

A MAGAZINE FOR THE ENTREPRENEURIAL WOMAN

# MizCEO

FEB 2021

Author. Survivor. Overcomer.

ANDEANA  
*Gaither*

STILL GROWING  
THROUGH IT ALL!

BREAKING  
DOWN  
*WALLS*

Entrepreneurs to  
Know in 2021

2021  
THE YEAR  
OF THE  
*POSSIBLE*

YOU *ARE*  
ENOUGH!

Pushing Past Self-Doubt  
to Reach Your Dreams

MIZCEO.COM



# MizCEO

*Welcome to MizCEO Entrepreneurial  
Media Magazine! It's 2021 - The Year of Possibility!*

Our world is living through the Corona-virus pandemic. Many are afraid. Many have lost family and friends, and it seems that our Nation is divided. However, I ask that you join me in choosing FAITH over fear. The Word of God says in **Mark 9:23 King James Version (KJV)**:

*23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe,  
all things are possible to him that believeth..*

I want you to think of that one thing that you did not think that you were going to survive and you did?! I do not believe that God brought you through “that” thing that He brought you through to leave you now!!

**Be Encouraged. God has a plan.**

**He ALWAYS does! Rest in that!**

**I am praying for you to live with all the fullness and joy the Lord brings.**

*Because He Lives,*

*Dr. Jessica Mosley*

**Dr. Jessica Mosley**

*Steward Owner of The MizCEO Entrepreneurial Media Brand*



# Contributing Authors



**LA DONYA  
YVETTE**



**TILDA  
WHITAKER**



**DR. DEENA  
BROWN**



**DR. LESLIE  
HODGE**



**ERICA  
STEPTEAU**



**DeLISA NEW  
WILLIAMS**



**CHERYL  
PEAVY**



**ASHLEY  
LITTLE**



**NIKITA  
NICCI**



**SHANICK  
BARTELL**



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# Emma D. Demus

## Following Faith First.

Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.

I am Emma D. Demus, born 1971. I have raised three children who inspired me to be the best mother I knew how to be. All of my accomplishments were to be the first mentor my children could model after. In 2016, I suffered the tragedy of losing my first born child. Turn around the corner into 2017 and I got married. Through my marriage I gained five step-children. The last four years have been a bit of a roller coaster of emotions. My faith & support system has been a big part of my healing.

What made you want to become an entrepreneur?

My journey to becoming an entrepreneur was based on two reasons. My niece was born with a disability and I wanted to be my sister's back-up. Once I started working with individuals who have a developmental disability I found that I found my passion. Some of the agencies I worked for didn't reflect my values. I worked with two individuals who shared the same values as myself & our conversations led to discussing starting our own business. I never thought about becoming an entrepreneur, just making a difference for people. I knew that I didn't have enough money to start a business. What I knew I had was knowledge & determination. I prayed and took a leap of faith. Needless to say it wasn't easy but my business was successful & it gave me confidence in myself. It gave me the determination to obtain my degree, it was accomplished. As I journey further into my business I realized I wasn't just a business owner I was an entrepreneur. Twelve years later my desire to support my sister and to make a difference for individuals with a developmental disability has grown into being an entrepreneur who owns four businesses.

What would you tell your 21 year old self?

I would tell my 21 year old self how important it is that God be your leader, being a teen mother will not hinder your path, don't let people knock you off your journey. Most important...you will survive losing a child.









## COVER STORY

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What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?

Every woman was born to make a difference in the world. Present & future entrepreneur if you want success put your Lord and Savior first. You will face challenges but those challenges are there to make you better. Any woman who deserves to be an entrepreneur can because You are Worthy!

What do you want people to know about you?

I am proud to be Emma D. Demus. I love God first. Spending time with my family is a joy. Traveling is one of my passions. I am a social, passionate, bold, determined, direct and loving person. I want to continue to be a positive role model for all young ladies & women.

How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?

If you would like to connect with me I can be reached at: Email ([owens.emma@yahoo.com](mailto:owens.emma@yahoo.com)) or ([deweese.owens@gmail.com](mailto:deweese.owens@gmail.com)), Facebook (Emma Demus), Instagram ([iedocolumbus](#)) and Twitter (Emma Demus)



### About Emma Demus

Emma Demus, co-founder of Autumn Days and Autumn Days Home Healthcare, based in Gahanna, Ohio. Emma has over 25-years of experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Emma's business experience does not just stop at Autumn Days entities, she is also co-founder of JD'S Kitchen, and founder of Brandon's Gems. Emma has been a successful CEO for 12 years.

Emma is an alumni of Columbus State where she received her Associates Degree in Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Chemical Addiction. Emma became a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc Philo Affiliate in February 2020. Emma makes time to give back to her community by volunteering and donating to various organizations. On October 10, 2020, I received my Honorary Doctorate Degree for my humanitarian work.

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# Andeana Gaither

## *Still Growing Through it All!*

Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.

I am a Mother, an Entrepreneur, Ordained Minister, A Survivor, Author, Overcomer, Servant, A Caterer, A Listening Ear and An Amazing Friend to so many. I have been called to empower and encourage others to recognize the gifts that God has blessed them with through Love. Being educated in the Washington, DC and PG County Public Schools Systems and employed in the Washington Metropolitan Area for over 25+ years has afforded me to gain an abundance of financial, human resources and accounting experience. Those companies and the experience lead me to my present position as CFO for a Northern VA real estate and development company since 2012.

What made you want to become an entrepreneur?

I wanted to become an entrepreneur to make a difference. I started a foundation in November 2020 called Pink@ChristmasEve. The foundation represents my journey with Breast Cancer and how I want others to feel. The reason I started this foundation was to be that resource others could contact to give them a peace of mind while battling their trials and tribulations. I don't want anyone to feel like they are alone whether that would be financially or emotionally. To educate and bring awareness to those who are unknowledgeable. Allowing ourselves to support one another and know that we are victorious no matter what the outcome. To give back the way God has given to me.

What would you tell your 21 year old self?

Although you were a single mother of one, working at McDonald's and didn't have a clue where your life was headed. I want to commend you for staying strong and never feeling defeated. For always seeing the best in your future and educating yourself. For being available to lose love, receive love and give love unconditionally. Despite the adversity that you were given you continued to strive for what God had for you and are now living out your purpose. You are a true Blessing to so many people and God is capitalizing off of your gift of being able to Love no matter how/what it looks like. Love is one of the strongest commandments and I'm just thankful that you continued to Love. We are living our Fairy Tale!!!!

What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace? Define Influence

I would like to tell that woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the Marketplace is that God is your influence and through His grace you can do it. You can achieve anything you set your mind and heart to. First you must seek God and in ALL your ways you MUST acknowledge Him. Trust Him for guidance (pray), leave it with Him and watch Him work. Whatever that qualification(s) that you think are a deficit, He will make it an asset. Surround yourself around positive like-minded people and create positive affirmations for yourself. Don't be discouraged by the distractions that come while you are on your path to success. Those distractions are there to get you off course so that you'll give up. Know that everything in life happens for a reason, so don't just go through it...grow through it. Trust the Process!

What do you want people to know about you?

On December 24, 2013 I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and through God's grace and mercy I'm still here. I'm "Thankful" because I know that my purge was necessary and I am cancer free. When I say purge, I mean every area in my life had to be cleansed. I learned to put ALL my faith and trust in God, not just while I was going through it but in every day of my life. That's why I'm an advocate for anybody that is going, gone through or have lost a loved one due to this disease. In May 2019 I collaborated on a book called "Overcoming Adversity, Pushing Past the Pain. My chapter in the book is called "Pieces of Me" where I have shared pieces of my life that I have overcome to encourage and strengthen women that no matter what it looks like you are still victorious.

How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?

You can contact me at the following if you are interested:

Email: [amgaither@msn.com](mailto:amgaither@msn.com)  
 Email: [Andeana.Gaither@PinkatChristmasEve.org](mailto:Andeana.Gaither@PinkatChristmasEve.org)  
 Facebook: [Andeana Gaither \(McGriff\)](#)  
 Instagram: [@IamAndeana](#)

A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE  
**Dr. Jiajoyce**  
*Conway*

*Helping to Change Women  
from the Inside Out*



Dr. Jiajoyce Conway is an ambassador for Christ who has been given the ministry of deliverance and restoration. She has dedicated and committed her ministry to empower women towards becoming the woman God has ordained for them to be. She's an Ordained Evangelist, wife, mother, author, educator, Certified Christian Life/Transformation Coach, womanpreneur, and a practicing Doctor of Clinical Advanced Nursing Practice for over 20-years. She is the CEO/Founder of "Changed From the Inside Out Ministries, LLC" and "A Touch From Heav'n Wellness Salon & Spa, LLC".

**What made you want to become an entrepreneur?**

Entrepreneurship for me has meant the building of a legacy that will exceed me. I aspire to provide a foundation for my children and my children's children, where they will not have to work as hard as I have had to in order that I may have more than my parents were able to achieve in their lifetime. I have always wanted to have something that I have birthed and built to call my own, and not just my own, but possesses my signature fingerprint and spirit. I love building and developing those things that will not only impact me, but will provide a means by which others can be empowered, nurtured, and restored holistically. Becoming an entrepreneur has meant to me that I have executed my God-given gifts, talents, and abilities to fulfill a purpose and need in the land of the living.

*"Becoming  
an entrepreneur has meant to me that I  
have executed my God-given gifts, talents,  
and abilities to fulfill a purpose and need  
in the land of the living."*

*- Dr. Jiajoyce*

What would you tell your 21-year-old self?

I would like to tell my 21-year old self that she does matter and that she is not broken, bruised, and damaged. At the age of 21, I was going through life living in the shadows of pain and disappointment despite having a good career as a Registered Nurse. This young woman needed to know that peace, love, joy, and happiness was her portion and that she deserved so much more than what she was giving herself credit for. I would tell her to take the limits off of her life and go after everything that God has predestined for her life. I would tell her to live out her John 10:10 life, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." My 21-year old self would need to know that she is worthy to live her life to the fullness not defined by pain, defeat, a deflated mentality, and unforgiveness, but by the power and love of the Almighty God that is alive on the inside of her.

What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?

I want to tell the woman that feels as if she is not good enough to make it in the marketplace that she has to know who she is in God. We can do nothing in life exempt from our identity in God because not knowing WHO we are will defeat WHAT we become and allow us to settle for what the world wants to give. She needs to know that her self-worth, self-love, and self-esteem cannot be defined by the standards of the world, other persons success, past mistakes, and failures. She must come to know that her dreams, hopes, and desires are planted by God, and





because God has given them to her, she has to make the choice to trust Him in the manifestation of such promises. It is not promised that the journey towards success will be easy, but it is a worthy journey to travel towards the promises of God. The marketplace can be unforgiving, untrustworthy, selfish, and scarring, but we have to know what God has said about who we are and who He has called us to be, Ephesians 2:10 says it perfectly, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Lastly, I would tell her that she is good enough just because she is the daughter of a King! Never give up and never forget her WHY.

**What do you want people to know about you?**

I want people to know that I am a woman who loves God, her family, and people. I love serving and giving because that is where God commands the blessing. I live a life committed to the will of God for my life. Everything that I do in my life is so that when it is all said and done, I can rest knowing that I have lived the life that God has ordained for my life and that I will die empty. My philosophy is that I am going to ride this life out until the Michelin tires are bald having done all that was required of me. I give from my soul so that others can see the power of God at work in my life, experience and encounter God through me, and see what God can do in and through a life that chooses purpose over pain. I want people to always know that I believe that our purpose in life is best served when we use our voices to empower, encourage and esteem the ears and hearts of other women whose purpose is connected to ours. I believe in the power of completion and not competition.

**How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?**

People can stay connected with through my social media pages. On Facebook I am under the name of Jia R Conway, my Facebook women's ministry group is "Changed From the Inside Out Women's Empowerment & Coaching," and on Instagram @jiaconway. People can also reach me through email at [changedfromtheinside@gmail.com](mailto:changedfromtheinside@gmail.com).



## ABOUT DR. JIAJOYCE CONWAY

Dr. Jiajoyce Conway is an ambassador for Christ who has been given the ministry of deliverance and restoration. She is a woman truly after the heart of God who is motivated and dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the lost may be saved, transformed and delivered. She is an Ordained Minister of the Gospel, married for 23- years, mother to four beautiful children, published author, educator, Certified Christian Life Coach and mentor, womanpreneur, and currently a practicing Doctor of Clinical Advanced Practice for over 20-years. Above all she is a survivor. She is the founder/CEO of "Changed From the Inside Out Ministries, LLC".

Minister Jiajoyce has completed her ministerial training under the leadership and teaching of Dr. Karen Bethea at Set the Captives Free Outreach Center. She completed her formal education, Bachelors and Masters of Nursing, from Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD; and her doctoral preparation was completed at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, and her Masters of Theology with an emphasis on Women's Studies at Liberty University, and coaching training and certification from Light University. Her call to serve women is one of passion, compassion, love and desire for women to excel and survive beyond adversity. She thrives on Women's Empowerment and a wholistic approach to survival- mind, body and soul. She is the CEO & Founder of "A Touch from Heav'n Wellness Spa and Salon-Online" and "Changed from the Inside Out Ministries, LLC" where she dedicates her time and skills to coaching, educating and empowering women on how to take care of their temple holistically and live their God-ordained lives. As an Oncology provider she has a passion and heart for Breast Cancer women, but she nurtures all of her patients.

"Changed from the Inside Out," evolved out of a life that was consumed and only knew the pain of past abuse and loss, to a life of a woman that gave God a chance at restoration and wholeness, despite her own brokenness. She has served on many platforms as a speaker, workshop presenter and preacher. Minister Jiajoyce currently resides in York, Pennsylvania with her husband and children. Her life's mantra is "Purpose to Change and Change on Purpose!" She is committed to a life that is not just consumed by her own personal success, but one that breeds impact and significance in the lives of others.

AIRS DECEMBER 18, 2020

# Miz CEO & FRIENDS RADIO NETWORK

HOSTED BY:

DR. *Jessica*  
MOSLEY

WITH CO-HOSTS:



ANJA  
COLLINS



DR. ASHLEY  
LITTLE



DR. LAWAN  
FERGUSON



JENNIFER  
ROGERS



TAQUOYA  
PORTER



LADY NAKIA  
WRIGHT



DR. NAKIA  
MCGRAW

TUNE IN ON  iTunes    Spotify







# Dr. Sakeisha Hylick

## Empowering Women, Strengthening Marriages

*Dr. Sakeisha Educates, Empowers and Encourages husbands and wives on in their marriage when they focus on improving in three key areas : Communication, Finances and Sex. Whether you are experiencing challenges in your relationship spiritually, emotionally, and/ or financially ,Dr. Sakeisha delivers proven strategies to break unproductive behavioral patterns and create lifelong change. Despite being the product of a single parent home , she made it her mission in life not to walk in her family's generational curse of divorce. She is committed to creating a marriage that will survive when other marriages tend to fail. She demonstrates firsthand what it means to Rebuild Trust, Overcome Obstacles, Bounce Back from Bankruptcy, and Focus on Forgiveness amid Balancing Business, Family, Faith and Finances. She is extremely passionate about seeing couples “thrive” in their marriage and not “just survive!”*

Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.

My name is Dr. Sakeisha Hylick and I am the Founder of ULTIMATELY Y.O.U. and Hylick and Associates Financial Services. I work with couples who are struggling in their relationships in the areas of Communication, Finances, and Intimacy. I provide coaching, mentoring, and training on how these couples can build and protect wealth while establishing a solid foundation in their relationships.

What made you want to become an entrepreneur?

My decision to become a full time entrepreneur developed after 19 plus years in the Healthcare industry, I developed severe medical issues that evolved into a yearlong battle with health issues. I was forced to walk away from a “guaranteed” six figure income but was blessed to be able to transition from part- time to full-time into my true passion, which is helping couples WIN in their relationships. Instead of focusing on the obstacles, I decided to pursue the opportunities.

What would you tell your 21 year old self?

Do not be afraid to make the tough decisions. The timing to step out will never be perfect! Resist the urge to allow things like fear, or other's expectations of you become the driving factor for your decisions. Be mindful that you do not have to have it all figured out!

What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?

I would like to say to that young lady, the only person that gets to decide your worth is you!! You are more than enough! There are many people who are waiting on you to be great. Do not allow fear to hold you back from stepping outside of your comfort zone. While your journey may be different from others, that does not mean that yours is not as valuable as theirs..... You can do this!! Believe in yourself, you have got an entire tribe of women rooting for you and waiting for you to succeed.



What do you want people to know about you?

Like many other women out there, I have experienced my fair share of ups and downs, from job loss, to bankruptcy, to severe health challenges; however, I am determined not to allow those brief chapters in my life dictate the entire narrative of my story. Coming from a single parent household, I thought that I was the last person that God would use to transform marriages, but God! I realized that the challenges that I experienced were not for me; they were intended to equip me so I could effectively help those I was blessed to serve. I now am the host of two radio shows The Marriage Can Win Show on Tuesday nights at 8 pm on [luvradionetwork.com](http://luvradionetwork.com) and Date Night with the Hylicks on Friday and Saturday Nights at 8 pm. I am also blessed to have a Marriage Can Win Podcast, as well as the Marriage Can Win Live Show that airs on Thursday nights at 9pm.

My husband and I just launched our fourth book entitled "Struggling To Keep The Vows". We launched all of these programs in 2020, so I am confident that if you step out on faith, God is going to open doors of opportunity for you!

How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?

The best way to connect with me:

Website <https://www.marriagescanwin.com/>

Email at [DrSakeisha@gmail.com](mailto:DrSakeisha@gmail.com)

Social media :

IG <https://www.instagram.com/drsakeishah/>

FB <https://www.facebook.com/drsakeishahylick>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/DrSakeisha>

Linked In <https://www.linkedin.com/in/drsakeishahylick/>

# Suprena HICKMAN

## The Great Escape: Journey Through Wholeness & Wellness

**Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.**

I am a multi-talented, multi-gifted, empire-builder, and purpose-filled woman of God who happens to be a Registered Nurse, a wife, and a mother. As a Nurse Entrepreneur, I am the CEO of Suprena Hickman Enterprises, LLC- which consists of 4 divisions: She Wellness (Escape 2 Sisterhood and Girls Rocking In The South), Sweet Escapes By Suprena, Your Escape Coach, and Escapes In A Box. I have a 5th division launching in Summer of 2021 and I'm very excited about it! As a woman called to help with healing, I execute everything I do with healing in mind. Also, with every division I've birthed, it has come from a process of my healing.

**What made you want to become an entrepreneur?**

I actually was never interested in business. My husband, and college sweetheart, was a business major. As a Nursing student, I always thought business was boring back then. However, I realized that, when I was a kid, I used to always help my mom with planning her programs and church events behind the scenes in Charleston, SC where I was born and raised. So, I am certain that working with her and being influenced by my husband over the years is what has kickstarted my entrepreneurial journey. In 2008, I saw a need in my area (Wilmington, NC) and I created a wellness retreat for women to promote self-care and awareness. Women showed up, lives were changed- including mine, and I was hooked ever since!

**What would you tell your 21 year old self?**

I would tell my 21 year old self to be bold, confident, and fearless! I would tell her to stay focused and know that she is beautiful and worthy of love. I would teach her how to bounce back quicker from those deep hurts, but also explain to her that those hurts would push her more into her purpose; therefore, it is necessary. I would also encourage her to speak her truth and never allow anyone to stifle her- regardless if they are friends or family. I would make sure she embraces her femininity and never chase after a man. She would know that the beauty within her would simply attract the right mate for her.

**What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?**



I didn't feel I was good enough for the marketplace once upon a time. That is also when I attracted people who were not good for me or my business and they took advantage of me. I also realized that my thinking didn't help my business or the people I was truly called to serve. I was actually depriving those women of the light I carry within because I had dimmed my light. So, I would tell her to be super clear about who she is called to serve and also be clear about why she is in business. Then, she needs to write it out and have it near her at all times. If she stays focused and keep God, and the vision he has given, in front of her then she can't fail. She will realize how much the world has been waiting on what she has to offer.

**What do you want people to know about you?**

I am quite driven, determined, and confident about myself and what I have to offer to the world. However, I wasn't always this way. I want you to know that I once became that broken little girl trapped in a grown woman's body who acquired a lot of masculine energy- and I was lovingly described as a strong, black woman. Well, I was a strong, black woman who had been hurt by the main people closest to me and I became secretly bitter and resentful. It negatively impacted all of my moves and led to my emotional constipation. Guess what? I healed by the grace of God and I'm better- not bitter. Just as I have healed, I believe you can as well. The peace I have is priceless and I want that for all of my hurt women out here as well. Just know that healing is possible, but it must first start with awareness.

**How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?**

You can connect with me by doing the following:  
Text the word SHE to 42828  
Follow me on Facebook and LinkedIn at Suprena Hickman;  
Instagram @EscapeCoach  
[www.SuprenaHickman.com](http://www.SuprenaHickman.com)



# Carnela RENEE HILL

## Divine Design: Being Purposeful with your Passion

Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.

Hello, my name is Carnela Renee Hill. I am an award-winning interior designer, public speaker, and author of “Walking Afraid” and the “Walking Afraid-Action Plan” are just a few of my gifts and talents. I am blessed to have a very diverse background. I am the CEO and Principal Designer of CR Hill Design Group, LLC, celebrating 20+ years in business and design. In 2015, I was selected to decorate at the White House under the Obama Administration and obtained a few interviews on the HGTV Christmas at the White House. I have been on TV and radio, in print media and across social media. I am a strong advocate for small and women owned businesses, interior designers, education and the marginalized. I am a community leader serving and/or have served on many boards.

### What made you want to become an entrepreneur?

It started with a friend saying you are spending too much time with decorating. He said, 1) either make it a business and pick and choose your clients or 2) just keep decorating for fun and no pay. I was working on my MBA at the time. I showed my designs to one of my classmate’s wife, who was in the furniture industry. She saw my work and encouraged me to go into the business of interior design. After much prayer and seeking God, the choice came up to move to Texas or take a layoff package. God made it easy. I took the leap of faith and I launched my design business.

Design for me started out as an avenue to relieve stress from the corporate work of the 9 to 7+ hours a day. God sent me strong women that mentored and coached me from the North Carolina Women’s Business Center and National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). I met my lifelong mentor extraordinaire, Ms. Andrea Harris. (I dedicate this interview to her in heaven.) She challenged me. Now, here I am, 20 plus years as an entrepreneur and interior designer. Interior design is not just a business, but ministry and a chance to transform lives and homes.

### What would you tell your 21-year old self?

I wish I knew about interior design in high school. I wish I had taken business courses. I would tell my 21-year old self the same thing my Grandmother/BigMa and my mentors shared with me, that I tell my nieces, nephews, young adults and businesspeople that I mentor and coach:



Always keep God first in every aspect of your life and business.

1. Live your best life but be wise, work hard, travel, save and invest your money.
2. Have a plan and work your plan. Learn what you like to do by interning and shadowing people in the field you are considering.
3. Have multiple streams of income. Start a business, be an author or do both.
4. Everyone has a story, so never allow guilt or shame to keep you from telling your story.
5. Respect and be kind to everyone, because you never know who you will need in the future. People are always watching.
6. Lastly, a message that came to me during one of my radio turned podcast shows, that I remind myself to do is “Be purposeful with your passion, and passionate about your purpose. Seek after knowledge!”

Just know, life will change around you and it is okay to move out of your box. Learn what you will learn now and be fluid. I have an undergraduate degree in computer science degree, but I hate looking at a screen all day. I am a people person. I love to talk and connect people. (I got N’s in school for “need to improve in talking”. Now I use that gift. Lol)

Remember, you will never know what you do not like until you try it. I love strategic planning, operations and design. I love what I do. Yes, I have my days when I have to get away to be restored and refreshed. My mom said, “We paid for 4 years of a computer science degree”. I laugh and remind her that I had scholarships **for most of those 4 years and God brought this gift out of me. God does not waste anything. I learned a lot being in the IT field that I use today.**

### **What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?**

Trust the process. You have everything you need at your fingertips. God equipped you at birth. Do not focus on man's opinion of you. Write the vision and make it plain. Basically, share your hopes, dreams and desires with God, then put in the work by starting with asking God for help, and watch God work. Remember, by not starting the business and work in the marketplace, you are saying, “Lord I do not trust you to guide me.” If you move your feet, God will guide you and send you help. Pray for Godly wisdom and people to help you carry out His plan, then hand it back to God. Surround yourself with positive people and winners. Be open to God's will. God planted that seed in you.

Please remember, depression is real. So, take care of yourself first, because this world of entrepreneurship requires strong faith and the mindset of making it, regardless of what comes your way. I know about depression firsthand. I am grateful to have family and friends that were paying attention to when my moods changed. According to Dr. Michael Freeman of the University of California at San Francisco, one in three entrepreneurs live with depression, and 30% of all entrepreneurs experience depression, but most never tell anyone. I watch for the signs in others.

Get the help when you find yourself in this place. No amount of guilt or shame will stop God's love for you. I talk about depression today, that I may help someone else. I talk about marketplace leadership and what that really means. My sisters, you must “Change your mindset! YOU ARE A WINNER! YOU ARE VICTORIOUS!”.

### **What do you want people to know about you?**

I am a Jesus girl. I have a big heart for people. God has sustained me through the ups and downs of health issues, businesses, bankruptcy, bad financial decisions and relationships. I am grateful that God keeps healing my brokenness and loving me through my good and bad. (I want to sing right there, because J. Moss, Tasha Cobbs and Jekalyn Carr are top on my playlist.)

I have learned to be vulnerable for God. God reminds me that being vulnerable for Him is different than being vulnerable for man. The journey has not been easy, but if you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will see God work it out. Bishop Jakes said in a sermon, “Ask God to make you

and answer.” I keep asking God to make me a servant and to put me in places so that I can be a blessing. One of my favorite scriptures is 1 Samuel 3:9, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” When those challenging times arise, I ask God to show me. I ask God, “What do you want me to learn from this?” A question that one of my sister-friends and I remind each other to do when we are challenged and perplexed about life. You will hear us saying, “We decrease Lord, you increase.”

I have not always called on God first. God has been my teacher over this 51year old journey. I encourage you to try conversations with God and wait for His answer. Oh yes, people say God do not want to know all the details of life. I disagree. I ask God a lot of questions and sometimes God answers and other times, He is quiet and reveals it to me. So, do not be afraid to go to God with the small stuff too.

Lastly, I am a prayer warrior, encourager, motivator and one that will inspire you to get up and “FIGHT”. My family and friends know this to be true, but I need you to be in the fight with me. I help people “WIN”.

### **How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?**

Outside this interview, people can follow me on social media

Facebook @carnelareneehill or @crhilldesigngroup  
Instagram @carnelareneehill or @crhilldesigngroup  
LinkedIn @carnela-renee-hill-executive-mba-60364b4

People can tour my design website at <http://www.crhilldesigngroup.com> or for speaking engagements and to purchase my books, “Walking Afraid” and “Walking Afraid-Action Plan” visit my page at <http://carnelareneehill.com>.



# Michelle BOULDEN HAMMOND

## Creating a Legacy: The Passion of Serving

### Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.

Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.

Greetings Everyone I first would like to say it a blessing to be here and I pray that everyone is doing great in this upcoming year. I am a woman of faith and love inspiring others.

### What made you want to become an entrepreneur?

Actually, in the beginning I just wanted to help people however, this became a passion. I felt that why not trying to get paid for my work and turn it into a legacy.

### What would you tell your 21-year-old self?

I would have told myself continue on with education and become a self-starter.

### What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?

I would say Sis God has said that you are fearfully and wonderfully made and with God all things are possible. Take a leap and go jump outside of the boat; but do not lose focus pursuing your dreams.

### What do you want people to know about you?

Well, I want to acknowledge that my passion is inspiring others. There is no cost for opening platforms for other people and I only want to do the will of God and follow his plan for my life and that is to inspire others and help create bonding relationships of Sisterhood. In saying that I believe what God has for you it is for you.

### How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?

They can follow me on all social media handles Facebook , Instagram. They also can listen to me each Thursday@6pm weekly on my podcast Upfront Mind Body & Soul





# MICHELLE BOULDEN HAMMOND

Author/Life Coach/Podcast Host

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## ABOUT THE INSPIRING WOMAN

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Michelle Boulden Hammond a multitalented woman that handles her faith, marriage, business, and professional relationships with the power of inspirations. Michelle is an author ,life coach, and entrepreneur. Her charismatic personality has the power that gives individuals influence to move beyond their now in mind , body and soul. A woman who has faced obstacles with birth defect, rejection and abuse ,but has shown others that "Your Pain Is Your Gain". She has traveled nationally and internationally hosting seminars and conferences . Her latest work can be found weekly as a podcast host for Upfront Mind Body & Soul on various national outlets. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her humanitarian efforts. A Maryland native who resides with her husband of twenty five years ,children and three

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*mbh*  
MICHELLE BOULDEN HAMMOND  
HOSTESS OF INSPIRATION







# Maray BRANDON

## *Keeping It Safe & Smart*

*Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.*

My name is Maray Brandon, Founder and President of K.I.S.S., INC. (Keeping It Safe & Smart) and H.U.G.G.S. (Helping U Guys Get Stronger 2021) mentoring programs for young ladies and men in Baltimore, Maryland. The podcast show The Marty Brandon Show After many encounters with young ladies who were facing various traumatic situations, Maray felt the great need to offer her support and guidance. Maray noticed that there was another population crying out for help; they were young black men. Maray had become a first hand witness of the needs of young black men when she fearlessly and tirelessly went out into the community trying to save one of her sons. She believed that journey was nothing but God because it gave her an upfront and personal relationship with the Baltimore City Juvenile System and the needs of this population. She has partnered with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, City of Baltimore Housing, community partners and other non-profit organizations. She envisions a community where “one young lady + her village= a powerful woman and to be able to help our young brothers heal one beat a time”( Maray Brandon).

*What made you want to become an entrepreneur?*

I became an entrepreneur because of my love and passion to help young ladies and the surreal reminder that I once loved her. The one incident that pulled on my heart strings was: on a blazing, hot summer day in August 2012 that’s when I could no longer run from my purpose after meeting a young lady named LaShawn. After leaving work from the late clinic; I came upon a young lady soiled, hungry and hot. She approached me and asked how she can apply for a job at Johns Hopkins for a Security Guard position. The young lady appeared to be young and I questioned her about her age. I inquired about her guardian getting her an ID so she can apply for a job at several local fast food restaurants that were nearby. While conversing she told me that she was only fifteen years of age and that she ran away from foster care. I began to question Lord what are you trying to tell me. I have fostered a family member born to drug addiction, given support to a young lady who was in an abusive relationship, educated young ladies about Sexually Transmitted Diseases, helped a young mother who was going through postpartum, and now LaShawn. I came to the realization that helping young women became so personal to me because I

too was a teenage mom at the age of 15. Just to think I could have been LaShawn, the abused young lady, addicted to drugs and a dropout but due to my support system I beat the odds. If I ever ran into LaShawn again I would thank her. LaShawn made it that much easier for me to start K.I.S.S., INC. (Keeping It Safe & Smart)

These young ladies and their families trust in me like I trust in God. I know that God will never leave me nor forsake me; because I am a Servant Girl for the Lord, I will continue to serve my Kissy Poo's and the communities of Baltimore City.

### ***How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?***

Follow K.I.S.S., INC. and H.U.G.G.S. social media pages at:

FB:KISS INC

IG: k.i.s.s.maraybrandon

Podcast: The Marty Brandon Show

Email: k.i.s.s.maraybrandon@gmail.com

Website: www.kissinc.org

### ***What would you tell your 21 year old self?***

Maray of today would tell my 21 year old self "what took you so long to share your gift, grace and greatness with the world. I am glad you turned your fears into power.

### ***What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?***

I would tell a woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace that she is her biggest critic and greatest competition. Once she gets out her own way everything in her life will fall into place. She has to trust every part of the process and journey. She has to know and believe that God is absolutely who God says he is.

### ***What do you want people to know about you?***

On February 17, 2020 I was a victim of gun violence. I was shot 10 times and left for dead. I wanted to pack up my family and disappear from the one place I knew was home for me and that is Baltimore. I had to make a safe and conscious decision for myself and family but God... I had this heart to heart talk with God and realized that I ran for my life that day I was gunned down but God's angels covered me, grace and mercy kept me. That beautiful 17th day of February, a day I was told about 10 years and 4 days to be exact by a Prophet. She shared with me how I was surrounded by God's angels and that one day I would see. During the heart to heart I promise God I would not leave my Kissy Poo's (the young ladies of K.I.S.S., INC.).

## **ABOUT MARAY BRANDON**

Maray Brandon is a Baltimore native who has a strong passion for supporting the city's most vulnerable population; the youth. Maray Brandon is the loving and fearless wife of William T. Brandon Sr. and out of this love since their elementary school years they were blessed with four sons and a daughter, William Jr., Shambre, Kaon, Amari and Akil. Maray is the founder of K.I.S.S., INC. (Keeping Safe & Smart) and H.U.G.G.S. (Helping U Guys Get Stronger) Mentoring Programs. Maray Brandon gained love for the community while working for the Baltimore City Health Department on the Syphilis Eradication Outreach Team. The community work set her out on a journey to start educating young people about sexually transmitted diseases. She went on to work for Johns Hopkins School of Medicine/Johns Hopkins School of Public Health as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant and a Research Program Assistant II & III on NIH/NIDA-funded projects for HIV and Hepatitis C. Maray Brandon developed and set up a functioning lab for the Beacon Project under Principal Investigator Amy Knowlton, ScD, MPH. Maray came to the faith driven decision September 2015 after encountering many young ladies who needed additional support with life situations; that she would resign from her job and start K.I.S.S., INC.. Given her first opportunity in 2016 to start her first group session at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center operated by Arthur "Squeaky" Kirk Maray has been on her mission ever since. Over the last six years Maray has serviced hundreds of youth and their families in Baltimore City.











# LaWanda HARRIS

*I Am More Than Enough!*

## **Please introduce yourself to our reading audience.**

My name is LaWanda Harris. I am the owner-operator of three for-profit companies that specialize in Customer Service, Event Management & Professional Emcee Services. In addition, I am an author, public speaker, and the CMO (Chief Motivation Officer) of an online community that focuses on helping people heal from the traumatic experience of divorce. All of which embrace my purpose and passion in one way or another.

## **What made you want to become an entrepreneur?**

Entrepreneurship is all about creating solutions that solve problems. I started doing that in the 4th grade with the assistance of my self-employed mother. Back then, my elementary school did not have air-conditioning and it was hot. My mother found battery-operated handheld fans that we purchased in bulk for .50 and sold to my classmates for a \$1 profit that I spent at the corner candy store. Those little battery operated fans were everything when attending classes in an all brick school building in the hot weather months and even on the playground when playing on the metal sliding board. I liked making my own money and the feeling of being the "go-to person" to solve problems.

## **What would you tell your 21-year-old self?**

There is a song by a 1980's recording artist named Junior Giscombe called "Mama Used To Say". In it, the artist sings about a young man that questioned when he would get to see what grown-ups see. He recalled his mother telling him to take his time and not to rush to get old. Most young people fantasize about being an adult. Truthfully, there is a blessing in youthfulness that should be embraced because when it's over, it's over! I can see the decisions of my adult life through the lens of my childhood experiences. I graduated high school, married my high school sweetheart 5 months later, and gave birth to our two children, all before the age of 20. I was very young living out adult scenarios that I had no idea how to successfully navigate. At that time, I didn't even know to get my \$99 wedding dress hemmed at the local dry cleaner so I wouldn't trip over it coming down the aisle (I still chuckle at those pictures). To my 21-year old self, I would sing the lyrics of this song, "take your time young [lady], don't rush to get old, take it in your stride [and] live your life" as high as the volume on my stereo could go.

## **What do you want to say to the woman who doesn't feel like she's good enough to make it in the marketplace?**

I have definitely experienced the sting of that







paralyzing thought. My unexpected divorce in 2018 impacted both my personal and business life in monumental ways. I had to affirm and remind myself daily that I was enough. One of the things that helped me was a tee-shirt and wristband I purchased from a company that mentors entrepreneurs which boldly declared "I AM ENOUGH" (youareenoughnow.com). I wore that plastic wristband for two-years straight with everything from my pajamas to full-length ball-gowns, until it became my reality. In order for us to be successful in the marketplace, our mindset, and how we show up in the world is critical. I truly believe that when we set our affections on things above and not beneath, the widget, the program, or the business we create will illuminate the pathway to our success. Because of this, I end every video I record for my online communities with the words, "this is LaWanda Will B LaWanda always...because everyone else is already taken". Remember that!

### **Define Influence**

In this age of social media, believe me, there are more eyes on you than you may realize. People secretly watch everything you do and will try their best to emulate your successes when they think you've found the key to success. That may annoy some people, however, imitation is the greatest form of flattery and is the power of your influence at work. When you look around and see yourself in others, smile, and don't be upset. Embrace it and use it as fuel. Know that your "secret sauce" has inspired someone else toward their own personal greatness and that your influence reached further than you may have imagined.

### **What do you want people to know about you?**

I celebrated my 50th birthday in 2020. As a matter of fact, the photographs featured in this spread are from my 50th Birthday photoshoot. When I look at them I see a vibrant, full of life, middle-aged woman, that does not look remotely close to what I have been through. I attribute this

to a God-given gift of being able to forgive and move beyond mountains of pain, discouragement, and disappointment. There are things that have hurt me to my core, things I wanted to die after having experienced, and things I will never talk about. There are things I did to others and things people did to me that you can't detect in these pictures. The good news is they are not hidden behind a fake smile. What you see is a true heart of forgiveness at work that has manifested outwardly in my countenance. As a matter of fact, when I transition, I want my epitaph to simply read, "she forgave" for it is my greatest and most prized attribute.

### **How can people stay connected with you outside of this interview?**

Thank you for allowing me to share with you today. I would love to engage and stay connected with you. I invite you to download my complimentary e-book at [www.subscribepage.com/pivot-ebook](http://www.subscribepage.com/pivot-ebook). In it, I give 7 useful tips on how to pivot during a pandemic in business and in life. You can also connect with me on any of my social media platforms:

@youneedamc - FB & IG  
@chroniclespda - FB  
@third-chronicle-speaks - IG

or online at:

<http://www.youneedamc.com>  
<http://www.planaheadevents-sfl.com>

Look up and smile!

### **CREDITS:**

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Makeup: Mandy Fresh Johnson @Mandyfresh-makeup-artisty  
Outfit - Discovery Clothing Company  
@DiscoveryClothingCompany  
Hair & Shoes: Yours Truly @lawandawillblawanda



## About LaWanda C. Harris

*Customer Service & Event Guru | Talented Emcee | Post Divorce Advocate*

LaWanda C. Harris, also known as “LaWanda Will B LaWanda” is the owner of Plan Ahead Events - South Florida ([www.planaheadevents-sfl.com](http://www.planaheadevents-sfl.com)) and its subsidiary, You Need A MC ([www.youneedamc.com](http://www.youneedamc.com)). Her companies specialize in full service event management and offers a la carte services with a focus on the corporate, non-profit and the customer service business sectors. In addition, LaWanda is the CMO (Chief Motivation Officer) for Chronicles Post Divorce Advocacy Group, a online community that helps others overcome the trauma of divorce.

LaWanda is a creative and detail oriented individual with a “whatever it takes” attitude. She maintains a super friendly, very approachable personality that loves to interact with people. LaWanda is an published author, public speaker, radio personality, “vlogger”, and community volunteer who prides herself with “never meeting a stranger”. In her spare time, LaWanda loves to travel, thrift store shop, decorate her home, buy gadgets and read.

LaWanda earned her degree in Business Administration with a concentration on Hospitality and Tourism and is currently studying for her Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) Certification which is a highly sought after designation held by less than 11,000 people worldwide. LaWanda is the mother of two adult children and simply “G” to Aya, the cutest little girl in the whole wide world (of course).

When the curtain drops on LaWanda’s last event, she plans to retire comfortably in a Class-A Motorhome with a couple of cats and live a transient lifestyle from one campground to the next!

LaWanda believes that faith and focus can propel anyone forward!





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INDIANAPOLIS, IN