

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with June M. Perry

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Perry, June M., 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 17, 2008
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:22:13).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Social worker and nonprofit executive June M. Perry (1947 - ) started New Concept Development Center, Inc., a non-profit social services agency that targets African Americans, in 1975. In 2006 Perry created Access 2 Success to expand the capacity for non-profit sustainability and strategic planning. Perry-Stevens was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 17, 2008, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2008_133
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

June Martin Perry was born on June 10, 1947, and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. She received her B.A. degree from North Carolina Central University. Perry attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and received her M.S. degree in social work in 1971. She has also completed her course work for a Ph.D. in urban studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Perry and fellow social worker Geri McFadden started New Concept Development Center, Inc., in 1975 to address what they saw as a lack of local social services, specifically those for African Americans. New Concept is a non-profit social services agency that targets African Americans. Services include family counseling, housing, and employment assistance, as well as case management for HIV patients. In the 1980s, New Concept expanded into a greater set of social services by starting a mentoring program for girls at the Hillside Housing Project, providing a Youth Motivation Seminar for Role Models and Youth, and developing its first youth-managed and operated business through its youth entrepreneurship program. In 1986, New Concept authored a Blue Ribbon report on Teen Pregnancy Prevention for the City of Milwaukee. New Concept developed the first Prenatal Care Program which soon became the model for Title XIX benefits. In the 1990s, New Concept Development Center again expanded its services by opening Milwaukee's first Father's Resource Center and developing a First-time Juvenile Offenders Program which became a model for Milwaukee County. What began as a two-woman operation has grown into a 50-employee business serving more than 7,000 families a year operating a budget of \$2.5 million. After retiring from New Concept Development Center in 2006, Perry created Access 2 Success, an organization which acts as a technical assistance intermediary between business, government and non-profits to expand the capacity for non-profit sustainability and strategic planning.

Perry is the recipient of many awards including the Sacajawea Trailblazer Award, the Woman of Influence Award, Mentor of the Year, the Black Women's Network Lifetime Leader Award, the Kraft Foods - Essence Award, the

Black Administrators in Child Welfare Long Term Leaders Award, and the Community Service Award from SET Ministries. Perry's current volunteer involvement includes being a founding member of the African American Women's Fund, membership on the board of directors of the Aurora Health Care Metro Region, and the oversight and advisory committee for the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership for the University of Wisconsin School of Public Health. Perry is also an independent travel agent for Keystone Travel. She has recently traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Greece, Turkey, France, Italy, and Mexico.

Perry has two adult children and enjoys spending time with her life partner, Bill Stevens.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with June M. Perry was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 17, 2008, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Social worker and nonprofit executive June M. Perry (1947 - ) started New Concept Development Center, Inc., a non-profit social services agency that targets African Americans, in 1975. In 2006 Perry created Access 2 Success to expand the capacity for non-profit sustainability and strategic planning.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Perry, June M., 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Perry, June M., 1947- --Interviews

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African American social workers--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews

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Women social workers, Black--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews

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African American women executives--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Social Worker

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Nonprofit Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry, November 17, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry, Section A2008\_133\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:47 ?

June M. Perry was born on June 10, 1947 in Columbia, South Carolina to Junie Martin and Mark Martin. Both sides of her family were descended from an African woman named Tracy, who was sold as a slave to John Martin of Charleston, South Carolina. Her father's family helped to found Jenkinsville, South Carolina, where some became ministers at White Hall A.M.E. Church. Perry's maternal grandfather, entrepreneur Will Martin, became the first black licensed electrician in South Carolina in 1915. Her mother was born in 1917 in Columbia, and belonged to the Zion Baptist Church. While attending Columbia's Benedict College, she met Perry's father, who was a student at the nearby Allen University. Perry's maternal grandparents initially opposed their relationship, but after they married in the late 1930s, her father joined her maternal grandfather as an electrician. Perry grew up with her parents and two siblings in an integrated neighborhood of Columbia, where her mother taught at Carver-Lyon Elementary School.

African American social workers--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews.

Women social workers, Black--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews.

African American women executives--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry, Section A2008\_133\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:36 ?

June M. Perry attended both Bethel A.M.E. Church and Zion Baptist Church while growing up in the Ridgewood neighborhood of Columbia, South Carolina. She studied at Carver-Lyon Elementary School and W.A. Perry Middle School, both of which were all-black schools where her mother taught art. Perry experienced discrimination in South Carolina on buses and in cinemas, but was exposed to integration on family vacations to Quebec, Canada. Her mother was active in the Civil Rights Movement, and belonged to both the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality. Perry's brother, Mark Martin, attended the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina in Greensboro, where he participated in sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. In Columbia, Perry graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in 1965. She enrolled at North Carolina College at Durham, and pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. During her time in Durham, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Howard Fuller organized the local civil rights effort.

Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry, Section A2008\_133\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:03 ?

June M. Perry graduated from the North Carolina College at Durham in 1969, and was recruited to enter the graduate school of social work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This was her first experience at an integrated school. In Wisconsin, she briefly lived with a Jewish couple in the Milwaukee suburbs, and then moved to a city apartment. Perry was active in the university's student association, and met civil rights leaders Charles Evers, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Tejumola Ologboni. While studying, she worked as a community

organizer for the Organization of Organizations, and focused on issues regarding the busing of black students to majority white schools. She also recalls the efforts of civil rights leaders like Father James Groppi to combat housing segregation in Milwaukee. Upon graduating in 1971, Perry joined the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare as a child abuse investigator. Perry only worked on cases with black children, as white families often refused to allow her in their homes.

Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry, Section A2008\_133\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:23 ?

June M. Perry worked for the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare in Milwaukee for four years. Then, in 1975, she founded the New Concept Self Development Center. The organization provided social services to families who qualified under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and focused on teaching parenting methods that did not involve corporal punishment. In 1982, Perry founded Each One Reach One, a mentoring program that matched girls as young as seven years old to working women in Milwaukee. The program later expanded to include boys as well. In 1985, Perry directed the Blue Ribbon Report for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, and the center launched prenatal care and counseling programs for expectant teenage parents. In 1997, Perry created the First Time Juvenile Offenders Program to reduce childhood recidivism. While planning her retirement in 2000, Perry founded an executive internship program to identify her successor at the New Concept Self Development Center.

Video Oral History Interview with June M. Perry, Section A2008\_133\_001\_005, TRT: 0:25:24 ?

June M. Perry worked with children convicted of both violent crimes and truancy through the First Time Juvenile Offenders Program at the New Concept Self Development Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She retired from the center in 2006, and was honored with the Black Women's Network Lifetime Leader Award and the Women Putting Their Stamp on Milwaukee Award. Perry reflects upon her career at the New Concept Self Development Center, including her issues assembling a board with fundraising clout and the financial difficulty of nonprofit operations. After her retirement, she consulted for a violence prevention initiative at the Medical College of Wisconsin and a coach for the Mosaic Partnership, a project fostering collaboration between black and white community leaders in Milwaukee. Perry raised two children, both of whom attended historically black colleges. She reflects upon her legacy and her hopes for the African American community, and then concludes the interview by narrating her photographs.