



Founder's Story: In Her Words

As I take a moment to reflect on the beginning of this journey, I am filled with profound gratitude and hope. The work we do at Assemble to Serve Humanity (ASH) stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and our collective commitment to social justice and human rights. From the very beginning, our mission has been to amplify the voices of the voiceless and support those who are disadvantaged in our society.

Each of us plays a vital role in advancing ASH's mission. It is through our unwavering dedication, compassion, and willingness to meet people where they are that we can help guide them toward where they desire to be. The inspiration for this organization grew from my personal experiences, my passion for serving others, and witnessing the many challenges faced by individuals and families every day.

While our world faces countless social issues, homelessness continues to be one of the most urgent. What began as a vision has since become a calling, a purpose that I believe is divinely guided.

Throughout this journey, I have been blessed with the guidance, encouragement, and support of many mentors, family members, and friends. I am especially grateful for my late mentor, educator, philanthropist, and former representative, Dr. Alma W. Byrd. Her unwavering belief in serving humanity and her confidence in my potential continue to inspire me and strengthen my commitment to uplifting others.

Even during life's darkest moments, I remind myself that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Challenges will come, resources may be limited, and uncertainty may test our resolve. Yet, by looking upward and trusting in a power greater than ourselves, we can overcome obstacles and accomplish what once seemed impossible. Although the road ahead is not always clear, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to serving humanity and fulfilling the mission God has placed before us.

There have been moments when resources were scarce and doubt quietly crept in but we refused to give up. One of the greatest reminders to persevere came during our Inaugural Souper Bowl on February 10, 2024, when a stranger shared Romans 8:28 with me. Those words that all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose renewed my spirit and reaffirmed that ASH was on the path it was meant to follow, even when the journey felt overwhelming.

Although our organization may not always have every resource we desire, we possess something far more valuable: faith, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to serving humanity. Our goal has never been fame or fortune. Our goal is to be a force for positive change, bringing hope

to those who need it most. Every act of kindness, every volunteer, every donation, and every partnership moves us one step closer to building stronger communities and brighter futures.

As we continue serving disadvantaged individuals, families, and communities, I encourage you to remember that your efforts truly matter. Every small act of kindness contributes to something much greater than ourselves. Together, we can inspire others to discover hope, embrace their potential, and believe that change is possible.

As I often say, let us never settle for what we have accomplished; instead, let us strive to be better, to do more, and to lead by example.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our cause. The journey is far from over but with your continued support, I am confident we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Let us continue to assemble, serve, and advocate for the belief that access to basic needs and shelter is a fundamental human right because everyone deserves safety, dignity, and a place to call home.

With sincere gratitude,

Ashley L. Reed, MSW
Founder & Chief Executive Officer

