



About Our Founder: Chloe Coney

Chloe Coney is known as a leader and a founder – as well as a woman who wears many hats – but she is most assuredly a change agent. Just a few years after a federal court found Hillsborough County was illegally operating a segregated school system, Chloe helped to integrate the system and graduated from Hillsborough High School with honors in 1968. Her determination continued on as she attained her bachelor's degree in Sociology/Corrections from Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, FL and a Master's Degree in Biblical Counseling from Florida Beacon Bible College in Largo, FL. She has also completed courses on Community, Housing and Economic Development from Development Training Institute (DTI), Neighborhood Leadership Development Institute (NCCED), NeighborWorks of America, and Bank of America Leadership Academy. She received her Honorary Doctorate Degree from Blessed Hope Bible College, Tampa, Florida.

Chloe's passion for justice and building strong communities was evident since she was very young, but took hold when she began her professional career as the first Black female probation and parole officer in Hillsborough County in 1972. She would then become an intake counselor/mediator with the 13th Judicial Circuit Court of Hillsborough County and marketing representative for Florida Power, Inc. in Clearwater, FL. Later, Chloe was hired as the center manager of the Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center, the largest (36,000 square feet) "One Stop Social and Medical Center" in Hillsborough County. As center manager, Chloe led the effort to restore a sense of pride, ownership, and community in Tampa's Eastside neighborhoods. She helped to start the East Tampa Community School Partnership and the Back to School Kick-off Fair. She has served as the Tampa's coordinator for the Department of Justice Weed and Seed Program. Chloe's passion inspired her to found and become the first President/CEO of the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa (CDC of Tampa). The CDC of Tampa Nehemiah Project Community Building "Brick by Brick" has since enjoyed 22 years of community building through strategic initiatives such as providing job training, promoting entrepreneurship, developing youth leadership programs, revitalizing commercial areas, and building affordable housing. In 2006, Chloe retired as the Founder/President of the CDC of Tampa to become a candidate in a very close race for Hillsborough County Commission District 3. She quickly found a new way to serve community as District Director for Congresswoman Kathy Castor, who represents the 14th District of Florida and includes most of Hillsborough County and South Pinellas County. In this capacity, she assists Congresswoman Castor by addressing an array of constituent concerns, soliciting citizen input, and performing community outreach activities, such as foreclosure prevention workshops during the economic downturn to help families stay in their homes and job fairs during the economic recovery to connect neighbors with local jobs.

With nearly 40 years of advocating for community building and revitalizing neighborhoods, she conducts workshops across the country. She is also the recipient of numerous awards and accolades: the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's H.L. Culbreath Jr. Award of Leadership; TOBA's Dr. Ike Tribble Leadership Award; Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame; White House President Volunteer of the Year; Tampa Bay Business Journal's Who's Who; University of South Florida President's Distinguished Citizen Award; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Community Service Award. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Tampa Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter, Tampa Leadership Alumni, and Christian Community Development Association.

Chloe is married to Pastor Ernest Coney Sr. and they have three children and three grandchildren. Chloe and her husband founded the Spirit of Truth Ministries. She often speaks at women's retreats and churches about Christian community economic development. Chloe was featured in "Beyond the Comfort Zone," a chapter in God Just Showed Up: Stories of Everyday Experience by Linda Watkins, was about Chloe's epiphany to return to her East Tampa neighborhood to restart a career in community development.