

Marje Olliviera

Marje was born in Detroit the youngest of five living children. She is the proud descendant of a multi-ethnic heritage, which includes Scotch, Pottawatomi Indian, Saponi Indian and Pennsylvania Dutch.

She resided in mid-town Detroit most of her life, having attended Northern High School and graduating at the age of seventeen. As a result of an arrangement between her mother and a suitor by the name of John Olliviera, she was married shortly after graduation. The marriage lasted 10 years during which Marje had three children, two daughters and a son. Her continuing education actually began in high school when she received training as a Dental Hygienist Following High School she attained a degree from the Mary Baldwin Business College and later she worked at the East Side Medical Lab and became a Certified Lab Technician. Her final degree came as a result of training when she became a Registered Nurse. She soon found employment as a Medical Assistant and worked for several Doctors in the Detroit area. Later she worked for the Family Neighborhood Services Agency where she was hired as a secretary, and because of her business and nursing background she became an assistant to the director.



Marje ultimately found her career moving to BCBSM. She joined the Blues in 1971. She was initially assigned to offices in the Cadillac Tower and shortly thereafter moved to the Lafayette building where she was involved principally in customer services until she retired.

Marje has been involved in many interesting activities over the years. She is a member of the Detroit Genealogical Society and has been able to trace many aspects of her multi-ethnic background also known as METIS. She is especially proud of her father, Warren Richardson, who had an outstanding career as a Detroit Police Officer. He was hired in the early 1900's as only the 3rd colored police officer joining the force at that time He rose through the ranks reaching detective status and receiving a special commission from Governor Groesbeck.

One would think she would be more than ready to sit back and enjoy her retirement in a rocking chair without concern for timely commitment, but no, not this lady. She apparently enjoys involvement in many endeavors.

For example here are just a few of her interests:

- A respected artist specializing in pencil and oils.
- With her daughter she designs and constructs jewelry.
- Teaches and actively refinishes and restores antique furniture.
- Has been involved in producing musicals and fashion shows.
- Became a Nationally Certified Massage Therapist through her daughters training.
- Is a member of ETA PHI BETA a women's business sorority.

She remains an active member of St. Matthews Episcopal Church where she also sings in the choir. She is truly a delightful and multi-talented lady and it was a pleasure to meet her. Thanks Dick for suggesting this profile.