

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 Independence Day/Spirit of Independence



Celebrating Women's Giving in Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist Liz Henzey

Manager, Columbia Association Art Center

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?

From an early age, I learned by the actions of my parents that helping others was essential to living a meaningful life. My faith also served as a guiding reminder to give back in whatever ways I was capable of at any given time. I've learned through the years that serving others, no matter how small or large, always has some sort of ripple effect. It can inspire us to do more or serve in new ways, and it may inspire others. As I grew up, I saw that giving our time, abilities, and/or financial resources allows us to get out of ourselves and focus on something greater.

two

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

I remember that as a child, I regularly helped my parents pack lunches for the neighborhood soup kitchen. This experience made me aware of the alarming and critical issue of hunger in our community and the world. From those early days of helping my parents, I have always tried to give in some way to food banks, food drives, and pantries. As a youngster, I also remember that my mother regularly helped several special needs individuals in our neighborhood with their grocery shopping. I would ride along with them in the car and accompany them as they shopped. I learned a lot by observing my mother's actions and interactions with our shopping companions. By example, my parents taught me a lot about compassion and treating every person with respect.

three

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

My advice would be to just start and let the experience teach you. Don't let your self-doubt or fear detour you. Don't worry if it is not the most optimal time. Just go for it. Sometimes, giving back can lead to a new opportunity that you didn't even see coming. You may meet new people and learn new things. From my volunteer experiences through the years, I have learned that I love serving as a volunteer crossing guard, a Bingo caller, a driver for those going to doctor appointments. Through these opportunities, I have met so many wonderful people who have inspired and enriched me in more ways than I can say.

#WGCOS #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."