



◀ **Linda A. Randolph, MD, MPH:**
“Community-Based Philanthropy”

For over 25 years, Dr. Randolph has worked in the fields of pediatrics, public health, and community medicine. While completing her residency in pediatrics at Harlem Hospital, she organized other residents to provide health services for a day care center in the community. Establishing The Fund for Greater Harlem (a Twenty-First Century Foundation fund) is an outgrowth of Dr. Randolph’s goal to address issues she felt powerless to confront as a doctor-in-training.

Dr. Randolph felt that Harlem was always in the papers with negative statistics and images. She believed there was a lot of strength in the community, and she wanted to capture the best of Harlem. With the Harlem Fund, she wanted to provide resources for children and youth for promoting health, enhancing education, and strengthening the community.

“There is a lot of strength in the Harlem community. I am indebted to the families of Harlem for the opportunity to do my training there, and I wanted to give back by creating a fund that would link the public and private sectors in a sustained way.”

Prominent philanthropists, such as the late **Reginald Lewis** (TLC Beatrice International), **Bill and Camille Cosby**, **Willy Gary**, **Earl Graves**, **Oprah Winfrey**, **Tiger Woods**, **Magic Johnson**, **Tom Joyner**, and **Tavis Smiley**, have given generously to a variety of charitable causes.

A host of less well known but equally generous black philanthropists — **Alphonse Fletcher**, **Ed Brown**, **Frank Savage**, and others — have joined these celebrated ranks with magnanimous gifts, have endowed university chairs, and have provided anchor funds to advance black educational opportunity.

But wealth alone is not an indicator of the extent or type of charitable giving. Low- and moderate-income individuals are often very generous when it comes to making financial donations.

Osceola McCarty, a cleaning woman at the University of Mississippi, made headlines when it became known that she had left her life savings of \$150,000 to the school for scholarships for minority students.

Matel Dawson, an autoworker for much of his working life, amassed almost \$1 million for a scholarship fund to help black students pursue higher education.

Each of these individuals is part of a long tradition of giving — black philanthropists from all walks of life willing to help others realize their dreams by giving back.