

## CAROL BUTLER

Carol graduated from the United States Navy basic training in 1968. After the Navy she worked as an executive secretary for county government in Beaufort, South Carolina and for defense companies—ITT, Magnavox, and Raytheon here in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She served as the Executive Secretary to the President and CEO of the Magnavox Company before transferring to a volunteer career of public service and community involvement. In hopes of providing opportunities to promote cultural and racial diversity, Carol organized local volunteers to create Random Acts of Kindness Week, an annual International Women's Day Celebration, and various activities focused on children and their families, diversity and unity.

A conversation with a woman she met at the Veterans Administration Medical Center Carol generated the idea to write her first children's book about Fort Wayne's first woman firefighter, Genois Wilson. The purpose of the book, *Genois Wilson, Firefighter: She Dared to Be First* is to encourage girls and boys to "dare to dream" and to do the sometimes hard work to reach their goals.

After sharing the Genois Wilson book with school children, their teachers, families and youth workers, Carol was inspired to write a family story about her own grandmother. When she was five she went to the one-room school with her grandmother every day and witnessed first-hand her grandmother's influence on her students, her family and members of her community. Wishing to contribute to the diversity of stories available for all children was her motivation to create **Mama Joe's Kitchen**.

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In 2013 Carol published a children's book about the city's first woman firefighter. She now enjoys visiting schools, book fairs and every opportunity she gets to encourage and inspire kids.

Carol is married to Tom Butler. She and Tom enjoy road trips in their Prius and welcoming friends to their home on Lamplighter Pond for home cooking and great conversation.