

**The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce has implemented three goals in our new strategic plan. Two of our goals are to attract and serve a diverse group of members from all industries representing businesses in Greater Bethesda and to grow awareness of the Chamber among both members and the public.**

**Living up to these principles, we invite you to celebrate Black History Month with us through our third annual member spotlight series. This special feature helps our communities learn more about some of its leaders and their impacts they make every day.**

**Today, we would like you to get to know **Kathryne Carter, Owner of Grace and Virtue Events.****

Kathryne Carter is the owner of Grace and Virtue Events, a planning and coordination services company for couples, families, and small businesses. Providing services for proposals, weddings, celebrations, and small business events. Kathryne loves planning and coordinating events, especially when it comes to managing logistics, being creative and managing solutions. With a background in Special Education, Kathryne has learned to manage all the details, lead a team, and consider all client and guest needs. Originally from New York City, Kathryne is proud to have been in the DMV area for the past 16 years. She started planning weddings when she planned her mother and stepfather's wedding in April 2009. She planned events as a Resident Assistant (RA) in college and for her church. Kathryne is passionate about supporting her clients with having unique and intimate experiences and being creative and doing things outside of the box that are meaningful to her clients while preserving some traditional wedding components. She also loves networking and building relationships with entrepreneurs and small business owners. She is excited to be an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. She truly believes in serving her clients and the community.

**We asked Kathryne three questions surrounding leadership and goals. Read her responses below.**

- 1. As you look back over your life, at what point did you begin to think of yourself as a leader?**

I believe I started developing my leadership skills in High School. But I did not become aware of them until I was in college. I was an RA (Resident Assistant) for 3 years and I was a participant in a leadership program. I slowly started building my leadership skills throughout my career.

- 2. Do you have a vision that guides your body of work? If so, has it changed over time or remain the same?**

My vision for my services is to create meaningful experiences for my clients and their guests. I love leaving the door open to be as creative as possible. I get inspired by my clients and their stories and what is important to them. I get inspired by colors and the ability to mix things up and put a twist on things.

- 3. Does the work you do now play a part in the legacy you wish to leave behind? If not, describe what tools you need to help you achieve your goals.**

I wish to support the generation behind me with becoming entrepreneurs and exploring their interests in event planning. I hope that I can help guide others to find their passion and meet their goals. I also hope that part of my legacy is serving my clients fully and providing them with many memories to cherish and that we can do that with multiple celebrations.

Visit [www.graceandvirtueevents.com/](http://www.graceandvirtueevents.com/) to learn more about Kathryn and how she and her team can help plan the perfect event for you.