Volunteers: The Heart of The Community
Ordinary People with Extraordinary Hearts

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...

Matthew 25:35
Although the service they provide is a business, the Marches are also a family that is committed to a ministry of supporting the wellbeing of the communities they serve. In fact, they have been nationally recognized as being a philanthropic organization that gives back through scholarships and other outreach programs.

William and Roberta March built their business on helping families that did not have the financial means to bury their loved ones in the more traditional funeral homes. No matter what one's financial abilities, William and Roberta strived to make every funeral service one of dignity and respect. One all could be proud of. Giving became a big part of not just their personal lives but also their business model.

This led to the development of several non-profit organizations founded by the March Family. One of their most distinguished is, The Thelma March Scholarship Foundation (TMSF), which awards scholarships annually to a student from Dunbar and Douglass High Schools to attend any college of their choice. To date, over a half a million dollars has been awarded to over 60 students through the TMSF. The Marches have also provided educational opportunities for those seeking careers in mortuary science, making it possible for more than forty individuals to achieve their dream of becoming licensed morticians. Many of them have gone on to start their own businesses.

Through their parents, it has been instilled in the March family's second generation to give back to the community.

Erich March is very active in Baltimore neighborhood revitalization efforts. He founded and is President of the East North Avenue Community Development Corporation (ENA CDC). With the motto, “Rebuilding The Front Door to East Baltimore”, this organization’s purpose is to rebuild the East North Avenue corridor. He is literally invested in revitalizing this particular community. In March of 2013, together with his wife, Michele, they built a full service grocery store, “Apples and Oranges Fresh Market” on the corner of North Avenue and Broadway. The store offers fresh produce, meat and dairy for a community that was designated a “food desert” for lack of access to healthy food choices.

Like his parents and siblings, Victor C. March, Sr. is very active within the community; he sits on many boards and community foundations and is an active member in many social and fraternal organizations. The charity outside of his own that is closest to Victor’s heart is Associated Black Charities (ABC). He served on their board for more than 14 years including 4 years as chairman. In recognition of his service to the community, Mr. March is proud to have received an Honorary Doctorate from the Richmond Virginia Seminary.

As a registered nurse and grief counselor, Annette March-Grier has developed and instructed bereavement training courses for many churches. With always a concern for youth, she organized and implemented a collaborative City-Wide Youth Summit. Her passion for children and people led her to become the visionary and program developer for Roberta’s House Family Grief and Loss Center where she now volunteers as the Interim Executive Director.

The March family is widely recognized for maintaining strong community relations. They have received multiple awards for their outstanding service, professional integrity, and community-oriented programs designed to improve the quality of life for others. In all that they do they are humbled and GIVE GOD ALL OF THE GLORY!!!
Michael and Debora Atkins insist on eliminating hunger. Consequently, they established the Helping Hand Food Pantry at Pleasant Zion in March 2007 where they serve over 100 people every week. In addition to picking up food every day from several stores, they also write grants so that they can help the ministry flourish.

Their driven passion has helped Pleasant Zion receive grants from several programs, including the Maryland Food Bank and the United States Department of Agriculture. At the end of the day, the Atkins are committed to providing nutritious meals to low-income individuals. Their ultimate goal is to eliminate hunger.

The couple first founded their pantry ministry while they were members of First Baptist Church of Capital Heights where they attended since 2001. There, Debora was ultimately elevated to Director of the Food Pantry at First Baptist by the pastor. However, when they moved to Dundalk in 2007 from Prince George’s County, they brought their pantry concept with them.

The Atkins both agree that serving the hungry has been a blessing to them in more ways than one. Michael, for instance, says that one of the benefits of working together with his wife is that they have a closer relationship than ever before.
Mr. Devin Denzel Davidson and Mr. Rajah Hillard – Bowie, MD

Devin Denzel Davidson is a member of The Black Male Agenda because he is too familiar with what it means to grow up without "any consistent male role models." He lost his father at the age of 3. Further, his brother was murdered when he was 8. So, the former Mr. Bowie State University decided to found a mentoring group on the campus of Bowie State University designed to help empower young boys from 8 to 9.

With an Afrocentric perspective, Davidson insists that if people knew better, they would do better. He believes in helping to enlighten and educate young black males so as to help grow them into very productive men.

"I take a lot of pride in African American culture and I wanted to do something for the black men in the community," he said. "We build black men and help them to reach their potential as leaders in the community."

Rajah Hillard is also a member. The sophomore Criminal Justice major (also at Bowie State) has an interest in ministry and finds the group to be an ideal platform from which to serve. He wants young black men to "take ownership of their identities and their purposes" and encourages them to be leaders right now!
Mrs. Gladys Jordan – Richmond, VA
A native of Stafford County, Virginia, she served for 35 years in the King George County Public School System. She retired as Department Chairman from Franklin Military School in Richmond. She is so revered for her giving nature that the school named its National Honor Society Chapter after her.

She has an impeccable record of service, including serving as Sunday School Superintendent, President of the Ladies Auxiliary Usher Board and in other capacities at her beloved Providence Baptist Church. Further, her service extends to the North Avenue Branch of the Richmond Public Library, the Delver Women’s Club, the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, the Prince Hall Masons, and the Genesis Investment Club.

The proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has served in countless capacities – all to make the world a better place. Her passion is academic excellence and she believes education is the key to progress for all people.

From the Ladies Auxiliary Usher Board to the Tuckahoe Baptist Association of Virginia, she is also a member of the Study of African American Life and History and a life member of the NAACP.

Truly, she leads a life of service to others.
Ms. Faith Doucette – Laurel, MD

It is a beautiful thing when we can look beyond ourselves and see the needs of others – even if they are thousands of miles away. Faith Doucette of Kenya is such a person. While she now lives in Laurel, MD, part of her personal outreach work is done abroad as a missionary.

Internationally, Faith goes on a minimum of three mission trips each year. In 2013, this included visits to the Dominican Republic, Kenya, and Guatemala. In 2014, her plans include missions to Hyderabad in India, back to Kenya, and wherever else the good Lord might direct her to go.

Having grown up in poverty, she said she truly understands the significance of teaching people to fish for themselves. A member of Worship World Church in Laurel, she also serves each month at Elizabeth’s House, a homeless food pantry, and at Cherry Lane Nursing Center. When asked about her service she states, “I don’t believe I was put on this earth to just serve myself” and believes “our purpose on earth is to make somebody else’s life better.”
Dr. Ann Whitehead is the matriarch of an incredibly talented and service-oriented family, including her two beautiful daughters, Miriam Whitehead-Brice and Dr. Lisa Whitehead-Hampton.

A professor of psychology at Coppin State University, Dr. Ann runs a non-profit organization called “Perfect Parenting.” Its purpose is to work with single mothers and their children to teach basic living skills, mediation, and lessons on morality and duty to community.

Clearly Dr. Ann’s spirit of service spilled over to her daughters. Her eldest, Miriam found out she is HIV positive in the year 2000. She only told a handful of people and fell into a deep depressive state. The doctor appointments, the medications, the whispers behind her back and the stigmas were overwhelming. That was until she sought help and found it. Coming out of the HIV closet one limb at a time, Miriam now is an HIV/AIDS instructor, national spokesperson for “HIV STOPS WITH ME”, and the CEO of “Life After Diagnosis”.

Dr. Lisa is a strong advocate against domestic violence. She works with the House of Ruth to provide education, training, safety planning and resources to victims and their families. In addition she started a non-profit organization called “Victims in the Sanctuary” which creates workshops leaders in the religious community.

Together they are one family, empowering entire communities, one issue at a time.
Sure, James Page is the President and CEO of Page After Page Office Solutions (PAP), a company that has generated over $70 million in revenues. More importantly to him, is the work he performs for the various programs he supports. From turkey giveaways in Washington DC’s Ward 8, to his partnership with Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He is simply a man with a heart for helping people.

A proud veteran of the US Navy, Page’s philanthropic work spans from his hometown of New York City to the metropolitan areas of the DMV (DC/Maryland/Northern Virginia). This includes coaching baseball at Arlington County Little League, his efforts with P.O.W.E.R. (People Organized to Win Entrepreneurial Rights), and his service as a member of a financial literacy program for the underprivileged.

Mr. Page is particularly proud of his work with prisoners and ex-offenders via New Life Church. He helps ex-offenders find employment so that they can get a footing and effectively transition back to society and encourages those with criminal records to consider taking a different approach to success by “looking at failures” and the lessons learned in the process.

Furthermore, he teaches people his specialty: how to work on printers, copiers, and computers. Helping some start their own business in the process.

Mr. James Page – Washington, DC
Ms. Carol Ott – Baltimore, MD
Carol Ott moved to Baltimore from the DC area and brought with her a fresh perspective on how to transform one’s community: “I teach people how to be better advocates for their own neighborhoods.” She heads “Housing Policy Watch”, an organization that works in Baltimore City neighborhoods to combat slumlords. Her tireless efforts have brought much-needed attention to the poor condition of many houses across the city.

With a can-do attitude, she spends most every day answering emails, contacting media and reaching out to elected officials to ultimately ensure that landlords pay more attention to their properties. To say the least, she has become a voice for the voiceless, especially in the realm of community development.

Over the past several years, Carol has helped show others how to become agents of change. Not deterred by anything, she is a resource guru who is intent on helping to educate and empower others to stand up for themselves.
Ms. Jennifer Walker - Baltimore, MD

Jennifer Walker has a nurturing spirit that cannot be contained. A volunteer and a speaker at the House of Ruth, her desire is to increase awareness behind the hidden realities of domestic violence. Jennifer recognizes that all too often, effective advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence could mean the difference between life and death.

With incredible compassion for others, her ultimate mission is to develop nursing clinics in impoverished countries around the world. With two Bachelor's degrees from Washington College and two Master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University, she also seeks to help mentor the next generation of nurses. With her incredible academic preparation, the soon-to-be-Ph.D. insists on taking her passion for educating others worldwide. Already she has traveled to much of Western Europe, including Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, France, and Italy. Africa and South America are next on her list.

Amidst the busiest of schedules, Jennifer also heads the dance ministry at First Apostolic Faith Church. Her motto is: “I want to live a life where I touch the lives of others and allow myself to be touched by the lives of others as well.”
Mrs. Ada Taylor - Richmond, VA
Ada Taylor is an angel of a person whose passion is visiting those who live in nursing homes. Put simply, this is her calling. She started off within her own family. First, caring for her aging parents then her husband when they fell ill. When they ultimately passed, she found herself continuing a mission of visiting the sick, the shut-in, and the elderly.

It doesn’t matter if it is a total stranger or extended family, almost every day of the week, Ada can be found in a nursing home or hospital. Most often she is volunteering at The Windsor Nursing Home, where she assists with feeding residents lunch, takes individuals to their doctors appointments, and supports the staff with general care.

Ada is committed to helping all enjoy the very best quality of life possible stating that she; “finds magnificent peace and joy in serving others”.

Labor Day
National Grandparents Day
September

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Proud Volunteers at Northwest Hospital, on any day of the week, one can find Gloria, Roddie, and Vivian willingly giving a helping hand. They volunteer with a smile, offering help whenever and wherever needed. From assisting out-patients in the Breast Care Center, to performing various office tasks through the Volunteer Office.

These three ladies have been friends and church sisters for 30 plus years at Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Randallstown. They regularly volunteer as a trio here as well, serving on many ministries including, the Stewardess Board, Hospitality Ministry, Christian Education Events, Women’s Ministry, Health Unit, Family Health and Fitness Ministry and The Community Development Corporation “We Are Family” Ministry which assists residents of Northwest Baltimore County through a Food Pantry, Renters Eviction and Baltimore Gas and Electric turn off prevention services. Having a total of 112 combined years in the workplace as Federal Government and State of Maryland employees, they are now retired and living a dream come true. After years of working, raising their families, they thank God for the opportunity to give back.

Mrs. Gloria Frost, Mrs. Roddie Smith, and Mrs. Vivian Salters – Baltimore County, MD
Mrs. Gwen McBride, Det. Shirley Richardson, and Esther Marshall – Richmond, VA

When it comes to the grief associated with losing a loved one to violence, there is a powerful healing effort underway in Richmond led by the work of three fantastic women.

In her professional capacity, Esther Marshall (not pictured) works with the victims of homicide. A compassionate person to the nth degree, there was no way this faithful child of God could continue to see people struggling with the sudden loss of a loved one and not do something to help. So, Esther formed a support group that has touched countless lives.

Gwen McBride joined the homicide victims relief group as a result of losing her son in a car accident. Determined to find some good in the situation, the grieving mother has found strength in sharing her experiences with others.

“Sometimes you think you’re the only one going through something until you hear somebody else’s story,” said Gwen. With such an attitude, this woman’s contribution to the support group has been immeasurable. Detective Shirley Richardson, the 29-year veteran of the Homicide Division with the Richmond Police Department, sees the pain experienced by the family of victims, too. She volunteers with the hope of helping such families recover as best as possible.

The group meets monthly, and together the three women minister to the members, talk with them on how to deal with grief and death, and counsel them on getting to the next step. They help people to move on with their lives and to eventually come to love life again.

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Daylight Savings Time Ends

Election Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Day

All Saints’ Day
Ms. Ashley Daniels - Washington, DC

From the time she was a little girl, Ashley Daniels has had a heart for the less fortunate. This passion for service continued throughout her life as she entered Bowie State University. There, she was involved with several public service organizations such as the Bowie State Peer Mentorship Program, the American Red Cross, the Student Government Association, and the National Council of Negro Women.

In Spring 2008, she then became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated through the Zeta Delta Chapter. With Delta's history being deeply rooted in public service, she said, "I am delighted to be in an organization that shares my enthusiasm for helping others as I do. One of my most notable moments serving as a volunteer through my sorority, is the annual Christmas party at the Boys and Girls club and the toy drive through my current chapter, Fort Washington Alumnae."

Academically, she is a Ph.D. student at Howard University in Washington, D.C. majoring in Political Science. One of her favorite quotes about public service comes from famed congresswoman and Delta soror, Shirley A. Chisholm: "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth."
Since 1968 Mr. Bonner, has volunteered as an auxiliary Firefighter. For 45 years, this 71-year old has served through the Walbrook Station Firehouse, Engine 20, Truck 18 and Medic 8, where he has done everything from extinguishing fires and assisting on medic calls, to serving as a dispatcher. Literally, Firefighter Bonner volunteers to risk his life so that others may be saved.

Charlotte Johnson
Charlotte Johnson believes “everybody needs some help out here at some point or another.” For this reason, she can be found; at home cooking for a friend or stranger in need, at Bayview Hospital tending to the sick, serving through Rehoboth Church of Deliverance, healing with hugs at Roberta’s House Grief and Loss Center, or most importantly as a surrogate mother raising her seven-year-old great-niece.

Nickia Nicholson
Professionally, Nickia Nicholson is a correctional officer. She understands that many of the people locked in her Detention Center are there because they have no one to help them along in life. So naturally, she finds herself mentoring and nurturing some of the young women as they are released. Her future retirement goals will build upon this mission. She plans to start a non-profit for young women who are abandoned by their families after becoming pregnant.

Charlene A.K. Bridgeford-Mccormick
Charlene A.K. Bridgeford-Mccormick’s aim in life is to build stronger communities. She is the founder and president of Non-Violent World Community Coalition, Inc., which provides relief to families suffering economic hardship. Some of her other initiatives include “Sobriety Day” and the “Youth Unity Program” (YUP). She regularly hosts “Family Fun Days”, and community Christmas celebrations and has a clothing and apparel line called “RESPECT” designed to uplift through pride.

Pauline Lewis
Pauline Lewis is described as a “faithful parishioner and dedicated volunteer” at St. Ann’s Roman Catholic Church. The Pastoral Administrator is an octogenarian whose works extends beyond the walls of the church. For years, she has worked for social justice and is an advocate who frequently speaks about the need for ample housing and safety in her community.

Lillie Marcelle Thompson
Lillie Marcelle Thompson has a heart of platinum. Always on the go, she volunteers at “My Brother’s Keeper”, where she helps to prepare food and serve the hungry on a daily basis. When she’s not working there, she can be found taking a neighbor to the market or the doctor’s office or making sure people are aware of various community initiatives. Consistently, she aims to be a blessing to others, including the sick and shut-in.

Shirley Coward
After retiring from Johns Hopkins Hospital, Shirley Coward found it on her heart to start a “sick” ministry. Daily she nurses those in need including, a 96-year old woman. Additionally, the East Baltimorean has served a number of other groups including the Helping Up Mission, Susan Komen, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She prays, “May the works I’ve done speak for me!”

Virginia Blount
Virginia Blount is known across Baltimore for her compassionate heart and giving nature. Ms. Virgie, as she is affectionately known, says it’s because of her love for the Lord that she strives to treat everyone with respect and dignity. She serves as the Bereavement Coordinator for New St. Mark Baptist Church and volunteers in their soup kitchen every Friday. To God be the Glory!
Volunteers of Roberta’s House are truly ordinary people with EXTRAORDINARY hearts. They are the ANGELS in our community.

These citizens of Baltimore come to Roberta’s House with an understanding and willingness to listen to and comfort children and adults who are saddened and hearts are filled with grief. Our volunteers commit to a comprehensive 26 hour training to understand and develop the best strategies to co-journey with others who are grieving. It’s important that grieving children and adults know that they are respected, listened to and allowed to grieve in their own way with the love and support of a community.

Roberta’s House volunteers are the key to creating a safe place for children and families who have experienced the death of someone close and promoting healthy coping for a productive life. Our volunteers are here, not to push or pull the bereaved, but to walk along side with compassion and understanding. We help children to realize that although we may experience loss and grieve, we can still have fun and remember our loved ones. Every child, teen and adult experiences the love and compassion of a caring community at Roberta’s House. We have a special pledge that is recited before and at the conclusion of each program and that is “I CARE FOR YOU, YOU CARE FOR ME, AND WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER”.

Roberta’s House volunteers carry out all of our programs as well as travel out into the community conducting peer support programs and promoting grief education. We have over 7 programs including Camp Erin Baltimore.

We invite new volunteers to join our family 3 times a year through our trainings. To become a volunteer you may contact us at 410-235-6633 or email Kelli Tucker, Volunteer Coordinator at KTucker@robertashouse.org or visit www.robertashouse.org for more information and volunteer application.

1900 N. Broadway, Suite 101, Baltimore, MD 21213

FAMILY SESSIONS
Families with children ages 5-17 learn about grief, healthy coping, honoring memories and strengthening relationships, 10 week sessions.

TIME OF SHARING
Adult support groups with a holistic framework, addresses mind, body and spirit to help individuals after a death of someone special.

CHANGING THE GAME
Peer support groups for adolescents 14-17 yrs. Six month program open enrollment. Helps teens to identify high risk behavior, healthy coping skills and create a productive life.

HOMICIDE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT
10wk program for adults who have had a loved one murdered. Individuals with a common tragedy share experiences, stories and challenges to find forgiveness and peace in their new life.

PRE-NATAL & INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP
A 10 wk program for mothers who have had an infant or child die.

CAMP ERIN BALTIMORE
Free summer weekend, adventure camp for youth 6-17yrs at North Bay Camp Site.

WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS
Volunteer Trainings, Bereavement Trainings and Professional Development workshops held throughout the year.

GOOD GRIEF WORKSHOPS
Fifty minute presentations within the classroom setting for K-12, to help children understand grief and learn healthy coping skills to support each other.

1900 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 101
BALTIMORE, MD 21213
TEL: 410-235-6633
FAX: 410-235-6636
WWW.ROBERTASHOUSE.ORG
INFO@ROBERTASHOUSE.ORG
A meaningful funeral is designed to celebrate the essence of a loved one that has passed by paying tribute to who they were in life. At the March Life Tribute Centers, our mission is to help families share the memories of a lifetime. Our one of a kind locations offer large chapels, full service banquet halls, and are conveniently located in Randallstown and Laurel.

Additionally, the March Life Tribute Center in Laurel houses a crematory. This means you can find comfort in knowing your loved one will never leave our care.

The March Life Tribute Centers – Redefining the Funeral Experience

Let us preserve your heritage and your cherished memories.

Last year, King Memorial Park, owned and operated by the March family, celebrated its Fortieth Anniversary of providing for the burial and memorial needs of the Greater Metropolitan Baltimore community. Now as we enter into our forty-first year, we are looking forward to extending our services to the areas of Maryland and Washington, D.C., where we operate our sister companies, the March Life Tribute Center in Laurel and Marshall-March Funeral Homes.

Within an hours ride, families can realize thousands of dollars in savings by choosing the premier burial site in Maryland that is family owned. King Memorial Park is one of the largest and one of the most selected independent cemeteries in the United States because our prices are well below those being charged by corporate chain owned cemeteries.

King Memorial Park’s mission has always been to preserve the proud heritage of the families we serve and the memories of those we cherish most.
March Funeral Homes East
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300

March Funeral Homes West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400

King Memorial Park Cemetery
8710 Dogwood Road
Baltimore, MD 21244
(410) 944-8300

March Funeral Homes Laburnum
2110 Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200

Marshall-March Funeral Homes
District of Columbia
4217 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011
(202) 723-1250

Marshall-March Funeral Homes
Prince George’s County
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 736-1616

The March Life Tribute Center, P.A.
5616 Old Court Road
Randallstown, MD 21133
(410) 655-0110

The March Life Tribute Center-Laurel, P.A.
7601 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707
(310) 490-1550
Helping Families Share the Memories of a Lifetime

Serving with Locations in
Baltimore, Laurel, & Prince George’s County, Maryland, The District of Columbia, and Richmond, Virginia