Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator: Jackson, Dorothy O., 1933-
Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson,
Dates: August 1, 2002
Bulk Dates: 2002
Physical Description: 4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:56:34).
Abstract: Civic activist and city government official The Honorable Dorothy Jackson (1933 - ) was the Deputy Mayor of Akron, Ohio. After twelve years with Goodwill Industries, Jackson left to begin her sixteen-year career with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, as the social and tenant services administrator. In her role as deputy mayor, Jackson was a tireless social activist. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 1, 2002, in Akron, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification: A2002_147
Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dorothy Ola Jackson stands as a respected pillar of the Ohio political landscape. Just prior to her birth, her family uprooted itself from dustbowl-ravaged Oklahoma to settle in Akron, Ohio. Born in Akron, on November 9, 1933, Dorothy was the youngest of seven children. She attended Akron's Robinson Elementary School and East High, where she graduated in 1951.
After high school, Jackson worked in a local grocery store and attended night classes at the Actual Business College. Forced to quit her job and drop out of classes when her mother became ill, Dorothy spent the subsequent four years caring for her mother, who died in 1952, and brother, who died in 1956. Following the sudden death of her father in 1957 from a fatal heart attack, Dorothy took a position as a secretary for the Goodwill Industries. While working with the Goodwill, Jackson learned sign language and worked to assist disabled workers. It was during this time that Jackson developed a deep sense of dedication to issues that concerned the disabled. She quickly rose through the ranks from secretary to assistant public relations director.

After twelve years with Goodwill, Jackson left to begin her sixteen-year career with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority as the social and tenant services administrator. By working to bring programs of fun and education to the residents, and providing a high level of personalized tenant care Jackson transformed the agency. She understood that providing housing was only the first step, providing a sense of community was the next. In 1984, Jackson was nominated for deputy mayor for the City of Akron.

In her role as deputy mayor, Jackson has been a tireless social activist. She has given her voice and support to issues that concern the poor and disabled. She is the recipient of many awards and honors including the Women in History Week Woman of the Year, the United Way Distinguished Service Award and the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 1, 2002, in Akron, Ohio, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civic activist and city government official The Honorable Dorothy Jackson (1933 - ) was the Deputy Mayor of Akron, Ohio. After twelve years with Goodwill Industries, Jackson left to begin her sixteen-year career with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, as the social and tenant services administrator. In her role as deputy mayor, Jackson was a tireless social activist.

Restrictions
Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

**Restrictions on Use**

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

---

**Related Material**

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

---

**Controlled Access Terms**

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

**Persons:**

- Jackson, Dorothy O., 1933-
- Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
- Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

- African Americans--Interviews
- Jackson, Dorothy O., 1933---Interviews

**Organizations:**
HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Akron (Ohio)

Occupations:

Civic Activist

City Government Official

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson, August 1, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following
Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson, Section A2002_147_001_001, TRT: 0:29:10 2002/08/01

Akron, Ohio Deputy Mayor Dorothy O. Jackson talks about her parents' backgrounds and personalities. Then, she remembers growing up in Akron, Ohio as she discusses memories from her childhood neighborhood, which she described as integrated and multicultural. Dorothy O. Jackson recalls other family members and her relationships with them and then talks about her integrated elementary school and influential teachers and mentors.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson, Section A2002_147_001_002, TRT: 0:29:49 2002/08/01

Akron, Ohio Deputy Mayor Dorothy O. Jackson remembers her high school days in Akron, and shares experiences that exemplify her personality and interests at the time. She then discusses her early career aspirations and talks about jobs she held and relationships she made while taking various receptionist and secretary jobs for companies in Akron. Jackson looks back on her mother's death, describing how her family dealt with the hardship. She then describes her training at Gallaudet University, where she learned sign language so she could be an interpreter for the hearing impaired.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson, Section A2002_147_001_003, TRT: 0:30:05 2002/08/01
Akron, Ohio Deputy Mayor Dorothy O. Jackson recalls her education in sign language at Gallaudet University and then discusses her career as an interpreter. Next, she speaks about her various volunteer experiences at fundraisers and food drives in the Akron area. She also discusses her work for the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority Jackson then explains how she moved into political office as the Deputy Mayor of Akron. Finally, Jackson discusses her future plans, legacy and hopes for the black community.

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Dorothy Jackson, Section A2002_147_001_004, TRT: 0:27:30 2002/08/01

Akron, Ohio Deputy Mayor Dorothy O. Jackson describes how she'd like to be remembered. Then, showing her sign language abilities, she signs an inspirational message. Jackson narrates her personal photographs as they are recorded on videotape.