

# The Legacy of



Dr. Kathleen C. Wright



*Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service*

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

**KATHLEEN COOPER WRIGHT, Ed.D**  
**ART ACQUISITION PROJECT**

Dear Community Supporter:

In August 1987, The School Board of Broward County, Florida paid tribute to their fallen colleague by officially naming the new School Board Administration Building in honor of Dr. Kathleen Cooper Wright. Fort Lauderdale Chapter, The Links, Incorporated is desirous of adding to that honor by placing a life-sized bronze statue of their sister Link, Dr. Wright, in a prominent location at the facility.

You can be a part of this exciting project by mailing your contribution to: **The Broward Education Foundation**  
**Kathleen Cooper Wright Fund** • 600 SE 3rd Ave. • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Your assistance in accomplishing this goal is appreciated. Please fill out, detach and return this form:

Individual/Organization/Corporation Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Business) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check     Money Order

Enclosed payable to The Broward Education Foundation

Charge my:     MasterCard     Visa  
                   Discover         Amex

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

One of 11 children born to a migrant labor foreman and a laundress, Dr. Kathleen Cooper Wright was to become a leader who not only was an advocate for positive changes in the education of Broward County's children, but also a leader who had an equally significant impact on her community.

In 1953, Dr. Wright was valedictorian of her graduating class at Dillard High School and, after attending Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and earning a Doctorate In Education from Florida Atlantic University, she returned to Dillard where she taught for 16 years.

Dr. Wright was selected as the first Black member to serve on The School Board of Broward County, Florida, also becoming the first Black woman to serve on any school board in the state of Florida.

As a Board member, she served two, four-year terms and was known as a strong advocate of school integration and affirmative action. She was unwavering in her dedication to a quality education for all of Broward's students.

Dr. Wright served in leadership positions in more than 30 different organizations including Fort Lauderdale Chapter, The Links, Incorporated, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Urban League of Broward County, the League of Women Voters, the Broward County Democratic Party, the NAACP and St. Christopher Episcopal Church, where she taught Bible classes.



### AWARD AND HONORS

- Office of Community Relations Special Award in Government
- Citizenship Award from the Florida Association of Women's Club
- Outstanding Service Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- Outstanding Service in Education from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Service Award from the Broward Chapter of Florida Women's Caucus

An educator and humanitarian, Dr. Wright was also a dedicated wife and mother. She married her childhood sweetheart, Broward County Judge Zebedee Wright, now retired, and raised three children, Ronald, Anthony and Laurette.

In 1985, her life was tragically cut short. She was flying to Dallas, Texas to attend a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority national convention when the plane crashed. She died from injuries sustained in that crash.

She was only 49 years old at the time of her death, but Dr. Wright had already established a legacy within the field of education.

An endowment has been established to memorialize her for future generations. Funds collected will be used to underwrite the creation of a bronze sculpture that will illuminate her love of children and learning. The sculpture will be placed on the site of the school board building named in her honor in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Fort Lauderdale Chapter, The Links, Incorporated, has accepted the challenge of soliciting funds to make this sculpture become a reality. Please join us in honoring Dr. Kathleen Cooper Wright, with a fitting tribute.