

PASSION & Purpose

HONORING A FAMILY LEGACY

Herman A. McCain, Jr. spent his career helping people find good jobs, especially veterans. His wife, Vancie, worked as a surgical technician at Hurley Medical Center, retiring after 37 years in 1990. Together, the McCains raised seven children in Flint, all college-educated, all successful role models, all faithful members of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Their granddaughter DeAndra McCain Larkin remembers the bond Herman and Vancie nurtured with their children and grandchildren. For DeAndra, preserving their legacy in Flint was important.

“It’s inspiring knowing my grandmother was working full-time and raising seven children in a community like Flint. That they all went to college and had very successful careers. Watching how they kept that bond and connection, and the values my grandparents instilled in them, I wanted to keep that legacy alive,” said DeAndra. “What a better way than a charitable fund to really encapsulate and show that we live by those values of pouring ourselves over the community and giving back like my grandparents did.”

Familiar with the work of the Community Foundation, having served as a volunteer and current chair of the

“It’s inspiring knowing my grandmother was working full-time and raising seven children in a community like Flint.”

— DeAndra McCain Larkin



Flint Women and Girls Fund, DeAndra mapped out her vision. She started with her father, and then called each of her aunts and uncles one by one, reminding them of their great love for Flint. Together the seven embraced DeAndra’s vision and founded two donor advised funds — each named the Herman A. and Vancie McCain, Jr. Family Fund — one endowed, one non-endowed.

“The ‘for good, for ever’ has always been something that feels good to me,” she says. “Endowed funds are a way people can keep their legacy alive and contribute to this community long after they’re gone. The non-endowed fund is where my family will be able to support organizations immediately, so that is appealing.”

DeAndra looks forward to the family conversation about the first grant they will advise. “There’s never a dull moment in this family and it will be really special when it comes down to advising grants for the community.”

CELEBRATING SANDRA L. MURPHY AND RETA STANLEY

The year 2020 can be remembered as a year of “firsts.” Remote work. Remote celebrations. And two well-deserving women received the Libby Award for the first time in the history of the Flint Women and Girls Fund. We congratulate Sandra L. Murphy and Reta Stanley for inspiring diverse groups of women and girls, acting as role models, and empowering women.

A virtual celebration was held in September 2020 to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Libby Award. The Libby Award recognizes the life-long accomplishments of women who, like Olivia P. “Libby” Maynard, serve as examples for others and show us not only by their words but by their actions how to give more.

SANDRA L. MURPHY

A nonprofit leader for 42 years, Sandra L. Murphy has cultivated an equitable platform for philanthropic giving and grantmaking in relation to race, women, girls, and religion. Her career has spanned from agencies like Starfish Family Services in western Wayne County, Michigan’s Children in Lansing, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint where she recently “graduated” as Director of Development. She was nominated for the 2020 Libby Award by her daughter, Claudia Bryant, and Sally Kagerer, a member of the Flint Women and Girls Fund Advisory Committee.

In both her career and personal life, Sandra has blended her passion for women and girls to attain equity and equality. Her uncanny ability to create relationships and build trust with donors has created true impact in our community. She empowered a trans woman to apply for a grant for Girls Rock, knowing it could be controversial. She encouraged Girls Run, a statewide organization, to apply for funding. She encouraged support for Girl Scouts in the school setting, funding fees, and activities so more girls could participate.

Sandra cultivates beauty in her work and personal life. As a single parent, she raised Claudia in the Unitarian Universalist Church, became a vegetarian early in life, and has always pursued exercise for stress relief. At Christmas, Sandra and Claudia adopt a family at the Shelter of Flint and they have encouraged others to do the same. Her Community Foundation colleagues always counted on Sandra to model the importance of voting, arriving at the office with her “I Voted” sticker and

keeping us informed on issues.

For 14 years, Sandra built endowments for the Flint Women and Girls Fund. This development work increased the Fund’s grantmaking capacity to fund more projects. She also co-founded the Pride Fund that supports the LGBTQ+ community; built endowments for five community funds; and worked with donor advisors and Legacy Society members to leave lasting gifts.

RETA STANLEY

A great leader — a servant leader — a leader who is so greatly admired by her staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint that they nominated her for the 2020 Libby Award. Reta Stanley has dedicated herself to creating a better community, especially for women and girls. An inspiration to many for decades, Reta gained a significant platform as the First Lady of Flint from 1991 through 2002 when her husband Woodrow served as Mayor. For the past 14 years, Reta has devoted her time, talent, and treasure as President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint and Genesee County.

Her service extends to several other community boards including Girls Scouts, the Salvation Army, Flint Public Library, and the Woodrow Stanley Youth Foundation. Reta was also a founding member of the Boys and Girls Club of Flint.

Reta wears many hats — wife, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, and CEO. In all these roles, she exhibits the behaviors that she wants from those she is leading. She mentors girls at Doyle Ryder Elementary School. She devotes time to the Women’s Missionary Society of Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church. She is a role model to the children, staff, and adult volunteers serving as “Biggs.”

Her service and leadership with the Flint Area Links, Incorporated involves countless philanthropic and service activities that have proven to be a source of inspiration for women and girls. Under Reta’s leadership as president of The Links, the organization partnered with the International Center of Greater Flint to organize an annual celebration of women from diverse backgrounds. The Links also established the Flint Kids Matter Fund through the Community Foundation, raising over \$127,000 and granting over \$62,000 to support water crisis



Reta Stanley accepts the 2020 Libby Award.

Sandra Murphy and her daughter, Claudia Crawford, celebrate the 2020 Libby Award with FWG Committee member Sally Kagerer.



View the virtual event, a tribute video to Olivia P. “Libby” Maynard, and other award-related videos online at www.cfgf.org/fwg.

HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY PARENTS PROGRAM

Modeled on the belief that a small cohort is most effective in building self-esteem, establishing trust, and managing support, Mothers of Joy University (MJU) was founded in 2016 by Shearese Stapleton. The founder's tragedy of finding herself homeless, distressed, and burdened to provide for her children, all while returning to normalcy for herself, sparked the birth of MJU in Flint.

MJU offers a comprehensive family curriculum model that fosters a supportive and restored family unit. Parents suffering from trauma learn to overcome fear, recover from stress, and enjoy a work-life balance. Calvary United Methodist Church provides office and class space.

"Trauma-Informed Parenting Practice is a set of tools to help parents understand behaviors, emotions, mental health, physical health, and brain development while dealing with traumatic situations," said Stapleton. "Participants learn how to heal post-trauma. The Successful GirlBoss program is designed to assist young girls with increased self-esteem, leadership skills, accountability, secured identities, and mental and physical health."

Local partners include academia, faith-based leaders, government, and community service providers. The program was funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Flint Women and Girls Fund.



RaAnn Norris, age 16 (above)
Mariah Washington, age 8 (left)

Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village Women & Theatre

A youth-driven dramatic arts initiative is taking shape at Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village (SBEV) in response to young women who have expressed interest in theatre and theatre production courses. The SBEV Women & Theatre project addresses the need for gender equity in the dramatic arts by exposing Flint girls to the performance and technical elements of theatre education.

"By installing a permanent theatre, we give hope to students seeking to immerse themselves in a full spectrum of arts education," said Maryum Rasool, SBEV Executive Director. "Working under the experienced leadership of Flint Repertory Theatre, the University of Michigan-Flint Department of Theatre and Dance, and other theatre industry professionals, these young women will learn the power of their voice and the momentum that can be gained from dedication to your vision."

A \$6,158 grant from the Flint Women and Girls Fund supports the program.



Kamora Simms, age 9

"EYE" SEE YOU

Teen girls need access to safe, positive settings to address issues unique to them. "Eye" See You was developed by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint in response to the rising statistics regarding teen girls and mental illness. The program provides a space for girls to share their experiences, ask questions, and increase self-compassion.

"Young women need a solid foundation for building healthy attitudes and lifestyles and this program gives them the necessary tools and skills to build a great future for themselves," said Amber Miller, Director of Programs and Operations. "When a girl is able to see her worth, she knows what she is and is not willing to stand for and that pushes her towards self-sufficiency."

Members of Zonta International of Flint serve as allies and mentors, impressing upon teen girls how to use their voice to make a difference for themselves and the issues important to them. The program was funded by a \$6,158 grant from the Flint Women and Girls Fund.



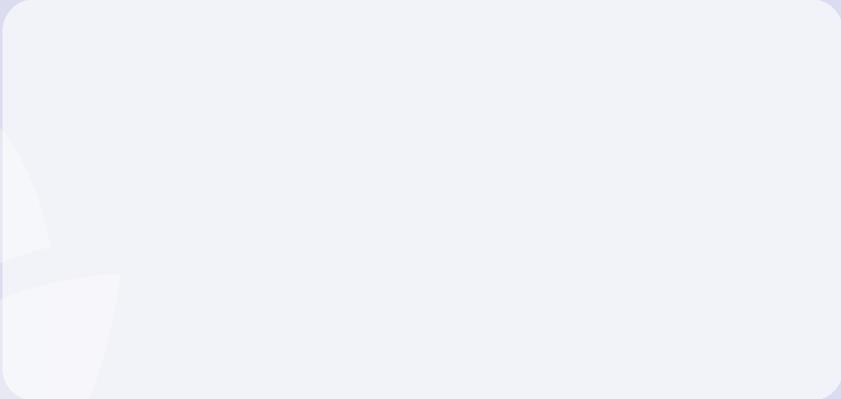
Khya Griggs, age 16



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For *everyone.*

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Learn more about the Flint Women and Girls Fund at www.cfgf.org/fwg

YOUR GIFTS LIFT UP WOMEN AND GIRLS

Your gift is important to the future of women and girls. You might also consider making a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime — a planned gift in your will. Have a conversation by calling Rebecca Pettengill at 810-767-8270.

Named Fund for Women and Girls

Honor your mother, grandmother, or other significant woman in your life by establishing a named, charitable fund.

Endowed Funds associated with the Flint Women and Girls Fund

- Dorothy W. Booth Fund
- Cassandra R. Bronson Endowment Fund
- Joyce M. Conner Fund for Women and Girls
- Charles and Ruth Dodge Fund
- Denise K. Ghattas Fund in Memory of Helen K. Persson

- Evelyn V. Golden, M.D. Medical Fund for Women
- Amalia Hernandez Endowment Fund
- Bess Hurand Fund for Women and Girls
- Suseela Kanuri and Satyavathi Anne Fund
- Harriett and Watson Kenworthy Fund
- Penny Krutsch Fund for Women and Girls
- Kitty Moeller Fund
- Karen R. Piper Fund
- Dorothy M. Reynolds Fund
- Hilda Suomula Memorial Fund
- Sarah E. Warner Endowment for the Arts

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GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE

We recognize Karen Church, Sally Kagerer, and Cleora Magee for nine years of service as members of the Flint Women and Girls Fund Advisory Committee. Thank you for your commitment of time, talent, and treasure.