



MPBP, INC.
MOTHERS OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS INC.

President Overview

Hello – Mothers of Professional Basketball Players, Inc.

First, I want to thank each of you for your support, big or small, in 2026 thus far, and for whatever role you played in producing and celebrating our 30th MPBP, Inc. Anniversary Celebration in Houston, Texas.

I am inviting you all to a bright and promising 2027! As we begin the new year together, I extend my warmest greetings and sincere appreciation to each of you in advance for what you are going to do.

Being the mother of a professional basketball player is a journey filled with pride, sacrifice, faith, love, and unforgettable experiences. Our organization brings together remarkable women who understand this unique journey and the special bond we share.

Let us embrace this new year with renewed energy, open hearts, and a steadfast commitment to supporting one another. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to build a legacy of love, encouragement, and excellence.

I solicit your support in recruiting new members from September through January 15th, 2027, into our MPBP, Inc., Family.

I look forward to all we will accomplish, celebrate, and experience together.

With warmest regards and appreciation.

Louise Jack, President



Newsletter Highlights

A Message the MPBP
Inc. President

Meet the Moms

Regional Director
Introductions

Special Thanks

**Keep on keeping
on, It's a new day!
- Anne Kidd**

**Be yourself;
everyone else is
already taken.
-Oscar Wilde
Gina Lillard**

VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

BY BARBARITA SPRINGER, VP



A New Chapter of Leadership, Unity & Purpose

My name is Barbarita Springer, and I've been a member of MPBP since January 1, 2022. My first encounter with MPBP was at Summer League in 2021, and I instantly knew this was the sisterhood I wanted to join. In 2025, I became the Atlantic Regional Director. I live in Charlotte, NC, married to my husband Gary Springer for 28 years, and we have five children.

It is with great honor and humility that I step into the role of Vice President of Mothers of Professional Basketball Players, Inc. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve an organization rooted in sisterhood, faith, family, and support.

My vision is to move our organization forward through greater unity, stronger communication, meaningful engagement, and purposeful growth. I believe every mother has a voice, a gift, and a valuable contribution to make. I want every member to feel seen, heard, valued, connected, and empowered.

I am committed to serving with integrity, listening with an open heart, and leading with purpose.

Fun Fact About Me: I used to sing with the one and only renowned gospel artist John P. Kee

Our greatest strength is our sisterhood, and we'll build our brightest future together.

Greetings everyone!

I am absolutely honored to serve as your National Chaplain. I look forward to walking alongside each of you, sharing moments of reflection, and fostering a deeper connection of peace and joy in our shared journeys.

My son is Jabari Walker #33/ Philadelphia 76ers.

To my beautiful sisters,

When the world looks at our children, they see the flashing lights, the roaring crowds, the incredible athleticism, and the unmatched triumphs on the court. But as mothers, we see the years of silent sacrifice, the early mornings, the long car rides, and the quiet prayers whispered over them while they slept. Long before they stepped onto a professional stage, they were anchored by our love.

As your National Chaplain, I want to remind you that our calling does not stop now that our sons and daughters have achieved their dreams. In many ways, our spiritual assignment has only grown. The world they navigate is fast-paced and filled with immense pressure, high stakes, and constant public view. In the middle of all that noise, we are their steady ground. We are the prayer warriors who stand in the gap, keeping them rooted in humility, faith, integrity, and character.

This organization is so much more than a network; it is a sacred sisterhood. We share a unique bond that very few truly understand. Together, we have the collective power to lift each other up during demanding seasons, to celebrate every milestone with pure joy, and to extend our hands in charity to the communities around us. Let us continue to be the soft place for our children to land, the fierce advocates for their peace of mind, and a light of grace to one another.

Never underestimate the power of a mother's prayer or the strength of our collective sisterhood. We are building a legacy that stretches far beyond the court.

With all my love, blessings, and prayers,

Jo Dudley

National Chaplain, MPBP Inc.

Father God,

**I come before You today asking for
Your guidance in my prayer for the
Mothers of Professional Basketball
Players, Inc.**



**Thank You, Father God, for blessing
these mothers with such selflessness
and loving hearts. They have worked tirelessly to prepare
their sons and daughters for the great task of being
professional athletes, always putting themselves last.**

**Father, please give them discernment and let them feel
Your love in every challenge that they may face.**

**Grant them wisdom and strength so they can hear Your
guidance in every decision that they make. May their
hearts experience Your grace and love every day, and
may they find new hope and strength in You.**

**Thank You, Father, for blessing them with such
selflessness. Please give them peace and joy, and let
them feel Your love in every challenge that they may face.
Father, I pray this in Your Son, Jesus, Holy Name.**

Amen

**You are never too old to
set another goal or to
dream a New Dream.**

-C.S. Lewis

Elizabeth Burgess

**Our kids may play
the game, but the
mothers take the
journey together.**

-Simone

REGIONAL DIRECTOR INTRODUCTIONS

CAROLYN BREWER: SOUTH REGION



Hello everyone! My name is Carolyn Brewer, and I am honored to be a part of the MPBP, Inc. family. I am a proud mother and someone who believes strongly in the importance of community, leadership, friendship, and creating opportunities for others. One of my greatest blessings is my son, Ronald Brewer Jr. Ronald is a wonderful young man who brings his own personality, strengths, and perspective to everything he does. As his mother, I am extremely proud of the person he has become and the man he continues to grow into. Watching him navigate life and develop his own path has been one of my greatest joys.

As I look toward the future of MPBP, Inc., I would love to see our organization continue to grow, strengthen its membership, and expand its impact within the community. I want MPBP, Inc. to remain a place where women can build meaningful relationships, support one another, develop as leaders, and create a lasting legacy for future generations. I would also love to see us continue embracing new ideas, welcoming younger generations, increasing our community involvement, and creating memorable experiences that keep our organization strong for years to come.

Fun fact about me: I love spending time with family and making memories, but I also believe you should never be too old to have a little fun! I enjoy good music, great conversations, and being around people who can make me laugh. Life is too short not to enjoy the journey along the way!

CHERRY POWELL-CENTRAL REGION



I am Cherry Denise Ezell-Powell, the current MPBP, Inc. Region Director for the Central Region.

I am a retired teacher and counselor with 40 years of experience and a master's degree in Health Science. However, they say that you know a person's worth by the fruit that they bear. I was married to my husband for 43 years. He is now deceased. We have two beautiful children, who are adults now. My daughter is my rock. She is very book-smart and wise in her life choices for a young woman. She is a chemist. She speaks three different languages.

She has many talents, like playing basketball and Zumba, which she became a Zumba instructor just for me. After, I had two knee replacements and could no longer get on the floor for exercises and with Zumba being all vertical it made it easier for me. Next is my son, who is a nurturer for his mom. He never wants me to wait for anything. He is actually the most like me when it comes to caring for loved ones. He has many talents, of course, one being basketball and all that goes with basketball, i.e., coaching. That's where his nurturing comes in. I keep them lifted up in prayer, which gives me the satisfaction in knowing that we will all be ok.

FENISE YANCY-WESTERN REGION



My name is Fenise Yancy, and I'm honored to serve as the Western Region Director for Mothers of Professional Basketball Players (MPBP), Inc. This is my second term. I'm the proud mother of two: my son, NBA player Dalen Terry, and my beautifully spirited 10-year-old daughter, Olivia. Being a mother at two very different stages of life continues to shape how I lead, serve, and support families.

My vision for MPBP is to keep growing into a strong, visible, innovative, and valuable network for our mothers and families. I strongly believe in "passing the torch": honoring the women who built MPBP while creating space for new leaders, fresh perspectives, and the next generation of mothers. Honoring our legacy doesn't mean we can't evolve. I want us to support new ideas, have honest conversations about what needs to change, and be open to doing things differently when it helps move our organization forward.

For the Western Region, I want to strengthen member engagement, expand partnerships, create meaningful programming, and build opportunities that benefit both our members and the communities we serve. My hope is for MPBP to be a place where legacy and innovation coexist, every mother feels heard and valued, and we keep growing together.

Fun fact about me: I'm affectionately known as "The Spicy Mom." I'm nearly six feet tall, love fashion and interior design, and believe you can lead with purpose, serve your community, support your family, and still bring a little spice while doing it!

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

STACY ADAMS-WRIGHT



Hello, MPBP, Inc. members. I am Stacy AdamsWright, and I'm pleased to accept the new position as Recruitment Director. I did not say "your" or "our" Recruitment Director because we are ALL recruitment directors.

I would like to thank our previous Recruitment Director, Daynia LaForce for a job well done.

In this role, I will lead efforts to grow our membership, welcome new mothers, and strengthen the network of support. This unique organization supports mothers that are navigating the journey of their sons and daughters as professional athletes.

We need each other!!

**The quieter you
become, the more
you can hear.**

-Ram Dan

Jo Dudley

**It doesn't cost
anything to be kind.**

-Beverly Jones

A stylized, monochromatic orange silhouette of a woman holding a baby. The woman's head is tilted slightly to the left, and her hair is voluminous. She is cradling a baby in her arms, with the baby's head visible near the center of the image. The entire graphic is set against a solid orange background.

Meet the Moms

MY JOURNEY AS A MOTHER OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS

My name is Brenda Gaines, and I have been a proud member of Mothers of Professional Basketball (MPBP) since 2008. Being part of this organization has given me wonderful memories, friendships, and experiences I will always treasure.

I am the proud mother of two sons, Charles Gaines and Christopher Gaines. Both of my boys played basketball overseas, and watching their journeys has been one of the greatest joys of my life. Christopher played overseas for six years before going into coaching. Charles began his overseas basketball career in 2004 and continued playing internationally through 2019.

I was introduced to MPBP when Cathy Blocker asked me to come and see if I would like being part of the organization. I came, I got involved, and it became a very special part of my life. Being surrounded by other mothers who understood what it was like to support their children through professional basketball created a bond that I truly value.

One of my favorite memories was when the Mothers of Professional Basketball played basketball against the football mothers. We had such a great time! It was all about having fun, laughing, competing, and enjoying each other's company. Those are the moments that make being part of MPBP so special.

One fun fact about my son Charles is that while he was overseas, he read the entire Bible three times. That has always stood out to me and made me proud. His journey overseas wasn't just about basketball; it was also about growing as a person and staying grounded in his faith.

Today, I am also blessed to be the grandmother of five wonderful grandchildren. Family means everything to me, and I am grateful for every generation of my family that I get to love and support.

As for me, I have a special love for collecting diamond hearts and jewelry. I love beautiful things, but more than anything, I treasure the people and memories that make my life beautiful.

Looking back, my journey as a basketball mother has been filled with pride, faith, friendship, laughter, and unforgettable experiences. I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of Mothers of Professional Basketball and for the many memories I have made along the way.



MARY “ LIZ ” BURGESS

My name is Mary “ Liz ” Burgess.

I’m the mother of Keljin Blevins, who plays internationally. he played in the G League and NBA for a few seasons. A fond memory of Keljin for me is how he would fall asleep to ESPN on his television every night. He’s been serious about this sport, putting in the time and dedication to become a professional basketball player. I cousin Gina Johnson introduced me to MPBP, Inc. My advice to a new Mom would be to keep your son or daughter grounded in normal, loving family moments. A fun fact about me, I’m a grandmother and I love every second of it.



JANICE WOFFORD

I am Janice Wofford. Mother of three, grandmother of ten, great-grandmother of four. I live in Grayson, Georgia. To most people, I am known as Mama J, because I have a mountain of play daughters and sons.

My son is Lou Williams, retired after 17 years in the NBA.

A fond memory of my son is how he always loves on his mother, no matter who is around. Especially in middle school and high school. He would kiss me on the forehead, in front of his friends, without any hesitation or embarrassment.

I was introduced to MPBP, Inc. by Marilyn Jennings, who served as the secretary for many years. The year I came into the organization, the annual conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia. I came in under a great group of mothers from this region.

The advice I would give new moms is to remain a constant in your son's life. You have to step back a little and allow them to realize who they are, where they are, and absorb all the things that will come at them.

Life will be different as they know it. So be Mom and not momanager. They (sons) pull away, but will come back. Just remain strong in their life, but let them fly.

Fun fact: I am a Bling Queen. I bling all my clothes and decorations, and I have expanded my hobby into a small business. Because I believe, "You should leave a little sparkle everywhere you go."



TANYA POWELL-MAY

One of my favorite scriptures is Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

This scripture has become even more personal this year, as Xavier decided to leave the NBA and continue his career in Turkey—taking three of my precious grandbabies with him! Talk about needing God’s strength!

Motherhood keeps teaching me that sometimes we have to trust God with our children even when His plan takes them farther than we’d like.

Whatever season you and your children are navigating, keep praying, keep trusting, and remember—God will give us the strength for the journey.

CHARICE DAVIS

My name is Mildred Charice Davis (Charice is my preference), and I was born and raised on Chicago's West Side—West Side!

I proudly served 21½ years in the United States Army, retiring as a Master Sergeant (Promotable). My military career was built on leadership, discipline, and a deep commitment to caring for people—values that continue to guide my life and work today.

Education has always been extremely important in my life. I hold two master's degrees—one in Human Resources and the other in Sports Management. I believe education creates opportunity, growth, and the ability to make meaningful change. I often challenge my children and those around me not to do as I have done, but to strive to do even better.

I am the proud parent of two incredible children, my son Brandon McCoy, 28, and my daughter Zoe Brooks, 14, who inspire me every day to lead with purpose and integrity.

My son, Brandon McCoy, whom I affectionately call “The Boy,” is known for his size, athleticism, and impact on the court as a 7-foot center. He’s a highly decorated athlete. Brandon first gained national recognition in high school at Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego, where he was a consensus five-star recruit and a McDonald’s All-American in 2017.

He went on to play college basketball for the UNLV Runnin’ Rebels (2017–2018), where he had an outstanding freshman season averaging 16.9 points and 10.3 rebounds per game, earning Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year honors and establishing himself as one of the top young centers in the country.

After college, Brandon began his professional basketball career and has competed in both the United States and internationally. Over the course of his career, he has played with several professional teams including the Wisconsin Herd (NBA G League), Sioux Falls Skyforce (NBA G League), Filou Oostende in Belgium, Grises de Humacao in Puerto Rico, Zlatibor in Serbia, Tijuana Zonkeys and Soles de Mexicali in Mexico, the Brampton Honey Badgers in Canada, the Borneo Hornbills in Indonesia, and Hefei Storm in China’s National Basketball League.

Brandon has also represented the United States internationally, playing on the USA Basketball U19 team that won the bronze medal at the FIBA U19 World Cup.

Throughout his career, Brandon has demonstrated resilience, dedication, and a commitment to excellence. Known for his strong presence in the paint, rebounding ability, and defensive impact, he continues to pursue his passion for the game while representing his family and community with pride.

Today, I serve as the Human Resources Officer for a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving Veterans, which allows me to continue what has truly been a lifelong mission— serving others and strengthening the community.

I first learned about MPBP through Leah Wilcox. My mentor is one of her closest friends, which led to me being introduced to Leah personally. From the moment I met her, she was a strong advocate for MPBP and the work the organization does.

From the very beginning, I have always wanted to be a part of MPBP. However, at different points in my life, I did not always have the time or financial resources to contribute the way I truly wanted to. After retiring from the Army and completing school, I finally found myself in a position where I had more time and capacity to give back. When the opportunity came to join MPBP, I did not hesitate.

Being part of MPBP has truly been a joy, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to an organization committed to making a meaningful impact in the community.

One of my guiding principles is: “To whom much is given, much is expected.” I choose to live by that mantra every day. Legacy and impact are values I try to teach, encourage, and demonstrate to my children. I strive to make decisions that ensure I leave a positive legacy—not just for them, but for the generations that will come after us.

Service, leadership, and community have shaped my life, and I remain committed to continuing that work wherever I am called.

One fun fact I often share about myself is that I come from a very tall family. I’m not sure how much of a fun fact that is in an organization full of amazingly tall women like this, because I know many of us share that same trait. Another fun fact about me is that when I was younger, I actually did a little bit of modeling.

What surprises people most, though, is that despite being tall, having tall kids, and being around sports a lot, I've never really been into sports myself. People often assume I must have played, but the truth is—I didn't, and I never really loved sports growing up.

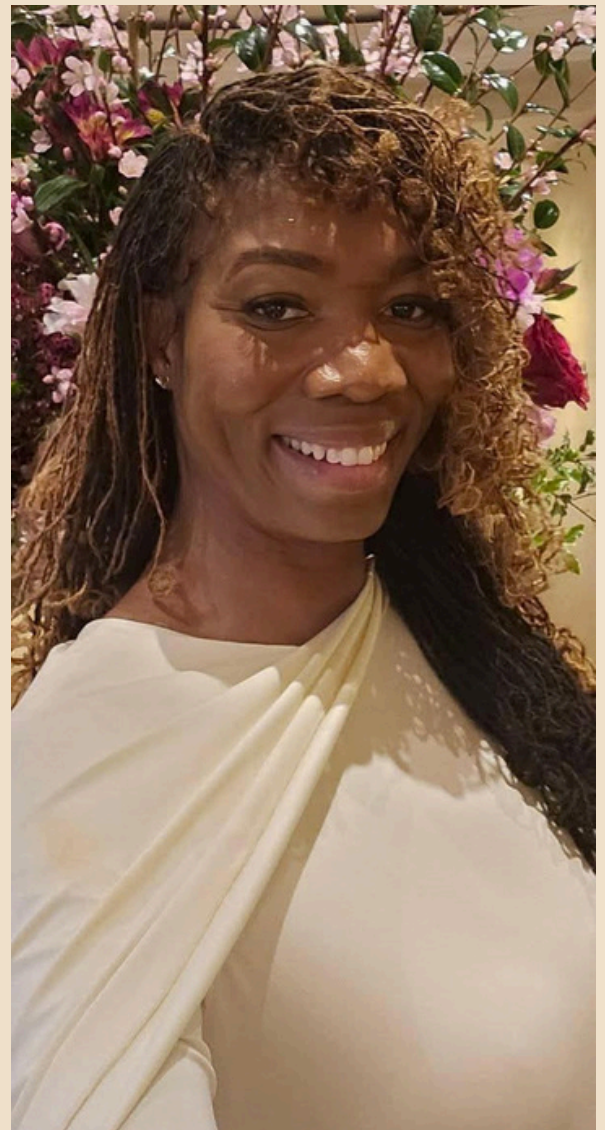
The only reason I watch sports now is that my children are involved in them. Of course, you know my son plays basketball, and now my daughter plays volleyball. And like most moms, we end up adopting our kids' hobbies. So now, you'll find me on the sidelines yelling, cheering, and fully invested in the game. These days I proudly wear the titles of basketball mom and volleyball mom.

One of my fondest memories of my son was when he served on the USA Basketball team at about 18 or 19 years old. They went on to win a bronze medal at the FIBA World Cup, held in Egypt. That moment was especially meaningful to me because I also served in Egypt during my military career.

It felt like everything had come full circle. I had once walked those same streets and traveled to that same place as a soldier serving my country, and now I was watching my son walk that same ground—this time representing the United States through basketball and living his dream.

It was almost like *déjà vu*, but in a completely different way. I was there as a soldier giving my all, and he was there as an athlete doing the same—giving his heart, his effort, and his passion while wearing “USA” across his chest.

Watching him on television as the national anthem played was one of the most emotional moments for me as a mother. I remember sitting there in tears, just overwhelmed with pride. I joke that I cry all the time, but that moment meant something deeper to me. I remember thinking to myself, “Look at The Boy... look at My Sonshine.”





OUR HOUSE VOLUNTEER EVENT



**People who are truly
strong lift others up. People
who are truly powerful,
bring others together.”**

-Michelle Obama

Stacy AdamsWright

**Spoken words leave
impressions; written
words leave tracks.**

-Judy Bowers



DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU



The Disappearing Act

Life quietly erases personal time. It doesn't happen all at once — it's death by a thousand small trade-offs. The workout you skip because someone needed a ride. The walk that gets postponed because dinner has to happen. Over months and years, "later" becomes the default answer to "when will I take care of myself?"

The truth is, exercise isn't a luxury or a vanity project. It's maintenance for the person everyone else depends on. You can't pour from an empty cup, and you can't chase toddlers, carry groceries, or survive a work week on fumes. Movement is fuel — for your energy, your mood, your sleep, and your long-term health.

Why Movement Matters More Than You Think

Regular exercise isn't just about how you look — it's about how you function, day to day, for decades:

- More energy, less exhaustion. Moderate activity actually combats fatigue better than sitting still does.
- A steadier mood. Exercise is one of the most reliable tools for managing stress and anxiety — both of which motherhood tends to serve up in abundance.
- Better sleep. Even short bouts of activity can improve sleep quality, which matters enormously when your nights are already interrupted.
- A body that keeps up with you. Strength and mobility now mean fewer limitations later — when you're still trying to keep up with grandkids.

Small Starts Count

This isn't a call to train for a marathon. It's permission to reclaim small windows of time:

- A 15-minute walk while the kids are at practice
- A quick bodyweight routine before anyone else wakes up
- Stretching while dinner simmers
- Turning a Saturday morning into a standing appointment with yourself

Consistency beats intensity. Ten minutes done regularly will always outperform an hour that never happens.



Calendar of Cancer Awareness Months

January	February	March	April
Cervical Cancer Awareness 	National Cancer Prevention Month Gallbladder and Bile Duct Cancer Awareness 	Colorectal Cancer Awareness Kidney Cancer Awareness 	Testicular Cancer Awareness Esophageal Cancer Awareness Head and Neck Cancer Awareness 
May	June	July	August
Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Brain Cancer Awareness 	National Cancer Survivor Month 	Sarcoma Awareness Bladder Cancer Awareness 	
September	October	November	December
Childhood Cancer Gynecological Cancer Leukemia/Lymphoma Multiple Myeloma Ovarian Cancer Prostate Cancer Thyroid Cancer Awareness 	Breast Cancer Awareness Liver Cancer Awareness 	Pancreatic Cancer Lung Cancer Stomach Cancer Carcinoid Cancer Awareness Caregivers Month 	CHOOSE HOPE® SPRING THE CANCER DIALOGUE SUPPORTING CANCER RESEARCH 1-888-348-HOPE www.choosehope.com

OCTOBER IS
BREAST
CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH



**Every woman's
success should be an
inspiration to another.
-Serena Williams**
Wendy Sparks Wilbur

**Spoken words leave
impressions, written
words leave tracks.
-Judy Bowers**

WORD SCRAMBLE

1. DOORSIHSTE

2. LESSBED

3. FONCEREEC

4. HULDSCEE

5. RUNFASIER

6. KETASBLLAB

7. GEALGUE

8. BAN

9. NABW

10. SEATM

11. ROSTE

12. INW

13. OSTL

14. VETRAL

15. NATONTIOAEIR

16. ROTRES

17. HOCAC

18. MAGES

19. NAFS

20. UPPOSRT

11. SCORE	1. SISTERHOOD
12. WIN	2. BLESSED
13. LOST	3. CONFERENCE
14. TRAVEL	4. SCHEDULE
15. INTERNATIONAL	5. FUNDRAISER
16. ROSTER	6. BASKETBALL
17. COACH	7. G LEAGUE
18. GAMES	8. NBA
19. FANS	9. WNBA
20. SUPPORT	10. TEAMS

A SPECIAL THANKS

YOUR MPBP INC. NEWSLETTER TEAM



STACY ADAMS-WRIGHT

HISTORIAN

As the historian for the Mothers of Professional Basketball Players, I take great pride in bringing our newsletter to you. It is our way of preserving the stories, milestones, and memories that make our community special, from the first pickup games to the biggest nights on the court. Each issue is a collaboration, and I make sure our history is captured accurately and shared with the care these stories deserve. Thank you for being part of this journey.



TATYERRA MIKELL

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hi, I am Tatyerra Mikell, a Chicago native that fell in love with LA living. I am a creative storyteller focused on creating positive representations of Black girls and women. With ten years of experience as a communications and marketing professional, working in spaces dedicated to creating a better world for children, I realized my passion for children's media. That led to a career at Sesame Workshop, the creators of *Sesame Street*, and writing my first children's book, *The Birthday Princess*. I am focused on utilizing my skills as a storyteller and marketer to amplify Black girls' experiences in the kidlit world and other media platforms.