

Betsy Grant

Passionate is just one way to describe Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Grant. It is obvious once you meet Dr. Grant that this is true in many areas of her life. Dr. Grant uses this passion to bring justice, fairness and opportunities to any and all individuals of any race, color, or national origin.

Dr. Grant believes in strong, safe neighborhoods, educational opportunities, equitable services, and bringing dignity to individuals. This is evident by her service to the community as a co-founder and Chair of the Board of University City East, a healthy communities initiative, demonstrating the spirit of racial unity and justice by implementing an effective agent for social change in University City.

UCE has several committee's - all of which Dr. Grant is involved in. One such example is the Health Committee, which provides free screening for blood lead, blood pressure, EKG's, mental health screening, and physical exams for youth. Dr. Grant was instrumental in securing the funding for these services available to the community, free of charge.

Also, the Youth Leadership Committee provides safe and healthy environments for youth. Healthy Kids at Play grant funded a new playground at Pershing Elementary School; a health mobile visits District schools; and "Safety Town" teaches personal safety. Currently all elementary students in the School District of University City participate annually in Safety Town.

Over the past few years, free breakfasts/lunches have been served during the summer months at Delmar-Harvard Elementary School and has expanded to include all U. City public schools.

In 1973, Dr. Grant received her bachelors from the University of Hartford, in West Hartford, Conn. She received her AM, M.S.W. and Ph.D. (social work) degrees from Washington University. She is currently a research statistician and is the data manager with the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Washington University School of Medicine, of Biostatistics.

Dr. Grant passionately serves on other community boards, including Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High Schools PTO's, U. City in Bloom, University City Mayor's/School Board Presidents Committee, Co-coordinator of annual African-American Read-In Chain from 1999-2002, and was a recipient of the 2000 Uniquely U. City Award, presented annually by the superintendent to the exceptional few.

Dr. Grant has been married to Julian (Jay) Johnson for the past 23 years and together they have two children: Andrea, a 2002 UCHS graduate, attends Beloit College in Wisconsin, but currently studying abroad in Milan, Italy, and Wesley, a sophomore at UCHS.

Moses Head

The late Moses Michael Head, Jr., was a man who dedicated his life promoting and working toward racial unity and justice by being the voice for those who would otherwise not be heard. He understood Dr. King's dream, emulating it in his own life and in doing so, helped create a stronger community.

Mr. Head joined the City of University City's staff in 1972 as the Assistant to the Director of Public Works, eventually working his way to Deputy Director of Operations. In addition to his role in Public Works, he became the City's first Affirmative Action Officer in 1982. This is when his labor of work turned into a love for his work. One of Mr. Head's greatest accomplishments was launching the City's Police and Fire Cadet Scholarship Program - a program designed to recruit and help minorities and women establish careers in police and fire services. The diversity seen today in the City's various departments can be attributed to Mr. Head's recruitment efforts. Due to his success in affirmative action, he became a highly sought after speaker, addressing communities on building diversity in the workplace.

Some of Mr. Head's other endeavors include having an instrumental role in establishing the City's Fair Housing Ordinance, which prohibits unlawful discrimination, and in light of this ordinance, he became the Fair Housing Officer for University City. He also spearheaded the campaign and implementation for minority golf pro apprenticeship program to initiate opportunities for minorities.

Mr. Head continued throughout his life to provide opportunities for youth, serving as a program director for Project Outreach. He was also active in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater St. Louis program for nine years, often recruiting volunteers for the program.

Mr. Head received his bachelors in education degree from Lincoln University in 1960 and was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He passed away on February 22, 1999, following an illness. He is survived by his widow, Mary, and one son, Virgil.

Accepting on behalf of Moses Head is City Manager, Mr. Frank Ollendorff, who not only was a co-worker of Mr. Head's, but also a confidant in every sense of the word.

