

WGC's Our Giving, Our Stories!

An ongoing series of giving profiles designed to amplify the voices of women and girls in our community.



In Honor of
Black History Month



Celebrating
Women's
Giving in
Howard County

3 Questions With ... Philanthropist Valerie Montague

Former Social Action Chair, Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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.

one

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

I enjoy helping people improve their lives and communities. As a founding member of Howard County's Thurgood Marshall Democratic Club, former Social Action Chair of my sorority chapter, and LWVHC member, I've moderated political forums, helped organize meetings with elected officials and taught voters to advocate for impactful legislation. I now serve on the county's Human Rights Commission. And I donate to the Women's Giving Circle and other organizations. Together, we can make a difference!

two

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

My parents taught me early. When I was denied admittance to a Maryland nursery school because of race, they contacted their NAACP branch, which took action against the school. My parents campaigned for political candidates and advocated for voting rights. While attending Wilde Lake High School, I became a co-editor of the student newspaper, striving to enlighten peers about local issues. Now, I'm a dues-paying member of several organizations that educate voters and influence policymakers.

three

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

Find something that resonates with you and that makes you feel good when you share it with others. Whether you mentor young people, testify about legislation, volunteer at a food pantry, lead book clubs or donate to charity, you are helping others in impactful ways that make our community better. And, in Howard County, whichever way you prefer to give back, there is an organization, emotional space, and/or physical place for you to do so.

#WGCOS #OURGIVINGOURSTORIES

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

The WGC is building a community of philanthropists to address the needs of women and girls in Howard County, MD. www.womensgivingcircle.org

"We are excited to have built upon our support of National Black Philanthropy Month to develop "Our Giving, Our Stories" says Robin Stimson, WGC OGOS 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."