

Idessa Redden Early Childhood Development Center Staff

*Tom Gardner, Executive Director
Dennis Johnson, Director
W. W. Steele, Administrator
TaRhonda Wiggins, Supervisor
Beverly J. Toodle, Family Service Worker
Earnestine Hardie, Home Visitor/Trainer
Sherry Nettles, Combo*

0-12

*Linda Belser
Veronica Poole*

13-24

*Kristie Davis
Safina Washington*

25-30

*Audrey Campbell
Denise Whatley*

31-36

*Tameka Baker
Andrea Daniel*

Mobile Assistant
Peggy Judkins

Committees

Program

*Paulette Moncrief
Bonita Whitlow
TaRhonda Wiggins*

Publicity

*Wanda Jackson
Tracey Kendrick
Alice Terrell*

Decoration/Reception

*Lizzie Hardie
Juanita Henderson
Veronica Poole
Denise Whatley*

Hostesses - Early Head Start Caregivers

*DEDICATORY CEREMONIES
FOR*

IDESSA REDDEN

*EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT CENTER*



*Church of God Pentecostal
November 25, 2001
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.*

IDESSA WILLIAMS-REDDEN

Idessa Williams-Redden was born on November 27, 1912 in Montgomery, Alabama. She was reared by her grandparents, Julius and Louisa Harris.

Idessa attended St. Paul Methodist Church School, Loveless, St. John Catholic and State Normal High Schools. After high school, she began working at Reliance Manufacturing Company (The Shirt Factory). While working there, she attended Bethesda Beauty and Culture School, and in 1949, she opened "Idessa's Beauty Nook".

In 1938, Idessa married George Williams, a carpenter. Idessa became a registered voter in 1949, and there was no turning back for her commitment to the struggle. She joined Coach Rufus Lewis in the crusade for full voting rights as a "black captain" to encourage people to sign up for voting rights clinics.

Black youth gravitated to Idessa because her positive stance and fearless expression imbued them, especially the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

After her divorce in 1956, Idessa later married John Redden, Sr., a retiree who supported her unconditionally.

In 1970, Idessa began working as Family Service Worker with the Montgomery Community Action Agency. This program grew out of the federal government's response to correct the inequities that had festered in the Black community since slavery time. Idessa retired in 1998 at the age of 85, satisfied that she had honored her childhood vow to serve her people. "Working in the Civil/Voting Rights Movement was the greatest challenge of my life. I was in the Movement to help my people. I have dedicated my life to help uplift my fellowman," she said, upon her retirement.

Compiled by: Dr. Qwen Patton, TSTC Archivist

Idessa Redden Early Childhood Development Center W. W. Steele, Presiding

Payer Rev. Wesley Lewis

Amazing Grace Mr. Armon Robinson

Tribute Mrs. Linda Hampton

Individual Tributes (2 minute limit)

Medley of Songs Dr. Dorothy Riggins

Proclamation Mrs. Paulette Moncrief

Presentations

"Wind Beneath My Wings" . . . Dr. Dorothy Riggins

Remarks Mrs. Idessa Redden, Honoree
Mr. Tom Gardner, Executive Director
Mr. Dennis Johnson, Director

Unveiling of the sign (outside)

Reception Immediately Following in the Idessa Redden Early Childhood Center