

# ASHLEY RICHARDSON

One of the most interesting aspects of my role as Editor of this newsletter is interviewing people who have led really interesting lives, which have not only involved their careers with BCBSM, but other ventures they have pursued.

Such a person is Ashley Richardson who has lived and is still living a remarkable existence. She was born and raised in Courtland, Virginia, which is located not far from the North Carolina border. She is now an accomplished actress and she attributes her ability to perform, in part to her family during childhood where the stage was set for much humor and nurturing by what her sisters imparted to her.



After graduating from high school, she continued her education at Hampton University where she graduated as a Registered Nurse. It was the early 50's and heeding the advice from her father who felt she could be more successful in her career farther north, so she moved to New Jersey.

Not long after, she enlisted in the Army where she was accepted and completed Officer Training School. She had a successful military career and was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain.

After locating in Michigan, Ashley continued her nursing career having been employed at Ford Motor Company as an Occupational Health Nurse and in Occupational Health Services at Chrysler Corporation. She later joined BCBSM in 1983 from which she retired.

Before and since retirement she became more involved in theater, especially acting, and she has received rave reviews in several productions in which she has performed. She has also appeared in several films, commercials and TV pilots. She is currently working in a movie entitled "Laylas Girl".

Ashley lives in Detroit and is a long time community supporter. She devotes time to volunteering as a church service worker and in the medical preventative service field. Her hobbies include music appreciation and reading (especially cultural history).

She has been married for 43 years and is the proud mother of two children – Dwayne and Cherita – and one grandchild. Her husband, Leroy is restricted by a serious medical condition.

She says at first theatre was just a hobby, but now she performs by believing she must be creative and adapt to a role which she develops within herself.

One of her favorite sayings is: **"THERE IS HEALING IN HUMOR"** and she certainly has her own way of showing it in most everything she does.