

Sharon Y. Williams - President of Bulldogs Nation Foundation, Inc. (“BNFI”)

As a person who has always given back to the community, Sharon joined BNFI because of its mission to give back financially to graduates who may need assistance at her high school alma mater Westinghouse Academy f/k/a George Westinghouse High School, which is located in her home town of Pittsburgh, PA. Sharon has had a passion for giving back to the community all her life. She’s known personally and professionally as an innovator who is always out to improve the lives of youths, and focusing on promoting the importance of education. Sharon began her innovative ways as early as the age of 13, by becoming the youngest drill team captain of a nation-wide award winning community drill team (The Homewood-Brushton Soul Cadets). Continuing her innovative path, at age 17, Sharon became the youngest ever counselor for former Pittsburgh based mentoring program Whales Tales, during her senior year of high school, while maintaining an impressive scholastic academic GPA.

Since mentoring youths and expressing the importance of education is her passion, she decided to continue mentoring and promoting education when she moved to Atlanta, GA. She immediately volunteered to mentor at YES! Atlanta, which was a teen mentoring program for at risk youths. In addition to mentoring for other organizations, Sharon decided to develop her own mentoring organization. In 2007, Sharon became the Founder and CEO of Atlanta based mentoring program CROWNTEENS, LLC, which stands for **C**reating **R**eliable **O**pportunities **W**herever **N**ecessary for **T**eens. Months after incorporating her mentoring organization, Sharon became a Girl Scouts Troop Leader for several years in Riverdale, GA. She wanted to teach her daughter and other young girls the importance of being part of a team. She also wanted to educate youths in her community about worldly things that the Girl Scouts organization offered.

Active in the legal community through education and employment, Sharon accepted a non-pay position on the Legal Advisory Committee of Clayton State University. Although the committee was dominated by judges, Sharon was able to bring the voice of students to the committee meetings by communicating with active and past students on a regular basis. She also revitalized and became the President of a major legal program that had died for years on the Clayton State University campus. Sharon’s awareness of assisting in furthering education around the world became even more apparent to her when she was approached by one of the original Lost Boys of Sudan, Digol Deng. Digol wanted to make a difference with the education of refugees from Sudan that moved to Georgia. Sharon helped guide and encourage him, with the help of administration and attorneys at the law firm in which she works, to build a foundation where he can bring awareness to the many issues happening in the country of Sudan, especially lack of education. She and others got together with Founder and Executive Director Deng to form what is now known as South Sudanese Children’s Foundation, where she was one of the first original members of the Board of Directors. One of her educational roles was to organize, donate, collect and participate in back to school events yearly to help the kids of Sudan to further their education in the State of Georgia. Actors George Clooney and Don Cheadle became well known activist for this country’s many causes.

Although working in the legal field for a majority of her career is her business passion, her heart-felt love and passion will always be helping youths and assisting with their ability to further their education. Being an academic scholar all of her life, she has obtained three college degrees in the areas of Law, Science and Administrative Management, and is a published author of an inspirational novel. Her beloved quote is:

“THE AIM OF EDUCATION IS THE KNOWLEDGE, NOT OF FACTS, BUT OF VALUE”

By William Ralph Inge