

Making A Difference in So Many Lives

McGregor Assisted Living Resident, Micheline Jackson shares her story and a new-found life at McGregor.

From teaching science to inner-city children, to becoming a principal at a school in Cleveland, to raising two wonderful daughters of her own, Micheline Jackson has touched the lives of countless children in Northeast Ohio.

Micheline Jackson was born on December 17, 1947, in New York City. Micheline lived in Manhattan until she was nine years old, when she moved to another area of New York. Throughout her childhood, Micheline attended private school and spent most of her free time going on adventures with her family and friends.

Growing up, Micheline took an excursion to a different place in New York City every weekend. A few of her favorites include the South Street Seaport and the various racetracks around the city. On these excursions, she learned to love the “melting pot of city life” and gained a sense of curiosity and adventure, leading her to study science in college.

Micheline earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from St. Joseph’s College for Women at their Long Island Campus. She then moved to Cleveland, where she attended John Carroll University to earn her Master of Science degree. While attending John Carroll University, Micheline served as a graduate assistant and taught in Cleveland as a substitute teacher.

Following her graduation from John Carroll, Micheline returned to New York City to teach, but moved back to Cleveland two years later to marry Leonard Jackson, whom she had met when substitute teaching at Patrick Henry Junior High School.

After her wedding, Micheline began teaching science for grades 6-12 full time at schools across Cleveland. Micheline loved working with kids and went on to pursue further education from Cleveland State University, soon becoming a principle for the Cleveland Municipal School District. As a principal, she was instrumental to making the school system more efficient by developing a new master schedule program. At the time she retired, she spent 36 years of her life teaching and impacting the youth of Cleveland.

While she was teaching, Micheline and her husband, Leonard, had two daughters. Micheline praised her daughters, saying that they are both self-sufficient and that she is proud of Lynnette for her career as a wealth relationship manager and of Cheryl for her career as a Medical Doctor specializing in Obgyn.

Through parenting and teaching, Micheline hopes that she has “touched the lives of children by encouraging them to live up to their fullest potential by striving for excellence and improvement in all areas of life,” and by “helping them not only to set goals, but to make plans to achieve them.”

Aside from teaching and parenting, Micheline also has a passion for watching sports. Micheline’s husband was the athletic director for Cleveland Schools, which gave Micheline the opportunity to attend

many basketball and baseball games over the years and even meet some of the professional players for both the Cavaliers and the Guardians.

Today, Micheline resides at McGregor Senior Living in Cleveland, where she used to visit her grandmother when she was a young woman. She moved to McGregor following the death of her husband and the struggling to find consistent caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moving to McGregor was a very large adjustment for her, but she loves how McGregor offers all levels of care, so she'll never have to move again. Additionally, Micheline cherishes how McGregor provides cable television, so she'll never have to miss a basketball game or baseball game again. Finally, she appreciates how the staff at McGregor are "extremely friendly and inviting and are dedicated to accommodating your needs," and how close McGregor is to where her daughters currently live.

As she reflects on her life, Micheline relays that "change is hard, and storms keep coming. There is lots of wisdom in being flexible and not giving in to stress." Instead, Micheline urges readers to "be cool, calm, and collected so that you and others can get through the tough times."

"I want my legacy to be that I touched the lives of those I interacted with," Micheline concluded. Micheline has contributed to that legacy throughout her life in her roles as mother, teacher, and principle. She continues to build this legacy by encouraging visitors, fellow residents, staff, and volunteers at McGregor whenever she has the opportunity.