



Miss Neijae Graham-Henries

A little Girl on a Tonsorial Mission

photo courtesy of Mamaphotog

by Robert L. Woodard
The Wynnefield Barber

On Thursday, April 4, 2019, we held our 19th Annual Barbershop Talk Human Family Day Foundation Press Conference where we honor the sacrifice of the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On that day, little Miss Neijae Graham-Henries was the recipient of our “Good Neighbor of the Year Award.” She is only eight years old and holds the crown as being the “World’s Youngest Female Barber.” Neijae has been interviewed by mainstream media and has made appearances at various venues around the country. While at the podium with me, I asked her a few questions.

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What is your ultimate dream?

“To own a barbershop,” she replied.

Where do you want that barbershop to be?

“France and New York City.”

What do you like about France?

“They speak a different language.”

I then discovered that Neijae speaks French. So, I told her about the poster we had that was part of a magazine article published in France about Michael Jackson’s visit to Woodard’s Barbershop in Philadelphia. I asked her to get the poster and she read it to us in French. After Neijae finished reading, she then explained to the audience what she had read in English. I was

never so shocked and pleasantly surprised that she was so smart and inquisitive. And in the process of developing wisdom, I learned my lesson that day – Never doubt a determined woman, even if she’s only eight years old.

The following month, her mother, Jaime Graham, brought her by my barbershop for a visit. I would never believe that so many famous people would come to my barbershop from around the world; to get a haircut and to sit in the same chair that Michael Jackson sat in.

I think about the presence of all those great people, some of whom have passed on. The spirit, however, of what they came to earth for in the first place, lives on in the minds and hearts of those blessed enough to have experienced their presence. There have been many famous people who have sat in my barber’s chair and now I can add Little Miss Neijae Graham-Henries to take her place amongst the greats as the “World’s Youngest Female Barber.”

I will forever prepare to share my elder wisdom with her. Hopefully, she will share with me how to read French. Through sharing, we all will learn to read the language of love and apply it to our daily lives.

We can never be divided if we learn to love our neighbors as we love ourselves and see ourselves as “One Human Race.” Take the “RACE Test” today for a better way at www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org. **PHH**