

Josephine E. Handy- Sewell

6737 Summer Oak Ct.

Stone Mountain, Ga. 30087

Jo is a retired retail executive with over 45 years of experience. A few of her responsibilities over the years included training of employees, merchandise distribution, District and Regional merchandising of 25 stores, store remodeling in 5 States and throughout the East Coast. Managed budgets and store revenue of 25-35 million dollars, managed over 300+ employees in two Sears stores in Louisiana and Georgia. During her retail career, Jo has served the community in many capacities, to name a few, she served as a liaison between Sears as a major sponsor to the Martin Luther King, Jr Center during the Annual Salute to Greatness Celebration. Chaired the largest Toys for Tots drive by a retailer in partnership with the United States Marine Corp, coordinated the largest food drive, ever for Tangipahoa Parish, LA, as the store manager in Hammond, LA. In 2001, Jo also became the first African American female to build a new Sears retail store, in the history of Sears, at the Mall of StoneCrest Lithonia, Ga. Other community outreach have been blood drives in partnership with American Red Cross and well as raising funds for the Salvation Army and helping to raise funds and collect donations for victims of hurricane Katrina.

Jo is an active member of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Jerry D. Black. Currently serving as President of the Maggie Howard Missionary Circle, we help serve the sick of our church, we partner with United Nursing Home to provide companionship and spiritual uplift for patients. We also partner with and pack medical supplies for MedShare, an international organization, that provides medical supplies to third world countries. We also volunteer with the Genesis Shelter/Our House, a home for homeless families with infant children. We provide hot breakfast, toys, toiletries and clothing for children at the shelter.

Jo is Chair of the Social Justice Mission at Beulah. We provide information to our congregation of 9,000 plus member of social issues that affect the Community. Jo organizes voter registrations drives, worked numerous phone banks, organized Souls- to-Toll- Poll drives for Sunday voting and makes sure the congregation is informed of social Issues in the County, State and Nation. Jo currently serves as secretary of the DeKalb Democratic Party and Vice- President of the Mountain Oaks Homeowners Association, which has over 400 residents.

Jo has served as office manager, volunteer coordinator and fundraiser coordinator for DeKalb County CEO elect Attorney Michael Thurmond's successful campaign. Campaign Coordinator for Attorney Randal A. Mangham, 7<sup>th</sup> Commission Super District Campaign and Constituent Services Director for Former DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis. Coordinator the coveted Community Services Award ceremony

given by Former Commissioner Burrell Ellis to 25 Citizens of DeKalb County and coordinated the hospitality event for the entire County at the former CEO's Ellis' Open House Event.

Jo has received numerous professional awards over the years, but was recently awarded the prestigious Nikki T. Randal Servant Leadership Award for 2017, awarded by the Georgia Women's Legislative Caucus.

Jo attended Tuskegee University (Institute) in Tuskegee, Alabama and was an honors graduate from her hometown historic high school, Burney-Harris High School in Athens, Georgia. Her hobbies are reading, decorating and entertaining. Jo is also an active volunteer at The Fox Theater of Atlanta, The Alliance Theater and the Atlanta Symphony.

Jo and her husband, John T. Sewell reside in DeKalb County and have 3 adult children and one grandchild.

