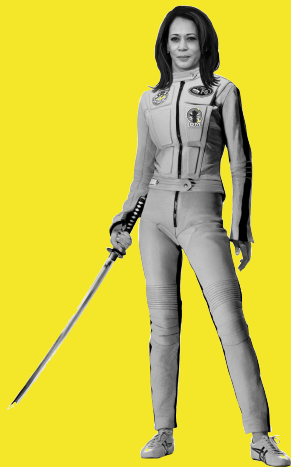
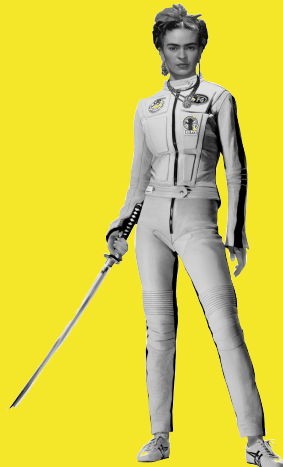




Presents  
the 17th Annual  
Journey Into Womanhood  
Awards Celebration



KAMALA HARRIS



FRIDA KAHLO



AUGUSTA SAVAGE

**SLAY:** TO BE GREATLY IMPRESSIVE.  
**JIW GIRLS SLAY!**  
**VOLUME 17**

**Sunday, May 16, 2021**

**Images by Sean Clinkscles**



We all can agree a new kind of normal has emerged as we navigate through life during this pandemic. At Empowerment Resources, we continue to use creativity and innovation to serve our youth and families. For the 2020-2021 Journey Into Womanhood (JIW) program year, we offered our first ever hybrid model. The JIW program remained virtual, but the ability to offer safe face-to-face, albeit quarterly mentor meet ups while practicing social distancing was welcomed by all participants. We listened to our girls, and they wanted and needed some in-person interactions with each other and the mentors, and we were thrilled we were able to meet their needs.

This year's JIW Celebration theme is SLAY. Our theme was inspired by Sean Clinkscales and his collection SLAY: Volume 1, which showcases female icons of color who are defiant, courageous and outspoken. Our JIW girls continue to SLAY as they work through the stressors of the pandemic, whether it is in-person and virtual school, extra curricular activities and the pressures adjusting to this new normal. We are especially proud of our five (5) graduating seniors who despite the arduous adjustments of life during the pandemic, all will graduate from high school and from the JIW program.

Over the last 18 years, our successes include:

- 47 JIW graduates
- Average time for a girl to participate in the program is six years
- Awarded \$27,000 in scholarships
- 75% of JIW alumni return to our program to give their time and talent

The generosity of individuals and community organizations, that support Empowerment Resources Inc. and our family of programs is unmatched. As we grow as an organization, we want to continue to increase our impact and effect of our programs in the lives of youth and families.

We wholeheartedly appreciate our volunteers, JIW parents and caregivers for the successes of the JIW program. Your unparalleled support will only ensure that the JIW program continues to soar. We also are indelibly grateful for our donors and corporate sponsors for supporting this critical work and sowing into the lives of youth in our community.

Here's to the next 20 years!

With gratitude.

Elexia Coleman-Moss  
Founder and Executive Director

In memory of our fallen warriors,  
Carissa Flournoy, Kecia Love, Soloman Stanford,  
Jacquelyn Lowe and Tamika S. Stewart.

"Those who touch our lives will stay in our hearts forever."

# Our History

Empowerment Resources Inc. (ERI) is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established in 2002. Our mission is to make children and their families stronger and empower them to become successful leaders in the community today, for a better tomorrow. We rely on volunteers to run the organization. Our signature programs include Journey Into Womanhood<sup>SM</sup>, Life Skills Workshops for teen boys and girls, and Parenting Education Seminars. Life Skills Workshops empower students to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their wellbeing and equips them with the necessary tools to make positive life decisions. ERI teaches evidence-based Nurture Parenting Programs, a family centered initiative designed to cultivate nurturing parenting skills. ERI has served more than 1,300 youth and families with programs and services that positively impact the whole family.

Since 2003, the Journey Into Womanhood (JIW)<sup>SM</sup> program has impacted the lives of more than 185 young ladies and families and has awarded youth more than \$27,000 in scholarships. A unique and inspiring program, this 25-week "rites-of-passage" initiative for girls ages 9-17 focuses on their healthy transition from girl to young woman. It addresses the real issues youth are faced with today. JIW is facilitated by experienced leaders and volunteers, who help participants cultivate their self-awareness, develop leadership skills, and put them on the path to positively impact the communities in which they live. The young ladies engage in journal writing, community service projects and enrichment trips. To date, 47 girls have graduated from the program and high school, with 94% of alumnae attending college and as of 2020, 22 have graduated with bachelor's degree.

The Journey Into Womanhood program focuses on gaining the understanding of twelve vital aspects of life including:

#### **The Value of SELF**

*Understanding the need to love oneself*

#### **Drugs and Alcohol**

*Preventing the effects of drug and alcohol abuse*

#### **Concepts of Beauty**

*Caring for self, defining beauty, and personal hygiene*

#### **A is for Academics**

*Learning proper study habits, college preparation, and public speaking*

#### **Health and Fitness**

*The importance of exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle*

#### **Relationships and Social Skills**

*Respecting elders, understanding friendships, and developing social skills*

#### **Our Society and Social Constructs**

*Understanding racism and prejudice, and learning to respect other cultures*

#### **Food and Nutrition**

*Learning healthy eating habits and selecting nutritious foods*

#### **Employment and Career Skills**

*Preparing a resume and learning how to get the career you want*

#### **Community Building**

*Hands-on learning is the importance of volunteering*

#### **Abstinence Plus and STD Prevention**

*Learning the pros of waiting, and how to avoid risky behavior*

#### **Investments and Savings**

*Understanding the difference and importance between the two*

## 2020 - 2021 Leadership

### *Board of Directors*

Iana Benjamin, Esq.

Penelope Knox, MBA

Tasha Gatlin, MBA

Chad Smith, B.A.

### *Advisory Council*

Carla Flowers, BSW

Kirsten Keels, MBA

Yanique Mundy, B.A

LaTonya Lipscomb Smith, J.D.

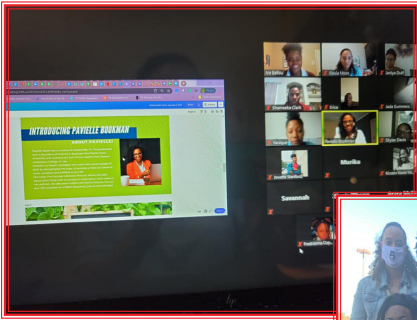
Tonya Smart, MS

Veronica Ward, MBA



(From left to right) Iana, LaTonya, Chad, Tasha, Penelope and Elexia

# 2020-2021 Year In Review



## 2020

September 15	JIW Kick-Off Game Day	ERI Mentors and Volunteers
October 10	"A" is Academics and Goal Setting	Studio Jear, Madison Hudson and Lakiesha Wells-Palmer
October 30	Mentor Outing to Top Golf	ERI Mentors and Volunteers
November 13	Card Board City Virtual Volunteer Event	Family Promise/ERI Mentors
November 14	Nutritional November: Healthy Food and Nutrition	Nzingah Oniwosan
December 12	Community Building	JIW Mentors
December 27	Mentor Outing St. Johns Town Center	JIW Mentors

## 2021

January 9	Invision with Intent	Pavielle Bookman
January 27	Mentor Outing to Top Golf	ERI Mentors and Volunteers
February 13	Curls and Convo	Mygani LLC and ERI
March 6	Memorial Park Chew and Chat	Mentors
March 20	Healthy Relationships and Abstinence Plus	Ms. Juanita Foreman
April 10	Shoot for The Stars, Aim for the Career	ERI/Junior Achievement/Community Volunteer Speakers
May 8	Dressing and Dining to Slay	JIW Mentors and Carmen's On The Run

## Making Connections

This year's cover features the artwork of Kamala Harris, Frida Kahol and Augusta Savage from Sean Clinkscales.

When you make a purchase of the artwork featured, a portion will be given to Empowerment Resources, Inc.

Learn more about the artist, [www.artvisean.com](http://www.artvisean.com)

### Follow Empowerment Resources, Inc.

Twitter & Instagram:  
@EmpowermentJax

Facebook:  
Empowerment Resources Inc.

Hashtags:  
Use #EmpowermentJax #JIW  
and #EmpowermentResources

# Journey Into Womanhood Girls

Kelsey Augusta	14 years old	10th Grade	Edward H. White High School
Fredrianna Copeland-Webster	16 years old	11th Grade	Paxon School for Advanced Studies
Skylar Davis	14 years old	8th Grade	Lavilla School of the Arts
Janiya Duff	13 years old	8th Grade	Florida Virtual School
Raven Lanier	16 years old	11th Grade	Robert E. Lee High School
Zion Stanford	14 years old	8th Grade	James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School
Jada Summers	14 years old	8th Grade	Duval Charter at Baymeadows
Savannah Tootle	13 years old	7th Grade	Baldwin Middle Sr. High
Micah Webster-Bass	14 years old	9th Grade	Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

## Meet Our Seniors



**LEILA  
ADAMS**

18 years old | San Jose Preparatory School

### INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:

Traveling and spending time with family and friends.  
I also love animals.

### GOALS:

I aspire to attend college and study veterinarian science  
to become a traveling veterinarian.

*To slay means to always be the best that you can be no matter what.*



**DAHJIA  
HUDSON**

17 years old | Mandarin High School

### INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:

My biggest interests are dance, specifically Hip Hop Dance. I like to dress and be fashionable. I even make my own jeans and jackets to express my style.

### GOALS:

I hope to accomplish my goals in life to help others and succeed and become the best I can be, and be an achiever.

*To slay means to be greatly impressive. I slay because I want to be unique with my style through my clothes that shows my personality.*

*I am not like anyone else with my style.*

# Meet Our Seniors



**ANGEL  
SOLOMON**

18 years old | Terry Parker High School

**INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:**

I enjoy many activities such as cheerleading, track & field, photography, gardening and pet grooming.

**GOALS:**

Upon graduation from high school, I plan to join the United States Navy.

*To slay truly means going above and beyond to set the standard for excellence, and for me, I strive daily to exceed the goals I've set for myself to achieve Black Girl Magic!*

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**SAMYA  
PARIS**

18 years old | Strawberry Crest High School

**INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:**

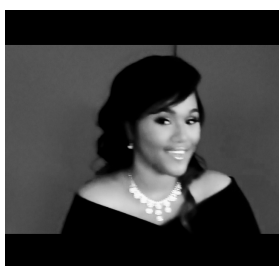
I love cheering and creative outlets like painting and taking photos. I also enjoy watching NetFlix and listening to music.

**GOALS:**

Upon graduation, I plan to attend Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, where I will be majoring in Pharmacy.

*I slay by going after what I want, no matter how difficult the task may seem. No matter what, I will reach my goals!*

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**MICHAELA  
EVANS**

18 years old | Robert E. Lee High School

**INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:**

I'm interested in trading, owning my own business, becoming a YouTuber and esthetician.

**GOALS:**

I look forward to starting my journey into being an esthetician and having my own business. I will also be pursuing a modeling career.

*I believe I slay by keeping it real, being unique, communicating who I am and being able to open up to new people with ease. Slaying is just having a positive attitude and outlook on life.*

# Program of Events

Welcome  
Entrance of Young Ladies  
Brunch  
Keynote Address  
Awards  
Closing Remarks

## Emcee



*Lena Pringle* anchors the 4:30 a.m. half hour of The Morning Show and provides traffic updates throughout the rest of the morning news, then reports on all topics throughout the community.

Before moving to Jacksonville, Lena was the morning reporter for Good Day Columbia at WACH in Columbia, South Carolina. In 2018, the South Carolina Association Of Broadcasters named Lena the South Carolina Television Personality Of The Year.

Before making the move to Columbia, Lena was a sports reporter in the Washington D.C. area and she reported from Capitol Hill for multiple Nexstar Broadcasting group stations in Louisiana. This was part of a partnership between the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University and Nexstar Broadcasting Group.

A South Carolina native, Lena graduated from Furman University with a bachelors of arts degree in communication studies and Spanish. She also has a masters of science in broadcast and digital journalism from S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

## Keynote Speaker



*Sean Clinkscales* is mostly a self-taught multidisciplinary creative originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

As a director, his short film “Comfortably Numb” was accepted into numerous film festivals, with his lead actress winning several awards. As a visual artist, Sean’s paintings have sold in galleries throughout the East Coast, internationally, and with previous exhibitions. Sean continues to evolve as a creative. He lives in Jacksonville with his daughter Anastasia.

Learn more about his work at [www.artviasean.com](http://www.artviasean.com).

# Give a Gift to Support Our Work



To fulfill our mission we rely on the generosity of community business, organizations, individuals and private donors. Your donation will further enhance the quality of serve we provide to youth and families. Donations are tax-deductible and can be make online at [www.EmpowermentResourcesInc.org](http://www.EmpowermentResourcesInc.org) or contact us at 904-268-8287.

## Wish List

- Monetary Donations
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Equipment (laptop and portable karaoke machine)
- Supplies (journals, pens, day-planners, arts and crafts supplies)
- Gift cards
- Postage Stamps
- Printer Ink Cartridges (HP 950XL/951)

Please visit our website  
[www.EmpowermentResourcesInc.org](http://www.EmpowermentResourcesInc.org)  
to make a donation and to review our complete list

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Mentoring
- Tutorial in reading, writing, science, math, history
- Computer training and/or instruction
- Marketing and Communications
- The Arts; music, dance, drama, photography and filmmaking
- Guest speakers
- Advisory Council Member
- Administrative, mailings and phone calls





# Our Supporters

Empowerment Resources Inc. would like to acknowledge and thank the following companies and people for their ongoing support.  
Without your support, our program would not be as successful.

## SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

4-H  
Astronaut Starbright  
Abdullah-Bolden Family  
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Alonza Anderson  
Amber Harrell  
Anderson Construction  
Andrea Kemp  
Angela C. Mack  
Anthony and Oare' Henry  
Annette Williams  
Beth Mixson  
Bettie Scott  
Campaign act. Audrey Gibson  
Carla Flowers  
Chad and LaTonya Smith  
Charles and Beverly Hamilton  
Cherrise Wilks  
Chiquita Powell  
Christy Jackson  
Daphne Colbert  
Darien Reynolds  
David and Paula Shigley  
Debbie Moreland  
Deirdre Conner  
Diamond Lawson  
Diane King  
Donna Reine  
Dorette Nysewander  
Duval County Extension Office

Duval County Teen Court Program  
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Kirsten Keels \*  
LaTonya Lipscomb Smith  
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Marty Dawkins  
Monica Mineo  
Penelope Knox  
Shameeka Clark \*  
Tasha Gatlin  
Tonya Smart  
Veronica Ward  
Yanique Mundy \*

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Affinity Consulting Group  
(grant writing assistance)  
Built to Rock Events  
(design of program booklet)  
Clinton Paris (legal)  
Dr. Jevetta Stanford (data)  
Family Promise  
(office space)

## ERI VOLUNTEERS / \*JIW MENTORS

Ale'ta Turner  
Arrington Grant  
Carla Flowers  
Chad Smith  
Daphne Colbert \*  
Diamond Lawson \*  
Diane King  
Elaine White

And to all other friends, volunteers and supporters ~ thank you!

# Special Thank You To

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## PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



The Jacquelyn Rae Lowe JIW Scholarship Fund



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