

ARCHETYPE 1: WOMEN GIVING BIG

PROFILE: WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE OF HOWARD COUNTY



Women's Giving Circle of Howard County

The Women's Giving Circle of Howard County has been serving the needs of their community, nestled between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., since its formal launch in 2002. Hosted at the Community Foundation of Howard County and operating with a paid staff of one executive director, the Women's Giving Circle (WGC) of Howard County is an incorporated 501(c)(3) with a multi-dimensional approach to collective giving. WGC has given away \$1.2 million to nonprofits in Howard County that support women and girls.

The group created an endowment through their local community foundation when they began, and now have ongoing, multi-year partnerships, as well as opportunities for new funding. They administer a \$1.3 million endowment from 1,700+ donors, which ensures support for women and girls in perpetuity. Annually, a Grants Committee undertakes due diligence to look at grantmaking, data and partnerships, and then their Advisory Board votes on the grants made from the endowment. Their work is informed annually by the State of Women and Girls in Howard County report, which the group publishes and routinely updates.

Additionally, the group hosts a more traditional giving circle that holds educational opportunities and a Big Give event that has raised \$20,000 per year each year 2021 to 2024, to support three nonprofits that WGC Big Give members vote on. Women can individually give \$1,200 to participate or up to four women can come together as a team to give that amount and share a vote.

Another way for women to engage is through their Emergency Response Network. Since its inception, the WGC of Howard County has provided a way for women to directly meet the needs of other women and girls. In partnership with local nonprofits, they find out about emergency needs and post opportunities in a confidential manner. Some women only give to the Emergency Response Network, while others also participate in the giving circle or give to the endowment.

Their mission has been and continues to be to build "a community of philanthropists to address the needs of women and girls in Howard County."