



# MOTHER *The Ultimate Laborer*



by **Robert L. Woodard**  
*The Wynnefield Barber*

**F**ree labor in the United States started with slavery. Human beings from Africa were called "Chattel Slaves." They arrived as non-immigrants and were looked at as less than humans. To be or not to be a laborer should be a choice, not an order.

Today, child labor forces many children to work as adults in jobs for long hours, while receiving very little pay. In the United States, there are laws to help prevent child labor. The Department of Labor in America oversees workers to help bring balance to this type of injustice, including equal pay for equal work for adults while banning child labor.

children. So they gave her the name of "Mammy." The children knew she was not their mother, but she did all the work of a nurturer and mother.

The disparity in equality is never measured with dollars and cents. Today, equal pay for equal work should be addressed for women as a whole. There are women in the Military, Police Force, Fire Department. They are bus drivers, truck drivers, judges, congresswomen, mayors, prosecutors, principals, and now, Presidential candidates. Yes, women have made big strides in the world of labor, but the biggest job of labor comes straight from our Creator – the "labor of birth."

The love for human life is experienced annually at our *Barbershop Talk Human Family Day celebration*. This year, it was an overwhelming success. The celebration gives us the opportunity to meet and share with many diverse cultural and ethnic groups. Most of these people are the laborers who keep this country functioning. From doctors to lawyers, butchers to bakers, and yes, even some candlestick makers. All of these working class people took time out of their busy lives to be a part of the making of history at the "Historical Church of Marian Anderson," Union Baptist Church, 1910 Fitzwater Street. Marian Anderson was a Civil Rights Activist and a world-renowned opera singer. Her singing art was accepted all over the world as the best in her field, but if the world had not given her the chance, we would have never known how great she was.

Once mistakes are made in this country, corrections should follow. Candidate Hillary Clinton stated in her run for President, that in this nation, your level of education should not depend on your zip code. She is correct and it should have never been that way in the first place. Our job as fellow Americans in this country is to work for better days to come for our children and their future.

The United States of America has not always lived up to what she says she is, but it takes the people of this Country - from all ethnicities - to make her what she has to become. Hats off to Tom Loomis, Woodland String Band President and recipient of our "Good Neighbor of the Year Award," for opening the doors of the Mummies organization to allow cultural diversity to be part of the New Year's Day Parade. By bringing different cultural experiences to the parade, we truly will bring the experiences of "Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection" to this vast City of neighborhoods.

I remember talking with many of my friends in the neighborhood and most of them had mothers that did "Day's Work" – taking care of wealthier families. The problem was that it took them away from their own homes and children. In the '50s, '60s and '70s, many mothers took the bus to reach their destinations. Sometimes, they got home very late and had to walk back from the bus stop, carrying heavy bags of second-hand gifts for their children. I also saw white people coming into black neighborhoods from the suburbs to pick up our mothers to take them to work in large suburban homes. A mother was pretty tired when she got home to take care of her own children. Sometimes, she had to take a child to work with her and the child would see that this type of work paid very little for doing a whole lot of work. The mothers who did this type of work never really received the credit they deserved for being laborers. That is why the history of this story is so important to remember.

The great Michael Jackson said we have to look in the mirror in order to make that change. Each and every one of us as Americans has to *make that change* and the world will follow. There is only "One Race." It is called "Human" - with many cultures. There is only "One Color" that is called "Melanin." It has many shades. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a Civil Rights Movement in which they crawled so we could walk. Let's walk into a new day for our children. Join our Human Race Movement by taking the "Race Test" today and sharing it with your family and friends along the way at [www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org](http://www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org). **PRH**

In the Wynnefield section of Philadelphia, at the corner of 54th and Berks Streets, rich people arrived very early in the morning to pick the mothers up. Many of the workers had to take the bus to get there on time. Workers raised their hands as the people hiring them shouted out what kind of work they wanted done. They would shout out windows, floors, laundry, cooking, shopping, babysitting, heavy lifting, cleaning, lawn and garden, and elder care to name a few. Jobs like these were nothing new for workers. In times of slavery, the mother of the children of those slaves had to work in the Master's houses to take care of his children. Many even breast-fed the infant

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