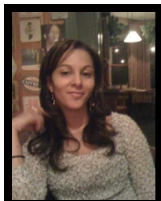


“One Person Can Make A Difference”



House Bill 3584 was presented by Representative Lew Frederick and Senator Jackie Winters. On behalf of “B Beautiful - Children’s Foundation for Ethnic Hair and Skin Care” The bill was signed by Oregon State Governor, John A. Kitzhaber MD, on August 2nd 2011 after being voted on unanimously, June 21 2011 by the *Sixty Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly*. This bill provides training to foster parents and prospective adoptive parents of children in foster-care regarding, appropriate ethnic hair and skin care for children of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American or multiracial descent etc.

Why you ask? It all started due to my love of hair. My older sister said to me, I could braid hair before I could say my ABC’s. My name is Barbette R. Woodall, I was born in White Salmon, Washington to Elaine Johnson and Russell E. Woodall. My mother is a dark-skinned African American, Cherokee Indian. My father was Italian and English. I was raised in East-Pasco, Washington by my mother, great grandmother Castillar Stewart Jones along with my three brothers and sister. My great grandmother was a hard working, share croppers’ the eldest daughter of 16 children from Greenwood, Mississippi. My Twin brother Robert E. Woodall and I grew up with my great grandmother until we were 13yrs. We were then taken to live with our father in Klickitat, Washington. By the age of 14yrs, I entered the foster-care system in the town of Goldendale, where my hair was chemically melted off my head while moving from home to home. When I would ask my foster parents for products appropriate for my hair and skin type I was continuously told no. I was the only African- American girl who lived in the area, so one could only imagine how much I stuck out like a sore thumb. In HS and at home I was ridiculed about my hair being frizzy and curly as well as my skin being ashy (dry). I always remembered what my grandmother had told me, “hold your head up and be proud of who you are” so I did just that. My mother and father had told my brother and me, that we weren’t an accident and they had never seen multi-racial babies as beautiful as us. I held on to this strong foundation of self-worth. By the time I exhausted the foster-care system at the age of 16 years old, I went to Astoria Oregon, “*Tongue Point Job Corps*”. At last, I was around youth that looked like me, talked like me and shared my cultural similarities.

I planted my roots in Oregon in 1995 when I had my son D’Vonn U. Woodall. While I worked in the computer chip industry I always knew that I wanted to follow my dream of one day working as a professional hair stylist. I packed up and moved near my mother and step-father to Salem, Oregon and immediately enrolled into cosmetology school. I was an ambitious graduate with a full hair clientele, which allowed me to open “*Barbette’s Hair Salon*,” just two months after graduating. I couldn’t help but notice the large population of African American and multi-racial children in the foster-care system in need of basic hair and skin care. I saw children with matted hair that had to be shaved bald as well as hair that was chemically burned to the scalp causing irreversible damage. I was shocked to see the same thing I had endured 25 years earlier continuing to happen. I began advocating for these children by telling state official workers and anyone who would or wouldn’t listen.

In 2008, after much thought, I discussed with my mother my desire to teach a hair and skin care class to the foster parents of multi-racial children. My mother advised me to seek a contract with “Child Welfare”. I turned to Aneesah Furqan, who mentored me throughout my journey.

In October 2009, I was contracted through PSU for Child Welfare to teach my hair and skin care curriculum. Marianne Davis and I co-founded “*B Beautiful-Children’s Foundation for Ethnic Hair and Skin Care*,” a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating parents of these children. On December 3, 2010, Aneesah Branch Manager of DDS, asked me to be the highlighted speaker about foster-care. Afterwards, I met Representative Lew Frederick and explained my reasoning to implement this type of training into our upcoming legislator session. I contacted Mr. Fredericks and soon after filled out a legislator measure request for the HB3584, on February 14th 2011 at the Capitol, and as they say THE REST IS HISTORY!

Since then I have successfully presented my hair and skin care curriculum by PSU *Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education*. The curriculum is now titled “*Healthy Ethnic Children’s Hair and Skin Care Classes*,” which is classified in Health /Safety & Nutrition.

“B Beautiful- Children’s Foundation,” has been featured in the Statesmen Journal. I was interviewed by Wanda Brodous Mills “Brodous Entertainment,” on Portland City Gumbo OPB on September 11, 2011. Contact us at: PO Box13007 Salem, Oregon 97309 or call 1-866-883-4933. We are eager to visit a community near you and share our much needed classes/ workshops www.bbeautifulchildren.org /bbeautifulchildrens@yahoo.com.