

# ESSENCE

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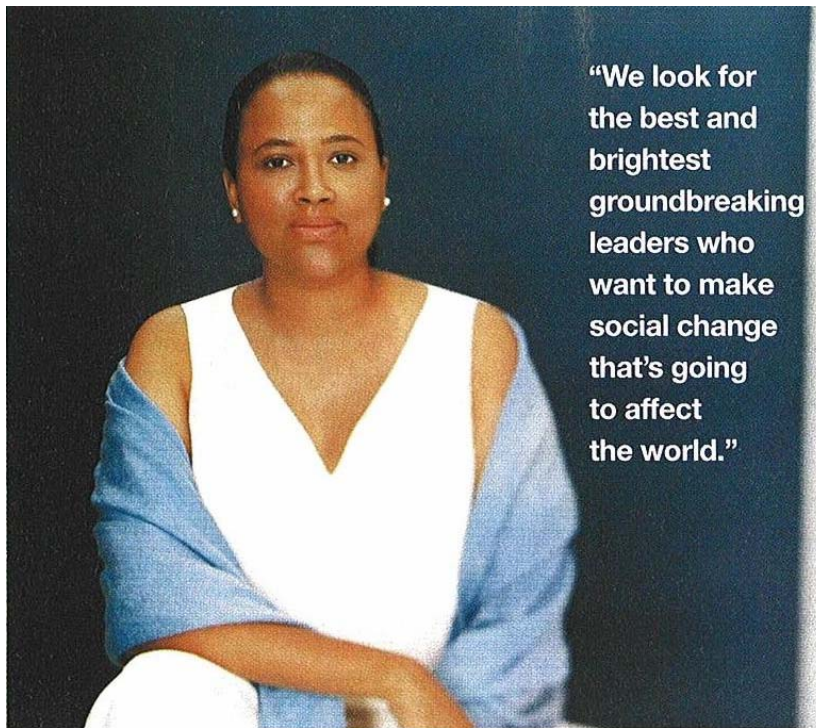
## **Sisters Who Give Back to Move Us Forward**

**Sisters who are shaping the world**

Just call them the A-list—the activists, advocates and articulators of noble causes, ideals and goals. While some complain about what's wrong in the world, our A-listers believe that each of us has the passion and the power to make things right. Committed, driven and focused, they seek cures for illness, create housing, remind us where we came from, and work to secure a more promising future. Through protest signs and songs, legal challenges and medical breakthroughs, these women—ages 21 to 71, from London to Seattle, Toronto to Trinidad—put themselves on the line to change the world.

### **Cheryl L. Dorsey, M.D.**

**Sowing seed money to harvest social change**



**“We look for the best and brightest groundbreaking leaders who want to make social change that’s going to affect the world.”**

Distressed by the infant-mortality problem gripping poor Boston neighborhoods, Cheryl L. Dorsey, who was studying public-health policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, used a four-year fellowship to tackle the issue by starting a mobile medical center. On Martin Luther King’s birthday in 1992, she and a medical team began traveling on what was dubbed the Family Van to communities most affected. Still in operation, the van serves more than 7,000 annually. In 2002, Dorsey, a Harvard-trained pediatrician, was tapped to head Echoing Green—the same social-venture fund where she’d been a fellow

and gotten the seed money for her mobile clinic. Says Dorsey, 42, “Echoing Green is an incredible community of social entrepreneurship.”