



# Elnora Thompson

Elnora Thompson was born in Greenwood Mississippi and moved to Boston in 1967. She lived in the South End and in Roxbury before buying her first home in Dorchester in 1970 on Mallard Ave. She is the mother of four children, five grandchildren and one great grandson.

Elnora worked for the telephone company for 30 years and retired on May 27, 1999. She refers to that day as the happiest day of her life because it was when she began to volunteer full-time.

Currently, she is the chairperson of the Community Improvement Association, CIA. CIA is a neighborhood civic group consisting of residents from Chipman, Dunbar, Euclid, Moody, Norfolk, Oakwood, Torrey, Wentworth, Washington, and Withington Streets and Claridge, Richard, and Wentworth Terraces. She also belongs to the Women of Courage group, works with Talbot Norfolk Triangle, and coordinates the Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester. The community garden was established in 1970 by residents who reclaimed an empty lot and transformed it into a shared garden. Today its 134 plots serve 250 gardeners and Elnora has assisted in its annual growing of more than 25,000 pounds of fresh produce as a veteran gardener.

Her grandfather was a farmer and she grew up working on the farm in the summers. That's where she learned how to grow food and live a healthy lifestyle. Today, she loves working with young people in the summer, teaching them how to grow fresh healthy vegetables. She also teaches a canning class at the Dudley School House every September.

- Elnora's other passion is sewing. She teaches a quilting class on Tuesdays at the Codman Square Library as well as a needlepoint and embroidery class.