



THE PRESCRIPTION TO  
END VIOLENCE AND CHANGE LIVES

# YEAR OF THE ALUMNI

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018



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# LETTER FROM DR. MARSHALL

On February 26, 2019 Alive & Free celebrated its 32nd birthday. That's 32 years of keeping young people Alive and unharmed by violence-and Free from incarceration. With each passing year and with each wonderful milestone, co-founder Jack Jacqua and I and the staff shake our heads in amazement at the amazing organization we have created and the fantastic results it continues to produce.

This year's annual report showcases some of those results. We've entitled this year's report The Year of the Alumni, and it features some of the great young people who have come through the program and what they've gone on to do with their lives. They have achieved even more than we could have hoped for. They are just a sample of all of our alumni who are Alive & Free... and Educated.

To those of you who have supported us over the years, we say thank you. We hope you enjoy reading about the success you've helped us to achieve. Truly, none of this success could have happened without you.

Jack and I are often asked—"Are you still working with the kids? Don't you ever get tired? Isn't what you do hard?" The answer to all three questions is Yes.



Jack Jacqua & Dr. Marshall

Yes, we do get tired. Yes, the work is hard sometimes.

And most definitely, yes, we are still working with the kids. As you read the pages of this report, you'll understand perfectly why. The heights that the young people have risen to, and more importantly the impact they've had on the the community and the world make the work a wondrous joy to do. I'm sure you agree.

Enjoy the 2018 Annual Report—The Year of the Alumni.

*Dr. Joseph Marshall*

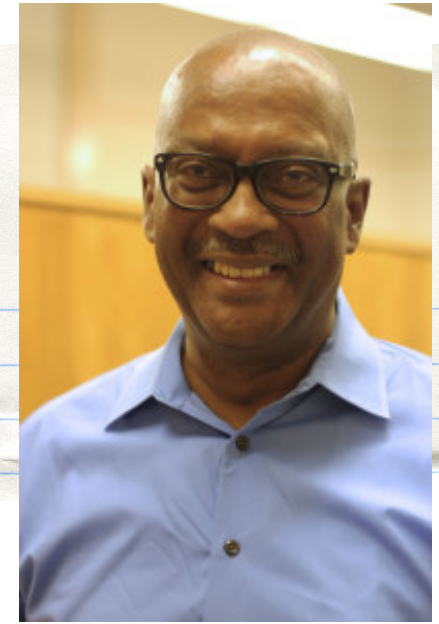
Dr. Joseph Marshall  
Executive Director, Co-Founder

*Jack Jacqua*

Jack Jacqua  
Co-Founder, Peer Counselor  
Coordinator

"THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU OWE"

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Deacon Larry Chatmon

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As a new member to the Alive & Free Board in 2014, I have had the pleasure to work with the past long-time Board President Ms. Adrienne Riley and other Board members. Now that I have assumed the position of Board President, I have even more begun to appreciate all of the work that has been done and is being done daily by the staff and board members to provide a safety net for our young adults.

The incredible work that is being done cannot be overlooked in the environment in our communities today when we see an ever-increasing display of violence, abuse, neglect and the disproportionate effects of poverty and racism affecting our communities of color. To say that Alive & Free is a "breath of fresh air" for our young adults is a combination of the dedication of staff who care intimately for the young people and the gifts from many supporters and donors who believe in Alive & Free.

There are very few organizations who can say, after thirty-two years of service that the programs are stronger than ever, and young adults are staying free from incarceration and graduating from college in record numbers.

The best representation of how well an organization impacts the community is when other organizations actively seek their counsel. Many kudos to co-founders Dr. Joseph Marshall and Jack Jacqua and the talented staff who do the work to change lives.

*Deacon Larry Chatmon*

Deacon Larry Chatmon  
Board President

# PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

## Richmond Pulse

### COMMUNITY PARTNER STORY

As a bilingual, youth-led community monthly newspaper, the Richmond Pulse, presents local stories from Richmond, CA and Contra Costa County not covered by local or mainstream media. By specifically highlighting these communities, the paper creates a unified platform for the people who reside within them. Long before the Richmond Pulse was a community partner of Alive & Free, its publisher, Malcolm Marshall, attended Alive & Free in the early days of Club meetings. From his experience there, Malcolm is quite familiar with the young men and women who are seeking to have a voice in their community. The lessons he learned at those Club meetings coupled with the belief that he can expand what he and others can be is a mindset that he imparts to the people he connects with through the Richmond Pulse.

Through his community outlets, Malcolm carries on the tradition of giving young people hope and an opportunity to amplify their voice. As a resident, reporter, editor, and teacher, Malcolm works day in and day out with his team to sculpt the next generation of journalists and videographers. He also provides young people journalism training, giving young reporters a platform to be heard.



"Dr. Marshall, who is also my father, often expressed how important it is to know who you are and where you come from. That was the foundation upon which I grew the Richmond Pulse," adds Malcolm.

Malcolm is also integral to the success of Street Soldiers Radio, one of the most influential components of the Alive & Free mission. Street Soldiers Radio is now celebrating its 26th year of strengthening communities and shining the light on the violence that America's youth face on a daily basis. Mirroring much of what Alive & Free strives to accomplish, the Richmond Pulse extends the vision and mission of the Club. Using both the Richmond Pulse and Street Soldiers Radio to cross promote each other, as well as Alive & Free, the

# ((( RICHMOND Pulse )))



community partnership is constantly expanding the reach that the Club enjoys.

"I want the focus of the paper to be an extension of Alive & Free. In true partnership, Alive & Free features our articles on Street Soldiers Radio. The Club also works with a variety of programs that the Richmond Pulse covers. It's very symbiotic," states Malcolm.



"The job that Malcolm has done with the Richmond Pulse has been truly outstanding," says Dr. Marshall. "The paper has become a vital part of the Richmond community. The fact that it is bilingual is so unique. Add to that, all the opportunities he has created for his young staff. I couldn't be more proud of him and Alive & Free is thrilled with the partnership."

For his dedication to grow an outstanding multi-media outlet, Malcolm received a Silver Heart Award by the Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter in 2015.



# PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

## Office of Civic Engagement and Community Affairs/ DREAMSF

### COMMUNITY PARTNER STORY

A partnership that has existed almost 15 years continues today as the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) collaborates with Alive & Free to mentor the Bay Area youth. As a policy, compliance, direct services and grant-making organization, OCEIA's mission is to promote inclusive policies and foster immigrant assistance programs that lead to full civic, economic and linguistic integration. Alive & Free works with many of OCEIA's field employees, fellows and partners providing training and consulting through its nationally renowned Alive & Free programs.

Over the years, the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs has partnered with Alive & Free on safety and educational initiatives. In 2007, Adrienne Pon, the Executive Director of OCEIA, worked with Dr. Marshall and the Mayor's Office of Community Development on San Francisco's citywide Violence Prevention Plan. In 2010, the two parties connected again to develop the Community Ambassadors, a safety and workforce development program.

One of the most rewarding programs the partners have invested in is The DREAMSF Fellowship. It is a year-long leadership and professional development opportunity for



immigrant students (ages 18+) who seek to be social justice change-makers in the San Francisco Bay Area. The program offers a network of mentors and hands-on experience, career exploration, and a culturally relevant immersion to increase leadership and professional development opportunities of young immigrants.

"Our goal is to increase the number of professionals entering the workforce who have the cultural competency and high-level skills necessary to create impactful change for San Francisco/Bay Area residents," says Director Pon. "Alive & Free helps us do that by providing the Fellows both violence prevention training (the Alive & Free Prescription) and financial literacy competency (Alive & Financially Free). Both trainings are extremely impactful to our program participants as the materials are relevant and allow Fellows to understand themselves through a new lens."

Looking forward, the organization's Fellows program will continue to partner with Alive & Free for the 2019 – 2020 cohort of fellows. "Together, we plan to continue sharing and shaping their vision of a safe, engaged and inclusive San Francisco where everyone can contribute and thrive," says Dr. Marshall.

## DREAMSF Alumni

### DREAMSF Fellow, Deirel Marquez-Perez is an Alive & Free College Graduate

Deirel Marquez-Perez became a DREAMSF Fellow in the summer of 2016. "I applied to the program to gain a paid professional experience." Right about the same time, she learned about Alive & Free. One of the Club's college graduates told her how motivating and supportive the program had been for her, and also about the financial assistance the Club provided for college.

Deirel was interested and began attending Alive & Free's Tuesday night Leadership Academy classes and the Thursday night College Prep Class. "I was in both programs—DREAMSF and Alive & Free—at the same time and reaping the benefits of both." In the fall of 2017, she entered UC Berkeley after earning an AA degree at City College of San Francisco.



Alive & Free had a powerful impact on her — Ms. Demetra's Financially Alive & Free Class in particular. Deirel had already created a financial literacy component for the DREAMSF Fellows and Ms. Demetra's class helped to refine it even more. "Ms. Demetra taught me to investigate the personal relationship we have with money and the ways that impacts our financial habits and attitudes." Eventually, she had Ms. Demetra do a Financially Alive & Free Training for all the DREAMSF Fellows. Deirel graduated from UC Berkeley in the spring of 2019 with a degree in Global Studies. She is interested in economic policy with a focus on alleviating inequality and poverty.

"The DREAMSF Fellowship program provided me with the professional development experience I needed to launch my career in financial empowerment and economic justice work," she says. "And Alive & Free supported me financially through my academic journey at UC Berkeley." Congratulations Deirel. Alive & Free...and Educated. You're on your way!



# ALUMNI STORIES



## Mike Gibson

**Don't Let Your Circumstances Dictate Your Behavior**

Growing up in East Oakland, Michael Gibson's childhood was marred by drug related violence in his community and in his family. Caught up in the streets and entangled at a young age, he was serving a sentence in a youth correctional facility when he was introduced to the African American Males Transition Program there. That positive influence spurred Michael to read and to write about his experiences, and in time led to an early parole. After his release in an attempt to keep out of trouble, Michael joined Alive & Free/ Omega Boys Club.

At Alive & Free, Michael learned the value of his life. When asked about what he wanted to do moving forward, he indicated that he wanted an opportunity to use his prior negative experiences for good. From there, Dr. Marshall encouraged him to think bigger. Over time, he became confident enough to seek attendance at HBCUs across the country and picked Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. There, he put to use all the tools he had learned at Alive & Free and graduated with a BA in English and Drama. He then went on to get his Masters in Public Administration from Cal State East Bay.

He no longer allowed his circumstances to dictate his behavior.

"Mike is a special person," says Dr. Marshall. "He's been through a lot and for him to come through all of that and be the role model and family man he is now is really something. I remember all the nights I use to drive him home from the Club



and all the wonderful conversations we had. He never gave up, no matter what setbacks he experienced. He is such an inspiration to all the young people who have come after him at Alive & Free."

Michael has shared his life story countless times all over the country and speaks about his experience with Alive & Free and the impact the program had on his life. That impact influenced his own passion to create programs to shape the community. Inspired by Alive & Free's core value – "The more you know, the more you owe" – Michael has been instrumental in the development of several mentorship



programs, including the Positive Minds Project at the Mentoring Center. He now owns a professional coaching consulting business and leads the Emergency Medical Services Corps (EMS Corps) in Alameda County, an award-winning program that prepares young men for careers in Emergency Medical Services.

Michael knows the power of transformational leadership and allows that to influence the meaning and mission of his current work. He credits Dr. Marshall's encouragement towards Morehouse with getting him out of a troubled environment in Oakland--and keeping him Alive and Free!



**"THE PRINCIPLES I LEARNED THERE HAVE BEEN THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MEANING & MISSION OF MY WORK."** — Mike Gibson

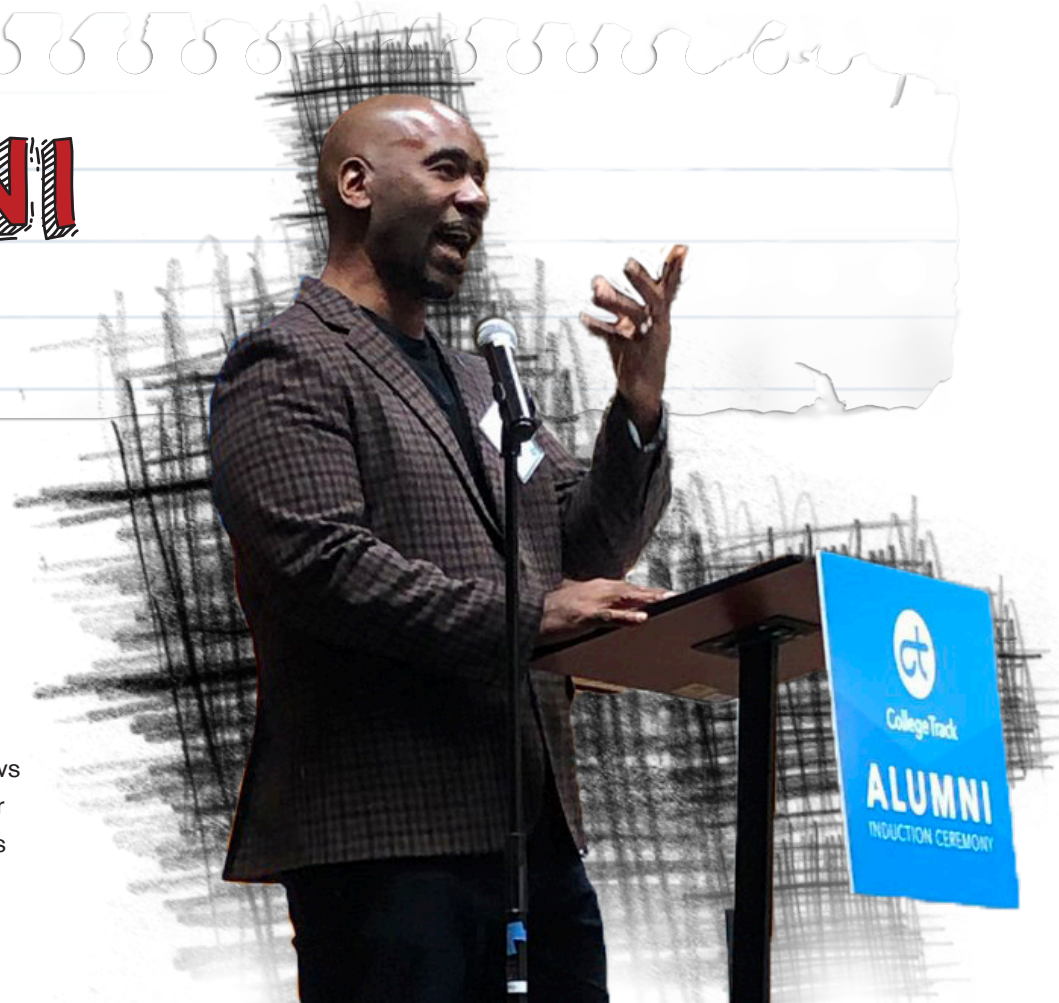
# ALUMNI STORIES

## Omar Butler

### Stability is the New Normal

Dreaming can be difficult in the shadows of gang and drug violence, as it was for Omar Butler growing up in the Hunter's Point neighborhood of San Francisco. Even with a good group of like-minded friends, ideas of success were not very clear. Desire for economic stability and social mobility stagnated without a clear path for how to move forward, until a friend introduced him to Alive & Free.

Known then as Omega Boys Club, Omar joined the program as a junior in high school. Neighborhood pressures mounting, he says he joined at a critical time when he "could have gone either way in search for stability." Alive & Free normalized the idea of college and success through positive means. It offered brotherhood and fellowship, which for a young boy like Omar, was transformational. The relationships he formed with mentors Dr. Marshall and Jack Jacqua, as well as fellow members, would prove to be a lifelong inspiration that still influences the work he does today.



"Omar was one of the early ones. He was one of the first to go off to college and prove that Alive & Free really worked. He helped to set the example for all of those who have come after him," says Dr. Marshall.

Omar says that the Omega Boys Club provided college access before the term was coined and is one of the reasons why he is so passionate about the work he does. "The club provided a safe space for me to explore options. It made it okay to want to go to college, it made it okay to not want to sell drugs, it made it normal to want to be around positive people. It changed my life because it created a new normal for me because I didn't have to apologize for who I was and it was okay to be me."

After attending college at Tuskegee University in Alabama and finishing up at Long Beach State, where he says he gained independence stepping outside his comfort zone, he returned to the Bay Area. Omar says that he always knew that he wanted to give back to the community and he is doing just that as the Regional Executive Director for College Track Northern California, a national college completion organization focused on guiding students to and supporting them through college. While he acknowledges that education is transformational, he maintains that it's the relationships, particularly with trusted adults, that help



**"RELATIONSHIPS ARE AT THE HEART OF THE WORK."** — Omar Butler

students like him overcome challenges and change their trajectory for life.

Honoring Dr. Marshall's hard work by carrying forward the mantra of "the more you know, the more you owe" through his work, Omar is still involved with Alive & Free as his work with College Track allows him to collaborate periodically.



# ALUMNI STORIES



## Diane Thomas, M.D.

### Alive, Free, & Paying It Forward

Dr. Diane Thomas' story was not uncommon for the Hunter's Point neighborhood where she was born. With a father on drugs and a single mother parenting four children, the neighborhood pressure of gang violence, deaths of friends, and the threat of teen pregnancy were all too real. Then, just as she entered high school a friend introduced her to Alive & Free.

"I grew up in Hunter's Point, surrounded by drugs and violence. My mother always stressed the importance of education and I knew that I wanted more for myself. So I was book smart but I was also street smart. With that being said, I initially began attending Omega (A&F) just to see what all the "hype" was about. At first I was not thrilled but after about a month of attending I became more intrigued. The classes made me think on a deeper level about life, friends, myself and my future. The nightly meetings were my favorite. I do not like public speaking, but at the meetings I could be myself and not worry about being judged. Many times other students shared their own experiences and

I could definitely relate. It was encouraging to know that others were experiencing similar issues. Dr. Marshall was like a second father figure for me. I like people to tell me things straight up and not sugar coat it; and Dr. Marshall did just that. Omega was and always has been an extended family for me."

Dr. Thomas says she knew from her first visit that Alive & Free was different- a safe place, an inspirational place. Dr. Thomas encouraged other friends to attend as well and steered clear of the stereotypical neighborhood influences like drugs and violence. Empowered with the message that no matter your background, you can pursue your dreams, Dr. Thomas went on to attend medical school at Meharry



Medical College, complete a surgical residency, and return to the Bay Area to open Merced Women's Center for Advanced Pelvic Surgery. Her commitment to providing healthcare to underserved communities can be linked to her pay it forward attitude that she acquired from Alive & Free.

Throughout her time with Alive & Free, Dr. Marshall's refrain, "the more you know, the more you owe" would not only stick with her but become the

catalyst for her own efforts to engage and pass on lessons to others from a similar background through residency mentorships, student job shadowing programs, and involvement with other first generation college students.

She encounters many people who are surprised by her background, given her successful career and personal life, but she stresses the importance of using her position as an African American woman,



**"NO MATTER YOUR BACKGROUND, YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR DREAMS."**  
— Diane Thomas, M.D.

surgeon, and business owner to show the younger generation what is possible. Since she has returned to the Merced, California area she continues to support her local community and Alive & Free.



# ALUMNI STORIES



## Shamann Walton

### From Juvenile Hall to City Hall

Sometimes remembering where you came from is the first thing you want to forget. As a young man, Shamann Walton loved learning. The only problem was that for most of his teenage years, the streets were his classroom. Turf wars, gang violence led to Shamann being expelled from school several times and spending time in juvenile hall. "When I was introduced to Alive & Free through the Omega Boys Club in Vallejo, California, higher education wasn't even a thought for me," explains Shamann.

“NEVER GIVE UP. YOUR RESUME CAN CHANGE.”

- Shamann Walton



In summer of 1993, meeting Dr. Marshall and Jack Jacqua would change everything. From the moment he arrived, Shamann was confronted with a hard truth: Every decision has consequences – a lesson he had yet to learn. At Alive & Free, Shamann was empowered to reflect upon the people in his life and the boundaries he was failing to create that would shield him from danger. "Decision making is the number one thing I took away from Alive & Free. As basic as it sounds, I had to relearn how to surround myself with enhancers. I simply needed to not choose bad people over what's best for me." In every part of his life, he still shares the Alive & Free Rule for Living: that "a friend will never lead you to danger" – applying that to politics, friends, family and even in his parenting.



Alive & Free helped to show Shamann the meaning of self-awareness and personal value. He was given instruction to change behavior and forgive himself for making mistakes, something he had never given himself permission to do. As Shamann began to mature and come to understand that it takes just a second to create a long-term effect, he started to consider college a possibility. He knew that education would be the way out and the key to a bright future. He eventually earned a scholarship from Alive & Free to attend college at Morris Brown in Atlanta where he earned his BA in political science. A few years later he received his MA in Public Administration from San Francisco State.

Today, the formerly troubled teen still remembers where he came from, but he refuses to take his eyes off of where he is going. Now equipped with the tools to succeed, Shamann has dedicated his life to public service. In 2014, he was elected to the school board and served as Board President during his tenure there. And in 2018, he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as now serves as the City's Supervisor for District 10. Amazing!

Congratulations, Shamann! We can't wait to see what's next.

# PHENOMENAL WOMEN

This year we dedicated the first show of Women's History Month-Sunday March 3-to some of the Phenomenal Women Alumni of Alive & Free. Each of the guests on the show have gone on to college and have enjoyed tremendous professional success. Here, they share their experiences during their time at Alive & Free.



## Natasha Lewis Jones

Assistant Principal-Hampton University Class of 2007

"Alive & Free allowed us space to talk about real things that were going on concerning the young people around me. It was a real space where people would listen and people would take what I had to say seriously. My dad died when I was attending, and my friends who were there really supported me, as well as Dr. Marshall during that time. I learned about having a sense of worthiness and exploring what you can add to the community, what you add to the world. It was a nice segue before attending Hampton University, where I earned my Bachelors and Masters degrees. I've also been to South Africa where I taught teachers how to run a classroom. Today, I am a vice principal at a Bay Area high school." - Tasha

## Portia Kane Abdullah

Writer/Actor-University of California Riverside Class of 2015

"It was an amazing experience for me because Alive & Free provided a space for young people to be vulnerable and to get educated at the same time. I learned a lot in that program that I did not learn at my high school. I learned about African American history and life-lessons like handling credit. I've taken a lot of the "Coachisms" with me. I was very disciplined in college because I went through the Family Meetings and the College Prep program. I felt super prepared. I am able to commit and finish what I start. Today, I am a creative writer and actor. I owe my success to Alive & Free. My experience there taught me to tap into self-love and helped me realize that we don't need approval or validation from others." - Portia



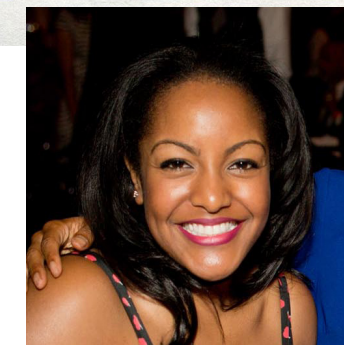
## Veronica Hodge Thomas

College Administrator-San Francisco State University Class of 1994

"I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and was part of the first family of The Omega Boys Club. Back then, it was really about saving lives. It was just a great place to come and really hear the stories of kids like us. Growing up in those times and with the drug dealers and things like that, honestly, it was all we knew. Ironically, both of my brothers were going to the Club and got arrested on the exact same day. I went to Omega to speak on their behalf, and I never left. The journey has been amazing. So, coming to the Club and hearing stories and having space was amazing. There were a lot of tears and a lot of prayers at that time. I ended up going to San Francisco State University and did my undergraduate degree there. I received my graduate degree from University of San Francisco." - Veronica

## Layla Collins Turner

CPA-Howard University Class of 2001



"I started going to the Omega Boys Club (Alive & Free) when I was very young. I had to be 11 or 12. My mom started going to the Boys club because she wanted to do something for the community that we were living in. During my time there, I realized that everybody has a story and not everybody has the same kind of home life that I had. I learned very early on to appreciate the situation that I was born into. Omega felt like a family full of big brothers and big sisters that were also looking out for me and trying to give me a little bit of game about things. We thoroughly examined character traits from movies and books - all lessons of purpose and character that I took with me to Howard University." - Layla

# PHENOMENAL WOMEN



## Amber Aaron Mosley

**Entrepreneur-Hampton University Class of 2006**

"Being from Oakland, I attended Skyline. I started with The Omega Boys Club in the 11th grade. It came at the perfect time for me. There were some moments where I didn't feel like I fit in because my story didn't seem similar to the stories I was hearing. However, it gave me an opportunity to see another side of life that was different than mine. It was educational and supportive. After my time at the Club, I attended Hampton University." - Amber



## Te'Reisha Graves

**Attorney-Florida A&M University Class of 2015**

"I went through the program in 2011. In fact, before I attended Alive & Free I already had my Bachelor's degree. I was originally told that I would not receive a scholarship, but I still went through the entire program. It was enriching for me and eventually, I got accepted into Florida A&U College of Law. I still adhere to the lessons I learned during my time in the program Today, I am working as an attorney in Richmond, CA." - Te'Reisha



## Daija Foster

**Psychologist-Spelman College Class of 2013**

"I came to Omega at a time when I was pretty broken but wasn't aware how broken I was. At the time, my brother had been murdered in 2005 and since then I had just disassociated from reality and I really wasn't myself. I probably haven't even been myself until last year. With trauma, your brain and trauma, it really has a strong connection and I think that's what influenced me into going into psychology. I knew that I was always going to go to college and when I was given the opportunity to go to Omega I said, 'why not?' I graduated from Spelman College in

2013 with a BA in psychology and then applied and got my Masters and Doctorate degrees. I am now working at a psychiatric hospital inside of a prison. It's an interesting dynamic being the only black female psychologist in my facility working with primarily African American males. It's a different experience for both the inmates and the staff. It's very important and needed work though. I've learned a lot about myself along the way. Omega has been there through most of my traumatic experiences and has helped me stay grounded." - Daija

CONGRATULATIONS LADIES AND THANK YOU. YOU ARE ALL ALIVE & FREE AND EDUCATED! WE LOVE YOU!

# ALUMNI QUOTES

## Bryanna Santee

"Omega Boys Club taught me the value of life and freedom. The rules of living, and the coachisms play in my mind all the time. They remind me that my life is worth something and that there are people who have risked their lives to get me to where I am today."

## Kemba Smith

"The Omega Boys Club offered me the necessary support that I needed at the time to move forward. I was released from Federal Prison after having served 6.5 years, and Dr. Marshall helped me to immediately go back to college to complete my undergraduate degree. So in my opinion, Alive & Free/Omega Boys Club helped me to release the psychological chains of being a formerly incarcerated individual, because Dr. Marshall believed in me and my desire to want to move forward from my past."

## Andrea Beasley

"When I brag on the impact that Omega Boys Club has had on my life, I always emphasize the life skills I developed during my experience in the classroom and with other programs. Omega provided me tools that prepared me for future challenges I faced in college and in my personal life."

## Eric Garner

"It provided the positive framework and life principles needed to avoid the snares of inner-city living, and it helped teach me how to make healthy life decisions and the importance of making apposite impact on society and my community. I always remember Dr. Marshall telling us that it only takes one bad decision to take an individual off track. That has always stuck with me! Omega Boys Club provided the confidence I needed to avoid negative peer pressure and environment and be comfortable in my own skin as an intelligent, young African American male. Because of Omega, I have achieved my dream of a higher education."

## David McLachlan

"COMPLETELY changed my mindset...They believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. They were a family that was so supportive and loving that I graduated with honors. I may have made it to college with or without their help but I ABSOLUTELY could not have made it through a graduation without them. They celebrated my successes, and supported me in time of self-doubt. They were always there to offer encouragement, perspective, love, and acceptance... To this day, I cannot talk about the Omega Boys Club and Alive & Free without getting emotional. I am overwhelmingly appreciative of all they have done for me but the amazing thing is that they have done it for countless others too!"

## Malorie Brewster

"Omega Boys Club kept me alive and free by providing me with the tools that I need to be aware and stay aware of my surroundings, my actions, and the people that I was surrounding myself with. The coachisms have been a great help for me in my life, when I find myself in certain situations I repeat one to myself and I am able to make a better decision, or even take my time on making a decision all together. During college experiences the coachisms have been a godsend and I will continue to apply them to my life, and I will teach them to my children."

## Zenaida Barr

"Omega keeps me alive and free because it has helped me get away from my negative surroundings, gave me the tools to critically think about the outcomes of my actions, and helped keep me focused and positive."

## Aaminah Norris

"Alive & Free was my first home where I learned the importance of education and Each One Teach One. Dr. M, Jack, Coach and others in Alive & Free gave me financial and emotional support while I was away in college at Alabama State. I was the first to graduate from a HBCU with the assistance of the Club. I will forever be grateful."

"OMEGA BOYS CLUB HELPED KEEP ME ALIVE AND FREE BY HELPING ME ELIMINATE THE RISK FACTORS THAT CAUSED VIOLENCE FROM MY LIFE AND ADOPT NEW RULES FOR LIVING."

— Michael Gibson

## Monica Leilani Ching

"It helped me solidify my decision to transition from the hood. I was in a warm and accepting environment at Alive & Free that provided me the tools to succeed in a world that was foreign to me. What I mean by that is that I was able to remove myself from the illegal activities and everything that is associated with that form of living, including the mindset, to gaining a sense of purpose. I received the confidence and self-awareness of who I was as a woman, mother and responsible citizen. Before then, I wasn't aware of how my actions related to the destruction of my own community. I learned to willingly be a part of the solution and no longer a problem. In fact, I can go on and on about how the knowledge that I learned from Alive & Free has influenced my life but that would be a book. This program has definitely changed my life and how I interact with others. I will always be appreciated."

## Andre Aikins

"Alive & Free kept me alive and free by helping me with my decision making, mentoring, changed my way of thinking, helped me deal with my issues constructively, helped me set my goals, and helped me become a healthy person."

## Jackey Smith

"Growing up in the Alice Griffith Housing Project (Double Rock) it was labeled the Kill Zone. Omega Boys Club provided me an opportunity to achieve what would have been an impossible dream: College Education. Although I was not gang affiliated, I had/have family members who did not see any other option but the streets. My Education has afforded me the opportunity to remain alive and free!"

"OMEGA BOYS CLUB PRESENTED ME THE DOOR TO WALK THROUGH WHICH HAD NOTHING BUT OPPORTUNITY WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE."

— Charles Scott

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary, Board of Directors

**ADRIENNE RILEY**  
Counselor  
Laney College  
President, Board of Directors

**MONETTA WHITE**  
Owner/General Manager  
1300 on Fillmore

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Executive Director  
Co-Founder

**JACK JACQUA**  
Community Outreach  
Co-Founder

**TAMARA DROSSART**  
Marketing & Development Director

**ANDRE' AIKINS**  
Operations Manager

**DEBRA PATTERSON**  
Administration Manager

**DEMETRA JONES**  
Math Instructor

**DEBORAH ESTELL, M.S., L.M.T.**  
Leadership Academy Coordinator

**ANN BASSETTE**  
Administrative Assistant

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Attorney

**DAVID BROWN**  
Accountant

**MARLENE LYNN**  
Grant Writer

**MALCOLM MARSHALL**  
Radio Show Producer

**ANN BASSETTE**  
Radio Show Videographer

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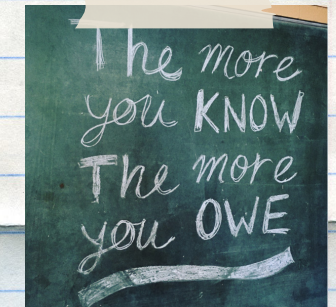
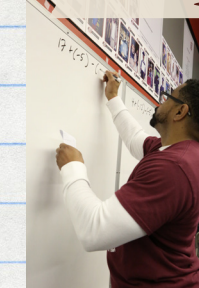
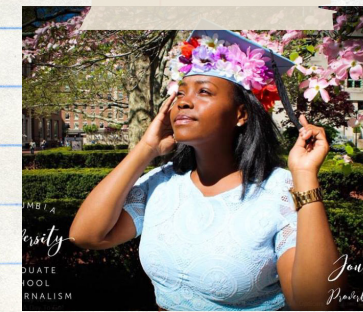
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**LAWRENCE SOLOMON**  
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# DONOR PROFILE

## Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson lives and works in the same city as Alive & Free, yet finds himself in a totally different world than the kids who are in the program. Born and raised in western Nebraska, Brent attended University of Kansas and Rockhurst College, majoring in business. He then went on to earn his MBA in Arizona. Today, he is a principal in an investment management company in the Bay Area, where he works with some very wealthy clients.

It wasn't until Brent was invited to a luncheon by a friend that he had heard about Alive & Free. While there, he listened to the keynote speaker, Larry Solomon, who was an Alive & Free donor at the time, as well as Dr. Marshall and alumni Andre Aikins. Interested in what he had heard, Brent soon attended a Tuesday night Leadership Academy class. He was inspired immediately. In addition to the lessons of life skills being taught, Brent was amazed at the vulnerability the students showed as they shared incredibly personal accounts of their situations. Brent was moved to help in any way he could and attended regularly for years. The more involved he became, the more he was able to find avenues to secure financial resources for the club, as well as participate as a donor himself.

Since becoming a donor, Brent has been encouraged by the number of students who continue to go to college and the



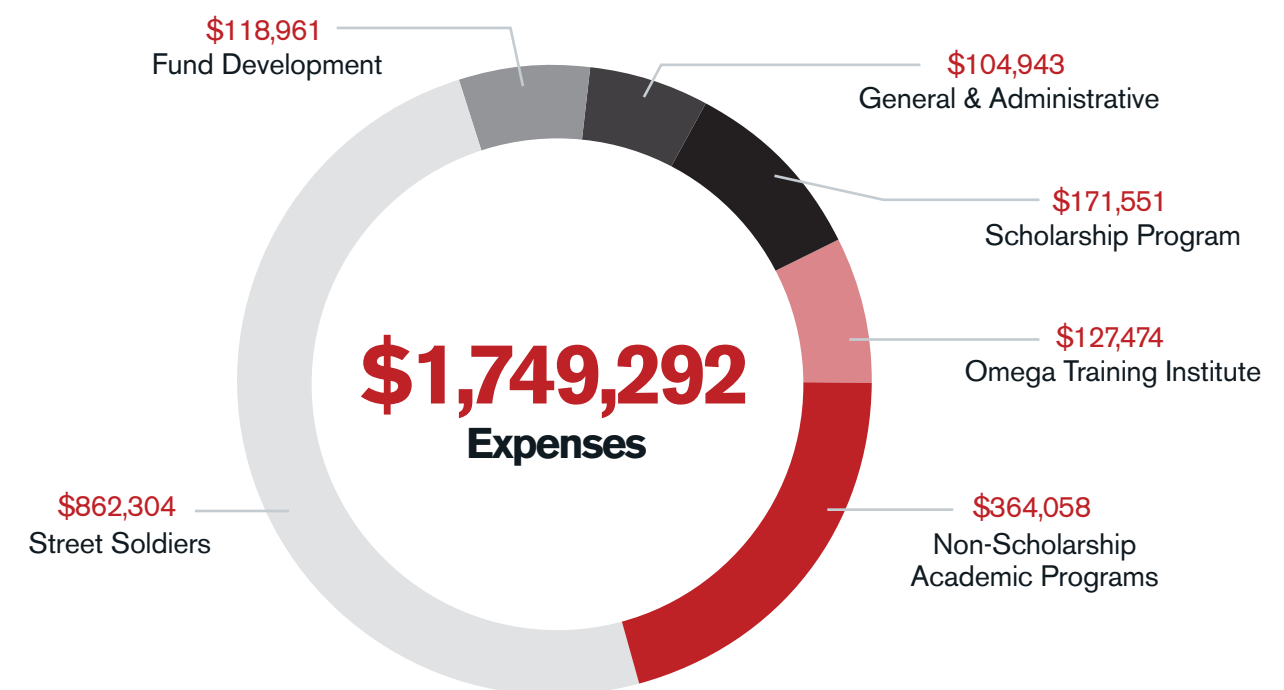
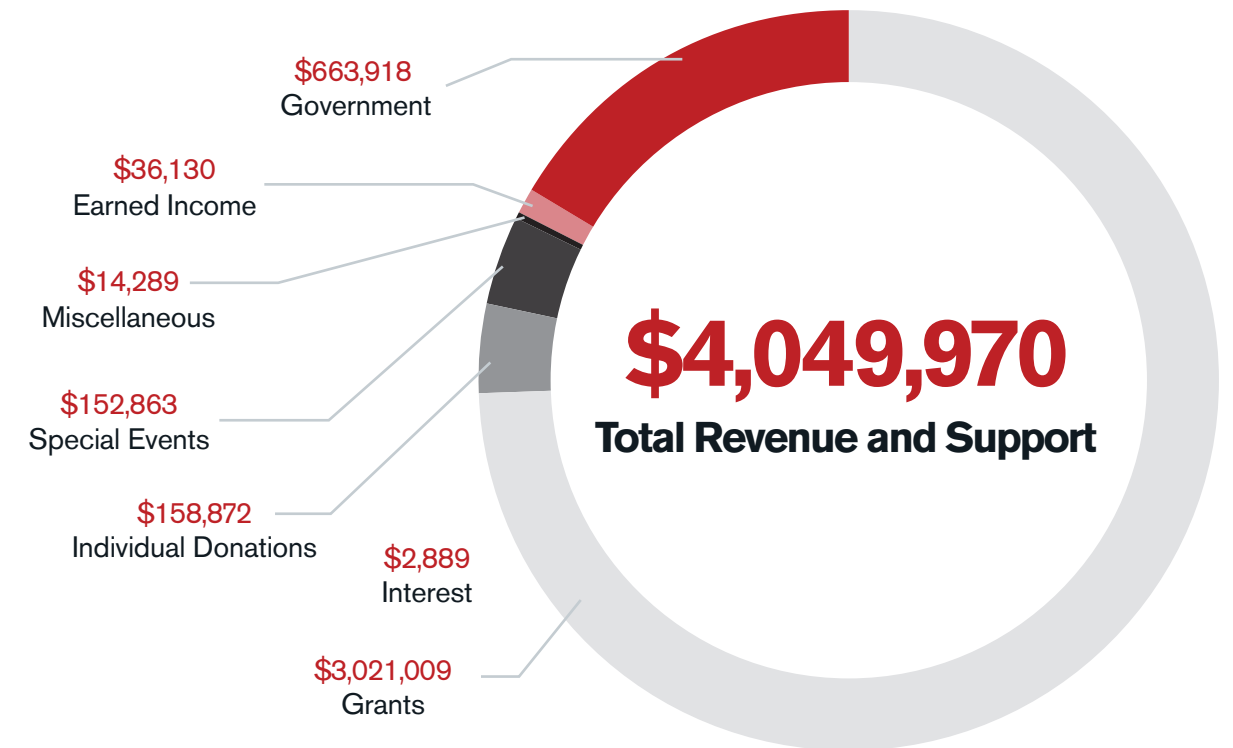
**"YOU'RE ONE DECISION AWAY FROM A VERY DIFFERENT LIFE."**

positive impact he has seen in the lives of the community's youth. He has also noticed that the organization has grown and is reaching further than it ever has.

In his business, Brent works with many affluent people and being a donor to Alive & Free affords him the opportunity to bridge the gap between the two worlds. "I'm always amazed at the way the core principles that Doc teaches at the Club translate to many different parts of life. I often find myself applying the lessons being taught at the club to my own personal life and in my business relationships."

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2018 Assets	
Net assets at beginning of year	\$2,371,362
Increase in net assets	\$2,300,678
Net assets at end of year	<b>\$4,672,040</b>



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

### \$100,000 and Above

Cabin Road Foundation  
The California Endowment  
City & County of San Francisco  
Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF)  
Crankstart

### \$99,999 - \$25,000

CP Development Co., LP  
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### \$24,999 - \$10,000

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Joe Whit  
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Joe Yates  
Linda Zeichner

# GENERATIONS OF OMEGA



# 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

## Omega Leadership Academy

**46** Tuesday Night Meetings

**266** Leadership Academy Participants

**35** College Scholarship Recipients

**39** College Attendees

**26** Colleges/Universities Attended

**11** College Graduates in 2018

**230**  
Total College Graduates (YTD)

## Street Soldiers Radio

**250K**

Total Listening Audience

**47**

Radio Shows

**4,780**

Podcast Downloads

## Speaking Engagements

**29**

Speaking Engagements

**6,698**

Speaking Engagement Attendees

## Training Institute

**6** Training Workshops Held

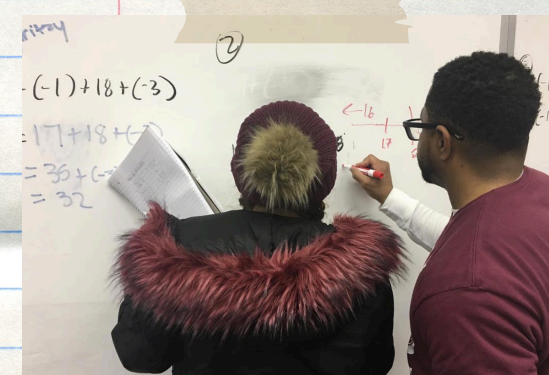
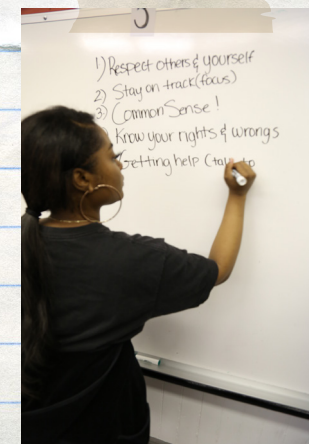
**95**

Training Participants

**8** Participant Cities

**5,369**

Overall Number of People Trained







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**Alive & Free**

1060 Tennessee Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
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