

ON THE LEVEL

DVULI.ORG

Issue I | Spring 2024

Narcissism

DEPRESSION

Physical Abuse

PAIN

Mental Abuse

Addiction

ANXIETY

COUNSELING

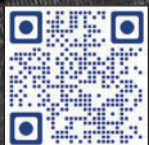
THERAPY

Mood Disorder

Generational Trauma

PULLING THE TRIGGER ON TRAUMA

SCAN FOR AN
INTERACTIVE PDF
VERSION OF THIS
NEWSLETTER



PROFILE

Jennifer Bautista-Mata
Is Living Her Best Young Life

BREAKTHROUGH

Mikel Rosenboro Was Led to a
Kingdom Vision by a Castle

EILEEN KOOREMAN RETIREMENT

For Eileen Kooreman, journeying alongside leaders who serve urban youth for 27 years has offered some amazing stories and moments of breakthrough. She would agree the DVULI journey contributed to her earning what colleague Ron Carter refers to as “her urban card.”

Joining RDV Corporation in 1996 as Foundations Administrative Assistant, Eileen crossed the finish line with the title of DVULI Director. She’s had the unique opportunity to balance the corporate structures of RDV Corporation with the culture of underserved faith communities. No matter how many unfamiliar spaces the job required her to navigate, Eileen never lost her appetite for learning from and relating to individuals who were not like her. “I valued sharing life with people I would not have normally crossed paths with,” says Eileen.

Eileen has functioned in just about every role the program needed. From event planning to recruiting, hiring, and supervising staff, there’s no boxing in Eileen. She also has been a fill-in instructor, program designer, and newsletter writer/editor. Of the many duties she’s performed, what stands out most is “the great conversations with people from all walks of life.” Eileen reflects, “I’ve spent an afternoon with Rich and Helen DeVos in their home, and I’ve gotten a neighborhood tour with an ex-gang member who told me he was educated in prison. Everyone has a story I can learn from.”

As with any profession, there are entire segments of Eileen’s work that went unnoticed and parts that didn’t really seem like work at all.

“Many of my most memorable moments have been while visiting with my DVULI family at their churches,” notes Eileen. “I’ve been to churches where the ushers wore white gloves and synchronized all movements in the sanctuary. I’ve seen people slain in the Spirit on the floor and have experienced dancing and shouting. I have attended one church in Chinese and many in Spanish. I was unexpectedly invited to the front by a COGIC Bishop to say a few words, and I was asked to sit up front with the church mothers.”

Eileen could share countless DVULI experiences leading to either laughter or tears. When she visited a Spanish-speaking church, the guest preacher spoke so fast that Eileen’s assigned translator could not keep up.

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**“PUT ASIDE WHAT YOU THINK YOU
KNOW AND HEAR THE STORY OF SOME-
ONE ELSE’S ENCOUNTER WITH GOD.**

IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOR THE BETTER.”

Never one to waste an opportunity to enlighten and inspire those she cares for, Eileen discovered some shareable moments from her DVULI church visits.

“There is a place in our lives for creeds and traditions as believers, and it’s okay to have a favorite way to worship or to talk to God,” she says. “God’s beautiful orthodoxy contains all the cultures, customs, and traditions that I got to experience as part of DVULI. Be willing to put yourself in uncomfortable places and even laugh at yourself when necessary. Put aside what you think you know and hear the story of someone else’s encounter with God. It will change your life for the better.”

Eileen’s new favorite song is CeCe Winans’s version of “Goodness of God.” “The image of God’s goodness running after me. Wow!” she exclaims. “As I’m getting ready to retire from my life with DVULI, I feel like God’s goodness has indeed been running after me.”

Gerald Bell (Kansas City 2003), Editor [f gerald.bell](https://www.facebook.com/gerald.bell)

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WELCOME NEW STAFF

By Eileen Schuring,
DVULI Intern



STEPHANIE DONOVAN Liaison and Alumni Support Coordinator

In January 2024, Stephanie Donovan (Grand Rapids 2000) joined the DVULI team as the Liaison and Alumni Support Coordinator.

While Stephanie is a new addition to the DVULI team, she is closely familiar with the program as she is a graduate. A Grand Rapids native, Stephanie comes to our team from her previous role at Wedgewood Christian Services as a Compliance Coordinator/Rights Advisor and Residential Program Director.

In her former role, Stephanie became knowledgeable in mental health practices and resources. She believes it is a necessity in leadership for mental health and spirituality to coexist. “There is this thought that because we are in ministry leadership, mental health is by proxy already in line, which is not always the case. To do ministry well is to be proactive about taking care of both our spiritual and mental health.”

Stephanie also has a long history of working in ministry, and we are excited to bring her expertise to our team. At her local church, Stephanie has served in various sectors including education, outreach, leadership, and interim preaching teams.

Stephanie is passionate about supporting those who have gone through the initiative and their growth in their ministry. “Ministry experience is something unique. I have worked in two churches with limited resources. Knowing what it is like to be in a community like that adds a different layer to being a part of the initiative and understanding the situations people in urban ministry experience.”

When Stephanie is not at work or serving, you can find her in a wide variety of activities, including traveling, tending to her garden, reading, biking, snowshoeing, practicing yoga, and running (she has been a faithful participant in reunion “jog with Gerald” morning runs).

**PLEASE JOIN OUR TEAM IN GIVING STEPHANIE
A WARM WELCOME** by dropping a note in her inbox at
stephanie.donovan@dvuli.org



EILEEN SCHURING Communications Intern

In January, DVULI welcomed Communications Intern, Eileen Schuring, to the team. In this part-time role, Eileen will be working on alumni communications, including social media copywriting, graphic design, and other editorial content for the newsletters.

A junior at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) from Portage, Michigan, Eileen is majoring in advertising and public relations with a minor in marketing. She brings communications experience from both her academics and extracurricular activities. At GrandPR, GVSU’s student-run PR firm, she holds the role of Account Executive, where she oversees a team of peers in client work.

Eileen wanted to push herself during her college experience and knew that taking on an internship position would be an excellent opportunity for professional growth. “I am thrilled to be working in a role that combines my interest in communications as well as my passion for leadership and nurturing community. Everyone at DVULI has been welcoming, and I am so blessed to have the opportunity to learn from this experience.”

In her first week on board, Eileen was able to meet the class of 2024 DVULI city coordinators from Boston, Indianapolis, Louisville, Memphis, and Phoenix (and their liaisons). “While listening to the city coordinators and liaisons prepare for their cohorts, I was blown away by their stories, passion, and dedication to the initiative.” She rose to the occasion of being “immersed in the mission” and fit in like she has been here for years.

In addition to academics, Eileen serves as a small group leader through campus ministry. Because of this background, she recognizes the importance of equipping leaders. “DVULI has one of the greatest missions—equipping Christian leaders who serve urban youth,” she says. “Success begins with well-prepared and passionate leaders.”

When she is not busy with academics and extracurriculars, Eileen enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing recreational volleyball, attending concerts, and exploring new things around town.

JOIN OUR TEAM IN WELCOMING EILEEN.
Feel free to say hi to Eileen by dropping her a
note at eileen.schuring@dvuli.org

PULLING THE TRIGGER ON TRAUMA

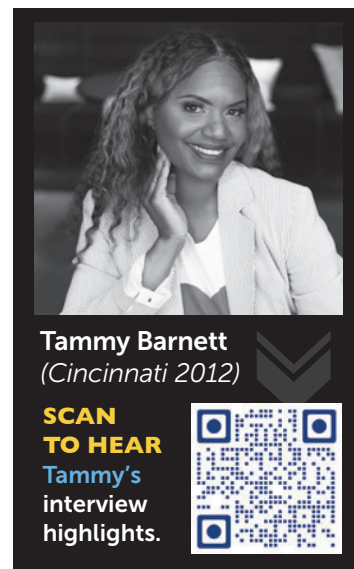
HOW TO LEAD WELL WHEN MENTAL HEALTH IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW

By Ebonie Davis (Washington DC 2022), Contributor



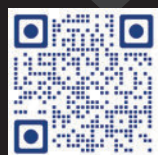
HOW DO WE MEET THE DEEP LONGING OF THE SOUL?

Mental health for young people has reached an all-time low. Gen Z is labeled the loneliest generation, and early indications suggest that Gen Alpha, just starting to enter our teen ministries, isn't faring much better. The problem is compounded for young people from urban communities. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for black boys aged 14 to 25 (after homicide). The community can't survive with these statistics.

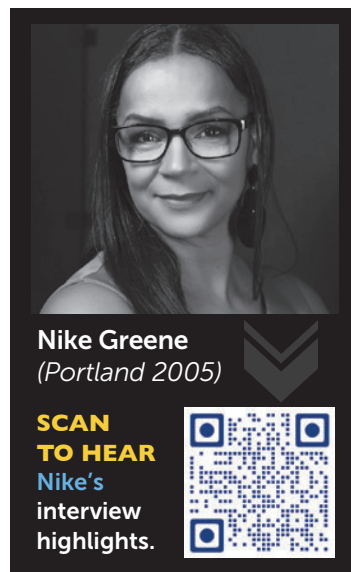


Tammy Barnett
(Cincinnati 2012)

SCAN TO HEAR
Tammy's
interview
highlights.

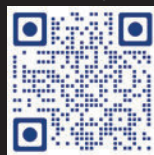


Urban youth workers can't afford not to be intentional with strategies to lead well through this crisis. There's always hope when God's people are ready to mobilize. Recently, we sat down with four DVULI alumni and experts in the mental health field—Tammy Barnett (Cincinnati 2012), Bernard Franklin (Kansas City 2001), Nike Greene (Portland 2005), and Archie Honrado (Los Angeles 2010)—to give us some direction as we try to navigate our way forward.



Nike Greene
(Portland 2005)

SCAN TO HEAR
Nike's
interview
highlights.



Helping the youth we serve must begin by addressing the church's complicity in contributing to stigmas that compound the reluctance to seek professional help, namely the tendency to over-spiritualize mental issues. Tammy was drawn to Christian therapy in part because she saw how the church often fell short of helping people by failing to offer tools beyond prayer. "What happens after you pray?" Tammy

asserts. "So much of our population got lost, and we just wrote them off. 'We are going to keep on praying.' Absolutely, we can do that first, during, and after, but in the midst of it, we're going to give the person some tools."

Nike encourages churches to help by normalizing the conversation around mental health. We can do that by speaking openly from the top levels of ministry leadership, opening our ministries to therapists and recovery programs, and bringing in professionals to help. Recently, her church

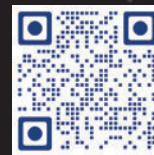


HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE EXPERTS! Interview highlights on Soundcloud. **SCAN AND LISTEN**



Archie Honrado
(Los Angeles 2010)

SCAN TO HEAR
Archie's
interview
highlights.



similar to that of some drugs, indicating that these practices may help reduce addiction. Science also helps us understand how the brain is impacted by trauma, so we can be better equipped to respond.

There are other hurdles stifling the work of mental wholeness in our communities, like the fallacy that our issues aren't severe enough to warrant help. Nike points out that this mindset is rooted in racism. "There was this idea that black and brown bodies have the ability to endure more pain," she explains. "We are to not show emotion. Any sign of the inability to carry 'our weight' or the weight of others is a sign of weakness." Add to that the scarcity of black and brown representation in the field. Less than one percent are black males. Nike alerted us to the troubling reality that this often requires "explaining what you meant by what you just said" to therapists unfamiliar with the urban context, which can be re-traumatizing.

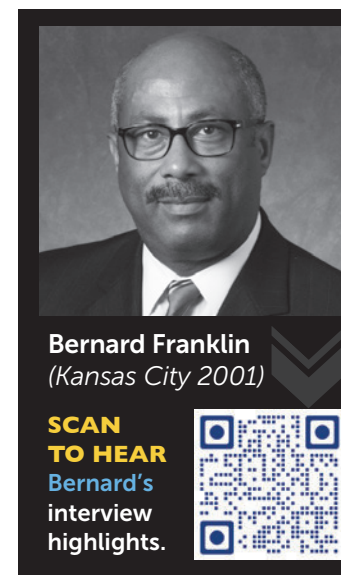
"WE HAVE A HIGHER ACCOUNTABILITY TO BECOME THE VESSELS THAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO BE, AND THAT INCLUDES ADDRESSING OUR OWN MENTAL HEALTH AND PURSUING WELLNESS. I WANT TO BE THE ADULT I NEEDED WHEN I GREW UP."

This underscores how important it is for urban youth leaders to recognize how their ministries are tackling this problem. Springtide's 2022 State of Religion and Young People found that when young people had more significant connections, it correlated with decreased mental health issues. Urban ministries are uniquely poised to help young people in our communities develop these vital support systems. Archie suggests that youth workers see themselves as "diplomat

decided to make grief materials and counselors available during funerals. Just as we encourage healing for any other illness, anything we do to encourage mental health care helps break the stigma. This requires us to get past the misconception that science is contrary to our faith—they work together. Brain science suggests that Christian practices like prayer and meditation provide neurological effects

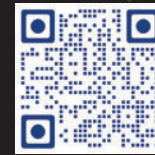
anthropologists" who build bridges that promote intergenerational relationships and revisit youth group structures to facilitate these connections.

Embracing Trauma-Informed Care can help make our ministries safe places. This is heavy lifting. Bernard explains, "We have to create conscious, deliberate spaces for people to share their most vulnerable, ugliest, most horrific events in their lives. If we don't, we do them more harm because people who have been hurt might think that if the person who is representing God gives them shame, God must also be shaming them. As an agent of God, I have to make sure I understand how we create safe spaces." In Archie's context, this looks like a listening circle where responding is only by invitation, and he encourages youth workers to cultivate the art of listening.



Bernard Franklin
(Kansas City 2001)

SCAN TO HEAR
Bernard's
interview
highlights.

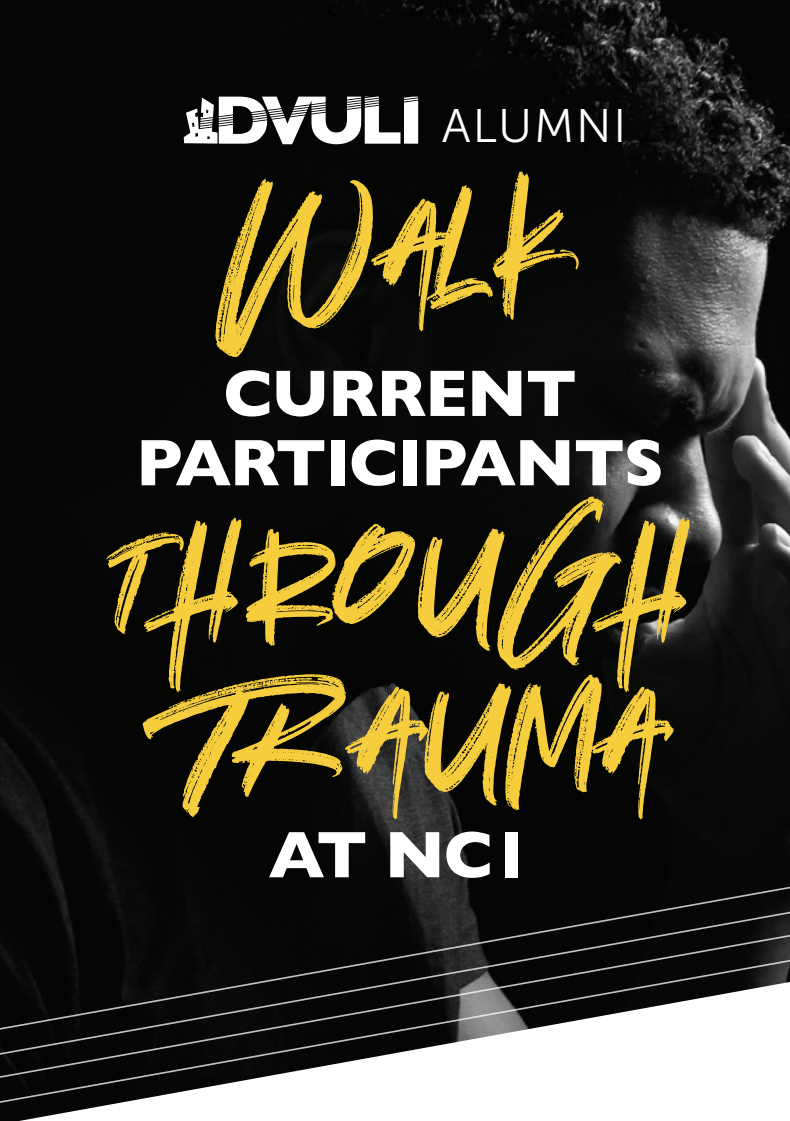


ourselves." This isn't just something to think about when issues arise but as a part of everyday self-care.

Bernard recommends a daily 15-minute Personal Wellness Checklist (see page 6 of this newsletter) where he reflects on his physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual state. He highlights another benefit of our self-work: authenticity. "The more I work on myself, the more I show forgiveness, love, generosity, peace, and grace; however, the more I think this doesn't apply to me, the more people will sense that I am not a safe space, and they cannot trust me."

Nike aptly summarized the value of our attention to this crisis. "We have a higher accountability to become the vessels that God has called us to be, and that includes addressing our own mental health and pursuing wellness. I want to be the adult I needed when I grew up." Who among us would not say the same?

**Some quotes have been edited for clarity and conciseness.*



By Kimberlee Mitchell, Staff Writer

Known for cracking participants open, DVULI's first national conference (NC1) elevates the importance of mental health with intention as unresolved trauma can impede the impact of urban youth work and lead to burnout—or worse.

The traditional Core Values sessions were followed by Nike Greene's (Portland 2005) heart-wrenching testimony about surviving trauma, which led many in the room to their own sobering realizations. Some found themselves with a visceral need to process the triggering, heavy mental health content.

This year, participants were given the opportunity to receive immediate professional support. DVULI alumni Tammy Barnett (Cincinnati 2012) and Bernard Franklin (Kansas City 2001), both professional therapists with a PhD, returned to Orlando to assist participants by way of "Processing Stations."

Held in a designated private space, these brief 30-minute appointments allowed time to discuss the trauma the training session dredged up. Tammy and Bernard prayed with each participant and served with listening ears, affirmations,

and recommendations. "I appreciated having a space where I could talk through a new awareness that emerged after listening to Nike," said one participant who admitted her Latino culture looks down on therapy. "Tammy heard me, related to what I said, and affirmed my feelings, which helped me work through my insecurities. It's so clear that I need to process my trauma. I'm going to call my therapist."

As DVULI alumni, Tammy and Bernard know the rigors of the training and why it's integral to trust the process. "When I think back to 2012 sitting through NC1 as a participant, I immediately reflect upon how the time spent there created healthy patterns and practices that continue today—and I expect, for the rest of my life," Tammy reflected. "Trying to absorb it all at once was overwhelming at times. I'm grateful for the DVULI staff and my mentor, who helped me understand that I had to take the core values beyond the cohort experience and figure out how and what they would mean in the real world."

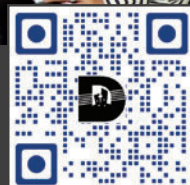
FINDING SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU CAN SHARE YOUR HEART IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD STOPPING THAT UNHEALTHY CYCLE AND MAKING CHANGE.

For many in the room, the real world means your pastor is also your boss. "They stay silent, not wanting to share things that could affect their job or working relationship," explained Bernard. "In my processing stations meetings, I gave individuals care, attention, and direct instruction on how they could follow up in their community to find a support circle. Otherwise, emotional neglect will lead to working harder and harder for approval—and eventually, burnout." Finding someone with whom you can share your heart is an important step toward stopping that unhealthy cycle and making change.

Tammy, Bernard, and Nike at NC1 in Orlando in March 2024.



**FEELING STUCK?
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**
SCAN to learn about complimentary professional counseling services.



100% RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

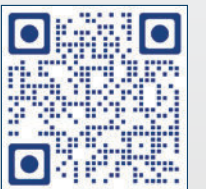
My DVULI Brothers and Sisters,

I invite you to join me in a daily practice that has changed my life. It's a framework of checking in with your whole self in a private space where spiritual and personal wellness is bred and nurtured. After dealing with my own trauma, this was one way I found to help me build on the progress I'd made.

I know this will feel strange if you've never practiced anything like this before. Our community is still finding our footing on routines that help us to maintain mental wellness. It's been a gift to learn how to slow down and focus on parts of myself that need attention. Now, I can stop and listen and work with God, as He does His work in me. I hope this will be a gift for you too.

Your Brother in Christ,
Bernard Franklin (Kansas City 2001)

**SCAN FOR A SELF
CHECK-IN TUTORIAL**
on spiritual and personal
development



Bernard Franklin is a recognized national advocate for marginalized urban children and youth. He has an MS in Counseling and Behavioral Studies from the University of South Alabama and a PhD in Counseling and Family Studies from Kansas State University. He was a therapist for the Kansas City Chiefs, among other corporate organizations. Bernard brings personal experience and expertise to his support of hurting people, particularly the poor—those who are often last to receive the truth that God can heal long-standing, generational trauma and deep-seated pain. He is presently Managing Director of Uncornered, a national nonprofit organization with a mission to eliminate urban street violence and shooting deaths.

BREAKTHROUGH

MIKEL ROSENBORO (WASHINGTON DC 2022)

By Ashley Noelle Ver Beek, Contributor

Nestled on a hill above Atlanta’s I-20 stands a building called the Atlanta Stockade, known as “Glencastle.” The imposing 1890s fortress holds a dark, painful history. It served as a post-Civil War prison and then was abandoned for decades. Years later, a team of architects saw a vision as they walked through the deserted halls, believing the old castle could be transformed.



PC: Gregory Kave

In Mikel’s own words, “I grew up in one of the worst neighborhoods in DC where people watched you make money and then robbed you later that night.” He continued, “You grow trust issues from those types of things.” Lack of trust caused Mikel to isolate himself. Eventually, he began to move toward ministry.

For more than a decade, Mikel has served as a dynamic pastor and youth mentor. The ministries he was involved in came with valuable experience but bred isolation. A lack of clear boundaries stretched him thin. Ministry relationships were transactional, not empowering. Mikel was overextending himself in his work, costing him his relationship with his family. “When you’ve lived in trauma, chaos is normal,” he said. “I was running, ducking, and

dodging being at home. I didn’t focus on my family life—just ministry.”

In 2022, Mikel joined a DVULI cohort, and things began to shift. He said, “I’ve never had interaction with people who, just being around them, you feel the presence of God.” Mikel described how his fellow cohort members were all leaders of large ministries, and while he was pastoring about 35 people, they made him feel empowered and uplifted.

“I’ve often dealt with people who elevated me to handcuff me,” he said of being used by leadership in the past. “This was different—my cohort never wanted anything in return.” Mikel’s DVULI peers wanted him to succeed and embodied interdependence. He relished their mutual support as he developed his leadership vision and made plans to plant a church. They encouraged him by helping him put policies together and speaking words of affirmation over him.

“I’VE OFTEN DEALT WITH PEOPLE WHO ELEVATED ME TO HANDCUFF ME,” HE SAID OF BEING USED BY LEADERSHIP IN THE PAST. “THIS WAS DIFFERENT—MY COHORT NEVER WANTED ANYTHING IN RETURN.”

Mikel knew God was shaping him. “I didn’t know what my breakthrough plan was going to be until NC2 because that first year, God was rebuilding me,” he recalled. “Chaos left when I started to create balance and spend quality time with my wife and kids. With the help and encouragement of my cohort, I created and implemented sustainable policies and procedures for my existing ministry. God gave me a vision, and I put things in place so a new ministry could be built while the old one could still stand.”

On January 7, 2024, Mikel experienced breakthrough as he launched a new church, God’s Assembly of Believers, in Capitol Heights, Maryland. This vibrant Apostolic church’s mission is to “empower the community to pursue God’s kingdom through love and life-changing connection.” Mikel serves as the pastor of the congregation.

“SIMILAR TO THE CASTLE, I WANT TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION SERVICES, AND PSYCHOTHERAPY. IT’S NOT ONLY ABOUT CREATING WHOLENESS FOR THE SOUL; IT’S ABOUT CREATING WHOLENESS FOR THE PERSON.”

Mikel keeps in contact with his cohort, who are now close friends and accountability partners. His ongoing vision for the church echoes that of the “Castle” in Atlanta, which was restored into housing and services for people of lower socioeconomic status. “Similar to the castle, I want to provide mental health residential services, psychiatric rehabilitation services, and psychotherapy. It’s not only about creating wholeness for the soul; it’s about creating wholeness for the person.” Mikel is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling, and his wife, Ilesha, is also a therapist.

His powerful transformation from isolation to interdependence has allowed him to be used by God to empower others to encounter healing. From painful histories and forsaken castles, new life springs up. To those unsure of where growth might take them, Mikel graciously offers his wisdom: “Trust the Process!”


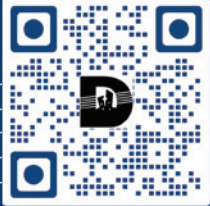


Ashley Noelle Ver Beek is a writer, researcher, and organizer based in Chicago, Illinois. Her work explores connections between spirituality, liberation, and social movements. Ashley is a 2015 alum of Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders (GRIL).



Mikel (back row center) and some of his Washington DC cohort members at NC2.

To watch Bob Lupton’s “Shared Vision,” aka the “Glencastle Video” from NC2, **SCAN THE QR CODE.**



DVULI ALUMNI PROFILE

By Ashley Noelle Ver Beek, Contributor



JENNIFER BAUTISTA-MATA

(Phoenix 2017)

Young Life Area Director
and Regional Trainer in
Glendale, Arizona

Jennifer Bautista-Mata is a dedicated leader, mentor, and advocate for young people. She serves as the Area Director and Regional Trainer for Glendale Young Life program in Glendale, Arizona, where she has been on staff for 12 years. She holds a Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership from Fuller Seminary.

What led you to youth work?

I didn't have big dreams during my early years. It's not that I didn't want to live a good life, but growing up in a home with parents who both suffered from addiction was isolating. I lacked purpose. If you know anyone who struggles with addiction, it just feels very dark and hopeless. From a young age, I remember feeling very alone. I thought, "If I wasn't here, it wouldn't matter to anybody. It wouldn't even matter to me."

I desperately needed a mentor or a positive role model in my life. When a friend invited me to attend a local Young Life group in early college, things shifted. Through the relationships I cultivated there, God changed me. He changed how I viewed my broken family life, my self-worth, and my future. Young Life is a beautiful picture of the kingdom, and I felt honored to be a part of that. I loved it so much that I joined the Young Life staff when I graduated college.

What are you most proud of in your work?

Glendale has a predominant culture of Hispanic and African American kids. On behalf of Arizona Young Life, Glendale brings this specific demographic to camp and to many of our large state gatherings.

I'm intentional about cultivating a relational, familial culture with the young people I serve. This approach has sparked a positive cycle of empowerment and leadership investment that directly benefits our Glendale community. My passion lies in recognizing and elevating leaders of color, which is crucial for Young Life's overall mission. As part of my role, I oversee multiethnic leadership training across Arizona. We identify youth adults who can participate in a two-year leadership cohort, like DVULI, with the goal of nurturing them to become future Young Life leaders and staff.

I'm in the process of hiring a full-time staffer. Kitty is a passionate 23-year-old who has been around Glendale Young Life since she was in eighth grade. Remarkably, she marks my first full-time hire in 12 years!

One evening, following a high school Young Life meeting, I offered a young girl named Valentina a ride home. To my surprise, I discovered she and her family lived out of their car. As Valentina navigated through various foster homes, I remained steadfast, driving 35 minutes each week to pick her up for club meetings. Despite becoming a young mother at an early age, Valentina persevered. Now, at 21 years old, she has two children. Throughout the years, I've stood by her side, ensuring she receives the support she needs. We connected her with Young Lives, our teen mom ministry, which provides a nurturing space and essential resources for young mothers and their children.

Our lifelong bond began with a simple act: driving her home from a youth group. Valentina embodies both motherhood and hard work. She exudes positivity for her children, even when faced with challenges. Despite difficulties, she remains the dependable, positive parent she never had. I truly admire her unwavering commitment.

My story changed when I found healing in relationships, learned to navigate trauma, and created dreams for myself and the community of Glendale. It's an honor, and I am so proud to come alongside the youth to support them in the same transformational way.

How did your DVULI experience impact your ministry work?

When I joined my DVULI cohort in 2017, I was dreaming big for Glendale. We had previously partnered with another area with a higher financial status. I sensed it was time to break off on our own, and my cohort showed me that I could do it. They encouraged me to see myself as a capable woman, specifically, a woman of color in a predominantly white ministry.

I also realized I was unhealthy in my ministry—I didn't have balance. I learned to invite people in to ask for help. Sometimes, there's this loneliness to ministry and you say, "If I don't do it, nobody will." I've seen this beautiful picture of me asking for help and people going, "Of course, I would love to." I've learned that asking for help is okay!

DVULI ALUMNI UPDATES



Leean Andino (Cleveland 2023)

was ordained at Monte Hebron Ciudad De Refugio in Cleveland, Ohio.



Jerry Bishop (Grand Rapids 2000)

was honored with the Grand Rapids Community College GIANT Among Giants Award, which annually recognizes exceptional black leaders in the community.



Annette Bittner (Twin Cities 2009)

went to be with the Lord on December 30, 2023, following heart transplant complications.



Robert Hughes (Atlanta 2014)

leads a collaborative of organizations that works to create paths out of poverty for youth and families in Rockdale, Georgia.



Jennifer Jones (Grand Rapids 2006)

started a new position as Executive Director at Columbia Future Forge in Camas, Washington.



Ron McConico (Twin Cities 2008)

went home to be with the Lord on February 18, 2024, after a valiant battle with ALS.



Tamir Reyes (Newark 2014)

was promoted to Executive Director of Savia Community Counseling Services in Lodi, New Jersey.



Mikel Rosenboro (Washington DC 2022)

planted God's Assembly of Believers Church in Capitol Heights, Maryland, where he serves as pastor.



Jonathan Shropshire (Detroit 2022)

released a song called "The Breakthrough," and it's available on all audio streaming platforms.



Chuck Skarin (YFC 2018)

authored a new book titled *Atomic Leadership*.



Pastor Reggie Smalls (Boston 1998)

celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church he pastors.



Sharod Tomlinson (New York 2009)

was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Equity and Inclusion/Student Belonging at St. John's University in NYC.



Amy Williams (Chicago 2007)

announced her new book, *Worth Seeing: Viewing Others Through God's Eyes*, which will be officially released on June 25, 2024.



Aaron Wilson (Washington DC 2011)

was named Global Director of Outreach and Mission for all Zion Church campuses in Maryland and DC.



Maurice Winley (NYC 2010)

was recognized with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award by the office of the President of the United States and AmeriCorps for his "lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service."

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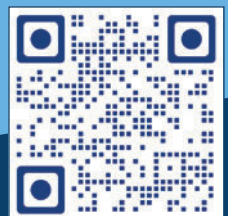
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