



**Ida Ruth Irwin Crook**  
*Christian Rites of Passage, Inc.*  
*Founder & Chair*

Ida Ruth Irwin Crook is founder and chair of the Christian Rites of Passage, Inc. (CRoP), a debutante and beaux program that provides leadership and spiritual guidance to Atlanta youth. Crook is continuously inspired by the transition each student makes on the journey from today's youth to tomorrow's leaders. She shares her passionate message of learning the value in self, family and community each year. Her efforts and dedication have been recognized in media coverage including a feature titled "Good People" on the NBC-11 Alive evening news with Atlanta anchor Brenda Woods.

Originally from Detroit, Mich., Crook proved her commitment to improving the community at an early age. While attending John J. Pershing High School, she earned the title of vice-president for the Co-Ettes Club, Inc., a teen club franchised across the United States that hosted a charity ball to benefit the United Negro College Fund. Her participation as a charter member of the Co-Ettes Club led to a feature in a 1960 issue of the Detroit Free Press. Then in 1961, Crook was formally introduced as a Detroit Cotillion debutante featured in the July issue of *Ebony Magazine*. *Strong, supportive family involvement* was the inspiration Crook remembers and used to sire the CRoP program.

Crook went on to serve in many organizations including: Girl Scouts, Inc.; the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital; Battered and Abused Women of Atlanta; the Kidney Foundation of Atlanta; the 1996 Olympic Games; and Women with a Mission, where she presided as president for five years. In addition to her community involvement, Crook was employed with Delta Air

Lines in the department of finance for more than 26 years. She attended Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Crook currently resides in Atlanta with her loving and supportive husband Edgar of 17 years. When she is not dedicating countless hours to uplifting today's youth, she spends time with her daughter Christina and three granddaughters Brittney, Courtney and Chaz.

### **Ida Ruth Irwin Crook's accomplishments**

#### **Spiritual Leadership**

- Sunday School Teacher, Light of the World Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
- Cascade United Methodist Church
  - United Methodist Women member
  - Christian Rites of Passage, Inc., Founder and Chair

#### **Volunteer activities**

- Scottish Rite Children's hospital-critically ill infant care unit
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, fund raising campaign
- Battered and Abused Women of Atlanta
- Kidney Foundation of Atlanta, Volunteer Board
- Women With a Mission, President
- 1996 Olympic Games, Athlete Coordinator
- Jomandi Performance Theatre, Volunteer Coordinator

#### **Career**

- Taught second and third grades in the Indianapolis Public School System
- Served as Administrative Assistant to world's first and largest Children's Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana. Also supported the museum's first mother-child mentoring program.
- Delta Airlines finance department, retired 2001.