

# A NEW YEAR, AN OLD DREAM: A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN



The Shelby Grandchildren



Beatrice Shelby

As the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center starts the New Year—our 43rd—we have been giving a lot of thought to the work we have done with the children in Marvell for the past forty-three years. It is always wonderful to see those young people who have benefitted from BGACDCs work and grown up to become successful adults, but it is frustrating and painful to see those who haven't taken full advantage of it and are struggling just to survive. BGACDC has always wanted the best for all the children with whom we work.

The early years of a child's development are the most important developmental years of his/her entire life. If your child is behind in his reading when he/she reaches the third grade, research shows that he/she will fall further and further behind from that point on. And he/she is most likely to drop out of school without a high school diploma. You owe it to your child, to yourself, to the country, and to future generations to help your child succeed.

We sometimes get discouraged doing the work that we do. Sometimes we even wonder whether we should keep going. But we always decide to keep going because we believe it is the work that God placed it in our hearts to do.



We hope that in 2021 more parents will join us in our efforts. Remember: Our children are our present and our future. It is our responsibility, each of us, to prepare them to be responsible, productive and happy adults.

*Beatrice Shelby*  
*Executive Director, BGACDC*