Our Giving, Our Stories!

A series of giving profiles in celebration of Black Philanthropy Month

#WGCBPMM2021 #BPM2021

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, Oluwatosisin Olateju

Founder and Executive Director, Food and Care For All Inc.

The Women’s Giving Circle of Howard County, Maryland is proud to elevate the voices and giving of our donors and friends throughout Black Philanthropy Month

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

I am driven to share my time, talent, and resources by my faith, childhood experiences, awareness of the needs of the less privileged in the communities around me, my compassion for the needy, and simply because somebody has got to do it. I hope to leave a legacy behind that would inspire generations after me to make the world a better place. In the end, when I am no more, the lives that have impacted will be the proof that I was here.

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

My parents instilled in my siblings and me the spirit of generosity. Growing up as a child in Nigeria, there were some days we had just enough, and other days we had nothing. Still, I remember spending every holiday eve visiting homeless shelters and motherless homes to donate food and clothing. Other memories include traveling with our dad to villages in the west to pay other children’s tuition and fees through a college fund he had set up. Those experiences indeed changed my life significantly and shaped me into the woman I am today.

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

You don’t have to be very rich, highly educated, or famous to give back. There are many ways to give, including your time, finances, skills, and talents. What matters most is the intention behind it. Find causes that you deeply care about and support those efforts to the best of your ability. Be consistent and give cheerfully.

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"We are excited to continue our support of National Black Philanthropy Month" said Hina Naseem and Judy Smith, co-Chairs of WGC’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. "Informing, involving, inspiring and investing in Black philanthropic leadership and giving are among the goals of this annual celebration and we are committed to advancing this important work in philanthropy, both in our community and across the country."

www.womensgivingcircle.org