



Dolores Clark

Dolores Clark was born in Durham, North Carolina, on December 9, 1933. She was raised on a farm in Carrboro in a home that has particular significance to Dolores and her family. Her great-grandfather, Toney Strayhorn, purchased the land immediately following the Civil War and built a one-room log cabin for his wife, Nellie Atwater Strowd. Dolores is proud of her family's accomplishments in the face of the racial discrimination that characterized the post-Civil War period. The house built by her great-grandfather has grown in size and in memories over the past century and a half, and remains an historical landmark in Carrboro.

Ruth Stroud, Dolores' mother, encouraged her daughter's education. Dolores attended the segregated Orange County Training School in Chapel Hill for first through eleventh grades. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1951 and still carries fond memories of the teachers who strived to create a fun and effective learning environment with very few resources. Dolores was stricken by polio in 1950, delaying her graduation from high school. Her illness inspired her to pursue a career in health and after graduating she attended North Carolina College – now North Carolina Central University – and later Durham Technical Community College where she studied nursing. Though she enjoyed working with adults, Dolores discovered that her passion was

pediatric nursing and she went on to work as a pediatric nurse at UNC Hospital and, later, Chapel Hill Pediatrics.

Dolores was married and raised four children: Lorie, Butch, Larry and Lyn, right next door to the house in Carrboro that her great-grandfather built. She now has ten grandchildren whom she sees frequently. Dolores has been a lifelong member of First Baptist Church on Roberson Street, where she serves faithfully in various ministries including Chapel Hill-Carrboro Church Women United. In 1978, Dolores was honored as "Mother of the Year" by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Merchants Association.

- When reflecting on her involvement in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, Dolores considers her most significant contributions to be giving back to the community through her many hours as a volunteer. She is particularly proud of her work with the youth of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, as well as with the town's elders. She has been involved with organizations including Carrboro Recreation Department, the Chapel Hill Service League, Opportunities for Kids and Youth (OKAY), the Interfaith Council, The Golden Age Happy Circle, The Hannah Ruth Foundation and many others.
- Dolores sees the rapid growth of Chapel Hill and Carrboro as being the most significant change to the community. Despite this growth, however, she still sees echoes of the "small town" in which she grew up and raised her family. "I have learned to treasure this small, quaint town," she said. "I have seen so many things change and grow beyond my dreams, yet some things have remained the same. What I treasure most is the sense of community; it still maintains that 'small' town feeling, even though we have grown... I relish seeing the same structures and new businesses that occupy the space."
- Dolores' fondest memory of the community goes back to her work as a pediatric nurse. During the 1960s and 70s, she and Dr. Scheaffer of Chapel Hill Pediatrics worked to provide a free clinic for underprivileged children in Chapel Hill and Carrboro a few evenings of the week. To this day, she runs into former patients – now all grown up! – who fondly remember visiting the clinic and the help she offered.
- When asked about her wish for the future of the community, Dolores responded, "I hope Carrboro continues to grow and attract friendly and caring residents. After all, that's the Carrboro I know and have grown to love and cherish."