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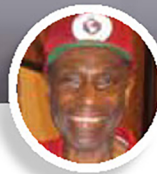
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BARBERSHOP TALK
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A Friend
Just Is...



by Robert L. Woodard
The Wynnefield Barber

Ms. Tracey Payton Younger is a person I can truly call a friend. She has made a wonderful impression on my life and on me as a person. The respect we have for each other goes beyond words. The word *friendship* does not get enough credit in today's society. If we, as human beings on earth, could learn how to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, in this life, we then would understand how to appreciate those little things that make us whole persons in our day-to-day lives. In other words, we must make love an echo in our thoughts that continues to ring in our minds on a daily basis.

I can recall Tracey sharing with me how much she adored her childhood doctor. His name is Dr. Theodore Whitney. Dr. Whitney, of the Wynnefield area of Philadelphia, is a retired professional in his area of expertise. Even though he is now in his '90s, Dr. Whitney still drives his car to my barbershop to get a haircut. He has been my friend and good customer for as long as I have been cutting hair. I can

remember our first conversation about his professional skills on how to handle very young children as a pediatrician. I shared with the doctor that the first barber of Rome was known as a tonsorialist. His name was Ticinius Mena. To date, there's a statue in Rome that acknowledges Ticinius Mena that goes back to 296 B.C.

I have been blessed to have been behind the barber's chair all my professional life. If I have learned nothing else, I have truly learned just what a true friend really is. Hence, keep in mind, once a man, twice a child. A child has the natural ability to sense who and what is a friend. So, whenever I am not sure about who is a friend, I just simply go back to that little person who lives inside of me, and he always lets me know who a true friend is. That's how I know Ms. Tracey Payton Younger and Dr. Theodore Whitney exemplify what a true friend really is. The amazing part of this story is that we all knew one another, before we knew each other. I would like to salute the service and friendship of Tracey and Dr. Whitney. They are lessons we can all learn from. This proves to me, a friend just is.

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