

HOW CAN I JOIN THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE?

Anyone who wishes to further the mission and goals of WGC through financial support and participation may become a donor.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Platinum | \$10,000 and up |
| Diamond | \$5,000 – \$9,999 |
| Emerald | \$2,500 – \$4,999 |
| Sapphire | \$1,000 – \$2,499 |
| Ruby | \$250 – \$999 |
| Amethyst | \$100 – \$249 |

Donations may be made for the full amount or paid in up to five annual installments for Sapphire level or above donors. Many donors choose to make multi-year pledges and are billed annually.

DONATE ONLINE www.womensgivingcircle.org



THE COLUMBIA FOUNDATION
10227 WINCOPIN CIRCLE, G-15
COLUMBIA, MD 21044
1.800.442.7007

EMAIL womensgivingcircle@verizon.net

WEB www.womensgivingcircle.org

FACEBOOK www.tinyurl.com/WGCFacebook

TWITTER www.twitter.com/WGCHowardCounty

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THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE OF HOWARD COUNTY

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PHILANTHROPISTS AND
CREATING A PERMANENT LEGACY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HOWARD COUNTY

WHAT IS A GIVING CIRCLE?

The Women's Giving Circle (WGC) is part of a new trend in philanthropy in which people pool their resources and leverage them to impact a specific cause or interest area. The Women's Giving Circle was started in 2002 by 16 women and now has over 600 donors.

The WGC is governed by an Advisory Board selected from its donors. The Advisory Board is responsible for WGC's management and operations. The officers and committee chairpersons are selected from within the Advisory Board.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE?

- To increase the life skills of women
- To encourage the healthy development and personal authority of young girls
- To raise the awareness of gender disparities in our community
- To create a permanent endowment fund
- To expand philanthropy and increase giving by local women

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

JOURNEY CAMP FOR GIRLS WGC founded a week-long residential camp for middle school girls, Journey, which focuses on interpersonal and leadership skills through the lens of what it means to be a woman. Journey, operated by Maryland Leadership Workshops, hosts 40 girls each summer at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

FINANCIAL AID FUND FOR WOMEN STUDENTS WGC has established a scholarship fund at Howard Community College to assist women students who are seeking training/education to improve their employment opportunities.

EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR NONPROFITS Selected nonprofits receive annual grants for their use throughout the year toward immediate relief of emergencies in the lives of women and girls they serve.

RESPONSE NETWORK WGC created the Response Network to provide a vehicle for women to directly support another woman in need of emergency assistance. Through the help of selected nonprofits, donations have been directed to a mother fleeing an abuser, one moving out of a homeless shelter and to dozens more.



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The Women's Giving Circle is an endowed fund at The Columbia Foundation, Howard County's community foundation. Currently, 70% of donations to the WGC go to the endowment to ensure that there will be money in perpetuity to fund programs that benefit women and girls. The WGC uses 10% of donations for administration and 20% for grantmaking.

The Women's Giving Circle is strategic in its grantmaking and program support. It proactively identifies issues it wants to address and invests grant dollars in projects and programs for maximum impact. WGC also frequently works in partnerships with other institutions and organizations to advance its mission and address the needs of women and girls through co-sponsored events, activities and services.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER WORKSHOPS In partnerships with the Horizon Councils, WGC launched an ongoing series of workshops for mothers and daughters on such topics as body image and self esteem and "mean girls."

STEM CAREER EXPO WGC, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, created "Girl Power," a science, technology, engineering and math career expo for middle and high school girls and their parents. The event included opportunities for the girls to meet and talk with professional women in their fields of interest.

Pictured above: In meeting its goals, the Women's Giving Circle provides opportunities for women and girls to learn, to grow and to give back. Such activities include (from left) the annual STEM Career Expo for middle school girls, Journey events honoring local women leaders, financial literacy workshops for women and for girls, clothing drives and fundraising events.