



Dr. Jonita Wallace Reynolds is a native Houstonian, mother of twins (13 years old), International Best-Selling Author, issue advocate, aspirational speaker, and a 6-Year Breast Cancer SurTHRIVER.

Notably, not only was Dr. Reynolds the first African American female Chief Executive Officer of the Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc., which is the largest Community Action Agency in the State of Texas, she was also the longest serving! For 21 years, Dr. Reynolds led her resolute team of 300+ full-time employees in the *War on Poverty*. With an annual budget of \$20 million and a host of strategically aligned partners, un-served and under-served residents of Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties living at or below the federal poverty guidelines, attained economic independence and stability.

Her life of service personifies Mahatma Gandhi's notable quote, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world!" Dr. Reynolds selflessly gives her time through advocacy, community engagement, and volunteerism. She currently serves on the following non-paid Boards: Fort Bend County Child Welfare Board (Chair-elect), City of Houston's Health Foundation Board (Vice Chair), and the City of Houston's My Brother's Keeper Initiative (Executive Board). She is also an American Leadership Forum Fellow, Life-Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and an active member of the Missouri City (TX) Chapter Links, Inc., where she currently serves as the Recording Secretary.

Dr. Reynolds fervently believes, *To whom much is given, much is required...*; therefore, she has donated her time and talent by serving as the Keynote/Commencement Speaker at more than 200 engagements across Texas, including but not limited to: Texas Alliance of Black School Educators' State Conference, Holman Street Baptist Church's Annual Women's Day Celebration, City of Houston's Community Re-Entry Graduation Ceremony, *My Vow Take Back Your Power* Conference, Everest Institute's Commencement, and Missouri City's Juneteenth Foundation Gala.

As a result of this issue-advocate's leadership and impact (personally and professionally), she's received numerous proclamations, honors and recognitions. Notably, July 24th is Proclaimed GCCSA Day by the City of Houston's Mayor for extraordinary accomplishments during Hurricane Harvey-relief efforts; The City of Houston's Community Re-Entry Network presented GCCSA with "The Murray Bailey Award" for tireless commitment to the Second Chance Program; the *Houston Food Bank's Bandini Award for Excellence in Food Pantry Services*; and the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs *recognized GCCSA for Invaluable Assistance to 58,000 Individuals Impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita*.

Equally noteworthy, this former Ms. Black World-Houston and former Miss Black & Gold received President Joe Biden's Lifetime Achievement Award; YMCA's *Outstanding Achiever*; American Red Cross' *Distinguished Humanitarian*; Outstanding UH Alumni; Texas Executive Women's *Woman on the Move*; Houston Sun's Woman of the Year; RARE Pearls, Inc. *Woman of Excellence*; American Caribbean Chamber's *Global Diaspora Champion*; Sugar Land Skeeters' *Trailblazer*; Wheeler Avenue's Women's Guild *Audrey H. Lawson Community IMPACT Honoree*; A. Philip Randolph *Outstanding Community Leader*; d-mar's Inaugural *Top 30 Influential Women*; Houston-Harris County Retired Teachers Association's *Outstanding Leader*; Top Ladies of Distinction's *Healing Hand of Houston*; Epsilon Lambda's 50th Anniversary *Distinguished Honoree*; Black Social Workers' *Outstanding Community Leader*; and Rolling Out Magazine's Inaugural *Houston's 25 Most Influential Women*.

Dr. Reynolds is a Certified Non-Profit Executive Director and a proud alum of the University of Houston where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1992, a Master of Education (1994) and Doctor of Education (2004) degrees in Administration and Supervision.

As long as she has breath, Dr. Jonita Wallace Reynolds vows to be deeply rooted, ever-growing, and forever serving!