

## **Why I Joined TODOS Mathematics for All** **Gloria Brown Brooks**

I was a new teacher as a second career, when I moved from a University Town on the East Coast to an Agricultural area on the West Coast. I was happy to be assigned to a school that was one of the best in my local area.

When I started teaching, I noticed the disparity in the levels of education given to different groups of students. I was given the English Language Learner summer school classes that year.

I learned from the students as well as they learned from me. I had two Migrant students who were motivated in mathematics classes. One young lady named Juana, spoke no English but was my TA due to her mathematical ability. We communicated mathematically through student conversations and teacher conversations. We both grew in the area of mathematics as well. I learned "Mexican Division" from that class.

When school started again in the fall, I had already started looking into ways to become a better math teacher. I did not have English Language Learners this quarter, but made better communication with ALL students my goal.

During my internet searches I came upon TODOS Mathematics for all. When I attended NCTM the following Spring, I met people from the organization. I was so joyed to have found a group that was on the same wavelength as I. Appreciation of the research shown in *TEEM* and NOTICIAS kept me on the right paths in my Teaching for equity goals. I enjoyed TODOS LIVE! and I do enjoy the new podcasts.

I am honored to have made TODOS a part of my educational life early on. It has been a forum for Equity, Access, and Social Justice in Mathematics from its inception.