



**Virginia P. Grant**, 62, began her life in Mississippi in a poor sharecropping family, and when she retired, she was vice president and human resources consultant of the Bank of America in Albuquerque. Along the way, she married and was divorced from Don Perkins, a teenage neighbor who went on to become a star running back for the Dallas Cowboys.

She raised their four children, along with a foster child, and discovered talents for business, organization and leadership, along with a sensitive insight for the benefit of others. She is now married to Uriel Grant and her story continues happily ever after.

Her volunteer work dates to the mid-1980s, when she traveled the university circuit as volunteer producer of "Bound for Canaan," a play that co-starred her first husband. For years, she has volunteered with AARP, helping prepare income tax returns for seniors, shut-ins and others. She is president of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and has assisted with the Senior Olympics and health fairs around Albuquerque.

Grant is a counselor with SCORE, offering business advice to people, and she co-authored the "Quick Employment Compliance Guide for Small Businesses in New Mexico."

A devoted member of Hoffmantown Baptist Church, she was one of the first Albuquerque residents to "adopt" a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina to Albuquerque.

She tells the triumphant story of her life in her autobiography, "Sweet Journey".