

“L.C.” Dorsey

Dr. Lula C. “L.C.” Dorsey was born on a plantation in Tribett, Mississippi on December 17, 1938. She was the “knee baby” of Mary Frances Davis-Jones and Will Jones.

Dr. Dorsey received her elementary education in plantation schools in Sunflower and Washington Counties Mississippi. She had a great interest in and excitement of learning and sharing what she learned with others. She attended Drew Colored School but interrupted her schooling during her senior year to become a wife and mother. She returned to school in 1968 and received a GED through Tuft’s University’s STAR (Systematic Training and Redevelopment) Program. She went on to receive a Master’s degree in Social Work in 1973 from Stony Brook University in New York. Additionally, Dorsey holds a Certificate in Health Management from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. She received her terminal degree in Social Work from Howard University in Washington, D. C. She also studied in Israel, The People’s Republic of China, Kazakhstan, India, Russia and South Africa.

Dr. Dorsey’s early career experiences included working as a laborer on several cotton plantations; as a community organizer (trained by Fannie Lou Hamer, Annie Devine and Victoria Gray Adams) during the Mississippi Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, as a teacher in Operation Head Start and as a community organizer with Tuft’s Delta Health Center. She helped organize and was selected director of the 427-acre farm cooperative (North Bolivar County Farm Cooperative) which was developed by Tuft Delta Health Center, Inc.

In addition to community organizing and development activities that benefited Mississippi’s women and children, Dr. Dorsey has also served as: Director of Social Services, Washington County Opportunities, (Greenville, MS); Director of Administration and Community Advocate for Prison Reform, Mississippi Prisoners’ Defense Committee; Associate Director, Southern Coalition on Jails and Prison (Jackson, MS); Program Director, Offender Services, Lutheran Social Services (Washington, D.C.); Assistant to the Chief Health Officer, Memphis Health Center, Inc. (Memphis, TN); Assistant Research Professor, School of Pharmacy, University of Mississippi (Goodman, MS); Executive Director, Delta Health Center, Inc. (Mound Bayou, MS); Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Jackson State University (Jackson, MS); and Director, Mississippi Area Health Education Center and Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Mississippi Medical Center (Jackson, MS). Dr. Dorsey retired from Mississippi Valley State University in 2006 where she had worked in the Social Work Department and Delta Research and Cultural Institute.

Notable honors include serving on President Jimmy Carter’s National Economic Council for Economic Opportunity from 1978 to 1979 and The President’s Health Care Reform Professional’s Review Committee during William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency.