

# Our Giving, Our Stories!

A series of giving profiles in celebration of Black Philanthropy Month

#WGCBPM2020  
#BPM2020



## Celebrating Black Philanthropy Month 2020

womensgivingcircle.org

### 3 Questions With ... Philanthropist, VIVIAN C. (MILLIE) BAILEY

Veteran, US Army; Retiree, Community Activist

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

one

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

My first involvement with giving in any formal way began in the late '60s when my husband and I started an Honor System Lending Fund for students at a Junior High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. From that time on, I've always given to various causes. When we were traveling in Fiji, I became aware of the impoverished children there and we collected items for them. The items never got to the children. Upon my return, I heard that the school just a half mile from my house needed some help. They had just been given a computer and needed some software. I told the principal that I would pay for the software. That began my involvement with the Running Brook Elementary School. For over twenty years I have contributed from my personal funds and have solicited money from my friends.

two

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

Since 2004 I have sent care packages to deployed troops. I have written letters to friends and our elected officials to help support our troops. They have responded generously. Together, we are helping those who are serving our country. I served on the Board of Trustees of Howard County General Hospital for 22 years and on the Howard County Police Department Citizens Advisory Council for 26 years. Additionally, I have donated significant amounts of money to Howard County General Hospital and to Howard Community College.

three

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

I think we should do all we can to support our community and try always to help people in need. As Jackie Robinson said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

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#WGCBPM2020 #BPM2020

The Women's Giving Circle is proud to continue our support for National Black Philanthropy Month 2020!

The WGC is building a community of philanthropists and creating a permanent legacy to address the needs of women and girls in Howard County, Maryland.

"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



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## SPECIAL PROFILE: VIVIAN C. (MILLIE) BAILEY

Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mrs. Bailey graduated as the valedictorian of her class at Carver High School. In 1942, at the age of 24, Mrs. Bailey began the ultimate call of service to her country by enlisting in what would become the Women's Army Corps. She was stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama and then Fort Benning, Georgia, where she was the Unit Commander of the Women's Detachment #2. The only time she operated in a non-segregated environment was at the Adjutant General School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant and earned the Women's Army Corps Medal, American Theater Medal, WWII Victory Medal and a Letter of Commendation.

After the war, Mrs. Bailey lived in Chicago where she worked for the Veterans' Administration and then the Social Security Administration (SSA). She transferred to the SSA in Baltimore in 1970 and has been a Howard County resident ever since. When she retired from the SSA in 1975, Mrs. Bailey was a Division Director managing over 1,100 employees. She attended both DePaul University in Chicago and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Highlights of her almost 50 years of volunteer service in Howard County include: 23 years on the Howard County General Hospital Board of Trustees; 26 years on the Howard County Police Department's Citizen's Advisory Council; and governor-appointed positions including a Judicial Nominating Commission for Howard County and the Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission. In her nearly 11 years on the Health Resources Planning Commission, she was involved in approving the first MRIs and CAT scans for Maryland.

Mrs. Bailey has been the recipient of numerous awards and citations, too many to list here. However, she was especially touched to receive a flag flown in her honor during an active-duty refueling mission from the United Arab Emirates on a KC-10 "Extender" to support Operation Inherent Resolve.

Perhaps the two most powerful honors that will keep her legacy of service alive are the renaming of an award given by the Howard County Police Department, presented to her on her 100th birthday, as The Vivian "Millie" Bailey Making a Difference Award and the dedication of the Vivian C. (Millie) Bailey Neighborhood Square at the site of the Howard County Veterans Monument.

At age 102, her primary emphasis is to support our deployed soldiers through her care package program. Mrs. Bailey's first care package was sent during the Vietnam War and they can number several hundred per year. She not only raises the money for these packages, but also personally shops for and packs boxes that are sent.

Two additional core passions include encouraging all she meets to support their local food bank and raising money for in-need elementary schools in Howard County to fund field trips and other initiatives. Over the last 21 years, she has raised an average of \$10,000 per year that has touched countless Howard County children and enriched their educational experience.

When asked the secret of her longevity, Mrs. Bailey suggests that we should do something nice for someone every day. Whether big or small, every contribution makes a difference.

The Women's Giving Circle would like to acknowledge and appreciate the countless ways and the hundreds of lives that Mrs. Bailey has touched and impacted through her philanthropic work over the course of her incredible life. to continue our support for National Black Philanthropy