

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, MALYNDA MADZEL

Active Community Volunteer

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one

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

Growing up in a working family and community in the Midwest, there were many of us who were barely making ends meet. My parents always did whatever they could—giving small amounts of money to their church, helping with neighborhood projects or offering a hungry person “a plate.” Giving/helping was in their DNA, therefore it was in mine. I have never known any other way.

two

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

As a small business owner, I modeled my behavior on what I saw other successful business owners doing—giving back with expertise and money. It felt good and it was good business. Seeing disparities of income and opportunity in Howard County through my involvement with Leadership, Howard County, the Community Foundation of Howard County and the Women's Giving Circle helped me to see the needs in my community and learn the value of collaborative giving.

three

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

Give your resources, whatever they are, to causes you are passionate about. There are many organizations that need your time, talent and treasure. My current volunteer and financial support are for Success In Style (www.successinstyle.org). I love helping women (and men) who are seeking to better themselves and need an appropriate job interview and work wardrobe and I love clothes. My passion works and I receive far more than I give.

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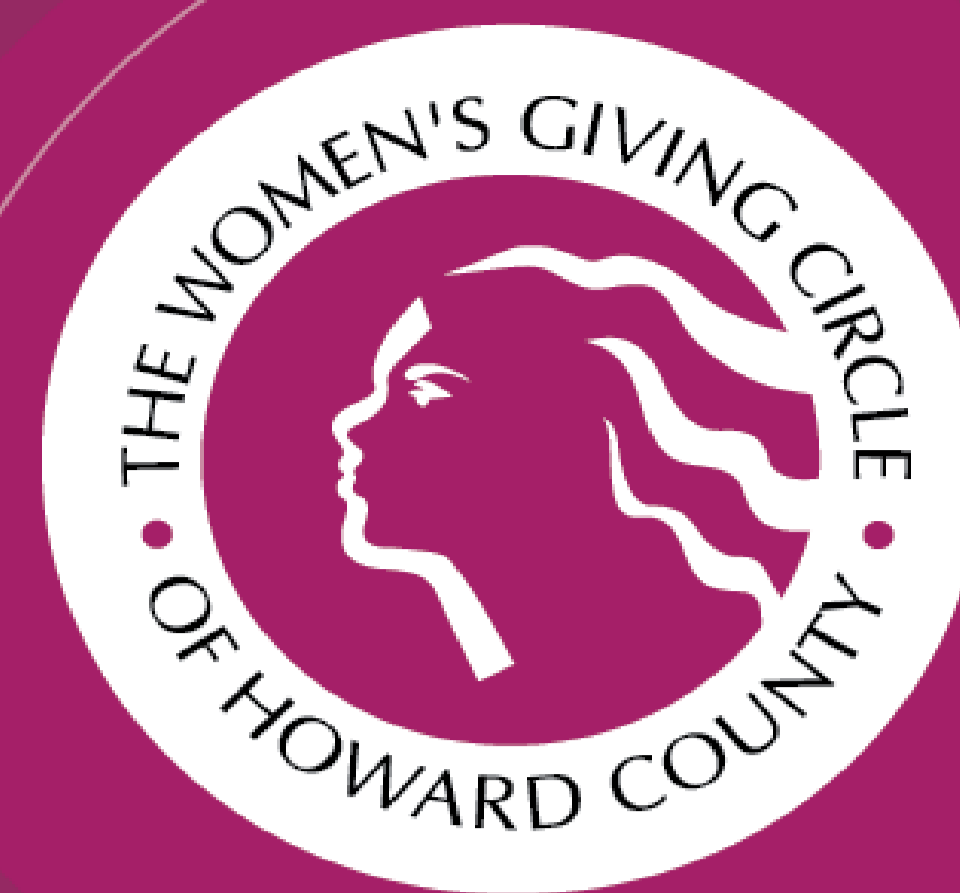
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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, VIVIAN C. (MILLIE) BAILEY

Veteran, US Army; Retiree, Community Activist

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

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. From that time on, I've always given to various causes. When we were traveling in Fiji, I became aware of the impoverished children there and we collected items for them. The items never got to the children. Upon my return, I heard that the school just a half mile from my house needed some help. They had just been given a computer and needed some software. I told the principal that I would pay for the software. That began my involvement with the Running Brook Elementary School. For over twenty years I have contributed from my personal funds and have solicited money from my friends.

two

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

Since 2004 I have sent care packages to deployed troops. I have written letters to friends and our elected officials to help support our troops. They have responded generously. Together, we are helping those who are serving our country. I served on the Board of Trustees of Howard County General Hospital for 22 years and on the Howard County Police Department Citizens Advisory Council for 26 years. Additionally, I have donated significant amounts of money to Howard County General Hospital and to Howard Community College.

three

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."

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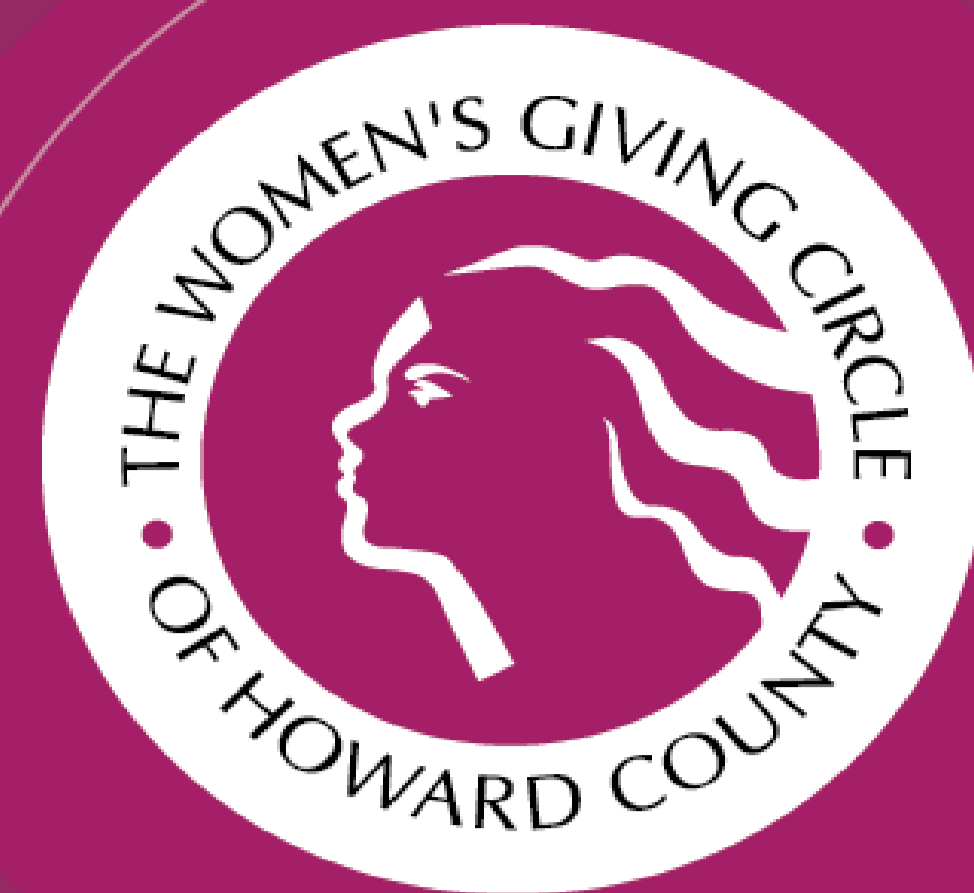
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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, SHERIFAH (SHERI) MUNIS

Founder & Executive Director of Newwave Foundation

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

My parents were first generation college graduates and philanthropists – trail blazers in their communities. They instilled in me the value of an education, and showed me first hand by example how important it is to use what I have to make a difference.

two

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

When my husband and I started Newwave Technologies, we wanted to drive change through technology. As the company grew, I focused on developing a culture of giving and community service. We started small at first with groups of 5 to 35, and now we have hundreds of Newwavers serving across the country in Maryland, Virginia, Iowa, Mississippi and beyond.

three

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

My advice to anyone interested in giving back is – do it!! Every day we wake up is a gift from God. Now more than ever, it should be apparent that the talents, skills, and resources that we've been gifted with are most impactful when serving others. There's a saying that goes "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." This is why I founded the Newwave Foundation to create opportunities for educational equality in the next generation so they have the tools they need to live a successful life.

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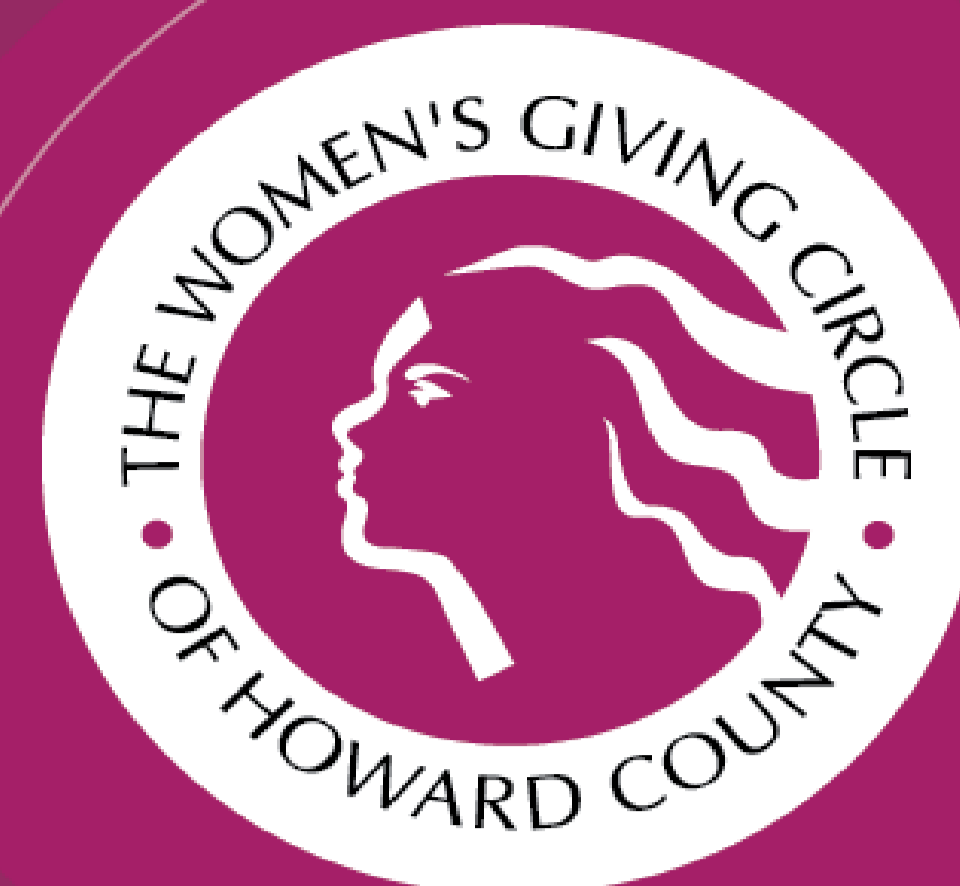
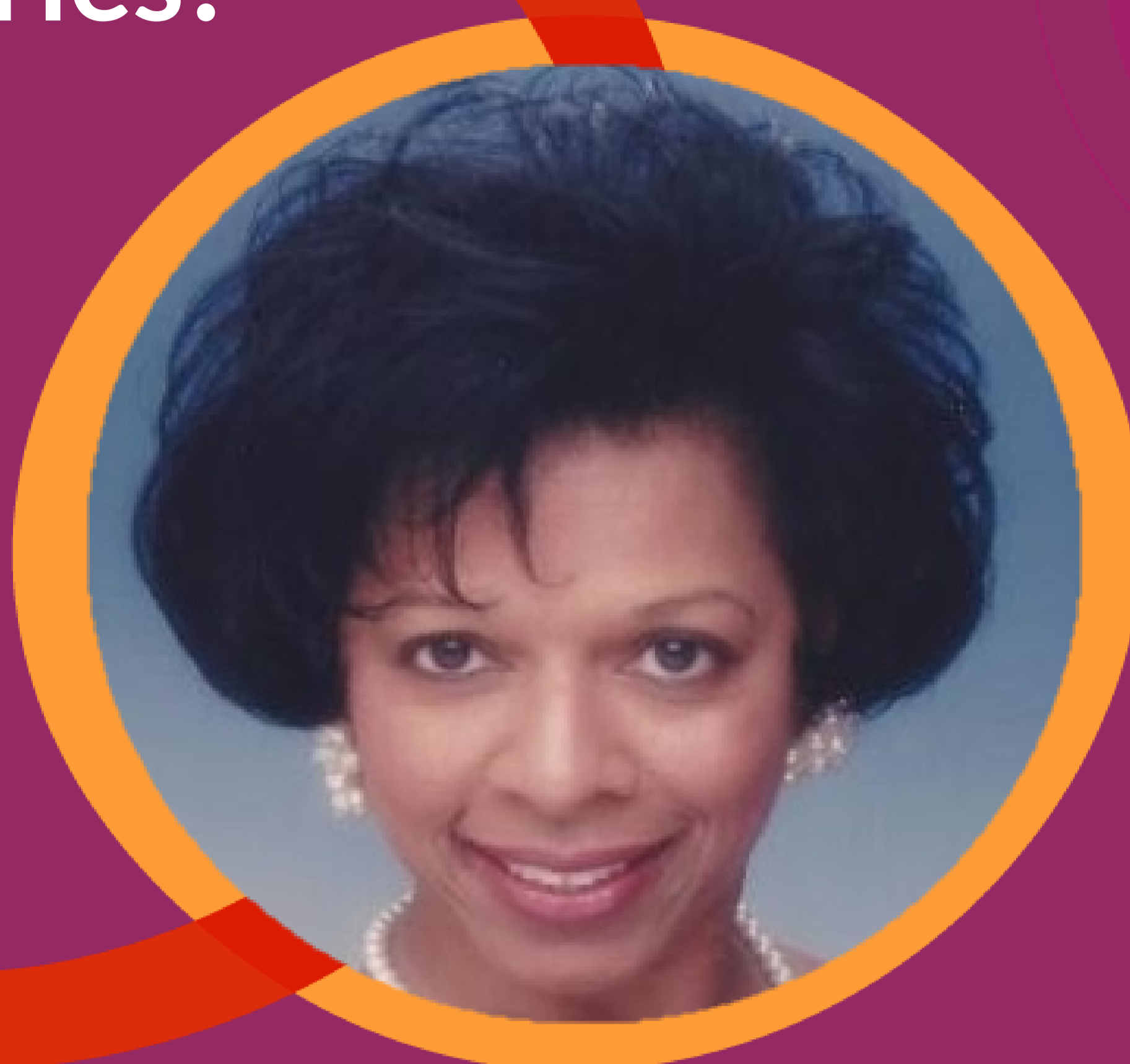
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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, JOAN HASH

Educational Activist

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

I grew up in rural Howard County in a family of 10. My parents were denied a high school education and so I always recognized the blessing of educational opportunities. My parents set the example by their generosity and welcoming spirit. Although they had little, their doors were always open to those in need. There was a special sense of community which helped nurture and inspire me. I honor them by carrying their example forward.

two

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

My educational experience was in all Black institutions, Harriet Tubman High School in Howard County and Morgan State University where I established an endowment. After graduating, I was able to succeed and thrive in my chosen profession. I believe that we multiply our blessings by blessing others. As a mature adult, I know it's never been about me but all about how I reach out to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

three

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

Life should not be about how much money and material things you possess but about making a difference in any way you can to uplift those in need. There is power in using your gifts to create opportunities for others. Embrace this fact and support those causes which inspire you to act. Life is too short but you can find a way to leave your footprint on this earth in meaningful ways.

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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, RN, D.Ph., DR. CARLESSIA HUSSEIN

Retiree, Community Activist

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

Growing up in a low-income community in DC and spending years in health care working to reduce health disparities, I saw the devastating impact of poverty on children in families of color. In Howard County, recent data tells us that Black children are suspended 5.7 times more than Whites and Black boys 10 times that of Whites. The 'Public Health Nurse' in me said I must do more to make a meaningful difference.

two

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

In retirement after 50+ years of public health work, I searched widely and found our local Community Foundation of Howard County. They helped me launch the Hussein Summer Scholarship program whose purpose is to provide enrichment experiences to minority middle school boys who make low grades and who live in income constrained families. This is an important time when males form a sense of self-worth, identify their standing among peers, and select a path forward.

three

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

Everyone must give back: Today's society has huge needs and face major challenges in supporting families and helping the young to grow up healthy. Children in their early years of development need 'The Village' to help raise them. Today's young will be our leaders and caregivers of tomorrow. Cash donations to reputable causes are always essential. Add to that the smile, kind words and human touch that your in-person volunteerism brings. We all need that.

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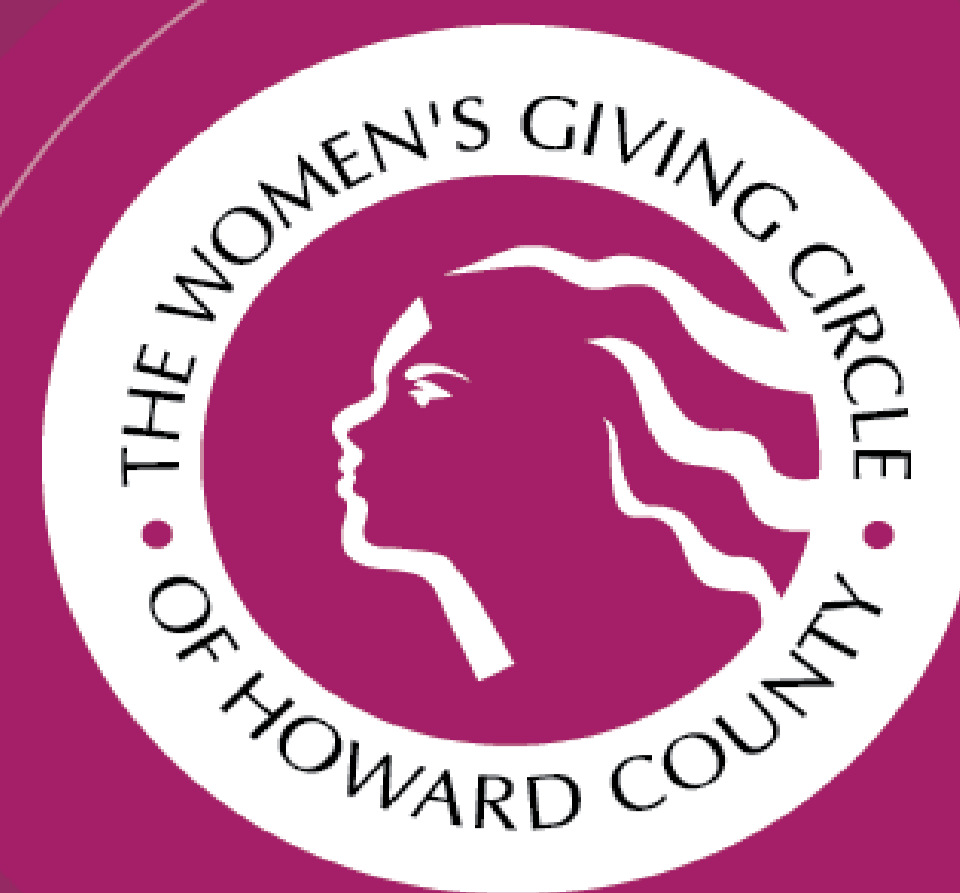
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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, Mavis Ellis

Chair Howard County Board of Education, Educator

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

As one who was raised in the church, I know that I am blessed with time, health, experience and adequate resources. I also know many others are not so fortunate and that I have a responsibility to share my blessings in any way that I can. As an educator for many years, I have found ways to give to my students and their families especially the neediest as they made their way in life and through various school systems.

two

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

As an educator, I was elected President of the International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention, National Education Association Board of Directors, Maryland State Education Board of Directors, and presently serve as the first African American female Chair of the Howard County Board of Education. In these roles I have volunteered thousands of hours advocating for students, their families and educators ensuring those organizations focused on restorative justice, trauma informed instruction and issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

three

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

Find a cause that touches your heart. Then do your homework to determine how you can support it by using your time, talent and treasures. Know your limits, but also know that a consistent, committed advocate can impact decisions and the lives of our community members.

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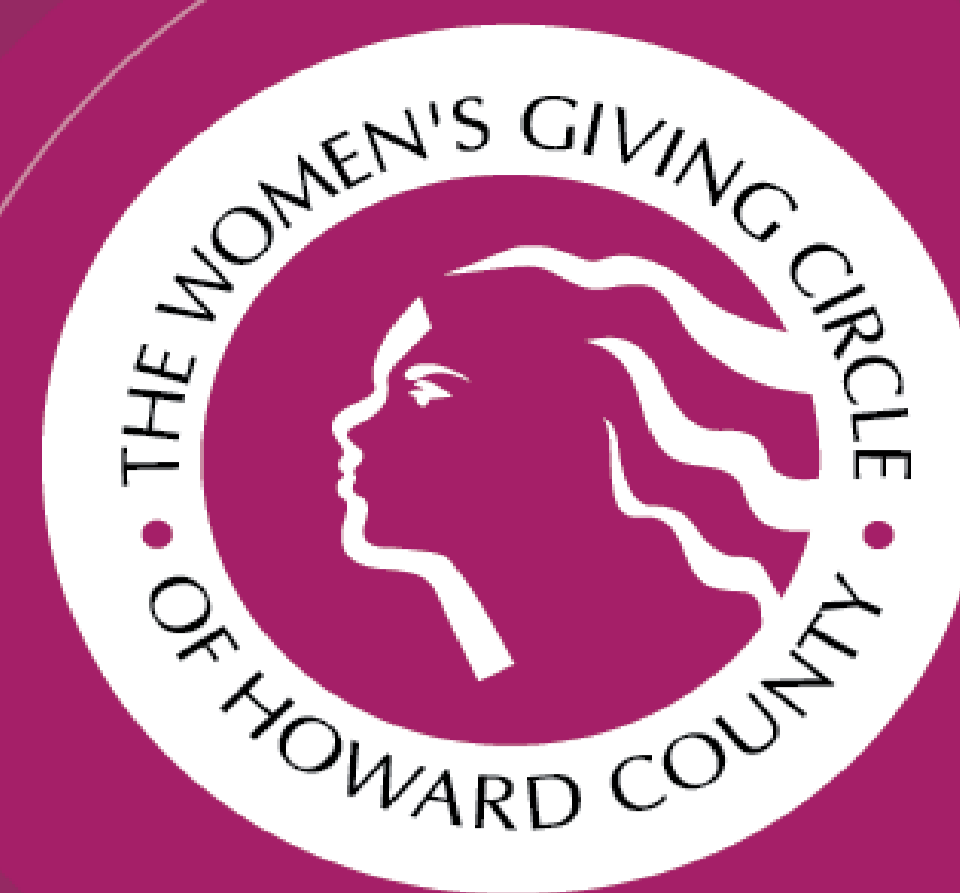
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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, Janet Currie

Senior Vice President and Greater Maryland Market Manager, Bank of America

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

I was raised in a household where thoughtfulness and consideration were non-negotiable. My mother insisted that if we saw something that needed to be done, we should do it, if someone needed our help, we should help them. It's just what you do. Through her words and actions, she taught me that I am my sisters' keeper. I try to model that behavior for my children. Experience is the best teacher.

two

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

I started giving through my church when I was seven years old. Shortly after graduating from Spelman College, I donated regularly. Spelman changed my life and I wanted other young Black women to be able to have that experience too. As my life has evolved and my experiences have widened, so has my giving to local organizations, including Grassroots, the Jack and Jill of America Foundation, The Maryland Food Bank and United Way of Central MD. I am also on the Board of the Horizon Foundation.

three

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

My advice would be to start by giving your time. Giving back is not only about money. Volunteer with an organization whose mission resonates with you. Learn about their needs and their impact. Once you have a good understanding of the effectiveness of the organization, you can decide if you want to also support them financially. Often you will find that you will become a part of their broader fundraising efforts by leveraging your network for their benefit.

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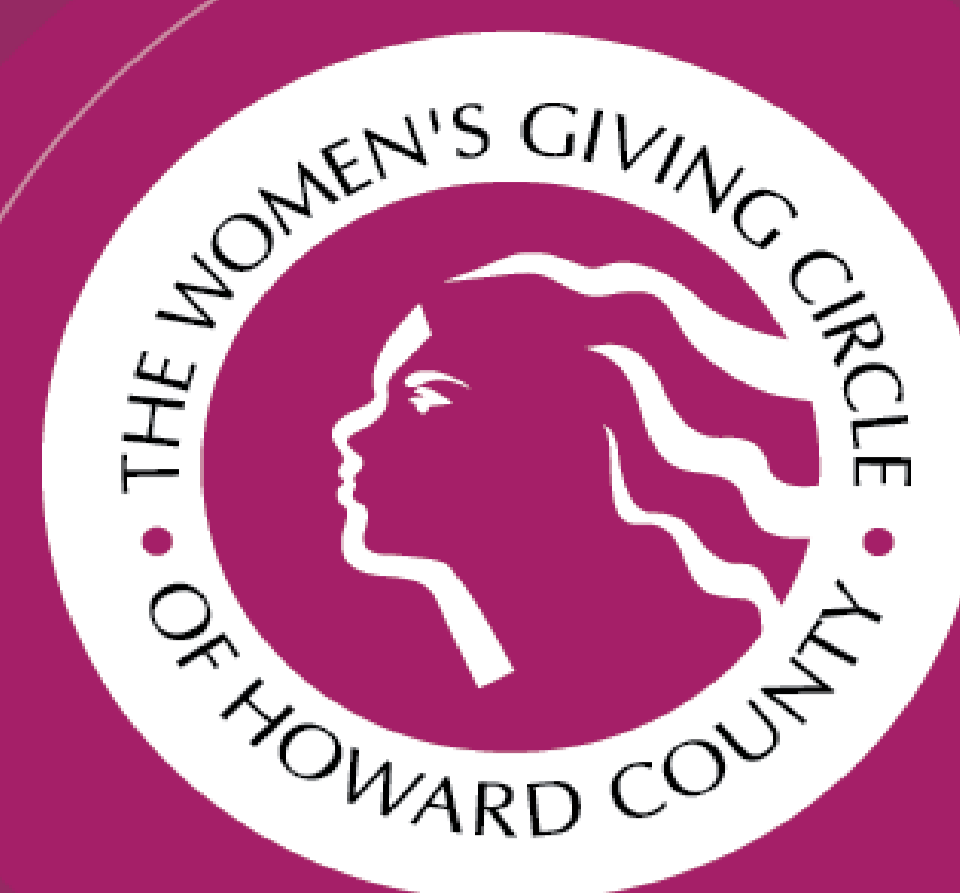
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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, Kimberly N. Prescott

President, Prescott HR, Inc., SPHR, SHRM-SCP

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

Philanthropy includes providing knowledge and exposing people to new possibilities; whether that be financial assistance, education or community development. Sometimes people need to know that someone else has a dream for them in order for them to dream that dream themselves. Knowing that you can have an impact on someone's life, the lives of their children and families is what moves me to give. Honestly, isn't that what life is about?

two

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

My college days are well behind me now, but the passion for giving back began then. While I didn't have financial resources to give, I gave of my time and talents. Joining the Student Government and other campus clubs//committees helped me understand the importance of being involved and ensuring that the needs of all were considered in decision-making.

three

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

There is a need for black representation in local philanthropy. Don't allow the word "philanthropy" to intimidate you. Your time and talents are as valuable as money, if not more. Don't wait. Start today. As you continue your journey through philanthropy and social impact, you will find your place. Until then, get involved and get involved often.

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3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, Vivian M. Lawyer

Chair, Howard Community College Education Foundation

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

It depends upon the impact an organization or issue has had on me. It was the result of support to a family member or how the organization has shaped me to become who I am. Time is money. My commitment to give began with using my time to raise funds by knocking on neighborhood doors for donations to a program that supported my special needs brother. My mother insisted that I do it because she did not have time.

two

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

Once I graduated from the university, I realized I could not only give my time and talent to a sorority that had developed me as a leader, my financial resources would help as well. Every organization I became a member of since then has enhanced my skills to be a giving leader. Four foundation boards are included in that list—Bright Minds, Bowling Green State University, Columbia Delta, and Howard Community College Foundation. I have learned from each.

three

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

Having passion makes it easy to give back. When there is something that stirs your blood and encourages you to have a vision to see the results of providing time, talent and resources, you are doing some good. Commitment to give back is powerful. I like getting fired up to do good. I have had mentors to show me the way and I consider my investments carefully.

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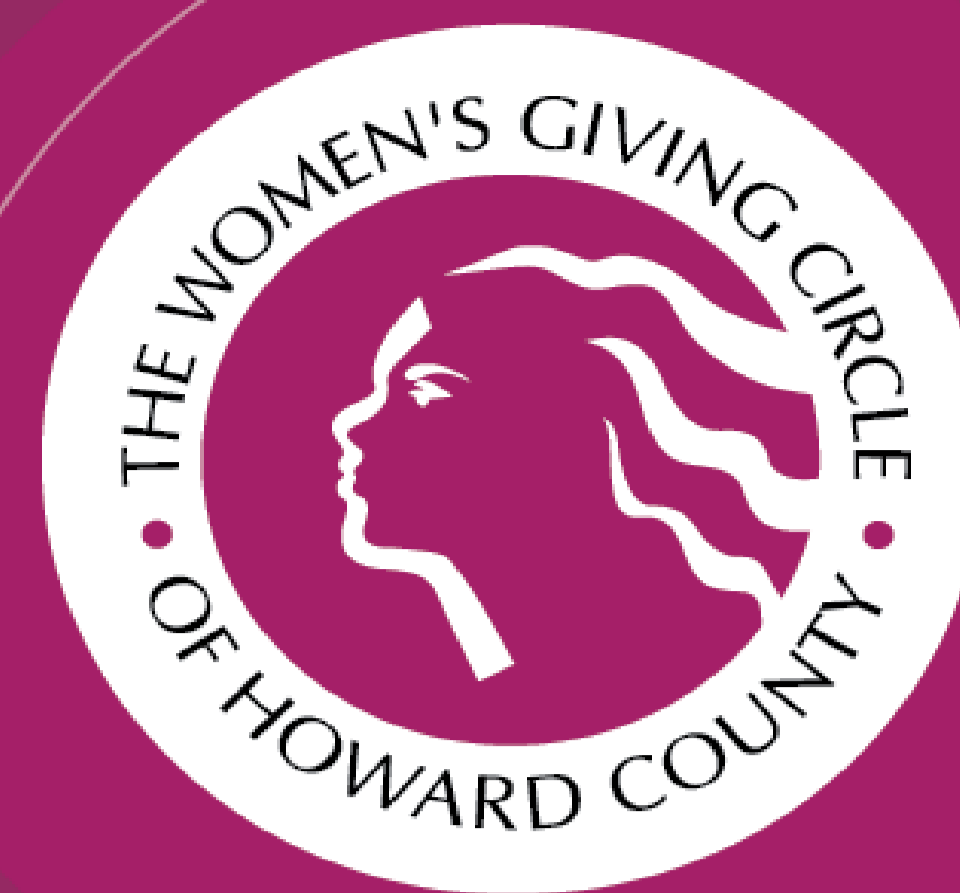
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Owner/Operator McDonald's Restaurants

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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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