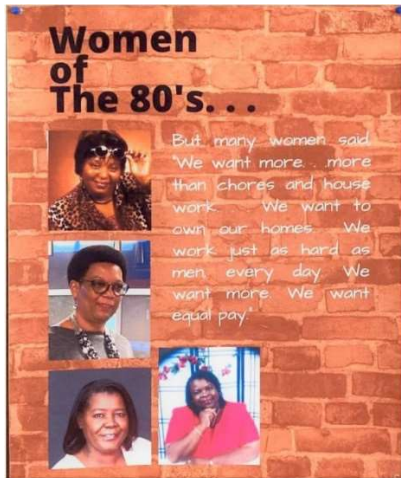


# LET US NOW CELEBRATE WOMEN



March is Women's History Month and at Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center we have decorated our humble quarters to memorialize a few of the women who have made a difference in our work at BGACDC, in the Marvell-Elaine community, and in the larger world. One exhibit is a poster of four women who came to work at BGACDC in the 1980s and helped shape its future, another a tree with the names of role models, and a third an array of pictures of women who made a difference in our community.

Yes, there is much to remember and to celebrate. Women's roles in life, in our community and in the world at large have changed so dramatically since I was a girl of six and my mother told me about a U.S. Supreme Court decision called *Brown v. Board of Education*, which promised all of us an education and opportunities that had been missing for our forebears.

Like most women in the 'fifties, my mother wanted her children to get out of the cotton fields to pursue an education because she believed that it was one way not to pick or chop cotton.

How far women have come since 1954, when the *Brown* decision integrated the schools at Topeka, Kansas. In Marvell, very few women were working outside the home except in the cotton fields or in janitorial or kitchen jobs, except for the occasional teacher or clerk. I do not remember in 1954 any nursing homes or women preachers or pastors. Today, when I talk about women from Marvell, I talk about attorneys, authors, certified public accountants, directors of various projects, doctors, dentists, nurses, pastors, principals, superintendents, and other occupations that we used to call white-collar jobs.

In 2022, when women talk with their children and grandchildren, they can tell them about Shirley Chisholm, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Kamala Harris and many women of all races and creeds who hold top positions in nearly every department of the national government. In the 'fifties and 'sixties Thurgood Marshall was a name to remember and hallow. Women attorneys and judges—even Supreme Court justices (soon to be four of the nine)—are everywhere.

Yes, so much to remember and celebrate!

— *Beatrice Shelby, Executive Director*