



Hall of Fame

Consevella Horton James

Consevella Horton James was destined to live a life of service to others. At a very early age she and her siblings were introduced to serving others by their mother, Vennie "Jean" Horton Mitchell. Religion, family and education were major priorities with the expectation that they would excel in all areas. Although society placed limits on possibilities for African Americans, Consevella learned that there were no limits if you trust God, get a good education and work hard. The support, caring and mentoring provided by the women at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and the teachers of Peake High School provided the "village" she needed to prepare for future challenges.

Upon graduation from Peake High School as an honor student, she was selected to receive the "Service Above Self Award" by the Rotary Club of Arkadelphia. She received her Bachelor of Art's degree with a major in Sociology from Henderson State University and her Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Her career of service to others is marked by a number of firsts as she became a strong advocate for foster children. Among those firsts as an African American are the following: First African American hired by Clark County Social Services in 1971; Arkansas Social Services statewide Foster Care Specialist; president of the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; Chairman of the Arkansas State Social Work Licensing Board; First Arkansas Board Member of the national Council on Accreditation for Children and Families, Board Member and President of the National Foster Family Based Treatment Association (FFTA). Consevella was selected as the first African American Arkansas Social Worker of the Year by two different organizations in 1986. She received the Commissioners Award from the U.S. Administration of Children and Families and was recently reappointed to the Arkansas Children's Behavioral Health Commission by Governor Bebee.

Consevella was the founder of Therapeutic Foster Care services in the state of Arkansas in 1978. Therapeutic Foster Care provides mental health services to abused and neglected foster children with emotional and behavioral problems in a family setting. She became the founder and executive director of Treatment Homes, Inc. in 1983 along with thirteen therapeutic foster families. The nationally accredited nonprofit organization is certified as an outpatient mental health facility and is licensed as a child placement agency. The organization recently celebrated 31 years of service to foster children. A quotation that motivates her to help children is: "To the world you may be just one person, but to one person [a child] you may be the world." -Dr. Seuss

During her 40 plus years of working with children she has been married for 44 years to her high school sweetheart, Vernon James. They have two children and five grandchildren. An active member of Christway Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock, she is Vice President of the Mission; President elect of the Deaconess; teacher for New Members Orientation and a choir member. Without the support of her family, friends and church family, none of the achievements would have been possible.

The Buffaloes' Foundation, Inc. 2014 Inductee

