

# 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, VIVIAN C. (MILLIE) BAILEY

Veteran, US Army; Retiree, Community Activist

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 believe it is important to strive to do something nice for someone every day. I have a special appreciation for people that choose to serve our country. To honor that service, I organize and send care packages to deployed soldiers by writing letters asking for help from friends and elected officials. They have always responded generously both monetarily and in kind. Working together in our small way by sending packages to the troops we hope to improve morale and support those who serve our country.

two

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

My first involvement with giving in any formal way began in the late '60s when my husband and I started an Honor System Lending Fund for students at a Junior High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma where I grew up. From that time on, I've always given my time and money to various causes.

three

I have tried to focus on causes directly in my community. For example, when I learned a school just a half-mile from my house needed help, I realized that I could have a direct impact on children right in my own neighborhood. The school had just been given a computer and needed some software. I told the principal that I would pay for the software. That began my over twenty-year involvement supporting Howard County elementary schools. Not only did I contribute my own resources to the schools, but I also solicited and encouraged my friends to support them as well. I have also made significant contributions to Howard County General Hospital and to Howard Community College.

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

I think we should do all we can to support our community and try always to help people in need. As Jackie Robinson said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

#givingcircles #collectivegiving  
#WGCBPM2020 #BPM2020

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



# Our Giving, Our Stories!

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.

## SPECIAL PROFILE: VIVIAN C. (MILLIE) BAILEY

Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mrs. Bailey graduated as the valedictorian of her class at Booker T. Washington High School. In 1942, at the age of 24, Mrs. Bailey began the ultimate call of service to her country by enlisting in what would become the Women's Army Corps. She was stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama and then Fort Benning, Georgia, where she was the Unit Commander of the Women's Detachment #2. The only time she operated in a non-segregated environment was at the Adjutant General School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant and earned the Women's Army Corps Medal, American Theater Medal, WWII Victory Medal and a Letter of Commendation.

After the war, Mrs. Bailey lived in Chicago where she worked for the Veterans' Administration and then the Social Security Administration (SSA). She transferred to the SSA in Baltimore in 1970 and has been a Howard County resident ever since. When she retired from the SSA in 1975, Mrs. Bailey was a Division Director managing over 1,100 employees. She attended both DePaul University in Chicago and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Highlights of her almost 50 years of volunteer service in Howard County include: 23 years on the Howard County General Hospital Board of Trustees; 26 years on the Howard County Police Department's Citizen's Advisory Council; and governor-appointed positions including a Judicial Nominating Commission for Howard County and the Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission. In her nearly 11 years on the Health Resources Planning Commission, she was involved in approving the first MRIs and CAT scans for Maryland.

Mrs. Bailey has been the recipient of numerous awards and citations, too many to list here. However, she was especially touched to receive a flag flown in her honor during an active-duty refueling mission from the United Arab Emirates on a KC-10 "Extender" to support Operation Inherent Resolve.

Perhaps the two most powerful honors that will keep her legacy of service alive are the renaming of an award given by the Howard County Police Department, presented to her on her 100th birthday, as The Vivian "Millie" Bailey Making a Difference Award and the dedication of the Vivian C. (Millie) Bailey Neighborhood Square at the site of the Howard County Veterans Monument.

At age 102, her primary emphasis is to support our deployed soldiers through her care package program. Mrs. Bailey's first care package was sent during the Vietnam War and they can number several hundred per year. She not only raises the money for these packages, but also personally shops for and packs boxes that are sent.

Two additional core passions include encouraging all she meets to support their local food bank and raising money for in-need elementary schools in Howard County to fund field trips and other initiatives. Over the last 21 years, she has raised an average of \$10,000 per year that has touched countless Howard County children and enriched their educational experience.

When asked the secret of her longevity, Mrs. Bailey suggests that we should do something nice for someone every day. Whether big or small, every contribution makes a difference.

The Women's Giving Circle would like to acknowledge and appreciate the countless ways and the hundreds of lives that Mrs. Bailey has touched and impacted through her philanthropic work over the course of her incredible life.