

Wanda S. Reid is a native and resident of Forsyth County. She is an active member of Christ Kingdom Building Worship Center in Winston-Salem, NC as well as a proud mother of three sons which she is very grateful to God for. She graduated from WSSU where she received a Bachelor of Science in business administration. Recently, Ms. Reid attended Salem College where she became certified as a not for profit manager. She has recently retired from Forsyth County with 27 years of service to the community.

A writer and poet, Wanda S. Reid has authored more than 1500 poems, published a book and compact disk of the spoken word. She also enjoys listening to jazz, singing, and helping others in the community. Her passion for people comes from God, a childhood of watching her grandmother touch the lives of so many people, as well as from being the caretaker for her grandmother, mother and aunt for many years.

Today her passion revolves around an organization **called Shoebox Ministry**, which was started in 2008. Shoebox Ministry's mission is to provide assisted living residents (nursing home/ group homes) with personal need items at Christmas Time such as shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, etc. Past research indicates that these residents are allowed to keep only a small portion of their income (\$30 for nursing home residents and \$66 for rest home residents per month) for their personal needs. The remainder of their income is used to pay towards their cost of care in the facility.

As an advocate for this segment of our population, Wanda S. Reid expresses her passion and willingness to help these individuals:

"It is amazing and sad to me when I think about this situation. In 1984 I became employed at Department of Social Services as a case worker. The initial program was Adult Medicaid. In this program there was a \$30 allowance given to residents of long term facilities and this amount has not changed. It has been at least 27 years, and a segment of our most vulnerable population are still expected to live with such a small amount of money, accept it and be happy. We should not forget that many of these residents are individuals who have worked their entire lives and due to an unexpected illness are no longer able to totally care for themselves."

In 2008, Shoebox Ministry was able to provide 95 residents of the Triad area with a shoebox gift filled with personal care items. In 2009 and 2010 more than 150 residents were served each year. This year Ms. Reid hopes to increase donations and provide a happier Christmas for assisted living residents. If you would like to make a donation of personal care items (see list below) or to sponsor a resident for \$10 dollars, contact Wanda Reid at <a href="wandareid27@gmail.com">wandareid27@gmail.com</a> or by phone at (336) 283-9287.

Personal Need Items: Shampoo, Lotion, Vaseline, Deodorant, Hair Grease, Toothbrush/Holder, Washcloth, Toothpaste, Soap, Socks & Body Powder.