

**Ms. Charlene Taylor Hemphill  
Memorial Award**

Ms. Charlene Taylor Hemphill is being honored with a Memorial Award in recognition of the significant impact she made on her community before she was tragically taken in an act of domestic violence. Ms. Hemphill was born on December 10, 1951 in Atlantic City, NJ to the late Elsie Dickerson and John Hemphill. Ms. Hemphill was the mother of five boys—John Henry Jr., Kenneth Henry, Richard Henry, Joshua Baker, and Jesus Baker. She was known in the community as a mother to all. Her home was a refuge for many of the children in the neighborhood who were struggling with personal issues. She had an open door policy, always extending to make sure every child had a plate to eat and somewhere to lay their head. She was a pillar in the spiritual community as well, attending church regularly and always seeking to find love and harmony in the universe. Ms. Hemphill was known to pick up hitch hikers and have a prayer service whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Ms. Hemphill's dedication to see that her children became the best they could be was her life; unfortunately, she was not able to see that in the physical. Her life ended tragically from domestic violence in December 1983. But even with her loss, she brought the community together to help guide her five boys into manhood.