

# final thoughts... from Paula

From Widow To Winner is interested in partnering with other agencies that are passionate and proactive in making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable. In 2012, more than 23,000 children in Foster Care aged out of the system. They have no family to support them, no education, no skills, no medical care, no housing. They are being set up for failure; resorting to drugs, gangs, being exploited through sex trafficking, prison or death...the alarm has sounded and we must RESPOND!



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“Across the country, people and programs are focusing on protective factors in their work with families. Protective factors are attributes of families that help them to succeed and thrive even in the face of risk and challenges. A protective factors framework summarizes scientific research and outlines a course of action to help families and youth reduce stress, address risk factors and promote healthy development. The overarching goal of a protective factors framework is the promotion of child, youth and family well-being.”(Center For The Study of Social Policy’s Strengthening Families) – A Protective Framework.

1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of parenting and child development
4. Concrete support in times of need
5. Social and emotional competence of children.

From Widow To Winner is collaborating with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the City of Long Beach, and other community based agencies to host The Strengthening Families Conference. **This conference takes place on Saturday, May 16 2015 from 9:30am-2:00pm at Long Beach City College, Bldg. E., Nordic Lounge.** The conference agenda highlights such respected keynote speakers such as: Dr. Sandra Murray, Medical Director, Child Abuse and Protection Team, Long Beach Miller’s Children Hospital. Dr. Lisa Nicholas, CEO, The Children’s clinic. Additionally, there will be hands on break-out sessions and the Community Conversation Café’(based on the World Cafe’). The target audience is: Parents, Helping Professionals, caregivers, relative caregivers, non-related extended members, foster parents, childcare providers, health care providers,

faith-based representatives, and community residents. It still takes a village to raise a child!  
PLEASE JOIN us at Long Beach City College in the Nordic Lounge.

Strengthening Families is a research informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors:

From Widow To Winner Projects International  
A Faith-Based 501©(3) Non-Profit Organization  
All Donations are Tax Deductible

Please make your generous donations today by sending to:  
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[www.fromwidowtowinner.com](http://www.fromwidowtowinner.com)

Contact: 757-667-0056 Email: [singhymnstohim@yahoo.com](mailto:singhymnstohim@yahoo.com)

## A Quarterly Insight into the Current Issues of Orphans and Widows

### From Widow To Winner Projects International

*Joyfully advocating on behalf of the Orphans and Widows*

*“Learn to do right! Seek justice. Encourage the oppressed, Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow”. Isaiah 1:17(NIV)*

#### A Widow’s Story – Pastor Geneva Fryson “It Was His Choice”

In 1962, while in the ninth grade, I met a young man who would end up being my best friend and husband. Benjamin and I dated throughout high school and the day after graduation on May 11, 1966, we were married. Our marriage was one that stood the test of time, we were happily married for 35 ½ years when my Benny chose to go home to be with Jesus on January 8, 2002.

My husband was diagnosed with cancer on December 19, 2001 and at that moment he told me he would live and not die, in Jesus name.



Benjamin confessed his healing all day, every day until that afternoon of January 8<sup>th</sup>, when I believe he began to commune with our Jesus. Once in the presence of our Lord and Savior, he instantly changed his mind. He stayed in the presence of the Lord all day and at 9:36pm he tried to slip out of this world unnoticed, but our youngest granddaughter caught him and alerted the rest of the family.

The machine had flat lined and Benny had gone to be with Jesus.

I remember walking closer to him and placed my hand on his face saying, “you told me that you would live and not die, what happened to that?” He started to breathe, the machine started again and he came back... but he looked different. He had a glow about him and he looked so peaceful. Benny came back because he made a promise to me to live and not die, in Jesus name. But he didn’t come back to stay, he came back to ask for my permission to go. He turned his head to look at me and I told him, “I forgive you if you changed your mind and it’s okay if you want to go.” It was then that I released him. I watched him as he turned his head back. I saw a tear fall from his eye as his spirit left his body. **To be continued on pg. 2**



You’re probably asking yourself, “chose?” Yes, chose!



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A Widow's Story- "It Was His Choice"

Before Benjamin's passing, he had given me his blessings to answer the call that had been placed on my life by our Heavenly Father. I had started a Bible study as I was instructed to do by the Spirit of God. Soon after his passing, I was ordained and began to move further into my call, hence, "The Ministry of Change" was manifested and Sunday services began. It has been an extraordinary experience walking in the plan and purpose that God has for my life. As a widow I'm not lacking anything, I'm fulfilled with the Word of God and I have 35 ½ years of blessed and wonderful memories of the life I shared with my Benny.



Geneva with her daughter, Yolanda and two granddaughters, Dyamond, and Aurille and her grandson, Artez Benjamin



## Opportunities to Serve Your Communities 2015

- **Low hanging fruit is still the vision as we continue to reach souls for Christ. To this date, I have had the privilege of praying for 21 souls to receive Christ Jesus as Savior. I have placed over 50 Gospel tracts on cars, in people's hands, and on doors.**
- **Care 18 LA meetings are now on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of every month from 11am-1pm. at the Dream Center at 2301 Bellevue, Los Angeles, CA. The next meeting is April 15, 2015. These meetings discuss the strategies for attacking, in a proactive way, the horrific issue of Human Sex Trafficking.**
- **Street Witnessing every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at Love and Unity Christian Fellowship. Meet at 1840 S. Wilmington Ave., Compton, Ca at 10:15 am.**
- **Food/Clothing ministry every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier. Sign up to volunteer your time to be a blessing to others. Call (562) 906-5000, ext.100 to speak to Michelle and let her know you want to volunteer.**
- **Become a Youth Mentor with Elevate Your Game and inquire how you can volunteer to mentor a high school youth at a local school. Contact EYG at:  
Phone: (310) 780-4263  
Email: [info@elevateyourgame.org](mailto:info@elevateyourgame.org)  
Website: [www.elevateyourgame.org](http://www.elevateyourgame.org)**



**Shacarra Crawford**

When I was two years I was placed in foster care because my baby brother was born with drugs in his system. At that time I didn't know what was really going on because I was a happy little girl. I lived with my grandparents along with my older siblings and many cousins in a two-bedroom house. My grandfather was my rock and everywhere he went I tagged along. He always made me feel loved and safe.

When I was six year old, my grandfather passed away and two more years after that, my grandmother passed. Losing my grandparents was the hardest part because my family did not want the responsibility to care for us as my grandparents did.

My biological parents moved to Vegas along with my two other siblings. All I had left was my little brother. From ages 8 through 17, I stayed with my uncle. My uncle was a mean man and I did not receive any love or affection. When I would reach for a hug, he would push me away and say, "get up off of me, I don't play that!" That hurt my feeling and very much upset me. Through it all, I thank God for allowing good-hearted strangers to be a blessing in my life even if it was just a season. Lord knew I could not get it from my family.

At seventeen, my uncle put me out and I went to a foster home; being separated from my brother. My foster mother turned out to be a great woman and she did show me love and discipline. My foster mom is still in my life.

When I turned eighteen, God blessed me with the most loving, supportive, spiritual parents and I love them with all my heart.

## Let Me Tell My Story – Emancipated Youth "All I Wanted Was My Family's Love"

I am twenty-three year old, a college student with my own apartment and with my seven-month-old puppy Bruce.

"Now that I am older, I am glad I was chosen to travel down this path..."

I spend a lot of time devoted to perfecting the foster care system for other youth. I strive to be a good person and plant seeds in other people's lives. Now that I am older, I am glad I was chosen to travel down this path because it has given me the opportunity to share my testimony with others.

