

# Recognizing African-Americans who are making a difference in their communities: Mrs. Beatrice ‘Bea’ Hammett-Parker

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Throughout the Cleveland area, there are influential Black men and women who are making a difference in the lives of young people.



*Beatrice Parker; Source: Beatrice Parker*

Mrs. Beatrice ‘Bea’ Hammett-Parker is a local dance instructor who not only teaches people the art of dance, but also provides children with the opportunity to participate in activities that promote creativity, kindness, and giving back.

At age 5, Parker knew dance was her passion. Since then, she has continued to make a difference in the lives of her students. Through her motivating words, Parker is able to bring greatness out of each student that she encounters.

“Each student is very precious to me,” Parker said.

Although she has been unable to see her students face-to-face during the pandemic, Parker has still found ways to keep her students involved.

“We started creating artwork, reciting poetry, dancing, learning sign language, and even having virtual slumber parties,” she said. “I did not want them to feel a thing of Covid. I wanted them to still live and be happy.”

Parker has given her students the opportunity to participate in various activities. Her shows at the Shore Culture Center and the Willoughby Fine Arts Association allow children to showcase the skills that they have learned from her. Parker is even responsible for the costumes, which she makes in her spare time for each dancer!

“It was really important to me that I made their costumes,” Parker said. “I’ve always been a person who has thought that “it’s nice to have money, but it’s more beautiful when you can give it away and see people flourish from it.”

From making costumes (at no cost to her students) to organizing virtual dance productions, Parker’s actions serve as a prime example that young people can strive to emulate.

To young men and women who are trying to reach their dreams, Parker said “The only way you can’t reach your dreams is if you don’t try. Don’t listen to people who tell you that you can’t do it.”

Anyone who has the honor of spending time around Ms. Beatrice Parker will leave feeling better than when they first arrived. She is truly an asset to anything that she is a part of.