



# #I AM Richmond 911 Deborah Jackson

**H**aving beaten cancer twice, Deborah Jackson knows that encouragement from others is important to survival. And she wants to share that with others.

A payroll specialist for the Richmond Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) since August 2014, Deborah helps to ensure that pay and hours are accurate for the department's employees, including 911 call-takers and dispatchers, technology staff, supervisors, administrators and others.

"I love what I do," Deborah said. "I love what the DEC employees do for the city of Richmond, and I want to make sure that they get what they deserve. I love to have the opportunity to smile at and greet the emergency communications officers when they come in, because you don't know what kind of difficult calls they might get that day."

Deborah shares her story of survival as a breast cancer awareness advocate with Sisters Network Central Virginia Inc., the first national African American breast cancer survivorship organization, where she serves on the executive board.

She speaks at engagements throughout the city of Richmond and the commonwealth of Virginia, educating men and women about breast cancer and encouraging them to get tested.

Deborah also volunteers through Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Glen

Allen, where she is the sponsor of ushers ages 5-12 and works with the security and evangelism ministries. Once a month, she helps feed the less fortunate with the church.

"I just go out and talk to people and serve people," she said. "It gives them an opportunity to share and for us to pray with them."

In addition to her work with DEC, Sisters Network Central Virginia and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Deborah enjoys spending quality time with her six grandchildren.

"We do everything they're not supposed to do: Grandma time," she said.

She said it is important for her to give back to let others know that they are not alone.

"For what I've been through, I have this joy that I want to spread. There are a lot of sad people in the world. If I touch one person, it makes a difference. There is light at the end of the tunnel."



**Richmond Department  
of Emergency Communications**

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