



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 outset, 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 and compassion that we meet individuals where they are and guide them toward where they need to be. The inspiration for this organization arose from my personal experiences, my passion for helping others, and the challenges faced by others. While the world grapples with numerous social problems, homelessness is a growing concern. As a result, ASH has evolved from a vision into a calling. A purpose I believe is divinely guided.

Throughout this journey, I have been fortunate to receive guidance and encouragement from many mentors and loved ones, especially my late mentor, educator, philanthropist, and former representative, Dr. Alma W. Byrd. Her steadfast belief in serving humanity and confidence in my potential continue to fuel my passion for uplifting others. Even in the darkest times, I remind myself that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Challenges will arise but by looking upward and trusting in a power greater than our own, we can overcome obstacles and achieve the impossible. Our path may be uncertain but we must work tirelessly to fulfill our mission and remain steadfast in our service to humanity. There have been moments of setbacks when resources were scarce and doubt crept in but we stayed in the fight. I was deeply encouraged by a stranger's words at our Inaugural Souper Bowl event on February 10, 2024, who quoted Romans 8:28. This powerful reminder that all things work together for good for those called according to a higher purpose. It reaffirmed my conviction that we are on the right path, even when the journey feels overwhelming.

While our organization may lack certain resources, we possess something far more valuable: faith and an unwavering commitment to serving humanity. Our goal is not fame or fortune but to be a force for positive change. Every step we take moves us closer to a brighter future for those in need. As we continue to serve and support disadvantaged communities, I urge you to remember that your efforts matter. Each small act of kindness contributes to the greater good and together we can inspire countless individuals to embrace their potential. 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 that access to basic needs and shelter is a fundamental human right because everyone deserves safety, dignity, and a place to call home.

Ashley L. Reed, MSW
Founder