

Barbara Holmes



Barbara Holmes' service and dedication to children and families in Montgomery County encompasses four decades. During this time Barbara's service was given in the true spirit of Brother Ray. Both as a volunteer and as a staff member, Barbara has successfully launched, managed and actively participated in initiatives that were critical to this community, positively impacting Montgomery County's most vulnerable families and communities.

As a young parent in the 1970's Barbara began working with families in her own neighborhood. While her children were in school, Barbara volunteered at church, school and with local Cub and Girl Scout troops.

During the 1980's Barbara became heavily involved in many social action issues and groups. It was her contribution to these groups that established her as one of Montgomery County's most involved social activists on behalf of families and communities. Through this involvement Barbara served on many committees, which resulted in tireless efforts for economic and racial equality.

In the 1990's Barbara's passion and efforts grew even deeper. It was during this time that she developed and implemented some of her most successful initiatives and duties. As a volunteer she served as co-chair of the Dayton Peace Bridge Annual Rally in support of racial harmony. She also chaired the Youth Leadership Breakfast since its inception in the 1990's. This initiative brings together youth from all sections of Montgomery County to dialogue on race relations and promotion of racial cohesiveness. Barbara was also very active with the Greater Dayton Christian Connection and Building Bridges Tutoring Program where

she spearheaded efforts to provide volunteer tutors to serve at-risk inner city youth with academic deficiencies.

In the late 1990's Barbara offered her expertise and time to a variety of important Montgomery County issues. Her service in initiatives such as the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations, Reclaiming our Violent Youth and the Race and Reconciliation Collaborative Group is further evidence of her passion to ensuring racial, family and community harmony throughout Montgomery County.

Over the past several years Barbara has remained very active in most of the initiatives mentioned as a volunteer and advocate. She also found time for full time employment with an organization whose mission was in line with her own values and principals. Working primarily in the Harrison Township region of Montgomery County for the past six years, Barbara has served as a Prevention Coordinator for Unified Health Solutions where she is assisting families living in Northridge and Dayton in developing skills and obtaining the education needed to be self-sufficient. As a result of these efforts, children from these communities have become involved with local scouting and volunteer opportunities, mentoring, after-school tutoring and enrichment services, and have actively participated in monthly family empowerment meetings designed to increase families' accessibility to resources necessary for success.

Barbara takes her commitment with children and families very seriously and knows that there is no easy or short-term answer to making Montgomery County a great place for all its citizens. It is for this reason that Barbara has served this community for more than thirty years. Day in and day out, without even taking the time to take a breath between projects, Barbara is relentless in her pursuit to do what is right for this community and its citizens. She has a wide and inclusive sense of community that comes from spirituality deep within her. Barbara's definition of neighborhood does not end with her own street, city limit, church denomination or race.