

## **Beverly Smith, Detroit, Michigan**

Beverly Smith and her family moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1968 from Lake Charles, La. She enrolled in several business classes and in 1975, she, her husband and brother in law opened the first African American owned franchise of MAACO Auto Painting & Body Shop in the Detroit area.

She has also provided photographic services and developed fundraising programs for schools, churches, organizations and businesses for over 25 years. Beverly photographed nearly 600 members of the United States Border Patrol in Laredo Texas, and both the Livonia and Garden City Police Departments.

In 2006, she founded Detroit Smart Pages Newspaper providing resources, information in all areas of business and promoting and marketing the small business community in the Detroit/metropolitan area.

Beverly has been Co-Chair of Keep Detroit Beautiful since 2001. She created Detroit Beautification Day in 2005; a day of revitalization, rejuvenation and celebration of taking pride in our city by participating in any clean-up or beautification effort. Free flowers are provided to Detroit community organizations, block clubs, schools and churches to plant and beautify their neighborhoods after clean-up activities the first Saturday in June of each year.

Beverly was invited to attend a KMB meeting by Pam Frucci and elected to the Board of Directors in 2005. She has participated in all KMB activities, served on many committees, Secretary of the Executive Committee and publisher of the KMB newsletter for several years.

In 2015, Beverly founded and produced the First Annual Detroit "Thank You" Awards Recognizing Detroit Longstanding Neighborhood Small Businesses. Currently, Beverly is the President of KMB and pledges to continue its mission, increase its membership and secure funding opportunities.

She is also very active in spreading awareness and education about the immune disease, Vitiligo, a skin disorder that eliminates pigment in your skin and causes you to lose color. Beverly is a member of the Leadership Committee of VStrong, Vitiligo Support Community advocating for individuals living with Vitiligo.