my time and resources to their mission. I am proud of my work with The Sentencing Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing critical research needed to reform sentencing practices and end mass incarceration. I also support the Civil Rights Corps, a new organization that has successfully challenged unfair and unconstitutional cash bail practices all over the country.

three

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

My advice is to find a cause you care about deeply. It might be something that impacts your community or impacts your loved ones. Once you find your passion, seek organizations that are actively engaged in implementing concrete changes. Being part of the change will keep you motivated and inspired!

#givingcircles #collectivegiving
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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