# Viola Clark Family Investment Specialist II CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!



What a remarkable achievement to fulfill! Congrats Viola for working 50 years for the State of Maryland. You play a crucial role in our team and in the Cecil community. Your outstanding performance and dedication are an inspiration to us all. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed! We are truly blessed to have you on our team!

"It is hard to encapsulate all that Ms Viola Clark is to our FIA Family. Her gentle smile and warm laughter makes your day better. Ms Viola seems to have endless energy and never ending compassion for the people in our community; and the depth of care that she shows our customers makes it all the better to work with her as part of a team. When no one else has the answer Ms Viola either knows the answer or the person to ask.

She discreetly donates items to social services and fundraisers. Ms Viola helps teach new team members about the families in our community; and about the generational poverty that they just can't break free from. She gives me hope that in treating our customers with encouragement, dignity and firm kindness; the people in our community will have a better opportunity to see their future in a new light and flourish."

-Ellen Lipp

"Ms. Vi is Mama Vi of FIA. She is a kind & compassionate Case Manager. Always willing to go above & beyond for her TCA Customers. For a period before COVID you would always see Ms. Vi staying after work hours to keep caught up with her caseload so her customers would have their benefits on time. Oh, and don't forget about her Punch she would always make for all the FIA Party's. Make sure she gives out her recipe before she Retires. I will always remember her smiling face. Ms. Vi you are 1 in a million."

-Melissa Shipley

"You can't think about the FIA department at Cecil DSS without thinking about Viola Clark. She has been a constant presence in the department from the beginning. She genuinely cares about our customers and is always willing to do whatever she can to help them. I have seen her volunteer to take an EA or an interview many times. I shadowed her when I first started working and even though she had her own caseload and deadlines, she was patient and always willing to answer my questions. I often thought about how many times over the years she helped others like she was helping me. She has mentored so many of us and continues to help us with her wealth of wisdom, knowledge and experience. Thank you so much Mrs. Vi for all you do for all of us in FIA and our customers. We appreciate you so much!" **–Sheila Hooker** 

"Miss Vi always included us, even though we had just started. From a sweet gift for Christmas to paying for us to dress down for December., Little things that made me feel less like a newbie." **-Jennifer Wooden** 

"Viola Clark. AKA Mrs. V. In this ever-changing world, nothing ever stays the same. Everything always changes. Mrs. V. is a CONSTANT. A friend, CONSTANTLY. An ear that listens and gives knowledgeable advice and guidance CONSTANTLY. Mrs. V. has a smile that meets your eyes and reassures you that everything will be alright. A few years ago, I lost my mother and I felt so broken. Then I came back to work and on my desk was the most beautiful card with the gentlest words in it that expressed sympathy but also encouragement. Mrs. Viola Clark is a gift to this world and I for one feel Blessed to be able to say that I know her." -Krystle Goodman

"Mrs. Vi has been a huge help to me; in learning the ways of FIA. I appreciate all that she has taught me. She even brightened my day even more on my birthday, when she gifted me with a birthday card. You cannot help but respect and be thankful for all that she does here at social services."

— Sarah Warden

"Ms. Vi is the heart of FIA. Everyone respects her not only in the agency, but in the community as well. She always goes above and beyond helping our customers. She genu cares about people. She is a force by nature in FIA. Ms. Vi has a wealth of knowledge that she always shares amongst her coworkers. Ms. Vi is straight forward but super sweet. She is very dependable and rarely takes off work. She also gets the best gifts and makes the best punch! Cheers to 50 years, Ms. Vi!!"

-Jessie Holmes

"Ms. Vi is so sweet to all of her coworkers and to our customers as well. She has made me feel very welcome and she puts a smile on everyone face! She's also the best at getting people gift she knows they'll love and appreciate. We are so thankful for you and happy 50 years!!!"

-Jules Streight

"Since I started working at DHS Mrs. Clark has been one of my "go to's". she is always available and willing to help. If I have questions or concerns she will take the time to help me understand. She is patient, compassionate, and very thorough. Mrs. Clark is definitely one of the best!" - Kortnee Aleshire

"Ms. Vi is always willing to take the extra step. No matter how busy Ms. Vi is, she always takes the time to answer questions, help work through problems, find answers, and give suggestions. Besides being a wealth of knowledge, I like how Ms. Vi states it like it is. She always has a warm, kind, friendly and welcoming demeanor toward everyone. I really enjoy our chit chat and giggles."

-Sharon Murray

"Amazing Grace! 50 years is a long time working for one Employer. Statistics says I paraphrase, in one's lifetime you will work for at least three different Employers. Ms. Clarks beat the odds and should be nominated in Guiness Book of World Records. Thank you MS. Clark!"

#### -Frederick Gbandawa

"I have the utmost respect for Ms Vi. She is one in a million and always amazes me. Her devotion to her clients is outstanding, her hard work and ethics are inspirational. Always extending her time even if it means working into her own time. She is always willing to share her experience with co-workers to help overcome obstacles.

Ms Vi always has a smile for you even at the end of a busy day. We should all be inspired by this amazing lady, congratulations on your 50 years of service."

-Linda Crouse

"WOW... 50 years serving the citizens of Maryland!!! Her clients throughout the years are lucky to have such a dedicated and empathetic worker who will advocate and assist them in any way she possibly can. Her colleagues throughout the years are lucky to have such a kind-hearted, committed, and supportive co-worker. She is a wealth of knowledge and I feel truly honored to know her and have gotten the opportunity to learn from her. Her 50 years of service deserves to be recognized, her integrity as an all-around amazing human being deserves to be celebrated. Thank you Ms Vi (for being you!!)."

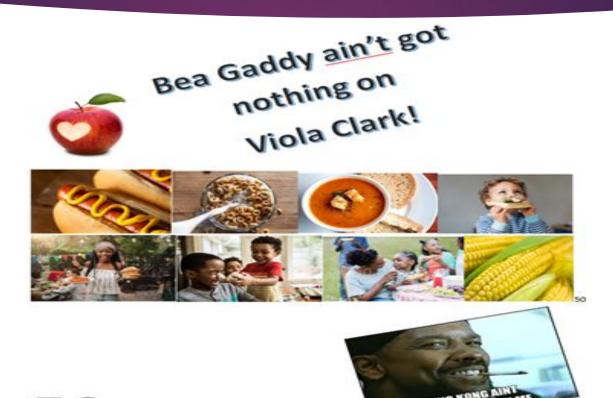
-Kristin Sailman

"Ms. Clark, is one of a kind. She definitely changes the atmosphere when she enters the room. She is full of wisdom, knowledge and she has a great sense of humor. I appreciate who she is and all that she contributes to FIA. She is the Queen of TCA. Thanks for all of your great years of service. We should all be inspired by her longevity, dedication and consistency."

-Antoinette Ballance

"The Wonder Woman of FIA. Her knowledge, expertise, patience and compassion should have her nominated for Sainthood. Whether it's helping a family shape a better future for themselves, offering time to sick or pregnant coworkers, bringing amazing and thoughtful baby shower gifts, or making her famous punch, Ms. Vi has all the amazing qualities of not only an accomplished employee, but an astounding human being."

-Kelly Mayer



Monday morning mindset!

-India Stallings