

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Naomi Jean Gray

PERSON

Gray, Naomi T., 1922-2006

Alternative Names: Naomi Jean Gray; Naomi Thomas-Gray; ; Naomi Jean Thomas

Life Dates: May 18, 1922-December 29, 2007

Place of Birth: Hattiesburg, Mississippi, USA

Occupations: Nonprofit Chief Executive;

Biographical Note

Naomi Jean Gray was born Naomi Jean Thomas on May 18, 1922, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Graduating from Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, Gray earned her B.S. degree in sociology from Hampton University in 1945, and three years later, earned her M.S. degree from Indiana University in Indianapolis.

A caseworker in the Foster Care Agency in Indianapolis from 1948 to 1949, Gray joined the Planned Parenthood Federation of America a year later. During her twenty years with Planned Parenthood, Gray established and directed seven regional offices throughout the United States and developed guidelines for community education and organizational programs. Gray became the first woman to serve as vice president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and as a social work instructor at San Francisco State University. Honored as an Indiana Distinguished Citizen, and cited for her work by the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, Gray also founded and served as president of the Urban Institute for American Affairs. A cofounder and executive director of the Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency, Gray also worked as a consultant for several health and family planning groups.

A member of many community organizations, including the National Urban League, the National Conference on Social Welfare, the California State Planning Commission on Minority Business Enterprises, and the San Francisco Health Commission, Gray also served as a member of the African American Child Task Force, the NAACP, and the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce. As cofounder of the African American Education Leadership Group, Gray worked to establish an academic elementary school in a predominately African American community in San Francisco. Gray also served on Mayor Willie Brown's Task Force on Children, Youth, and Their Families from 1990 to 1993.

Gray passed away on December 29, 2007.

Related Entries

Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Hampton University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Indiana University School of Social Work [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Masters

Planned Parenthood [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Vice President

San Francisco State University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Instructor

Black Women Organized for Political Action [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

San Francisco Department of Public Health [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Health Commissioner, Chair of Budget Committee

National Urban League [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Urban Institute for American Affairs [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Founder, President

National Conference on Social Welfare [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

California State Planning Commission on Minority Business Enterprises [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

African American Child Task Force [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

NAACP [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

African American Education Leadership Group [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Cofounder

Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Founder & Executive Director

Task Force on Children, Youth, and Their Families [MEMBEROf]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Member