

Sharon Harper



Sharon Harper, Owner of [The Barber Lounge for Men](#), is deeply committed to her community. She uses her business as a gathering place for children and families, and holds functions to bring people together for the greater good. When children come in for haircuts, they feel safe and supported in a positive environment and oftentimes develop relationships with the staff.

Sharon shares her thoughts about youth education with MPT.

"I engage youth and children by instilling the belief that all things are possible. We take pride in what we do and they see it. We listen and talk to the kids about sports, history and education. We are just trying to make a difference in the community however we can."

One example of how Sharon gives back to the community is through a series of special events held at her barbershop in Waldorf, Maryland. "Books, Boys n' Cuts" provides free haircuts to young boys from the community, free back-to-school backpacks, free lunch, and a fabulous back-to-school themed cake. *"We have been giving out books and the look on the kids' faces is priceless. It's the smallest things that bring smiles to faces, says Sharon."*



Check out this brief video clip to see Sharon in her element! [Watch online!](#)

Sharon expands on how her events unite the community. *"We have provided free haircuts and backpacks to the school age boys on several occasions. We try to find boys to come in and help sweep around the shop. Our shop is a very positive shop and we instill positivity and direction in the youth."* Additionally, on the 3rd Monday of the month, Sharon invites children, students and families to the shop to participate in the "Spoken Word."



MPT attended a recent back-to-school event and it is evident that this unique community-based model has worked well for everyone involved. Interestingly enough, MPT met Sharon while video-taping an American Graduate Champion story that will air on MPT. During that event, [Champion Tanya Barnett](#) provided free books and a special story time reading led by several members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. This is a great example of how we can build stronger communities, and support children and families in need.

Congratulations Sharon, we are proud to call you our American Graduate Champion.

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