



BMe Leader is a prestigious honor given by BMe Community, a social network for people of all races and genders who care about making communities stronger. BMe Leaders are black men chosen for their community service and their ability to inspire.

2016 BMe Pittsburgh Leaders



Emmai Alaquiva – Emmy Award Winning Film Maker
and CEO of Ya Momz House

Emmai Alaquiva has gone from once being homeless to being the CEO of Ya Momz House, Inc. a full service multimedia company. In 2007, he founded Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K., an arts education program that promotes mentoring and youth empowerment. Emmai will use his BMe Leader Award to grow the “DOC on L.O.C.K.” program, and develop a pipeline for more positive images of black people to be highlighted in visual media.

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Vernard Alexander – Founder and CEO of the Minority
Networking Exchange

Vernard is a remarkable connector due to his ability to network and connect people throughout Pittsburgh and abroad, and is known as the “Connecting King”. He has over one thousand members in his network that own businesses, and he provides Business Coaching to assist entrepreneurs in the process of starting, expanding and/or growing a business. Vernard will grow the Minority Networking Exchange through the BMe Network to connect thousands of Pittsburgh residents to entrepreneurial opportunities and resources.



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Chris Edmonds – Founder and CEO of Athletic Trauma
Unit

Chris created Athletic Trauma Unit (ATU) after his career as a professional football player in the NFL. ATU brings awareness of the overall benefits of healthy living to lower economic areas by establishing physical activity programs for people of all ages and physical levels at no cost. ATU has helped people recover from work injuries, leg amputation, and back and knee surgeries.

Chris will grow ATU through the BMe Community to connect thousands of Pittsburgh residents to healthy living activities and resources.

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Reverend Cornell Jones – Founder and Pastor of Iron Cross Community Ministries

Cornell is a humble leader who is on the forefront of violence prevention in the city. Through Iron Cross Community Ministries, he is giving formerly incarcerated citizens an opportunity to get back into society. Cornell will use his BMe funds to create a radio show that will train returning citizens and formerly incarcerated Pittsburgh residents in the field of internet radio. With support from BMe Community, this remarkable project will also provide an innovative resource for Pittsburgh residents to discuss social justice reform and prison reform in an asset based way.



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Claudy Pierre – Owner of Eminent Hospitality Solutions and Founder of E.A.T. Initiative

Growing up in a busy Haitian-American household in Brooklyn, cooking was an escape for Claudy M. Pierre. At the early age of 10, he began cooking dishes for his parents and 8 siblings. After high school, Claudy moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he attended the LeCordon Bleu School Arts. Claudy owns Culture Restaurant and Lounge, located in Pittsburgh's Downtown Cultural District. He will create the healthy living focused 'E.A.T. Initiative' for residents living in the Greater Pittsburgh area with support from BMe Community.

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Jason Rivers – Project Manager for the Office of Equity,
Pittsburgh Public Schools; Founder of AR3 Foundation

In the summer of 2008, Jason's brother Anthony was gunned down in a senseless act of violence at the hands of two young men whom he had no prior connection. Jason overcame that hard time, and committed his life to helping communities heal. He began AR3 in honor of his brother, which now positively impacts thousands of young people throughout the summer. Jason also mentors countless numbers of young men in Pittsburgh Public Schools, and will grow the impact of the AR3 Foundation in Pittsburgh with support from BMe Community.



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Greg Spencer – Founder & CEO of Randall Industries

Challenged by stuttering episodes and reading/decoding problems, Greg Spencer's earlier educational experiences were not successful. He overcame those challenges and is now the Founder and CEO of Randall Industries, one of the nation's largest minority chemical manufacturing companies. Greg will develop the African-American Leadership Skills Development Program through BMe, which will connect residents to successful corporate, government and nonprofit Boards and opportunities.

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Derrick Tillman – President and CEO of Bridging the Gap
Development

Derrick is the President and CEO of Bridging the Gap Development, which develops single/multifamily housing communities and commercial real estate projects. A key component to Bridging the Gap Development is to provide job opportunities to M/WBE and local residents. He is focused on building projects that directly impact the community, through affordable housing, job training opportunities, mixed-income housing, and developing retail space for small businesses. He will use support from



BMe on projects that expand livable wage job opportunities to Black residents throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area.

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Mayor Dwan Walker – Mayor of the City of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

Mayor Walker is dedicated to rebuilding the City of Aliquippa, and is spearheading a campaign to bring more businesses and corporate partnerships to his city. He initially ran for Mayor after his 33 y/o sister was shot and killed in front of his nephew. He overcame this trying time in his life, and now honors the life of his sister through community building and empowerment. He will strengthen his long dedicated work to developing youth for the City of Aliquippa with support from BMe Community.

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