

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Barbara Boyd

PERSON

**Boyd, Barbara**

**Alternative Names:** Barbara Boyd;

**Life Dates:** April 27, 1929-

**Place of Birth:** Evanston, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Indianapolis, IN

**Occupations:** Television Reporter

## Biographical Note

Barbara Boyd was born in Evanston, Illinois on April 27, 1929. A precocious child, she was educated at Evanston Township High School, where she excelled in literature and the humanities. She continued her studies at Roosevelt University and Columbia College's School of Radio and Television, where she was introduced to the world of broadcast journalism. She later went on to Indiana University and settled in Indianapolis, after graduation. In 1969, Barbara Boyd joined the WRTV 6 News Staff as a consumer reporter at age forty. Her early broadcasts of social and economic events quickly earned her a devoted following. As her audience grew, her range of subjects likewise grew.

Among Barbara Boyd's groundbreaking features was her piece on breast cancer. During the broadcast, Mrs. Boyd addressed her TV audience from her hospital bed one week after her own mastectomy operation. She urged viewers to become more aware of the symptoms of the disease and made note of resource centers in the area that would provide information and testing. The highly acclaimed, award-winning feature was crucial in the reduction of the number of breast cancer cases that year.

An active community leader, Barbara Boyd has been a member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for many years. She holds membership at the Indianapolis Association of Black Journalists, the NAACP, and the March of Dimes Association. In addition to these activities, Mrs. Boyd has been a fundraiser and board member for the Indiana Make-A-Wish Foundation since 1996.

Barbara Boyd has been profiled in Indianapolis Monthly Magazine, Indianapolis Woman Magazine, and a book entitled *In The Public Interest*. She has received four CASPER broadcasting awards from the Community Service Council of Indianapolis

and has been named "Woman of the Year" by the American Cancer Society for her daring feature on breast cancer. She has also received awards from the Indianapolis Press Club, the Indiana State Medical Association, and the Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation. For three consecutive years she was named one of Indianapolis' Top Ten Women by the Indianapolis Star. She is also a recipient of the prestigious Martin Luther King Freedom Award. In March, 2000, Barbara Boyd was inducted into the Indianapolis Hall of Fame.

Boyd was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 11, 2000.

## Related Entries

**University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Indiana University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Evanston Township High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1950 to 1959]

**Secretary**

**National Conference of Christians and Jews** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1963 to 1964]

**Secretary**

**Indianapolis Headstart** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1965 to 1965]

**Secretary**

**WRTV-6 (Television station: Indianapolis, Ind.)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1969 to 1994]

**Journalist**

**WRTV TV** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1969 to ?]

**Consumer Reporter**

**Indiana Children's Wish Fund** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Circle City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Historian**

**Dialogue Today** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Monday Open Bridge** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**