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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH BBE: OUR STORY

Meet Betty Dudley, President/Founder

Welcome to my story. I am Betty Dudley, a born-again Christian. I am married to retired Chief Master Sergeant George Dudley. I am the sixth of eight children from the small town of Cordele, GA. I had a very modest upbringing and had parents who instilled in my siblings and me the importance of family values (love, honesty, work ethics, respect), faith in God, and doing the right thing when no one is looking. I am a retired U.S. veteran who served in the United States Air Force for 3 months short of 21 years and faithfully retired as a Lt. Colonel. Serving in the USAF was one of my highest honors as it taught me leadership skills early, and to serve others and a mission that was greater than I.

I had always wanted to serve unwed mothers in some capacity that had yet to be defined. After college, I went into the military and served in the USAF for 21 years. After retirement, I served as a Federal Government contractor in strategic management and conference support functions. I was laid off in 2009 and during that time, I wrote a book entitled, Called to Serve, Empowered by Faith Humbled by Grace. Once the book was published in 2014, I was called back to work as a contractor, supporting the Department of Energy in the Office of Cybersecurity as the Awareness and Training program analyst.

That contract ended in July 2019 just prior to COVID. When the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, I finally retired in 2021. I am grateful for having served my country and serve in the government for that season of my life. However, in doing all of that, I still had the desire to help unwed mothers.

In trying to decide how best to fulfill that need I saw a need for not only single mothers but also single fathers who were struggling to provide for the basic needs of their babies. There were single parents, in general, due to the death of a spouse, disabled spouse, or divorced spouse, in need of help. When the shortage of baby formula hit in 2022, that moved and inspired me to get started in establishing the Nonprofit as I could only imagine a parent not having the basic, essential needs, for their baby. The name of the company was established based on what we would be doing providing "babies essentials." My family calls me "Bee", short for Betty, so "Bee's Babies Essentials, Inc." seemed to be the right fit for what I wanted the nonprofit to accomplish.

I discussed the idea with a close military friend, and she loved the idea and was immediately on board and offered to assist in any way she could. Others followed suit, in agreeing to be a part of this journey to serve on the Board. Shortly thereafter, we applied for the Articles of Incorporation with the State, and then the 501 (c)(3) status. The nonprofit serves and assists single parents experiencing hardships by providing the basic essential items and supplies needed for infants and toddlers up to three years of age.

My goal is to not only give out resources but to offer education awareness in life skills training, social services programs, and counseling services to help single parents and their families to establish sustainable and productive lives. This effort will be done through fostering and building leadership, relationships, and partnerships with faith-based and community organizations.

## A Message from the President/Founder of BBE

Dear Staff, Communities and Partners: We are so thankful to you all for your hard work and dedication in helping our nonprofit organization to grow and support single parents with children under the age of three years old. Your generous donations, volunteerism, and advocacy have been instrumental in helping us to reach our goals. We could not have achieved this success without your support. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to our cause and for helping us to expand our organization. Your contributions have enabled us to make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your dedication and for being a part of this mission. We look forward to continuing to work together to make a positive impact.



(Nov 15, 2022)