



As February comes to a close, **Black History Month** invites us not just to look back, but to carry forward what we've reflected on. The stories, struggles, brilliance, and leadership we've honored over these past weeks are not confined to a single month. History does not live only in textbooks or timelines, it lives in the present, in the choices being made, the care being extended and the courage shaping our communities every day.

A Collective Reflection

Black History Month



For us, Black History Month is about lifting up the many stories that were never fully told.

Generations of leadership, care, and contribution were rendered invisible, even as they shaped communities in lasting ways. Black women have always been at the center of that work. Long before systems were designed to support them, they organized, cared for others, taught, advocated, and led, often while navigating barriers of their own. Their leadership was rarely named as such, but it was essential.



Today, Black women continue to lead within communities shaped by ongoing inequities. In Washington, D.C., nearly half of Black residents live in medically underserved areas, with limited access to primary care and higher rates of chronic illness, and Black households continue to face significantly higher poverty rates.

These realities are not separate from the past. They help explain why this moment still matters, and why reflection must include what is happening now.

At JBRF, this understanding informs how we show up. We center Black women not only in response to disparity, but in recognition of their knowledge, leadership, and lived experience. Through our Health Equity and Opportunity Initiatives and SustainABLE Community Initiatives, we support work that strengthens access to care, builds opportunity, and invests in community-rooted leadership for the long term.

Black history is not static. It is carried forward through people who continue to lead, care, and build, often in quiet, powerful ways.

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