

JACQUELINE WRIGHT

Jacqueline Wright was born 65 years ago in Forest City, Arkansas and grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She married Rev. James C. Wright and they moved to Madison 39 years ago. Together they owned a barber and cosmetology shop on South Park Street for 25 years, selling the business to Ben Parks. Rev. Wright and Jackie were married for 43 years.

She has two children: a daughter, Deana who resides in Madison, and a son, Coleman who lives in Milwaukee. She is the proud grandmother of Deana's two children: Derek and Britni, and Coleman's daughter Cosha.

Throughout Rev. Wright's 24 year career as Executive Director of the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission, Jackie, affectionately known by many as "Mother Wright," provided the love, support, and inspiration he needed to face what could at times be a frightening, dangerous and demanding job--confronting racism and all the other "isms" in our community. Rev. Wright often referred to Jackie as his "enabler." They were a team working together to bring a better life for all in Madison and throughout the entire community. She also provided love and care to Rev. Wright's mother Willine as well as her mother, Geraldine Turner, who lived with the Wright family until their passing.

Despite debilitating arthritis, Mother Wright volunteers countless hours to our community. She attends virtually every community event. Hardly a month goes by that we don't see mention in UMOJA of Mother Wright attending this function or that one, almost always for something benefiting youth or seniors. She serves on the Friends of South Madison Neighborhood. She is a member of the Urban League of Greater Madison and the Urban League Guild. In the past she provided blood pressure screening for the Guild and each year at the Guild's Martin Luther King breakfast. She has been a member of the NAACP for 34 years and a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church for 38 years. She serves on the American Baptist Housing Board and the Mothers Board of Mt. Zion.

Jackie serves on the City's Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, teaches a sewing class for seniors, provides a nutrition class for young members at Mt. Zion, corresponds with shut ins, and takes people to doctor's appointments.

She does not call attention to herself, but goes about her work, and what she would call God's work daily. She is a role model for all of us working in the area of civil and human rights.