

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 Honor of
Women's History
Month



Celebrating
Women's
Giving in
Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropists, KIM FLYR AND ARLENE SHEFF

"When my mother brought up the idea for the WGC Emergency Response Network, it was based on her belief that women would identify with and care about another woman's story."

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

When my mother brought up the idea for the Response Network, it was based on her belief that women would identify and care about another woman's story. In other words, women might be moved to help an individual when they might or might not give to a general fund. I have found that to be true in my own giving patterns. I am often moved to donate when I personally know someone who has asked me to support them, or when I see a more specific need. For example, if a friend's mother has cancer, I might donate to American Cancer Society. I love supporting the Women's Giving Circle because I believe that women supporting other women is so important (a value I credit my mother with instilling), and I know the women involved in leadership at WGC care about the women in Howard County.

two

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

Growing up in Columbia in the 1970's, I was surrounded by people who emphasized the importance of contributing to your community. Back then, Columbia was a small town and it seemed everyone helped it grow in some way. When my mother started the Response Network, I asked her if I could partner with her and help. It was truly uplifting work, both partnering with her and also seeing women consistently and generously help each other.

three

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

I have needed help at times, and I have given help at times. I love the image of a giving circle, because I have found that to be true - we are all connected. The Response Network emails are a great way to give, because you can choose any amount, and your money is pooled with other other donors to make a large impact on a woman's life. So, my advice is find a cause you care about and give - it can be time, talent, money - and see how it feels. I have found I always get back as much (or more) than I give.

#WGCOGOS #OURGIVINGOURSTORIES

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 Malynda Madzel, WGC OGOS Committee 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."