



### **Ted Parrish**

Truly a Chapel Hill native, Ted was born in the Pine Knolls neighborhood near the border between Chapel Hill and Carrboro. At the age of nine or ten, he and his mother moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, where she felt he would have better overall opportunities. They lived in a blue-collar community there, and Ted spent summers here with his grandfather, who was a prominent brick mason, and Ted's job was to carry bricks for his grandfather. When he graduated from high school in Springfield, he was voted best all-around student with honors and had served as captain of the track and football teams. He attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, on a full scholarship. Following graduation from Brown, he lived in Boston, Washington D.C. and Mound Bayou, Mississippi where he helped to establish the first comprehensive community health center before returning to live in Chapel Hill in 1970.

Ted and Jacqueline Parrish have six children, most of whom were educated in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Public Schools. Ted noted that, in the local educational system at the time, the highest ranking for a black student had been 128<sup>th</sup> from the top of the class. This had inspired him to run for a position on the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School Board, where he served for sixteen (16) years. During this period when the schools were integrated, there was a movement to convert Lincoln High School to a garage for repairing the Board's motor vehicles. With the help of his colleague Ed Caldwell, the former high school became the administrative office for the

school system. Ted also supported creation of the Phoenix Academy High School that is adjacent to the former Lincoln High School, which black students had attended.

When asked about his fondest memory of a local contribution, he replied that it was the development of the summer and after school programs at the Pines Community Center which he had built, along with thirty (30) affordable houses surrounding a top of the line playground. The tutorial enrichment programs helped to provide the foundation for many graduates including a dentist, a lawyer, a social worker, town planner, numerous law members and a professor at Duke University, among other successful graduates.

In addition, Ted was a long-standing member of the faculty in public health at NCCU where he established a successful and ongoing blood donation program before retiring. This blood donation program became a poster child for the American Red Cross. The program included tissue typing and registration for organ donation. Ted has donated blood more than 150 times and has been a prolific phoresis donor. One of Ted's most rewarding outcomes had been when a NCCU student donated a kidney, saving a stranger's life. Another student had donated bone marrow that cured a Chapel Hill youth with sickle cell disease. Ted also served on the state and the national board of the American Red Cross for many years.