

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vivian R. Jones

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jones, Vivian R., 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones,
Dates:	April 20, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:06:32).
Abstract:	Community leader Vivian R. Jones (1948 -) founded Annie B. Jones Community and Family Services, Inc., which provided comprehensive social services to more than 5,000 people each year. Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 20, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_079
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Founder and CEO Vivian R. Jones was born on September 3, 1948 in Sweet Home, Arkansas to Annie B. and German Jones. As a child, Jones relocated to Chicago, where she earned her A.A. degree in Social Services from Kennedy-King College. Jones completed her B.A. degree and her M.Ed. degree in Education from Chicago State University, and later received her Honorary Doctorate Degree of Divinity from the International Pentecostal Assemblies Ecumenical College of Bible Theology.

Dr. Jones has overcome many obstacles in life as she has worked toward fulfilling

her commitment to improving the lives of others. In 1992 she founded Annie B Jones Community Services, Inc. (ABJ), which is a community based social service agency that provides much needed services to children, families, seniors, and the community at large. ABJ was named in memory of Dr. Jones' mother Annie B. Jones, Mrs. Jones was a community organizer and a union leader (AFSCME Local 286 President) who died at the young age of 53 years old. Mrs. Jones, and Dr. Jones', father German Jones, Sr. left a legacy of giving with their children. ABJ Community Services, Inc. (ABJ) offers a variety of services to the Chicago community, those services include: Foster care, behavioral health, employment training, the ABJ computer clubhouse, Teen Reach, ABJ Community Services Sunshine Food Pantry, SPF-SIG, ABJ Community Services, Inc. , The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and C.O.N.N.E.C.T.S, Coalition of Organizational, Neighborhood and Network Empowerment through Culture, Talent and Spirituality. Dr. Jones' parents' example is the foundation of her commitment of giving to society and those who are often misjudged, misunderstood, and disregarded. ABJ provides comprehensive social services to more than 5000 people every year. In 1996, Dr. Jones became the Commissioner of the African American Family Commission and served there for five years. She also serves on the Board of Directors for The Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention as one of its founding members, and serves as Vice-President on the Board of Directors for The South Shore Chamber Commerce. As a result of her dedication to service, Dr. Jones has been recognized and honored many times for her work and commitment to the community. Some of the honors include; Honored Professional of Who's Who in Executives in Business. *The Chicago Defender* Newspaper recognized and awarded her as one of the Women of Excellence in April of 2009 for her benevolent work. Dr. Jones has also been awarded the prestigious Kizzy award in three different categories. She was listed in Today's Chicago Woman magazine for two years and awarded the Woman at the Top of Her Game Award. Additionally, Dr. Jones has been featured in *Essence* and *N'Digo* Magazines. She was most recently recognized for Inspirational Community Service by the Urban Sustainability Association (USA) in May of 2009.

Vivian Jones was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 20, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Vivian R. Jones was conducted by Lynn Norment on April 20, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Community leader Vivian R. Jones (1948

-) founded Annie B. Jones Community and Family Services, Inc., which provided comprehensive social services to more than 5,000 people each year.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

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:

Jones, Vivian R., 1948-

Norment, Lynn (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Jones, Vivian R., 1948---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Community Leader

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 Vivian R. Jones, April 20, 2012. 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 standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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 Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_001, TRT: 1:31:35 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones was born on September 3, 1948 in Sweet Home, Arkansas to Annie Henderson Jones and German Jones, Sr. Her maternal grandmother, Reola James Henderson, lived in Sweet Home, where Jones' mother was born in 1924. As a young adult, Jones' mother moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she met and married Jones' father. He came to Chicago from Jackson, Mississippi, where he was born in 1904 to Robert Jones and Mary Moton. His father died at a young age, and his mother then married Ike Moton. Jones' father eventually settled in Chicago, where he worked at Mama Batt's restaurant for over thirty years. Jones' mother worked at Chicago's John J. Madden Mental Health Center, and was president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 289 union. After becoming pregnant with Jones, she visited Sweet Home to give birth. When Jones was six weeks old, they returned to Chicago, where Jones grew up with six siblings in a home near 25th Street and Michigan Avenue.

Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_002, TRT: 2:29:12 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones grew up in Chicago, Illinois. She became

pregnant with her daughter at fifteen years old, and was forced to leave Dunbar Vocational High School. From that time, she relied on community service programs like the Neighborhood Youth Corps, where she received job training and earned credit towards her general education degree (GED). At eighteen years old, Jones left her parent's home and moved into a kitchenette apartment, where she lived with her daughter. She worked as a clerk for the Chicago Police Department, and at retail stores like Woolworth and Walgreens Company. Jones eventually completed her GED at Kennedy-King College, where she then pursued an associate's degree. Her professors included C. Vincent Bakeman, who founded the Human Resources Development Institute; and Margaret Burroughs, who created the DuSable Museum of African American History. During this time, Jones became pregnant with her son, and her mother suffered a stroke and died at the age of fifty-three years old.

Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_003, TRT: 3:29:12 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones earned an associate's degree from Kennedy-King College in Chicago, Illinois in 1980. She then became a workshop supervisor at Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc., where she worked with developmentally delayed and handicapped individuals. In 1983, Jones became a full time student at Chicago State University while raising her children, Victoria C. Brady and Eddie Jones. Her daughter was a senior in high school at the time, and helped care for her son, who was a toddler. Jones graduated with a bachelor's degree in school guidance and counseling in 1986, and began teaching English second language courses at Olive-Harvey College. She continued to study at Chicago State University, where she pursued a master's degree in education and worked as a graduate assistant. She obtained her degree in 1988, and later became a child welfare specialist at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_004, TRT: 4:29:22 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones worked as a foster care specialist at a PSI Family Services Inc., a black-owned firm in Chicago,

Illinois. She later joined Lifelink International Adoption, a white organization that focused on adoption and other family and community services. From these experiences, Jones realized that many social service programs failed to reach minority communities, and was inspired to found her own organization to serve the African American community. In 1993, Jones established Annie B. Jones Community Services Inc. (ABJ), which was named in memory of her mother. ABJ began as a foster care center with one hundred clients, and later added employment and job training, youth programs, substance abuse counselling and a food and clothing bank. Within two years, the center expanded into three facilities with over one hundred employees and eight hundred clients. In 2002, the company received its first social services accreditation from the Council on Accreditation.

Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_005, TRT: 5:29:44 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones was the founder of Annie B. Jones Community and Family Services, Inc. (ABJ), which provided foster care and social services to the black community in Chicago, Illinois. The company was an early success, and Jones was appointed by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar to the Illinois African-American Family Commission in 1997. However, in 2000, the company came under scrutiny by the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services for failure to document purchases around the time of the organization's founding. Despite these challenges and cuts to the state budget during the 2000s, ABJ continued to provide services to the community, and implemented new programs like after school support and an intergenerational family communication program. In 2002, Illinois Senator Emil Jones, Jr. helped secure a grant that allowed ABJ develop a cultural education program. The program took a group of children from Chicago on a tour of the American South, where they visited historic sites from the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_006, TRT: 6:26:43 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones was a founding member of the Illinois

African American Coalition for Prevention, which was established in 2005 after the state legislature eliminated funding for many social programs. In 2007, her company, Annie B. Jones Community Services, Inc. (ABJ), was recognized as one of the top five foster care agencies in Illinois. In 2009, Jones was honored by the Chicago Tribune and Urban Sustainability Association for her accomplishments in social service. She went on to be awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity from the International Pentecostal Assemblies Ecumenical College of Bible Theology. She recalls meeting President Barack Obama, and working with him during his tenure in the Illinois Senate. Jones also talks about her faith, and reflects upon her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Vivian R. Jones, Section
A2012_079_001_007, TRT: 7:10:44 2012/04/20

Vivian R. Jones narrates her photographs.