Reid's Super Food Mart Is Viable Westside Business

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
Henderson Reid has lived
and worked in his community all of his life.

"I try to work in my community not move out," the president of Reid's Super Food Mart expressed. He opened the community grocery store in 1988, and it's been a viable and serviceable business to west Charlotte all along.

When Reid was asked why he decided to open his business, he didn't state financial purpose or even

personal concerns. Instead, Reid pointed out he opened the store to illustrate to the entire black community that it can move up and do something, regardless of what the past has been like.

A grass roots individual, Reid has been selected as a Charlotte Post Achiever. Before opening the grocery store, he owned a restaurant. In both musinesses, he has involved the community and tried to pass on a skill. Presently, Reid's entire family is connected with Reid's Supermarket. "My wife, Dorothy, is the assistant secretary-treasurer; my sons, Clayton and Marcus, are vice presidents and my daughter, Deborah, is the secretary-treasurer."

Clayton, also manages a convenience store, Henny Penny, located near the grocery store. Speaking proudly, Reid noted, They're (his family) a big help to me."

Rather modest, Reid should admit he is a big



Henderson Reid
.....Modest businessman

well. "I get more young

people supporting my business than I do older people," Reid informed. He

doesn't know if the reason

is jealousy or an unaware-

support black businesses.

ess of the importance to

help to the community. He feels it's his duty to hire "school kids" to train them in various areas of the retail business. "I like to teach them how to cut meats, to treat customers, and even to run the cash register," Reid mentioned.

"I do that so these young people can go to larger grocery chains and be competitive." This attitude revealed more about Reid's personality; he's unselfish and strictly concerned with helping others.

"We need to work together," Reid stressed. He has noticed in his business that the "older crowd don't support" his business his priorities in perspective. "I'd rather help blacks than anybody else," he spoke frankly. "I'll always give money that I make, back to the black community," he stressed. Reid does give money to the community with consistency. "I make donations to black churches; my account is with a black-owned bank; in other words, I don't make my money in the black community and then spend it in Myers Park," stated Reid as he summed up his

He has received the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership award and the certificate for salesmanship from the Economic Development Council. He is a member of the Amay James Presbyterian Church and the Northwest Optimist Club.

points

The NAACP member who said his favorite black person in history is Dr. George Washington Carver, is now setting up houses for rent on Dr. Carver Road in Charlotte. "The land was willed to me by my grandmother and I don't just want to let it be

there," Reid said.

Also a member of the Masons and the Fraternal Order of Police, Reid won't let anything which is a part of his life remain in a state of complacency. After all, he's an achiever.

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