

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.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Celebrating Women's Giving in Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, CRIS OVIEDO

Program Director, Dragon Digital Radio at Howard Community College

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'm moved by my neighbor, my friend, the immigrant I don't know, the business owner, the stay at home mom who lives in fear, who is getting lost in a system that has lots of opportunity but only those who speak the right language can access it, I'm moved by the tears of children who were born in the right side of an imaginary line to parents who didn't share in their luck, I'm moved by the people who are looking for a better future for themselves and their families, trying their best and their hardest, working long hours, leaving everything they knew behind and starting fresh with a single bag full of hopes and dreams, I'm moved by kids who feel American but are not yet recognized as such, I'm moved by the American dream of justice for all, a dream that needs to become a goal and a reality for all. I'm moved by a strong desire in my heart to achieve true equity, and the hope to see this county, this country, and the world be a place where everyone is valued, respected, heard, and safe. I'm moved by a desire for a worldwide pandemic of love, where instead of wearing masks we freely breathe in joy and justice, where instead of keeping distance we hug and embrace each other as brothers and sisters regardless of our differences, where we celebrate each others individuality and respect our boundaries, a utopian dream where all can walk around the world without fear, without imaginary lines, and without judgment. I'm moved by God and his love, and a deep desire to be an instrument of His work right here where I am, so that every person I encounter finds Him on Earth, I'm moved by His love and light.

two

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

I've been giving since I was back home in Ecuador, raised by a generous and wise Colombian mother who taught me that "donde come 1 comen 10", a great example of what giving really is, because even though she always had just enough, she always shared, and continues to share abundantly with everyone.

three

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

Just do it, look in your heart and do it, don't wait for "the perfect" moment, gift, occasion, etc., just do it, and let God, the universe, and those who are ahead in this journey of helping others guide you in the way, it's not about you but about those you want to support ... so go ahead and do it!

#WGCORGOS #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 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."