

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Hattie B. Dorsey

PERSON

**Dorsey, Hattie B., 1939-**

**Alternative Names:** Hattie B. Dorsey;

**Life Dates:** May 31, 1939-

**Place of Birth:** Teachey, North Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Atlanta, GA

**Occupations:** Community Activist;

## Biographical Note

Founder and former president of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (ANDP), Hattie Beleatha Dorsey was born the eldest of eleven children on May 31, 1939 in Teachey, North Carolina. When Dorsey was an adolescent, her family moved to New York City where she attended Charles Evan Hughes High School. As a high school student, Dorsey took courses in fashion design and interior design. The Dorsey Family moved to Atlanta where she attended David T. Howard High School. Her father was the residing pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Atlanta and chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Operation Bread Basket. She is a first cousin to the father of gospel music great Thomas A. Dorsey.

After attending Spelman College, Dorsey transferred to Clark Atlanta University. In 1964, Dorsey graduated from Clark Atlanta University with her B.S. degree in secretarial science. Dorsey performed secretarial work for various companies, until she became an administrative assistant for the National Urban League. Dorsey continued her civil rights work by working on the NAACP's legal defense team throughout the 1970s and 1980s, helping to bring landmark legal suits against those who practiced housing discrimination. Dorsey worked for Stanford Mid-Peninsula Urban Coalition on Affordable Housing in San Francisco, California before becoming director of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership.

As president of ANDP, Dorsey worked to solidify Metro Atlanta neighborhoods and community development corporations. Under Dorsey's leadership, issues related to public housing became a regional priority. A larger part of Dorsey's success as ANDP's president resided in her ability to develop financial resources from all sectors – private, public and philanthropic. In 1995, ANDP launched a \$16 million capital campaign to accelerate housing construction and innovation in preparation for the Olympic Games.

Dorsey has received many awards and honors including the 2005 Spelman College Local Community Service Award; Atlanta Woman magazine's nominee for Woman of the Year, Georgia Trend magazine's "2004 Notable Georgians", 2001 Honoree of Women Looking Ahead; 2003 Inductee into the Atlanta Business League's Women Hall of Fame, The Georgia Black Caucus Grace Towns Hamilton Leadership Award, and the Atlanta Regional Commission's Golden Glasses Award.

Dorsey and her daughter, Victoria "Michelle," live in Atlanta.

Dorsey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 13, 2007.

## Related Entries

**Ps 26 Jesse Owens School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Bayard Rustin Education Complex** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**David T. Howard High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Charity Middle** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Spelman College** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Clark Atlanta University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**U.S. Department of the Interior** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1964 to 1966]

**Secretary**

**U.S. Congress** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1966 to 1967]

**Caseworker**

**National Urban League** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1967 to 1968]

**Administrative Assistant**

**Model Cities** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1968 to 1968]

**City of Atlanta** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1968 to 1969]

**Assistant to the Mayor**

**Cannonlene Company** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1969 to 1971]

**Administrative Assistant**

**National Urban League** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1971 to 1971]

**Administrative Assistant**

**Stanford Mid-Peninsula Urban Coalition** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1971 to 1982]

**Executive Director, Director of Resource Development, Administrative Assistant**

**Edna McConnell Clark Foundation** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1982 to 1984]

**Program Officer**

**Voter Education Project** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1984]

**Atlanta Economic Development Corporation** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1991]

**Vice President for Administration, Neighborhood Development Department  
founder**

**Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1991 to 2006]

**Founding Executive Director**

**National Coalition of 100 Black Women** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**National President**