



### **Debbie M. Thomas-Brown**

Debbie Thomas-Brown is a Social Entrepreneur who pursues innovative ideas with the potential to solve community problems. She is willing to take on the risks and effort to create positive changes in society through her initiatives. She has founded several foundations of a public benefit nature, to provide support and care for disadvantaged communities in Jamaica and in Florida where she resides and works. Debbie's main goal as a social entrepreneur is not to earn a profit, but to implement widespread human and social improvements in society.

As a Jamaican born community advocate from the parish of Westmoreland, she has worked in community outreach for many years. With her earliest outreach beginning as a nine year old child in Sheffield, she was happiest taking cooked meals prepared by her late mom, to the aged shut in members of her community.

At the age of fourteen, Debbie accepted the gift of Salvation and gave her life in conscious service to Christian Ministry. She continues to follow God's guidance and in a divine way, is being used in service supporting God's hurting children through her desire for Social Entrepreneurship.

During her teenage years as a Girl Guide and later a Pathfinder, she would go with her group to help the sick with their household chores and grocery shopping. She was a very active participant in her church as the Secretary and later as a Pathfinder and Youth Leader.

As a teenager, she was instrumental in helping to organize outreach to help with the needs of underserved residents in her community via her church outreach program, a Youth Club, a Past Students Association, and a Community Council. She served as the secretary on each committee until she left for college, but resumed duties as needed during vacations periods.

Debbie was an avid sports woman who played various sports and encouraged others to remain active. The local Netball Team had many victories with her as a team member and she was one of the main home games scorers for the very successful, Sheffield Cricket Team. During high school she participated in inter house competitive sports, and as a college student she represented her institution at several island wide Track & Field Meets at the National Stadium, and played in Inter Collegiate Netball Competitions.

In high school, she started an informal neighborhood tutoring class where she tutored other students and provided homework assistance to students with reading, math, and other learning and developmental difficulties. After high school, Debbie went on to Teachers' College where

she studied Education and Psychology, then became a teacher. She won many accolades for her special style that helped even learning disabled students and adults learn how to read after being given up on by others.

She worked as a God fearing High School Teacher for a number of years and during that time, she was the Girl Guide Leader. She organized and implemented a school's savings club where she taught the students how to become responsible savers, and took them on field trips to the local bank to open their first bank, thrift savings accounts. She enjoyed organizing island wide excursions to expose her students and other adults to nationwide cultural experiences, outside of their rural communities, especially in the Sports, Cultural Arts and Music sectors.

Debbie migrated to the USA and worked in the financial sector at American Express for a few years, then resigned after suffering from brain trauma, as a result of a terrible motor vehicle accident. She is now a beacon of positive change in neighborhoods throughout Broward County and Miami-Dade, Florida where she is utilizing her roles as Nurse, former high school teacher, and community outreach advocate, to help develop programs that serve the community and raise awareness to create a lasting impact.

In 2009 Debbie founded South Florida Connects, Inc. (SFC) a faith based, outreach and advocacy organization to provide a way for underserved individuals to become Kindness Ambassadors, by reaching out and supporting each other with acts of kindness. Through her work with SFC in Florida, she was instrumental in helping hundreds of homeowners save their homes from foreclosure using the help of a homeownership advocacy organization.

Debbie, through SFC, also provides outreach and advocacy, supporting marginalized, disadvantaged, and underserved, immigrant and minority individuals. Straight Spouse Awareness Education and Support, is also a very important and needed outreach service that she provides to South Florida immigrants and minority individuals, as well as worldwide.

She also founded [DMB Missionary Resources Foundation, Inc.](#) in 2014 as a result of a vision to help missionaries. The DMB Foundation has an expansive view of providing support to active and retired Christian missionaries, their children and widows. The DMB Missionary Resources Foundation, Inc. offers support for retired Missionaries and their spouses, who are having financial difficulties after returning from active mission assignments.

Debbie earned numerous community service awards for her volunteer work in her South Florida community. She was named **A Daily Point of Light** by the Points of Light Institute, the premier volunteer organization in the USA on October 3, 2012, for demonstrating exemplary citizenship through volunteering as a community advocate for straight spouses and she also received the Points of Light Award Certificate.

She also received the **President's Call to Service Award**, the highest volunteer award, signifying a national honor from the President of the United States, given in recognition for her outstanding volunteer service, advocating for marginalized individuals in her

community. Debbie works as a Mental Health Nurse at the VA Hospital, where she also received an award certificate as a 2013 South Florida Federal Employee of the Year Nominee for her work in community outreach.

The City of Miramar, Florida, HandsOn Broward, and Family & Friends Connection, Inc. also gave her several outstanding community awards in recognition for her outstanding achievements in community outreach. Debbie was also recently nominated as an L'Oreal Woman of Worth for her work with straight spouses.

After her mom suffered a fatal hemorrhagic stroke, Debbie founded a stroke support foundation in Westmoreland to honor her mom's memory. Her mom's illness and death opened her eyes to the plight of stroke victims and their families in the parish. The challenges that Jamaican stroke survivors face in rural communities made this Social Entrepreneur establish the [Milka Clarke Stroke Brain Trauma Foundation](#), named to memorialized her mom and establish a Stroke Registry while helping marginalized and underserved stroke survivors in Westmoreland, with the necessary support and outreach based on their needs.

Debbie implemented an academic scholarship through [SFC's Annual Self-Actualization & Academic Scholarship Award](#) which was recently changed to the Milka Clarke Memorial Scholarship, to help academically outstanding, but financially needy students. The scholarship is available to qualified college bound students in South Florida and high school students in Jamaica.

Debbie was trained as a Teacher, Accounting Analyst, Paralegal and Nurse. She has one daughter Lori-Ann, Son-In-Law Jerome Sr., grandchildren Murreia and Jerome Jr.



Debbie's Daughter & her Family

