



RECOGNIZES

Floy Howie

AS

Volunteer of the Year

VALUING EDUCATION

Nearly a decade ago, a disability forced Floy Howie to retire from her position as an inspector at Gallo's. Today, she walks with the help of crutches, but her disability has not hampered her community involvement. An active volunteer, Howie is committed to make life better for others, especially youth.

She chairs the Black Leadership Roundtable Education Committee and moved the issue of black student achievement onto the community's agenda. Her efforts have been a catalyst for other grassroots initiatives that hold the school system accountable and offer interventions, such as home-based study groups, to address the achievement gap.

"It is critical for parents K-12 to make sure that our children get a good education," says Howie. "Our youth are our future."

Howie is also active in Democratic party politics. She serves as a block captain, as president of the Happy Hill Neighborhood Community Association and as Sims Center's precinct chairperson. Residents asked her to temporarily serve as precinct chair after Sims,

her predecessor, died. Though his were big shoes to fill, Howie proved so effective that her constituents asked that she take the job permanently.

"She does not drive," says N.C. Rep. Larry Womble, "but never fails to miss an important meeting on issues of importance to the African-American community, especially when it comes to the education of our children."

Howie's early role models were her mother, aunt and grandmother.

"They were strong Christian women," she says, "who knew how to do a lot with a little."

A Charlotte native, Howie inherited not only her foremothers' resourcefulness but also their warmth.

"I try to get along with everybody and I'm able to get the cooperation from other people," she said.

A widowed mother of three and grandmother of two, Howie tutors at Diggs Elementary School and serves as secretary of the Senior Missionary Department at Christ Rescue Temple Apostolic Church.

"She richly deserves this recognition," says Womble.



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SERVE SALUTES YOU*