

## Alice Cheek

Ms. Alice Cheek, fondly referred to as “Ms. Alice” and/or “Ms. Cheek” has been an active resident of the Edgemont-Elms Community in downtown Durham for over 35 years.

Ms. Cheek was an original member of **Mothers Against Crime** (a Durham Police Department initiative) and became the first facilitator of PAC5 at the urging of the Durham Police Department “about 20 years ago.” She has remained active in her community and is well-known and loved by her neighbors and city officials.

Alice and her husband, Issac Cheek, raised three birth children and one adopted son in Edgemont-Elms, and they have 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ms. Cheek reports that she has seen a lot of changes in her community in the past 20 years, where the crime rate has dropped as the neighborhood has grown. She proudly notes that they are now a community of “different colors and nationalities who are all getting along.”

She gives credit to community involvement and the police department “changing some of their routines” since most of the “crime was happening in the apartments in her neighborhood, which is not happening anymore.”

Alice Cheek was instrumental in the redesign and completion of Downtown Durham’s Edgemont Park — along with various city departments and individuals — **and she is being honored for her dedication, determination and community involvement at National Night Out at Edgemont Park on Tuesday, August 7th.**

Ms. Cheek states that the drive for her community involvement “was, and is, the kids...they are the pathway to our future” and she wanted to help children see that “there is a better way” to live their lives (than hanging out on the streets). She proudly states that the kids “pull their pants up when they see ‘Ms. Alice.’”

The most important thing that Alice Cheek wants others to know about her is that she is “sincere.” She notes that she is a minister and tries to do the right thing. She is loved and respected by her neighbors and the community at large. She states there is great community involvement in Edgemont — that people contact her frequently “but they won’t come to meetings.” And her “door is always open.” It appears that Ms. Alice’s voice is the combined voice of the Edgemont community.

National Night Out is an anchor in Alice Cheek’s world. She has been the key to her neighborhood’s NNO from the start. For years, until this day, she “sells ices for fifty cents, then saves up the money all year for Edgemont’s National Night Out. (she also notes, that if someone really cannot afford the fifty cents for an icy, she will give one to a kid). I’d agree she is always doing “the right thing.”

Please come celebrate National Night Out and honor Ms. Alice Cheek as she is presented with a bench and plaque in the park and lauded by Durham’s Mayor, many other dignitaries, and friends and family members of this neighborhood heroine.