



PAC NEWSLETTER

HOWARD UNIVERSITY
PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HANDICAPPED
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
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FROM THE CHAIR...

It is inspiring to reflect over the beginnings of this parent advocacy group and to realize that 10 years have gone by in service to Howard University and the wider community.

On a fateful day in the Fall of 1981, when I was a student in the University Without Walls at Howard University, I approached Dr. Sylvia Walker about being my academic advisor. The thoughts we shared that day led to the beginning of the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Center for the Study of Handicapped Children and Youth.

When Dr. Walker asked me to suggest members, my first thoughts were of Mazie Green Holland and Sylvia Ross--Sylvia as the mother of a special needs child, and Mazie as ardent advocate for us both. Mazie, several years before, had developed so much compassion and understanding of our needs that she provided a forum for us and other parents in her home so that information could be shared on a regular basis. Sylvia, Mazie, and I became the core membership of PAC. On December 14, 1981, the PAC had its first official meeting, with Mazie, Sylvia, myself, Dr. Walker, Dr. Willie T. Howard (then Dean of the School of Education--the parent school of the center), and several staff members of the Center.

At this meeting we laid the groundwork for our mission, planned this very newsletter, volunteered for parent workshops, and quite enthusiastically, you could say, joined the Center in serving the needs of handicapped children and their families.

Needless to say, none of this could have been possible without the overwhelming support of Dr. Walker and each and every wonderful PAC member.



Shirley Dyer

I am pleased to acknowledge the support of Dean Howard who personally attended a number of PAC meetings, Dr. Charles Asbury (then Chairman of Psychoeducational Studies Department) who not only attended meetings, but participated in activities with PAC members, and Dr. Margorie Lee became a regular and active member of the group.

At this 10-year juncture, I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Walker for making the job of chairperson of PAC a pleasant one because of her love, patience, and understanding. She has worked side-by-side with us, and has never missed a meeting during the ten years.

It is a proud day, looking over 10 years with this group which has served as a rewarding testimony to the interest of parents and educators in enhancing the lives of children and other persons who have special needs.