



Founder & Executive Director of Home4Me
Donna Lee Reed, Charlotte, NC

Motivational & Inspirational Speaker, Author, and A Voice for Teens in Foster Care Ms. Donna (affectionately known as “Grandma” to many of the youth Home4Me serves) was raised in foster care and is a sought-after Keynote Motivational & Inspirational Speaker & Preacher with a unique and compelling way of inspiring her listeners to take action on following their dreams, pursuing their passion, and making things happen. Ms. Donna designed the LEG up on LIFE and STEP UP programs as a guide to becoming the family of the youth Home4Me serves. She is the Visionary of the National Family Empowerment Conference and EXPO NFECEXPO and the Founder of Teach Boys And Girls Success (TBAGS).

The Powerful Board of Directors of Home4Me



Home4Me Chairperson
Lisa Santiago-McNeill, Charlotte, NC

Founder of Empowerment Publishing Multi-Media, Entrepreneurial Coach
Bernardy Lane, Charlotte, NC 28269

Lisa has experienced homelessness and abuse as a teenager and has been on her own since the age of 13 after running away from her abuser and is very passionate about empowering youth, foster care, and entrepreneurship.



Bettie Backus, VP in Global Technology, Richmond, VA

Bettie Backus brings decades of leadership, entrepreneurship, technology expertise, and community service to our mission of empowering youth aging out of foster care. A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with an MBA from Averett University, Bettie has held roles from Chief Information Officer at Virginia State University to Vice President in Global Technology at Bank of America.



Education Consultant - Advisor
Dr. Gerald Martin – Retired –Hartford, CT

Leadership Coach – Educational Consultant

Dr. Martin is a retired middle school principal who has returned to the field of education as a consultant. Dr. Martin has rebuilt school infrastructures and is a sought-after consultant. Dr. Martin also happens to be the biological uncle of the founder of Home4Me. Ms. Reed wrote a book about her search for her biological family which is how she met her “Uncle Gerry” and when she realized where her passion for youth education and development comes from.



Inspirational Leader - Consultant - Advocate for Change

Bishop Wade H. Ferguson III Charlotte, NC

Founder of the IYSH-Up (Man-Up) Project, Inner-City Pastor, Community Advocate, and a Champion for Change. Bishop Ferguson founded the IYSH-Up (Man-Up) Project, which brings men together to discuss racial issues and disparities and how to solve them. He has a passion for foster care and helping young boys/men aging out of the foster care system prepare/cope with various aspects of life as adults. This includes their mental, physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being. Bishop Ferguson provides home-cooked healthy meals weekly (free of charge). Bishop is hands-on in the community his audience is predominantly men.



Home4Me Vice Chair - Youth & Young Adult Advocate

Geniphar "Jennifer" Almonor, Atlanta, GA

Jennifer is a Senior Business Analyst at a Telecommunication company and the Co-Leader for the Professional Development of the Employee Resource Group. She is passionate about helping teenagers aging out of foster care find permanent housing, enroll in vocational or higher education programs, and learn essential life and money management skills. She is pursuing an MBA at the University of Arizona, working toward her fifth degree.



Home4Me Treasurer - Advocate for Youth and Young Adults

Andree Fryar Charlotte, NC

Advocate for Youth and Young Adults

Andree works for Wells Fargo and is very passionate about foster care and the success and well-being of youth and young adults in every aspect of their lives.



Home4Me Resource Connector

Rev. Dr. Sandra H. Gripper, Charlotte, NC

Dr. Gripper is a retired pastor and the Founder of Wheat Field Ministries. She currently serves as a volunteer Chaplain with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and is deeply committed to addressing homelessness and improving community health, with a particular focus on obesity and heart disease awareness.

A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for over 25 years, she also contributes to the Delta of Charlotte Foundation.



Mentor – Youth Advocate - Advisory Board
Dillion Dositheo

Dillion is a dedicated student leader and mentor pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies at Livingstone College, where he serves as a Resident Assistant, Bridge Program Mentor, and member of the Blue Thunder Band. A UNCF Scholar with a 3.4 GPA, he was elected Mister Maple for the 2023–2024 Royal Court. With experience in community service and youth mentorship through Home4Me and Hickory Hill Youth Programs, he brings a strong commitment to leadership, service, and empowering young people to succeed.



Advisory Board - "A Voice for Teens in Foster Care"
Tionna Lee Reed

Tionna is a Senior Culinary and Hospitality Major at Livingstone College, Tionna is passionate about children and youth having everything they need to be happy. Adoption and Foster Care is important to her and she strives to be a voice for youth in foster care. Tionna is an assistant to the Director of the Bridge Program at Livingstone College mentoring new students to college life. She aspires to be an Influencer and YouTuber to inspire her audience to follow their dreams and put their trust in God and let Him lead them to their passions and success.



Home4e Advisory Board –
Dr. Rodney Coles (Advisory Team) Greenville, NC

Dr. Rodney Coles is a distinguished leader in Eastern North Carolina, guiding the Interfaith Clergy organization he founded in efforts to address homelessness, food insecurity, foster care, and entrepreneurship.

In January 2007, he founded The Children of God in Christ Church in Greenville, NC. Through his ministry, Dr. Coles continues to impact countless lives, fostering hope and a brighter future for all those he serves.

**Are You Interested in Serving on the
Board of Directors with Home4Me?**

Send an email with your Bio to
Home4Me.Team@gmail.com

Subject: Interested in the H4M Board of Directors