

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
Hispanic Heritage
Month



Celebrating
Women's
Giving in
Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist LUSMERLIN

Multi-Experiential Artist and Chemical Engineer

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?

I am passionate about supporting youth development, art organizations and immigrant organizations. There is no larger joy than witnessing people develop their innate talents and flourish to their best self! Looking back to my youth, there were key figures who, just with their presence, love, and words, helped me shape a joyful life. I want this for everyone, the possibility of building their dreams from the ground up. It pains me to see talented immigrants who cannot quickly rise in their careers because of lack of access to information, job marketplace biases, or language barriers. I wish we had ways to streamline our incoming talent. And obviously art: artists' voices bring changes to society ... we need to support the ideas and creatives that shape history!

two

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

As soon as I arrived in this country! I was waiting for my work authorization to be mailed, and headed straight out to volunteer. I put my project management and reporting skills to the service of AACF in Frederick, the city where I lived at the time, because such work is costly but very important for effective programs and grant procuring. In the process of volunteering, I learned about so many other worthy causes, and gained even more respect for the community.

three

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

Forget about giving back. GIVE FIRST! Your energy and creativity can change someone's life no matter your age. No matter your background. We cannot sit around to receive things from others, to then reciprocate. The world needs proactive change!

#WGCOGOS #OURGIVINGOURSTORIES

Photo Credit: Dr. Ceylon Mitchell

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."

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Celebrating Women's Giving in Howard County



3 Questions With ... Philanthropist Deborah Lattimer

In Honor of Independence Day/Spirit of Independence

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

My background in public health and social work have led me to focus on gun violence prevention efforts in our county, state, and country. Among our peer countries, the U.S. is the only one to experience this epidemic of firearm-related injuries and deaths. Gun violence is the #1 killer of kids in the U.S., which is shameful. We can do better.

two

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

I've been involved with Moms Demand Action since its founding in Maryland, after the Sandy Hook massacre. I've donated money but have also volunteered by serving as a Lead in several roles over the past 11 years.

three

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

I attended a community organizing training several years ago which impressed on me that you can't do hard work as a volunteer unless you're fueled by passion and hope. Find your passion and contribute to an organization that is working to make a difference.

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