



Women's Giving Circle of Howard County

2023 Year in Review

This year we focused on strengthening our partnerships - with our members, nonprofit partners, and the broader community. And we have focused on engaging our members in new and creative ways, advancing our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and strengthening our core support to sustain and grow our circle for the future.

We've done all of this, together.



10 HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR EFFORTS IN 2023

In 2023 we:

1. Continued to invest in our **core strength** by developing, growing, and strengthening our Advisory Board, Committees and relationship with the Community Foundation.
2. Continued to build our internal **administrative operations, financial, and governing** structure.
3. Advanced and enhanced our **diversity, equity and inclusion** framework and focus and tied it into our new Strategic plan and reporting dashboard.
4. Developed and reinforced our membership structure with our **enhanced menu of 4 distinct giving and engagement** options including our successful second WGC Big Give.
5. Engaged and **increased our membership** through our Sponsorships and Giving | Learning | Networking | Celebrating events, including our March 8 Annual Celebration and Pink Party, our "Membership Monday" virtual gatherings, our Black Philanthropy Month Happy Hour, and our year-long Feminine Hygiene Product Drive - which continues to bring in more partnerships.
6. Strengthened and **solidified our grants process** and transparency, and engaged members through 8 Emergency Response Network requests totaling \$17,000 to date.
7. Amplified and **elevated our voice** through increased marketing and communications efforts and WGC's "Our Giving, Our Stories" highlighting the voices and stories of women givers in our community.
8. Grew and **increased our local, regional and national partnerships** by co-hosting the Philanos PowerUP! Baltimore national women's collective giving conference.
9. Gave over **\$130,000 in grants** to support women, girls and the community to our nonprofit partner organizations in Howard County, including our support of The 3rd and the newly-launched "elevate" leadership development program for women of color.
10. Continued to strengthen our local funding partnerships with CFHoCo, UWCM and The Horizon Foundation, all of whom supported the development of **WGC's State of Women and Girls in Howard County** that continues to inform our grantmaking.

5 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN 2024

- **GRANTS: Give at least \$100,000.** Continue to increase and enhance our grantmaking by utilizing the data and framework of WGC's State of Women and Girls in Howard County.
- **MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT: Raise \$150,000.** Through our inclusive menu of membership opportunities of 4 distinct ways to give, including the Big Give!
- **EVENTS: Give, Learn, Network & Celebrate.** Hosting WGC's 2024 Annual Celebration: "How Philanthropy Can Support Women's Rights" on March 6, 2024 at HCC, and follow-up events throughout the year.
- **GOVERNANCE: Build our Strength.** Continue to strengthen our Advisory Board, focus on growing our leadership and committees, further develop our DEI efforts, and bolster our overall core strength.
- **FINANCE: Shape & Secure Our Future.** Focus on our financial planning to ensure the continued growth of our endowment and our grantmaking, and the overall health and sustainability of the giving circle.