



PRESENTING: THE BROWN SISTERS

Linda and Cheryl are two of the three children of the late Rev. Oliver L. Brown, who along with twelve other families led by the NAACP, filed suit against the local Board of Education on behalf of their children. Upon appeal to the United States Supreme Court the Topeka case became the lead case among five legal challenges. Oliver Brown died in 1961 before knowing the impact of this landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, which bears his name - *Oliver L. Brown et. al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka, et. al.*

Linda has been a Head Start teacher and at one time taught private music lessons in piano. She is currently Program Associate with the Brown Foundation and serves as a member of the music department at one of the Methodist churches in Topeka, where she has chaired several project committees. Cheryl has been a 6th grade teacher, university guest lecturer, a school guidance counselor, a state educational administrator and is currently President of the Brown Foundation. She has held memberships professional and civic organizations, and presently serves on various local, state and national boards. She is past chair of Women Work, a national women's network which represented some 15 million women nationwide who were seeking career assistance and non-traditional employment opportunities.

In 1988 along with her co-worker, Jerry Jones, Cheryl established the Brown Foundation. In 1990 the Foundation worked with the United States Congress to develop legislation, which resulted in the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Park. The Park opened in 2004 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the *Brown* decision. It is located in Topeka at the site of one of the four formerly segregated African American Schools. This is also the elementary school attended by their mother, two of the Brown sisters, and prior to the school's closing in 1975, Cheryl began her teaching career there in 1972.

The Brown Foundation shares office space with the National Park Service in this building which welcomes nearly 50,000 visitors per year. The facility also houses interactive exhibits and a book store.

The Brown sisters have extensive public speaking experience, which includes university guest lectures on more than 300 campuses, various national organizations and community groups. They have accepted numerous awards in recognition of the *Brown* decision.

Media interview experience includes network television, CNN News, the Wall Street Journal and more than a four dozen other network affiliates, radio programs, magazines and newspapers, they have also been part of several documentaries.