

WGC's Our Giving, Our Stories!

A year-long series of giving profiles designed to amplify the voices of women and girls in our community.



IN CELEBRATION OF
EARTH DAY

Celebrating
Women's
Giving in
Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, CHIARA D'AMORE, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Community Ecology Institute

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.

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

one

I grew up in Howard County in a family that believes in sharing our time, talent and treasure. I watched my mom serve our community in a variety of volunteer positions and was inspired by her giving spirit. Now, the greatest inspiration for both my volunteer and professional work is my own children. I am motivated to help make our community as vibrant and healthy as I can for them as well as all of the children of Howard County. It is my deep joy to create opportunities where individuals and families gather together to share positive experiences in nature.

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

two

I have actively been volunteering in Howard County since I was a high school student and then as soon as I returned home after a decade away for school and the beginning of my career. Early on I helped found the environmental club at my school and when I came back in my twenties, I began serving on my village board. I started a non-profit in 2016 and for a few years there I was essentially a full-time volunteer between that and other organizations I was actively serving. Historically I have had more time and knowledge to share than financial resources, but I also make a point to always give a percentage of my income to a mix of the organizations making our community and the world a better place now and for future generations.

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

three

You do not need to have much in the way of money or time to make a difference in your community. Each person has unique gifts and if you can find a personally meaningful way to share yours with others (even one or two) it will make a difference and that difference ripples out through time and space. For example, when I was in high school, I tutored elementary students in reading and years later I heard from a few of those students that our time together made a meaningful difference for them that they had since paid forward. By way of another example, one of the most income constrained families that participates in my non-profit's programming was also one of the very first and longest lasting families to make a monthly contribution. It's not a large dollar amount, but it means so much that they value and want to support our work like that.

"Abundance is a dance with reciprocity - what we can give, what we can share, and what we receive in the process." - Terry Tempest Williams

The Women's Giving Circle is proud to amplify the voices of women and girls in our community.

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. www.womensgivingcircle.org

"We are excited to have built upon our support of National Black Philanthropy Month to develop "Our Giving, Our Stories" into a year-long philanthropic leadership recognition effort" said Hina Naseem and Judy Smith, co-Chairs of WGC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. "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."