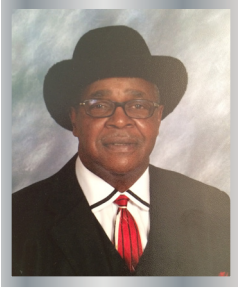


AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER BLACK BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

“Lighting the Way!”

2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Clarence Howell

OWNER

CLARENCE HOWELL SHOE REPAIR

Clarence Howell was born on September 15, 1940 to the late Mary Shaw and Edward Howell in Norwood, Georgia. He was one of seven children and was no stranger to hard work. He vividly recalls having to board a pick-up truck at the ages of 11 and 12 to work in the fields.

Knowing he wanted a different life, Clarence decided to move to Atlanta, Georgia where he shined shoes and did cleaning in a shoe shop to work himself through school. He then moved to Cincinnati when he was only 19 and did double-duty as a crane operator for Cincinnati Milacron while running a shoe repair business on the side. In 1988, his shoe business had grown to the point where he was able to freeze his retirement and open a shop in St. Bernard. The location lent itself to a profitable flow of business from motorcycle clubs, Procter & Gamble employees, Metro bus personnel, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital staff, and residents from the Belvedere.

Today, he has a small but well-stocked shop in Pleasant Ridge where he holds contracts with major upscale retailers in Kenwood and Amberley Village, but prides himself on treating every customer with the same professional personalized service.

Two years ago, a Catholic Charities volunteer introduced Clarence to a Syrian refugee and Clarence decided to give him the same chance he received when he came to Cincinnati in 1960. The refugee is now a full-time employee with gratitude and affection toward the man he now calls “Uncle”.

Clarence is a devoted husband, father of three adult daughters, and grandfather who enjoys traveling, attending church, spending time with family, and sharing his wisdom and many life experiences with any stranger he meets.