



BRIAN BURLEY

YNGBLKPGH

CATEGORY: Literacies, High School Graduation and STEAM

Brian.Burley1@gmail.com

YOUNG BLACK PITTSBURGH IS A STORY THAT IS EAGER TO BE TOLD, AND BRIAN BURLEY WANTS TO BE THE MAN TO TELL IT, NOT JUST FOR HIS GENERATION BUT FOR THE GENERATION BEHIND HIM THAT NEEDS TO KNOW HOW GREAT THEY ARE.

Brian Burley will tell you quickly that growing up, he idolized his father, who was a basketball coach at Westinghouse High School in the historically Black neighborhood called Homewood.

Brian says he wasn't the only one who felt this way about his dad, because the man took on much more than a coach or teacher role with his students. He was a source of wisdom, stability and often-times hope for his community.

"I can recall so many times growing up where my father would bring these young men into our home and really take the time to bond with them and teach lessons that would go much further than either the classroom or the basketball court," says Brian.

In the 1990s, when the Homewood community was beset by increases in gang violence and drugs, it lost some of its luster but none of the commitment of men like Brian's father.

Brian became a BMe Leader in 2015 with a specific vision to create a book recounting the tales of everyday greatness in Pittsburgh's Black community.

The book would profile over 100 young professional Black men and women who are working an array of jobs and giving back to their community and city in countless unseen ways. If BMe's *New York Times* Bestseller REACH is any indicator, Brian's vision will be a boon for the city.

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD.

To learn more about Brian, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Brian's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



LEE DAVIS

TURNING CORNERS YOUTH MENTORING ASSOCIATION

CATEGORY: High School Graduation and STEAM, Workforce and Business Development, Re-Entry and Justice Reform

@lamleedavis / ulee27@gmail.com

DEVELOPING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT BE WELCOME IN OTHER PROGRAMS IS THE PRIMARY GOAL FOR LEE DAVIS.

When Lee Davis was released from prison, he started three successful companies that he uses today as safe havens for youths who are having issues at home, school or in the streets. He started out hosting sessions in his offices. Then he partnered with another mentor from the community and started Turning Corners Youth Mentoring Association. Lee believes that youths in his community need a constant circle of good Black men around them. His program uses mentors from various backgrounds that include business leaders and ex-gang members.

The mission of Turning Corners Youth Mentoring Association is to create environments where youths and young adults are able to transform

and become productive members of society. Some of the sessions taught at the association include conflict resolution, anger management, relationship building and health and wellness.

Lee strongly believes in second chances for everyone.

Since becoming a BMe Leader, Lee has been working on an online marketplace where ex-offenders can display and sell a variety of artistic creations. The idea is to use art as a messenger and help break stereotypes people may have about people who have been incarcerated. For artists who are still incarcerated, accounts can be opened where the proceeds go to benefit the family and friends of those still in the correctional system.

IT IS THE DETERMINATION THAT ONE HAS TO TURN HIS OR HER TEST INTO TESTIMONIES THAT MAKES A PERSON GREAT.

Lee hopes to develop a workforce program that will pay people to learn how to build a house their family would eventually have an opportunity to own.

To learn more about Turning Corners Youth Mentoring Association, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Lee's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



LEON FORD

LEON FORD SPEAKS

CATEGORY: High School Graduation and STEAM, Human Rights and Violence Reduction, Re-Entry and Justice Reform

www.leonfordspeaks.com / @leonfordspeaks / leonfordccchs@gmail.com

SHOT BY POLICE AND PARALYZED DURING A TRAFFIC STOP, LEON FORD WORKS TODAY TO HELP OTHERS “OVERCOME THE PARALYSIS OF PREJUDICE.”

In 2012, unarmed 19-year-old Leon Ford was shot 5 times by police officers who, according to media accounts, mistook him for another man during a traffic stop.

The shots paralyzed Leon and the officers charged him with two felony counts of aggravated assault, plus resisting and fleeing. Leon spent the last two years on trial and was found not guilty of any of the charges.

Having lost the first trial, the district attorney had threatened to retry the case but decided not to retry the case early in 2015.

In a situation like this you might expect to find Leon to be surly, embittered or inwardly defeated, but by all accounts he is none of those things.

He says that he uses the experience to remind others of how prejudice can paralyze people’s thinking and he’d rather be an advocate for mental mobility and life.

Formerly an auto body mechanic who enjoyed dabbling in boxing and video production, Leon is now a full-time community-builder. His community comes from all over the world. People in Australia, Africa, and Europe are among his 35,000 Instagram followers.

He travels to give keynotes, promotes youth development and still organizes community cookouts, cleanups and other events that “increase the peace.”

Leon has filed a lawsuit against those involved in his assault and the U.S. Justice Department has launched an

NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS, I NEVER GIVE UP. I WILL CONTINUE TO GROW BIGGER AND STRONGER, TOUCHING MILLIONS OF LIVES.

investigation. In the meantime BMe’s newest BMe Leader continues to inspire.

To learn more about Leon Ford Speaks or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Leon’s BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



EVAN FRAZIER

NSMH LEGACY FUND GROUP

CATEGORY: Workforce and Business Development, Health and Wellness

www.highmarkhealth.org / evan.frazier@highmarkhealth.org

THE MAN MOST LIKELY TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF SUCCESS. EVAN FRAZIER HAS EARNED TRUST AND DELIVERED RESULTS ACROSS EVERY SECTOR OF SOCIETY.

Evan Frazier's commitment to developing leaders spans every dimension of society. As a major corporate leader, philanthropist, board member, author and family man, Evan literally breeds success everywhere he goes.

Evan is senior vice president of community affairs for Highmark Health, the third largest integrated health care delivery and financing system in the nation, employing more than 38,000 people and serving 40 million Americans in 50 states.

That would be challenging enough for most people, but he is also a leader in the charitable sector, having served on more than 30 nonprofit boards throughout the years. Other leaders

refer to him as "The Gold Standard" for smart leadership.

In 2009 Evan literally wrote the book on success, called "Most Likely to Succeed: The Frazier Formula for Success." It detailed core skills, practices and understandings that serve any individuals and leaders well. The primary of which is:

"Success = Your Vision + A Plan + The Right Attitude."

While he was an undergrad at Cornell in 1989, Evan co-founded the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH).

Twenty-six years later, the NSMH is still deliberately student-run, which requires its members to hone their

**SUCCESS = YOUR VISION
+ A PLAN + THE RIGHT
ATTITUDE.**

leadership, relationship-building and management skills. However, alumni like Evan remain engaged.

Evan is leading an effort to create a NSMH Legacy Fund to ensure that the Pittsburgh chapter remains on solid footing for years to come.

To learn more about Evan or donate to the NSMH Legacy Fund, visit Evan's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



REV. GLENN G. GRAYSON, SR.

CENTER THAT CARES & THE JERON X. GRAYSON FOUNDATION

CATEGORY: Early Childhood Development, Literacies, High School Graduation and STEAM, Workforce and Business Development, Human Rights and Violence Reduction

www.centerthatcares.org / glenngrayson@aol.com

WITH A CENTER THAT CARES FOR THE COMMUNITY, REV. GLENN G. GRAYSON, SR. IS A PILLAR IN THE HILLSIDE COMMUNITY.

Rev. Glenn G. Grayson, Sr. is one of nine children raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he says resources were limited but he was surrounded by positive role models and exposed to cultural and educational opportunities even outside of his parents' purview.

That type of neighborhood sounds almost apocryphal today but Glenn has accepted that providing that type of community is part of his life's calling. His primary instrument in fulfilling this calling is the Center that CARES (Children Adult Recreation Educational Services).

The 14,000-square-foot Jeron X. Grayson Community Center, named for Glenn's son, who was tragically killed by gun violence, serves as home base for CARES in the historic Hill District.

There, students are exposed to positive messages, role models, safe spaces and academic support, including college tours, the arts, tutoring and academic performance. For the adults, Grayson Center is a trusted meeting place and hosts events and forums regularly.

Glenn was inducted into the 2015 distinguished inaugural class of Pittsburgh BMe Leaders. He will use his financial award to support the Center that CARES.

Glenn is an active pastor and stalwart advocate against gun violence and for safe streets. With his BMe Brothers, Champions and other concerned community, he will continue to help save lives and build community.

To learn more about Glenn, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of

"G" STANDS FOR NEVER TOUCH A GUN.

support, visit Glenn's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



THOMAS JAMISON

DREAM CREAM ICE CREAM

CATEGORY: Workforce and Business Development

www.dreamcreamicecream.com / [@dreamcreampgh](https://twitter.com/dreamcreampgh)
thomas@dreamcreamicecream.com

COMMUNITY IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD AND CREAMY. THIS PITTSBURGH ENTREPRENEUR FUNDS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THROUGH HIS ICE CREAM SHOP, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

Thomas Jamison was born and raised in the Hill District, a historic Pittsburgh community once known for arts, diversity, and thriving business. It is currently known more for crime, depression, and poverty.

Thomas is both passionate and down to earth about business and community-building. His Dream Cream ice cream parlor located downtown has dozens of flavors associated with local charities and causes. So a patron may support the arts by buying two scoops of rocky road or protect the environment with a hot fudge sundae.

Thomas recounts that at every major intersection in life he lacked the confidence and the road map needed

to pursue his truest passion in life, which is to help others pursue theirs.

He spent nearly a decade between the private sector and nonprofit world before his vision came into focus. In his words:

“I create social enterprises that use product or service sales to support local initiatives.”

Dream Cream has raised over \$70,000 for local causes. Besides Dream Cream Ice Cream, Thomas organized The Urban Canvas Event Series, which put local artists in vacant properties to create unique artistic experiences that also raised money for local causes.

Thomas became a BMe Leader in 2015 and is using the award to launch the

MY PROFESSIONAL MANTRA IS TO EARN A LIVING HELPING OTHERS.

#dare2dream challenge with a goal of one day getting a billion people to share their dreams online. In the near-term he is also working on ice cream festivals and an ice cream truck to get more people involved in fulfilling dreams.

To learn more about the Dream Cream Ice Cream initiative, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Thomas' BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



KEVIN McNAIR

1NATION MENTORING PROGRAM

CATEGORY: High School Graduation and STEAM, Human Rights and Violence Reduction

www.1nationmentoring.org / @kk_dagreat / kmcna2292@yahoo.com

THIS FORMER HEINZ FELLOW MEETS YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEEDS WITHOUT JUDGING THEM. KEVIN McNAIR'S 1NATION MENTORING INITIATIVE SHOWS THAT IF YOU DO THAT, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

Kevin's philanthropic efforts emerged out of his experience working as a Heinz Fellow, mentoring local kids in school.

As he began approaching the end of his term as a fellow, he started chronicling what he had learned was effective and ineffective for motivating and engaging his mentees and turned it into the blueprint for 1Nation. His plan includes wraparound services to help young people.

From developing their skills to teaching personal empowerment and cultural enrichment, the idea is to help kids learn to make positive life decisions.

Kevin recalls being a student and making the honor roll consistently

when he was growing up, but admits that he didn't really apply himself as best he could. He relates well to both high achievers and students who struggle.

A very affable guy, Kevin likes for people to know he was a contestant on the TV show "Family Feud" and that he knows how to play the steel drums.

As a member of the inaugural group of Pittsburgh BMe Leaders, Kevin has pledged to use his award to continue establishing 1Nation. He is trusted by the students in his school and believes the BMe Brotherhood can provide the students with additional role models.

To learn more about 1Nation, or donate, volunteer or propose other

I USE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SKY WAS THE LIMIT; THEN I REALIZED THAT THERE ARE FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON.

areas of support, visit Kevin's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



JOSHUA POLLARD

OMICELO

CATEGORY: Workforce and Business Development

www.omicelo.com / [@omicelo](https://twitter.com/omicelo) / joshua.pollard@omicelo.com

DURING THE GREAT RECESSION, JOSHUA POLLARD LED GOLDMAN SACHS' U.S. HOUSING RESEARCH. NOW HE LEADS A GREAT REAWAKENING OF BLACK COMMUNITIES.

A real estate expert and social entrepreneur, Joshua believes he can best affect his community by helping people invest in real estate, arts, education and business. The business-oriented community leader uses Omicelo to provide end-to-end execution of new ideas using a seven-pillar process.

The socially responsible real estate investment fund Joshua manages is committed to raising the income of adults and providing internships and opportunities for young people.

For his work in real estate, *Forbes* magazine named him one of the Top 30 Financiers Under 30.

To say that Joshua takes his mission seriously is an understatement, but the

well-rounded and passionate young man is also a drummer who loves to skydive and has traveled the world.

In 2014, he organized the first “ice cream concert,” called the Dream On Festival, which provided music for 20,000 Pittsburgh residents in Market Square. The festival took place in the shadow of a horrific multiple stabbing that took place in a Pittsburgh school a few days before. Joshua was able to rally the crowd to use the festival bridge the gaps that sometimes divide us.

Joshua was inducted into the 2015 distinguished inaugural class of Pittsburgh BMe Leaders. He has pledged to invest his financial award directly back into the reawakening of real estate, education and arts of

IF WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO BE OWNERS, WE WILL CHANGE OUR COMMUNITY WITH UNEXPECTED SPEED AND FORCE.

Pittsburgh’s Black communities.

To learn more about Omicelo, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Joshua’s BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



ANDRE SAMUEL

THE CITIZEN SCIENCE LAB

CATEGORY: High School Graduation and STEAM, Health and Wellness

www.thecitizensciencelab.org / [@citizenscilab](https://twitter.com/citizenscilab) / asamuel@urbaninnovation21.org

MAKING SCIENCE AND RESEARCH APPEALING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, THE CITIZEN SCIENCE LAB PROVIDES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE AND MENTORSHIP IN THE LIFE SCIENCES.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher once traveled the country pointing out that only 3 percent of doctorates in the sciences were held by Black people, and that needed to change for the country to remain powerful. Andre Samuel heeded his call.

Many years before, during his childhood, Andre always had a fascination for science but observed that his community had outlets for developing sports interests – not science. Thanks to the help of his adopted mom, Andre maintained his enthusiasm all through primary and secondary school.

Once he moved to Pittsburgh to earn a doctorate in biology from Duquesne University, Andre founded S.I.G.M.A. – a science mentoring initiative providing

a summer study program for ninth graders. S.I.G.M.A. gives them access to university laboratories fostering an interest in research.

Now the director of the Citizen Science Lab (CSL), which provides interactive after-school programs, workshops, training sessions, summer camps and more, Andre is doing his part to increase the number of American scientists. He sums up CSL in this elegant way:

“We do our best to cover just about every aspect of the life sciences through fun, hands-on experimentation.”

In 2015, Andre was inducted into the inaugural Pittsburgh group of BMe Leaders. He will use the financial award to provide financial aid for students who

I CAN LEARN TO DO ANYTHING.

may not be able to afford CSL's summer camp or other fees.

To learn more about The Citizen Science Lab, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Andre's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.



JASIRI X

1HOOD MEDIA

CATEGORY: Literacies, High School Graduation and STEAM, Re-Entry and Justice Reform

www.jasirix.com / [@jasiri_x](https://twitter.com/jasiri_x) / jasirixbooking@gmail.com

X MARKS THE SPOT WHERE MINDS ARE CHANGED, LIVES ARE SAVED AND LOST TREASURES ARE FOUND. JASIRI X AND HIS 1HOOD MEDIA TEAM OF EDUCATORS AND ARTISTS ARE HELPING TO PUT PITTSBURGH ON THE MAP OF A NEW GENERATION OF SOCIAL CHANGE.

Jasiri X is a national and international artist, intellectual, teacher and humanitarian who is equally at home on the block, in boardrooms, protests and recording studios. He credits his mentor Harry Belafonte's template for being all of the above.

As co-founder of the 1Hood Academy, Jasiri leads a team of educators and artists who teach media literacy, photography, videography, music production, creative lyricism, entrepreneurship, journalism and other 21st century skills.

This practical education is done with attention to and awareness of how important it is for oppressed groups to control their narrative.

In many ways 1Hood works to stop violence. Violence in the street, violence from authorities, and violence in the ways that media can demonize people and their communities. The organization name 1Hood is to signify that from Pittsburgh to Baltimore to Detroit or around the world, we are all 1Hood.

Jasiri believes deeply in the power of music and hip-hop culture as instruments of unity against oppression. Although he is in demand nationally, Jasiri mentors young Black men in the art, business, and science of acquiring freedom.

He was inducted into the 2015 distinguished inaugural class of

FREEING MINDS ONE RHYME AT A TIME.

Pittsburgh BMe Leaders. He is using the financial award to support the 1Hood Hip Hop Festival, and platforms that let young Black men tell their stories.

To learn more about 1Hood Media, or donate, volunteer or propose other areas of support, visit Jasiri's BMe Profile at www.BMeCommunity.org.