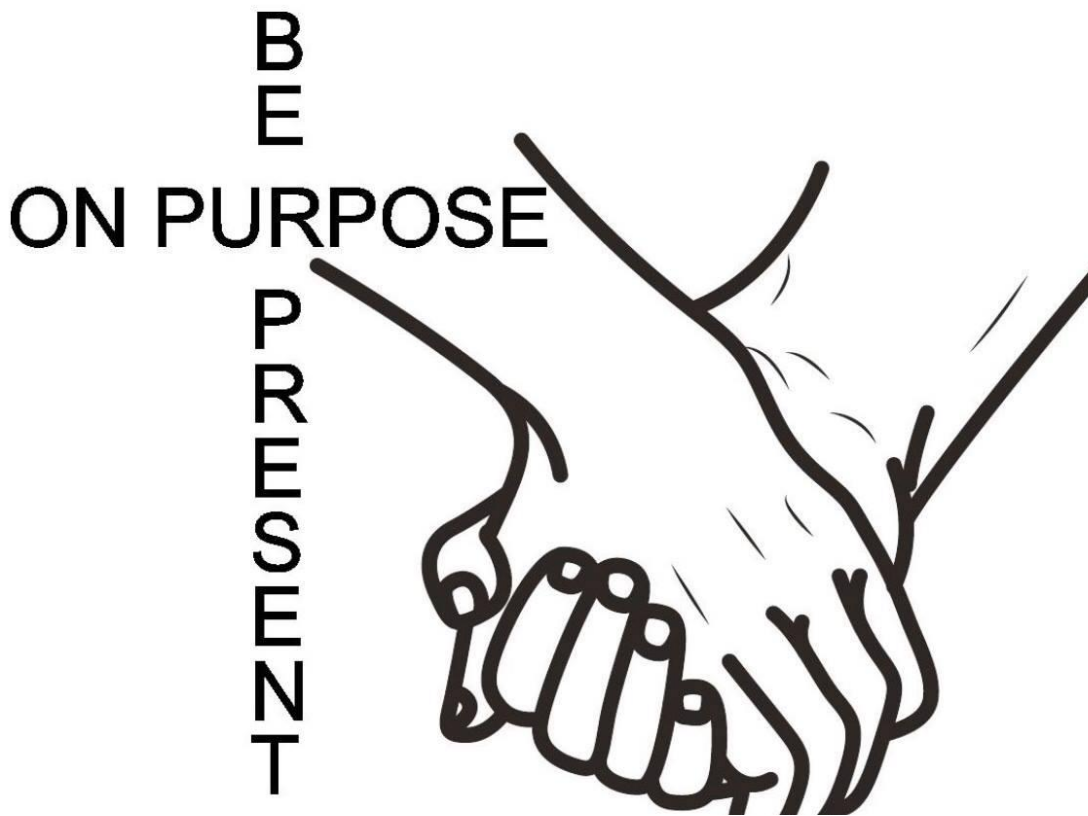


Be Present on Purpose: A Heartfelt Mission to Give Back to the Community

By Veronica Austin

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In the heart of Kansas City, a passionate initiative is making waves, touching lives, and embodying the spirit of selflessness.



[Be Present on Purpose](#), a nonprofit organization founded by Shenna Ward is a beacon of hope for the less fortunate in memory of her late nephew, Terrell Sutherlin.

Terrell, a bright young man born and raised in Kansas City, tragically lost his life to a gunshot on April 4, 2018, leaving behind a two-year-old son. Despite the sudden end to his promising future, Terrell's legacy of giving back to the community lived on. He had a generous heart, a warm smile, and an unwavering passion for helping others, whether he had plenty or nothing at all. Terrell believed in the power of giving, regularly providing canned goods and gently used clothes to those in need.

In the wake of Terrell's passing, Shenna Ward found solace in honoring his memory through acts of kindness. Inspired by Terrell's dedication to giving, Shenna established Be Present on Purpose. The organization conducts major drives twice a year, collecting canned goods, gently used clothes, and hygiene products to distribute among the less fortunate.



Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with Shenna and learn more about her remarkable journey and the organization's incredible work in the community.

During our conversation, Shenna shared the origins of Be Present on Purpose. "This is our fourth year doing this," she explained. "It all began about five years ago when I lost my nephew, Terrell. His passion for feeding the homeless and giving back resonated with me. So, I decided to continue his legacy by starting this initiative. What started as a personal mission to feed the homeless turned into something much bigger."

Shenna's determination and the community's support transformed her mission into a thriving nonprofit organization. "It just blew up," she said, describing the overwhelming response from the community. People not only donated money but also contributed essential items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and even sleeping bags.



Be Present on Purpose is not merely about providing material help; it's about creating a lasting impact and building a stronger community. Shenna shared her long-term goals for the organization, stating, "Our aim is to secure nonprofit status, which we are in the process of

obtaining by the end of this year. We want to establish a dedicated space, a hub for giving back. In addition to feeding the homeless, we plan to offer 'Distore Classes,' teaching financial literacy, budgeting, and the importance of serving others. We also intend to extend our reach to nursing homes, fostering a sense of community and support."

When I asked Shenna about the frequency of their activities, she explained, "We organize major events, providing food, clothing, and toiletries, twice a year. Additionally, our educational classes are held quarterly, starting this year. It's essential for us to maintain a consistent presence in the lives of those we aim to help."

To support Be [Present on Purpose](#), community members can contribute various items, including canned goods, towels, deodorant, non-perishable food items, heat warmers, soap, mouthwash, hygiene products, and socks. Donations can be made through their website, [PresentOnPurpose.com](#), or via their Facebook page. Shenna emphasized, "We leave no room for excuses. If someone wants to donate clothes, all they need to do is send us a message, and we'll make it happen."



As our conversation came to an end, Shenna expressed her gratitude for the community's support and urged everyone to be part of this meaningful cause. "Thank you for joining me and taking the time out to learn about Be Present on Purpose," she said, her eyes reflecting the passion and dedication that fuel this incredible initiative.

Be Present on Purpose stands as a testament to the power of community, compassion, and the enduring impact of one individual's legacy. In the heart of Kansas City, Shenna Ward and her team continue to make a difference, one act of kindness at a time!