

January/February 2026

SISTERSRISE!

Redefining Success for Women CEOs

Magazine

Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



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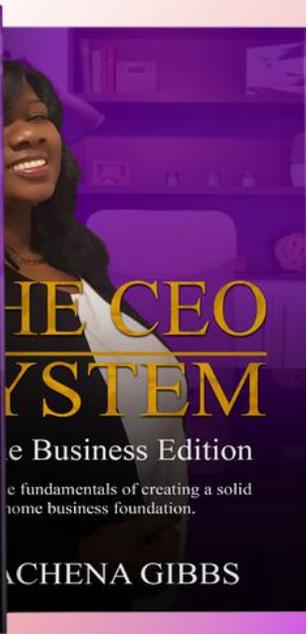
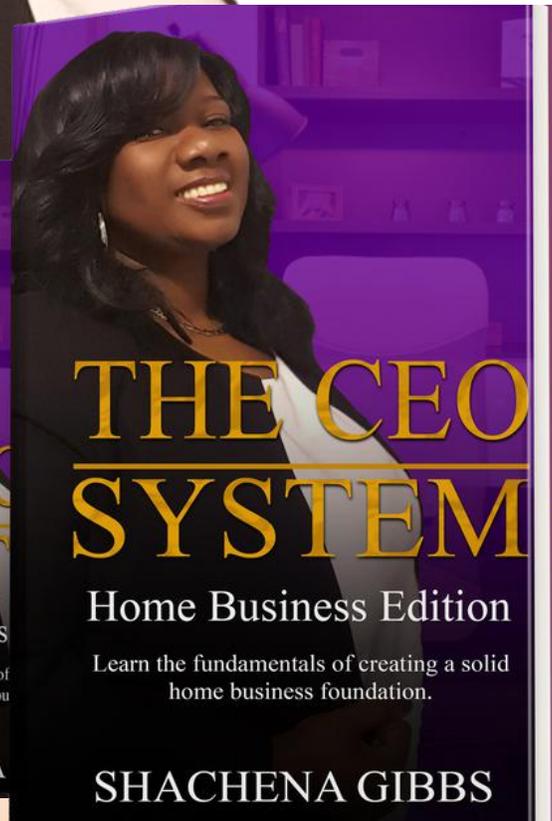
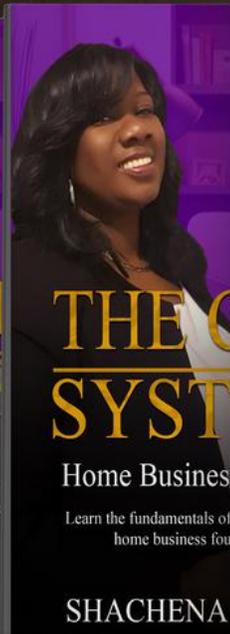
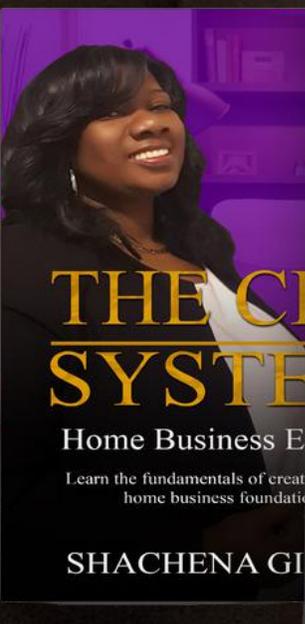
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SHACHENA GIBBS, AUTHOR



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Editor Notes

WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST ISSUE
OF SISTERSRISE! MAGAZINE.

Dear Sisters,

Welcome to this issue of Sisters Rising Magazine—a space created to honor your voice, your journey, and your power. This magazine exists because we believe that when women rise, especially when we rise together, communities change, families heal, and generations are transformed.

In a world that often asks us to shrink, to wait our turn, or to carry everything quietly, Sisters Rising is a reminder that your story matters. Your growth matters. Your dreams matter. Whether you are building a business, leading in your community, raising a family, returning to yourself, or stepping into a new season of purpose, this space was created with you in mind.

Each issue highlights women who are doing the work—boldly, imperfectly, and with heart. You'll find stories of resilience, faith, leadership, wellness, creativity, and financial empowerment, alongside practical tools and reflections meant to encourage you right where you are. Our goal is not perfection, but progress. Not comparison, but connection.

Sisters Rising is more than a magazine. It is a movement rooted in collaboration, growth, and collective elevation. We believe in sharing resources, amplifying voices, and creating access so that no sister has to rise alone. Together, we are building something sustainable, meaningful, and powerful.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your journey. Thank you for reading, supporting, sharing, and believing in the vision. May these pages remind you of your strength, your worth, and the unlimited possibilities ahead.



With gratitude and sisterhood,

Dr. Kym Oglesby

Co-Founder and Editorial Director

SistersRise! Magazine

Black Authors Association, CEO

Dr. Kym Oglesby

Editor Notes

THIS IS THE BIRTH OF SOMETHING
AMAZING, AND WE ARE SHARING IT
WITH YOU!

This publication was born from a question I had been sitting with for a long time. How do we create more space for women entrepreneurs to be seen, heard, and taken seriously on a larger scale? I knew RSRWBA needed a media platform, but I was not sure if that platform should take the form of a podcast, a magazine, or something else entirely.

During a brainstorming conversation with Dr. Kym Oglesby, clarity came. Together, we realized that a magazine would allow us to do what we care about most. Highlight women from around the world, especially the members of Real Sisters Rising Women Business Association, while also sharing stories that inform, challenge, and expand how entrepreneurs think about growth, opportunity, and leadership.

This magazine is intentional. It is not just about features and headlines. It is about visibility. It is about storytelling that opens doors to new ideas, resources, tools, and possibilities. It is about creating a platform where women-owned businesses, leaders, and visionaries can be showcased with respect and purpose.

As a partnership, Dr. Kym and I are proud to bring this vision to life. We believe media matters, representation matters, and access matters. Through SistersRise! Magazine, we are committed to giving our communities more opportunities to be seen, celebrated, and supported.

Thank you for being here at the beginning. This is only the start.

Keep Rising!

ShaChena Gibbs

Co-Founder and Editorial Director

SistersRise! Magazine

Real Sisters Rising Women Business Association

ShaChena Gibbs



CONTRIBUTORS



January Nuzzo

January Nuzzo is a licensed financial professional and Medicare agent, known as the “Financial Doctor.” She helps individuals and families gain financial clarity through personalized guidance in budgeting, insurance, investments, and Medicare planning.



Cee Cee H. Caldwell

Lady Cee Cee H. Caldwell is a holistic health and self-care advocate, author, speaker, and coach empowering women to heal emotionally, prioritize self-care, and live authentically. With 17 self-published books, she blends faith-based wisdom with practical wellness tools to help women find balance in mind, body, and spirit.



Tina Brinkley Potts

Tina Brinkley Potts is a globally recognized business architect and producer who helps leaders build scalable systems, own their intellectual property, and grow through automation and aligned visibility. As the founder of Trailblazers Academy and Happy Healthy Whole & Rich, she empowers women to lead boldly, amplify their voice, and build lasting wealth.



Shanikqa Canty

Shanikqa Canty is a Career Services Advisor and founder of CantyCreates, where she helps individuals grow in their careers and purpose. With a background in business management and talent development, she empowers others to pursue opportunity, stability, and success through intentional action.

BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE LEADERS ADVISORY BOARD

DR. KYM OGLESBY, CHAIR



Seasoned executive, media leader, and nonprofit advocate with decades of experience driving growth, visibility, and impact across business, hospitality, and publishing.

TWANNA EVANS, VICE CHAIR



Business leader and advocate committed to strengthening young mothers through mentorship, strategy, and community engagement.

CYNTHIA RANDOLPH, EVENT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Entrepreneur and hospitality professional specializing in experiential events, travel, and curated experiences that elevate connection and community.

MARCIE DELAPAZ, BOARD MEMBER



Community builder, creative entrepreneur, and media host dedicated to amplifying small businesses, artists, and diverse voices through events and storytelling.

C.F. JACKSON, BOARD MEMBER



Media innovator and founder of iDefine TV, empowering entrepreneurs to own their visibility and monetize their stories through television and digital media.



Ten Self-Leadership Principles for Women Entrepreneurs

LEAD YOURSELF WITH PRECISION, INTEGRITY, AND POWER—SO OTHERS TRUST YOU TO LEAD THEM.

/ WRITTEN BY SHACHENA GIBBS

1. LEAD FROM WITHIN BEFORE LEADING OUT LOUD
PRIVATE ALIGNMENT BUILDS PUBLIC INFLUENCE. YOUR DAILY HABITS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR LEADERSHIP.

2. HONOR YOUR WORD—EVEN WHEN NO ONE'S WATCHING
SELF-LEADERS KEEP PROMISES TO THEMSELVES. IT BUILDS SELF-TRUST—AND THAT BECOMES YOUR CONFIDENCE CURRENCY.

3. START THE DAY LIKE A LEADER
BEGIN WITH INTENTION. EVEN 10 MINUTES OF SILENCE, PLANNING, OR GRATITUDE CAN ANCHOR YOUR POWER.

4. LEADERS ARE READERS AND ALWAYS STUDENTS
JIM ROHN SAID IT BEST: “MISS A MEAL, BUT NOT YOUR READING.” YOUR NEXT LEVEL LIVES IN YOUR NEXT LESSON.

5. DECIDE. THEN ACT. THEN REFINE.
PERFECTION IS A DELAY TACTIC. HIGH-PERFORMANCE LEADERS MAKE A DECISION, TAKE ACTION, AND PIVOT SMART.

6. PROTECT YOUR ENERGY LIKE IT'S YOUR EQUITY
YOUR ENERGY IS YOUR ENGINE. SAY NO WITHOUT GUILT AND YES WITH INTENTION.

7. DISCIPLINE IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF SELF-RESPECT
AS LEILA SAYS: “YOU DON'T GET WHAT YOU WANT, YOU GET WHAT YOU REPEAT.” DISCIPLINE COMPOUNDS YOUR RESULTS.

8. LEAD YOUR MINDSET OR IT WILL LEAD YOU
YOU CAN'T OUT-HUSTLE A POOR MINDSET. REFRAME FAST. SPEAK POWER. MASTER YOUR INNER NARRATIVE.

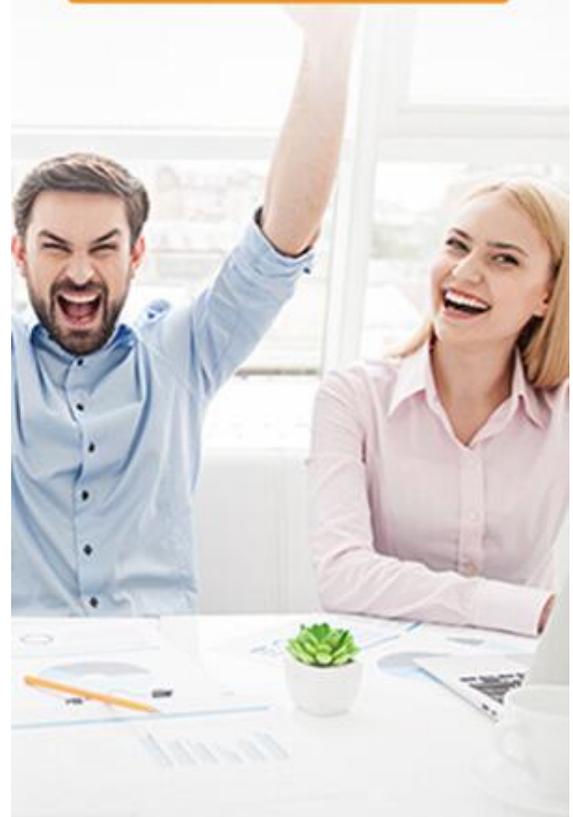
9. CONSISTENCY OVER INTENSITY
A 5-MINUTE DAILY RITUAL BEATS 5 HOURS ONCE A MONTH. COMPOUND GROWTH REQUIRES CONSISTENT SHOWING UP.

10. BE RESULTS-DRIVEN, NOT EXCUSE-DRIVEN
RESULTS DON'T LIE. LOOK AT OUTCOMES, NOT OBSTACLES—AND DON'T EXPLAIN AWAY MEDIOCRITY.



INCORPORATE A BUSINESS

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple top and a watch, is sitting at a desk and typing on a laptop. The background shows a computer monitor displaying a dashboard with a large 'AI' logo and the text 'Complex Systems'.

10 Business Operations Prompts Every Woman CEO Should Be Using in 2026

10 Business Operations Prompts Every Woman CEO Should Be Using in 2026

- If I stepped out of my business for 30 days, what would break first and why? This question exposes whether your business is built on systems or personality.
- Where am I still acting as the operator instead of the architect? Growth stalls when the CEO is still inside daily execution.
- What part of my business makes money but quietly drains time, energy, or margins? Not all revenue is good revenue. Operations reveal the truth.
- Do my systems support the woman I am becoming or the business I used to run? Outdated operations are often tied to outdated identity.
- Where is complexity slowing us down, and who benefits from that complexity? Simple businesses scale. Complex ones exhaust teams and leaders.
- What decisions am I making repeatedly that should already be standardized? Repetition without structure is a leadership leak.
- How clearly can someone else explain how my business runs without me in the room? Clarity is the real test of operational maturity.
- What would need to change for my business to run profitably at 80 percent of my current effort? Efficiency is a leadership strategy, not laziness.
- Where am I overbuilding when I should be refining? More is not always better. Strong operations reward restraint.
- What does operational excellence look like for this next season of my leadership? Not forever. Just now.



These questions are not meant to be answered in isolation. They are meant to be discussed, challenged, and refined in community.

If you are a woman CEO navigating growth, leadership, and operational clarity in real time, we invite you to continue the conversation inside the Real Sisters Rising Women Business Association Facebook community. Share which prompt stopped you, which one challenged you, and what you are rethinking in your business this year.

Leadership grows faster when we stop building alone.
Join the conversation and add your voice.

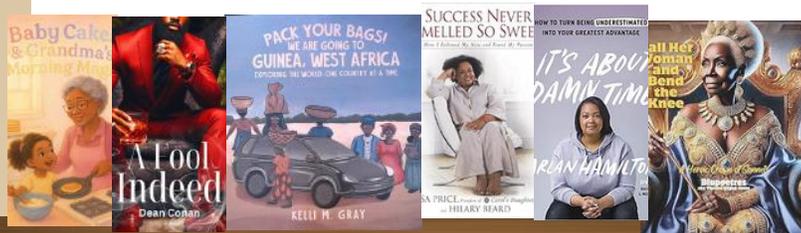


Dr. Kym's Literacy Lounge

I am starting the new year with books by incredible authors whose stories educate, inspire, and spark meaningful conversations. Reading is important because it strengthens literacy skills, builds critical thinking, expands vocabulary, and helps readers of all ages see the world through different perspectives.

Through my read-alongs at local schools, these books create shared experiences that encourage children to enjoy reading while building confidence and comprehension. Literacy Moments supports this mission by offering curated Book Box Bundles for children, adults, and families, making it easy to bring purposeful reading into homes, classrooms, and community spaces.

Each bundle is thoughtfully handcrafted and may include books along with mugs, journals, bookmarks, and branded merchandise, turning reading into an engaging and memorable experience for the entire family.



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LAUNCH A MOVEMENT. LEAD WITH PURPOSE.
CREATE A LEGACY.



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CHAPTER
MEETINGS**



**HOST
NETWORKING
EVENTS**



**ONLINE
TRAINING &
NETWORKING**



**INCOME
OPPORTUNITIES**

*LEAD WHERE YOU LIVE.
BUILD WHAT LASTS.*

REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IS EXPANDING INTO NEW CITIES AND INVITING SELECT WOMEN TO LEAD LOCAL CHAPTERS.

THIS IS NOT A FRANCHISE.
THIS IS LEADERSHIP, LEGACY, AND COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP BACKED BY A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WITH OVER TWO DECADES OF IMPACT.

IF YOU ARE CALLED TO BUILD, CONNECT, AND LEAD WOMEN IN BUSINESS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, THIS OPPORTUNITY WAS CREATED FOR YOU.

APPLY TO OPEN A LOCAL CHAPTER
REALSISTERSRISING.COM/OPEN-A-LOCAL-CHAPTER



“Will *You* Be Ready When They Take Your Job?”

MSNBC reports that 300,000 black women have been pushed out of the workplace.

Overcoming all this saved me when I had earn without a conventional job while caring for my aging father.

The good news?

After decades in your career, you're likely **sitting on a goldmine of expertise** others will pay to access.

The problem is that **you discount what you know** because it's become second nature.

And maybe you also get stuck in imposter syndrome.



Robin Ransom, founder of TeaJoy and author of *Unjumbling Life*, helps women over 45 reinvent & be at their best with a simple 15-minute habit.

Let this **FREE GUIDE** be your bridge to greater clarity & confidence in uncertain times.

- find hidden value
- package & pivot
- get paid 3x



Visit: jo.my/ready

Are you on the right path?

3 Essential Career Questions to Ask Yourself

1. What passions or skills do you have that could pave the way for a fulfilling career?
2. What type of work environment energizes and motivates you to excel?
3. If success were guaranteed, what career path would you choose to pursue?



FREE GUIDE FROM ROBIN RANSOM

“Will *You* Be Ready When They Take Your Job?”

MSNBC reports that 300,000 black women have been pushed out of the workplace.

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Visit: jo.my/ready



Visionary

Women CEO's to Watch in 2026

This feature spotlights women CEOs who are building with intention, leading with clarity, and shaping what the future of business looks like. These are founders and executives making smart moves today that will define growth, influence, and impact in the year ahead. Each woman featured is not chasing visibility.

She is earning it through strategy, consistency, and results.

Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Twanna Evans

Own Your Fly

CEO

Motivational Speaker/Author

In 2025, her greatest breakthrough was internal. Personal growth became the foundation that reshaped how she shows up, leads, and creates. Rather than measuring success by external milestones, she focused on self-awareness, healing, and clarity. That inner work marked a turning point, allowing her to move forward with greater intention and confidence.

Her vision for 2026 is rooted in exploration. She is opening herself to new ventures and opportunities aligned with who she has become, not who she once needed to be. This next chapter is about expansion guided by experience, curiosity, and purpose, trusting that growth follows authenticity.

Her work empowers women and girls by giving them permission to be themselves. She encourages individuality, self-acceptance, and the freedom to be different in a world that often pressures conformity. Through her presence and lived example, she reminds others that there is strength in authenticity and power in owning one's uniqueness.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is the source of her leadership. Her work is not something she learned from a textbook. It is something she lived. Every insight, message, and contribution comes from experience, not theory. That depth sets her apart. She leads from truth, invites others to do the same, and proves that real impact begins from within.



Marcie Delapaz

Let Your Voices be Heard Podcast Show

President/Host

Media

YouTube: [@letyourvoicesbeheard](https://www.youtube.com/@letyourvoicesbeheard)

In 2025, her work entered a new phase as collaboration opportunities expanded with organizations aligned with her mission. These partnerships increased visibility and opened the door to long-term growth, positioning her brand for broader regional impact.

Her vision for 2026 is focused on deepening that reach across the boroughs. She plans to grow her brand while creating more intentional spaces for connection through networking experiences, media projects, photography, events, and curated platforms that spotlight women-owned businesses. The goal is visibility with purpose, where women are not only seen but also supported.

Since launching her organization in 2017 in Staten Island and beyond, her work has consistently centered on minority women in business. Through podcasting, live events, networking, and hands-on workshops, she has built access-driven spaces where women entrepreneurs can learn, connect, and promote their work. The impact goes beyond exposure. It creates opportunity.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her belief in collective success. She understands that community is not competition. It is collaboration. When one woman wins, it strengthens the whole ecosystem, and she has spent years turning that belief into results.



REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



C.F. Jackson

iDefine TV

Founder & CEO

Media Production & Streaming TV Distribution

Website: <https://iDefineTV.com>

In 2025, she reached a defining breakthrough by solidifying interviews as the core strategy of her brand and business. She repositioned iDefine TV from a platform centered on distribution to one focused on authority, positioning, and long-term impact. That clarity fueled the expansion of the iDefine TV Business Spotlight Series, creating a strategic entry point for entrepreneurs ready to be seen, trusted, and remembered. That same year, she launched the Turning Point Impact Program, a docu-style authority-building experience that allows entrepreneurs to share their stories in a way that feels real and aligned. The results were tangible. One guest monetized her Facebook presence using Turning Point assets, while another leveraged her interview to land her own radio show. Most importantly, she fully owned her role as the interviewer, a moment of internal alignment that shaped every decision moving forward.



Her vision for 2026 is to make the Turning Point Impact Program and Series a staple in the entrepreneurial space. She is building a trusted destination where stories are shared authentically, authority is established, and legacy is created. Through interviews, co-authored books, marketing tools, Roku streaming episodes, and media training, entrepreneurs learn how to leverage visibility anytime, anywhere.

Her work empowers women by providing visibility, confidence, and practical tools to step fully into their authority. Through storytelling, mentorship, and media strategy, she helps women turn presence into opportunity.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to transform visibility into lasting influence. She does not just create platforms. She builds pathways to legacy.



January Nuzzo

Sapphire Consulting Services, LLC

Owner/CEO

Financial Services

Website: linktree.com/sapphireconsultingservicesllc

In 2025, her work took a meaningful step forward through a new partnership with the local JCC, where she began providing financial education to participants in its CRED program. It was not just a collaboration. It was a commitment to meeting people where they are and giving them tools they can actually use.

Looking ahead to 2026, her vision is clear. She aims to become the community's trusted subject matter expert on financial literacy. The person people turn to when money feels confusing, overwhelming, or out of reach. Her goal is not to impress. It is to serve.

At the heart of her work is a deep belief that financial literacy equals freedom. By educating, supporting, and guiding women through their financial challenges, she helps them reclaim control over their decisions and their futures. Her approach is practical, patient, and rooted in real-life needs.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is not just what she does, but why she does it. Helping people is not a side effect of her work. It is the mission. She measures success by impact, by seeing someone thrive after gaining clarity and confidence. Every program, partnership, and conversation is driven by one purpose: to make a lasting difference in someone's life.





Caren Cooper

Caren Cooper Coaching

Empowerment and Mindset Coach

Personal Development/Holistic Wellness

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/carencooper/

In 2025, she stepped onto the TEDx stage, marking a defining moment in her journey as a speaker and leader. It was more than a personal milestone. It was a public declaration of purpose and a signal that her voice was ready to reach wider rooms and deeper conversations.

Her vision for 2026 is expansive and intentional. She sees herself as a vessel helping women shine instead of shrink. Keynote speaking, growing a values driven community, and increasing visibility are all part of the plan. At the core of her work is coaching women through one to one, group, and VIP experiences, supported by somatic work that reconnects them to their bodies and inner truth. And yes, she is clear that joy and fun belong in the process too.

Her impact shows up in how women transform around her. They gain clarity. They build confidence. They stop performing for others and start owning who they are. As they reconnect with themselves, they command rooms, move with intention, and support other women without competition or comparison.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her honesty and presence. She leads with vulnerability, realness, and heart. She knows this is her work in the world, and she does it unapologetically. There is no replica for what she brings. She is simply herself, and that is exactly the point.

Tierra Milton

She & Her Hair Studio

Owner

Beauty

Website: www.Sheandherstudio.com

Since opening She & Her Hair Studio in Staten Island in 2015, Tierra Milton has quietly built a brand rooted in trust, education, and healthy hair excellence. A licensed cosmetologist and certified trichologist, her breakthrough has not been a single moment but a decade-long commitment to elevating hair care through science, artistry, and intention. By blending scalp health expertise with precision styling, flawless installs, and personalized care, Tierra has established herself as a trusted authority in luxury hair and long-term hair wellness.

Her vision moving forward is a continuation and expansion of that impact. Tierra is focused on deepening education around healthy hair practices while growing She & Her Hair Studio as a destination where women feel informed, confident, and supported. Every service is designed with longevity in mind, reinforcing her belief that beauty and hair integrity should never be compromised.

Tierra empowers women by creating a space where they are heard. Known as the “Mother of Hair,” she takes a hands-on, thoughtful approach, listening closely to concerns and developing customized plans that prioritize both immediate results and lasting health. Her work demystifies hair care and replaces guesswork with knowledge.

What makes Tierra a Visionary Woman to Watch is her philosophy. She does not rush trends or shortcuts. She builds relationships, educates consistently, and leads with care. Her message is simple and steady. Healthy hair is a journey, and she walks it alongside every woman who sits in her chair.



Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Cee Cee H. Caldwell

Lady Cee Cee's World

CEO

Personal Development/Holistic Wellness

Website: www.linktr.ee/iamladyceeece

In 2025, she reached a defining milestone by earning international recognition as an award-winning author while laying the foundation for the She Rises Whole Movement, a global faith-based initiative focused on healing, identity, and restoration. That same year, she launched The Authentic Grace Collection by Lady Cee Cee, including The Legacy Collection, memorial slide bracelets created to honor loved ones who have passed. Together, these achievements marked a season where purpose, creativity, and impact aligned.

Her vision for 2026 is expansive and deeply intentional. She is preparing to officially launch the She Rises Whole Movement as a global community for faith-centered women ready to move from brokenness to wholeness. Through courses, retreats, coaching, and storytelling spaces, she plans to create pathways for healing and authentic living. Alongside this work, she is growing Lady Cee Cee's World into a multidimensional brand spanning books, digital content, podcasts, public speaking, fashion, and partnerships, all rooted in faith and truth.

Her work empowers women by creating spaces where healing is not rushed and authenticity is encouraged. Through coaching, books, media, and community building, she equips women to reclaim their identity, confidence, and purpose. By centering faith and restoration, her impact extends beyond individuals and strengthens families and communities.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to turn faith into movement. She does not just inspire. She builds ecosystems for transformation, leading with transparency, courage, and a clear commitment to lasting change.



Shanikqa Canty

CantyCreates

Owner

Career Development

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shanikqacanty/>

In 2025, she launched the CantyCares Initiative, a community-focused effort designed to bridge the gap between people and the career resources they need to move forward. Created with compassion and intention, CantyCares supports individuals navigating transitions, rebuilding after setbacks, or working toward stability, particularly in career and workforce spaces. The true breakthrough was not just the launch itself, but transforming an idea rooted in service into real, actionable support that meets people where they are.

Her vision for 2026 builds on that foundation. She is focused on expanding CantyCares as a trusted pathway for career guidance, access, and community-based connections that are often difficult to find. The goal is simple and powerful: create impact beyond traditional systems by offering support that is practical, human, and accessible.

Her work empowers women by helping them see their value clearly and move with confidence. Through higher education, CantyCreates, and the CantyCares Initiative, she provides hands-on support such as interview preparation, career strategy, employer access, and honest guidance without judgment. She creates spaces where women feel seen, equipped, and supported, not just motivated.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is how she blends strategy with heart. She does not speak about empowerment in theory. She builds systems that move people forward. Grounded, consistent, and action-driven, her leadership focuses on long-term impact for women redefining success and building stability on their own terms.





Natasha Jessie

Crowned In Love Coaching

Founder/Faith-Based Life Coach

Faith-Based Life Coaching

Website: www.CrownedInLoveCoaching.com

In 2025, she stepped fully into her calling as a women's transformational coach, launching two faith-centered initiatives Called To Rise and The Wife's War Room. Both were created to support women through emotional and spiritual healing, identity rebuilding, and renewed confidence. She also developed biblically based workbooks, guided prayer and affirmation resources, and a coaching space rooted in restoration and spiritual wisdom. That same year, she launched Crowned In Love Coaching, guiding women through the Becoming Her Again journey and turning personal pain into purpose-driven leadership.

Her vision for 2026 is focused on expansion and reach. She plans to grow her coaching platform through group programs, retreats, and digital courses designed for women navigating transition and rebuilding their lives. Podcasting and media will further extend her message of healing from the inside out, helping women rise with peace, clarity, and bold faith.

Her work empowers women by creating safe spaces for healing, reflection, and growth. Through coaching and faith led content, she helps women reconnect with who they are beyond trauma, titles, or life shifts. She builds community rooted in sisterhood, prayer, and intentional support.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her commitment to true transformation. She bridges faith, healing, and confidence to guide women toward wholeness. Her leadership reminds women that healing is possible and becoming is still unfolding.



Kisha Johnson McRae

Kween Coaching, LLC.

Emotional Wellness—Life Transformation & Lupus Advocate Coach

Instagram: [@beautifulbutterflymovement](https://www.instagram.com/beautifulbutterflymovement)

In 2025, she celebrated the release of her book Access Denied: Surrender the Battle, a milestone that expanded her impact in the emotional wellness space. That same year, she completed the full prelaunch phase for her upcoming Roku show, The KWEEN Chair, airing via BHC Media Group. As producer, she laid the foundation for the show and began preparing for its inaugural episode, marking a year defined by turning vision into action.

Her vision for 2026 centers on growth, visibility, and deeper community impact. She plans to release a new book by February, relaunch her Facebook community, and revitalize her YouTube channel to expand her reach around emotional wellness. She is also developing a local program focused on emotional and mental health support while bringing her message into high schools and community spaces through speaking engagements where these conversations are needed most.

Her work empowers women by offering tools to manage emotions, build resilience, and rediscover hope during difficult seasons. Through faith-based coaching and advocacy, she creates spaces where women feel seen, supported, and encouraged to reclaim their voice and prioritize emotional self-care. By addressing emotional wellness openly, she helps reduce stigma and strengthens community awareness.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to merge emotional wellness with faith-driven leadership. She leads with empathy and intention, creating safe spaces for women navigating chronic illness, caregiving, and personal transformation. For her, emotional wellness is not a private struggle. It is a necessary conversation.



REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Dr. Catrina

PullCorp Media & Business Consulting Group

President

Entertainment/PR

Website: www.pullcorp.com

In 2025, Dr. Catrina Pullum reached a pivotal milestone by transforming her leadership work into scalable, licensed systems. She successfully created, branded, and licensed multiple leadership and personal development programs now used by nonprofit organizations, professional associations, and community-based institutions. This shift from one-time training to sustainable frameworks allowed her methodologies to reach broader audiences while driving long-term organizational change. The accomplishment solidified her role as a trusted architect of leadership systems that integrate strategy, faith, and transformation.

Her vision for 2026 is centered on scale, sustainability, and legacy. Dr. Catrina is expanding her leadership ecosystem through national partnerships, multi-city leadership experiences, and licensed programs designed for measurable impact. She is building pipelines that connect leadership development, entrepreneurship, and creative industries while elevating underrepresented voices, particularly women and girls. Her focus is on creating institutionalized models that can be adopted nationally and internationally.

Her work empowers women by equipping them with structure, confidence, and systems to lead effectively. Through executive development, governance training, and capacity building, she helps women move from vision to execution. As President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Dallas Metropolitan Chapter, she advances education, economic empowerment, health awareness, and civic engagement initiatives that strengthen communities.

What makes Dr. Catrina a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to turn vision into infrastructure. Known as The Chain Breaker, she builds systems that outlast titles and creates pathways for generational impact.



Nika Stewart

SHINE, CEO

Personal Branding

Website: www.nikastewart.com

In 2025, she expanded her voice across powerful new platforms, delivering a TEDx talk, releasing a music video, and creating a documentary that reimagines the cancer journey through honesty, creativity, and hope. Each project challenged conventional narratives and invited audiences to see adversity not as a limitation, but as a catalyst for reinvention.

Her vision for 2026 is bold and expansive. She is amplifying the Actually, I Can movement, taking its message of resilience, joy, and self-permission to larger stages and wider audiences. Through transformative talks, immersive experiences, a new book, and a feature documentary, she is helping people understand that healing and growth do not require perfection. They require truth. Her goal is to spark a global shift in how adversity, creativity, and personal brand power are understood and expressed.

Her work empowers women by rejecting the idea that they need fixing. Through SHINE and the Actually, I Can movement, she helps women embrace their lived experiences, break outdated rules, and turn vulnerability into visibility. She creates spaces where experimentation, growth, and authenticity are not just accepted but celebrated.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her refusal to follow prescribed paths. She blends strategy with soul, storytelling with humor, and healing with bold visibility. By turning her own challenges into a movement that has reached millions, she gives others permission to stand fully in who they are and rise together.



REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Lady G

Proverbs Thirty One, Inc., CEO

Consulting

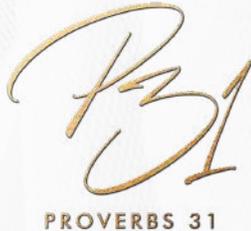
Website: www.proverbsthirtyone.co

In 2025, she continued building momentum by launching two new services within her company, expanding the ways she serves individuals and families seeking financial stability. These additions reflect her commitment to meeting people at different stages of their financial journey and offering practical solutions that protect what they have worked hard to build.

Her vision for 2026 is focused on scale and reach. She plans to expand her impact across the United States, ensuring more people have access to education and tools that support long-term financial security. Growth, for her, is not about volume alone. It is about making a measurable difference in how people manage and protect their money.

Her work empowers women and communities by challenging common financial habits that often lead to crisis. By helping people reduce reliance on GoFundMe and teaching strategies to grow money tax-free, she shows that wealth protection is not reserved for the wealthy. Her message is clear. With the right guidance, anyone can build and preserve financial stability.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is the trust she builds. People connect to her clarity, integrity, and genuine care for others. She leads with heart, communicates her vision clearly, and remains focused on helping people secure a stronger financial future.



Dr. Stevii Aisha Mills

Living The Life I Love

Income Strategist

Website: www.stevii.com

In 2025, she turned creativity into impact by launching I Color For A Cause, an event that brings together art, connection, and purpose to support local nonprofits. That same year, she celebrated 16 years in business, a milestone that reflects faith, consistency, and a long standing commitment to service. For her, this season was about more than longevity. It was about turning vision into action and showing others how their God given gifts can create real change.

Her vision for 2026 is focused on empowerment and alignment. Through her Click To Cash® ecosystem, she plans to help educators, coaches, corporate professionals, wellness leaders, and faith-based women transform what they already know into income that is both profitable and purposeful. By developing new tools, trainings, and collaborations, she is making online earning simpler, more sustainable, and accessible to women ready to live with abundance and intention.

Her work empowers women by creating spaces where they feel seen, supported, and confident using their gifts. Through teaching, speaking, and community initiatives, she helps women reconnect with their voice, recognize their value, and take meaningful action toward the life they love. Her community work reinforces a powerful message: purpose and prosperity can coexist.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to blend faith, confidence, and creativity with ease. She helps women grow spiritually while building income without stress or complexity. Her leadership reminds women that when faith leads and action follows, success can be joyful.





Jennifer Adenekan

Jentuby For Women Empowerment and Eradication Of Child Abuse, Inc.

President

Nonprofit

Website: www.jentuby.org

In 2025, she focused on building a strong foundation for her business by developing her website and deepening her understanding of what it truly takes to start and grow a company during a season of expansion and relocation. Rather than rushing the process, she committed to learning, planning, and positioning her brand intentionally for long-term success.

Her vision for 2026 is rooted in preparation and readiness. She has already built four distinct websites, each designed to support different aspects of her business as it moves forward. For her, knowledge is not optional. It is the backbone of every decision she makes. She believes that being informed, adaptable, and prepared allows her to move with confidence as her business continues to evolve.

Her work contributes to her community through shared knowledge. As she learns, she teaches. She makes a point to pass along what she discovers about starting and managing a business, helping others avoid common mistakes and feel less overwhelmed at the beginning stages. Her approach is honest and grounded in real experience, not theory.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her mindset. Building a costume jewelry startup has taught her patience, passion, and discipline. She leads with action, stays committed to learning, and understands that growth takes time. Her vision is steady, her focus is clear, and she is building with purpose.



Charisse Taliaferro-Reed

Chocolate, Cheese, and Chat

CEO/Founder

Networking and Coaching

LinkedIn: [Chocolatecheeseandchat](https://www.linkedin.com/company/chocolatecheeseandchat)

In 2025, she transformed Chocolate, Cheese & Chat from a signature gathering into a full-scale women's empowerment movement. What began as curated experiences evolved into a thriving ecosystem, marked by multiple sold out events, aligned brand partnerships, and a growing community of powerhouse women over 40 ready to own their next chapter. This year represented a clear shift from hosting events to leading transformation, creating spaces where confidence, collaboration, and purpose meet.

Her vision for 2026 is rooted in expansion and elevation. She is growing Chocolate, Cheese & Chat into a multi-city experience, bringing women together in luxury spaces designed to spark clarity, connection, and opportunity. With plans to launch signature events across Texas and beyond, she is building deeper partnerships and programs that help women sharpen their confidence, claim their voice, and walk boldly into rooms they once felt they had to wait for. This is a year of scale, alignment, and multiplied impact.

Her work empowers women by creating spaces where they can exhale, be seen, and reconnect with their brilliance. Through community- and confidence-focused coaching, she helps women stand taller, speak clearer, and recognize their value. Every experience is designed so women rise together, not alone.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to turn community into a catalyst for change. She does not wait for opportunities. She creates them and brings other women with her.



REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Mattie Sheppard

Perfectly Pictured Decluttering & Staging Experts, llc

President/CEO

Real Estate

Website: www.ppdse.com

In 2025, she experienced a standout year marked by recognition, expansion, and leadership. She received the IAHSF Superfecta Best of the Best Home Staging Award and the Next Level Up Award, graduated from the Goldman Sachs One Million Black Women Business Program, launched The CEO Launchpad, and was published in multiple outlets. She was also named a Woman of Influence for 2025–2026, affirming her growing impact across business and community spaces.



Her vision for 2026 is focused and results driven. She is strengthening Perfectly Pictured as a full service staging partner for homeowners, investors, and realtors who need fast, effective presentation solutions. By expanding capacity and market reach, she aims to position the brand as the go to solution for listings that need stronger visual appeal and quicker sales. At the same time, she is scaling The CEO Launchpad to support women 50 plus who want to build stable, well structured businesses. With new curriculum, expanded membership, and practical tools, her goal is to move women from confusion to clarity with confidence.



Her work empowers women through structure, systems, and real-world skills. She helps women shift from hustle to sustainable business ownership while also raising standards in staging, cleaning, and hospitality. Through weekly CEO Launchpad sessions, women gain direction, accountability, and a supportive space to grow.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her commitment to outcomes. She identifies gaps, builds solutions, and creates progress through action. Her leadership expands opportunity, elevates standards, and helps women lead with clarity and purpose.



Shaneequa Pluma

Neenees Food Fantasy, LLC

Chef

Website: www.neeneesff.com

In 2025, she reached a major professional milestone by becoming the Café Chef at Richmond University Medical Center in Staten Island, New York. Her work and leadership in the kitchen earned recognition in SI Live, highlighting not only her culinary talent but also her growing influence in the local food community. This year marked a clear step forward in visibility, credibility, and purpose.

Her vision for 2026 is rooted in culture and inclusion. She wants to bring greater diversity to Staten Island's food scene by creating a space where multiple cultures and cuisines can coexist under one roof. Her long-term goal is to open a restaurant that also offers catering, allowing people to experience a wide range of flavors while celebrating the cultural richness of the community.

Her work empowers others by showing what is possible. She is especially committed to inspiring young Black women to pursue entrepreneurship and believe in their dreams regardless of background or circumstance. Through her journey, she models perseverance, skill, and pride in craft, proving that passion paired with discipline can open doors.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is how deeply personal her work is. Cooking is not just a profession for her. It is life, legacy, and love. Grounded in family and fueled by passion, she is building a future that honors where she comes from while creating better opportunities for the next generation.



REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Atinuke Abiodun Durojaye

Inumidun International, Inc. dba Purh2O

CEO

Beverage Company

Website: www.purh2oonline.com



In 2025, she expanded the reach of her work by increasing bottled water deliveries while also growing her book publishing sales. Balancing both ventures allowed her to serve her community in practical and meaningful ways, combining wellness, education, and access. This year reflected steady growth rooted in service, discipline, and purpose.



Her vision for 2026 is guided by faith and clarity. Rather than forcing direction, she is committed to following where God leads and remaining open to new opportunities aligned with her calling. That openness shapes how she builds, serves, and grows, trusting that impact follows obedience.

Her work empowers women and strengthens her community through health-focused education and care. As a registered nurse, she teaches the importance of proper hydration and healthy daily habits. She supports local events by providing free bottled water, ensuring wellness is accessible, not exclusive. Through her books, she also encourages rest, reflection, and mental wellness, reminding people that caring for the body and mind go hand in hand.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is the way she bridges healthcare and community service. She does not separate professional knowledge from personal mission. Instead, she uses her medical background to advocate for sustainable lifestyle choices and long-term well-being. Her leadership is calm, intentional, and rooted in care, proving that everyday health decisions can create lasting impact when guided by purpose.



Vanessa Ross

Anointed & Appointed by God Dance Ministry

Founder and Owner

Ministry

Website: www.VanessaJRoss.com

In 2025, she experienced a powerful season of recognition and service. She received her Evangelist License, was honored with an Author of the Year Award, and was featured as an author at The Red Lip Talk Podcast Literary Expo. She also participated as an artist in the Louisiana Cultural Music and Arts Festival. Alongside these accomplishments, she remained deeply committed to serving others by supporting the elderly and mentoring young women, grounding every achievement in purpose and compassion.



Her vision for 2026 is global and heart-centered. She plans to reach women and young girls around the world with messages of self-care, positive thinking, and personal empowerment. Her goal is to teach young women how to value themselves, protect their energy, and grow into confident individuals who understand their worth and impact.

Her work contributes to the community through hands-on service. She regularly visits nursing homes to care for elderly residents by doing hair and nails and offering dignity, attention, and love. As a member of Le Bon Ton Baby Dolls, she also supports the homeless by providing food, warm blankets, socks, coats, and clothing during colder months. Her service is consistent, visible, and rooted in care.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her faith and generosity of spirit. She creates space for other women to share their stories through her visionary book, allowing voices to be heard and lives to be inspired. She leads with love, encouragement, and a genuine desire to uplift others.



Tymanii Black

Zuri's World, LLC & Chase Elite Sports, LLC

CEO/Founder

Sports and Apparel

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/chaseelitebasketball/>

In 2025, she gained wider recognition when she was featured in South Carolina Voyager Magazine, spotlighting her growing impact as a coach, mentor, and youth advocate in Spartanburg. The feature reflected years of hands-on work and a deep commitment to shaping young people both on and off the court.



FEATURED IN



Her vision for 2026 is ambitious and community centered. She plans to open her soft skills program to children across Spartanburg, giving more young people access to training in etiquette, communication, financial basics, and interview readiness. Alongside that work, she is preparing to open a retail store for her clothing brand and begin building a basketball gym, creating a physical hub for development, discipline, and opportunity.

At the core of her work is youth empowerment. As a coach and mentor, she focuses on helping young athletes build strong foundations for their basketball careers while also growing as leaders. Through Chase Elite, she launched a soft skills class that goes beyond sports, teaching life skills many young adults are never formally taught. Her teams regularly participate in community service, reinforcing the value of giving back.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her leadership at a young age in a space where female coaches are rare. She mentors as much as she coaches, prioritizes academics, and uses her influence intentionally. With every program she builds, her goal is clear: raise not just athletes, but confident, educated, and community-minded young adults.

Mikki A Ealey

Mz Social Butterfly Network LLC,

CEO/Founder

Book Publisher/Certified Life Coach

Linkedin: [@#mzsocialbutterflyllc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mzsocialbutterflyllc)



In 2025, she reached several meaningful milestones that marked a new chapter in her personal and professional journey. She became a certified life coach and a notary public while also stepping into a new role at a university. Together, these accomplishments strengthened her ability to guide, support, and serve others with both structure and heart.

Her vision for 2026 is centered on joy and connection. Known as Mz. Social Butterfly, she sees her role as spreading positivity wherever she goes. Her presence is intentional. She believes that joy is not just a personality trait but a leadership tool, one that creates openness, trust, and momentum in every space she enters.

Her work empowers other women through shared knowledge and lived experience. As she continues building her business, she makes it a priority to teach others what she has learned, offering insight, encouragement, and practical guidance along the way. She leads by example, showing that growth is possible at any stage and that knowledge is meant to be shared, not withheld.



What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is the source of her leadership. She leads from a place of truth and inner alignment, guided by spiritual awareness and deep intention. This perspective allows her to see beyond surface-level challenges and help others move toward clarity, fulfillment, and purpose. Her approach is grounded, authentic, and quietly powerful.

Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



LaShawn R. Johnson

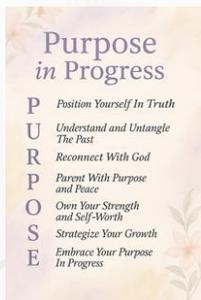
Purpose in Progress

Purpose Alignment Coach

Instagram: [@_purpose_in_purpose.com](https://www.instagram.com/_purpose_in_purpose.com)

In 2025, she strengthened her company's foundation by launching two new services, expanding how she supports individuals and families seeking financial clarity and protection. These additions were not about growth for growth's sake. They were intentional tools designed to meet real needs and close gaps that often leave people financially vulnerable.

Her vision for 2026 is focused on scale with purpose. She plans to expand her reach across the United States, ensuring that more communities have access to financial education that is practical, understandable, and empowering. Her goal is to change how people think about money, not through fear, but through knowledge and strategy.



At the core of her work is economic empowerment. She is committed to reducing reliance on GoFundMe by teaching people how to prepare instead of react. Through education around tax-free growth and wealth protection strategies, she shows that financial security is not reserved for the wealthy. Anyone, regardless of income level, can learn how to protect what they have worked hard to build.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is trust. People believe in her because she leads with integrity and clarity. Her vision is easy to understand because it is rooted in genuine care for others. She brings heart into finance, meets people where they are, and remains focused on creating long-term stability for the communities she serves.



Cheana Leon

Mann Maid Cleaning Service

Owner

Commercial Cleaning

Website: www.Mannmaidcleaningservice.com

In 2025, she reached a deeply personal milestone with the publication of her first book, 50 and Back to the Drawing Board. The release marked more than an authorship debut. It was a declaration of reinvention, courage, and faith after years of service-centered work. Publishing the book allowed her to share her lived experience and open conversations about starting over without shame, especially in midlife.

Her vision for 2026 is grounded in intentional growth and purpose-driven leadership. Alongside her husband, she is expanding their commercial cleaning business with a focus on stronger systems, leadership development, and service excellence. The goal is to secure additional long-term contracts while transitioning from daily operations into a visionary leadership role. Financial growth will be matched with integrity, stewardship, and impact. Beyond business, she is amplifying her voice through speaking and writing, using her story to remind others that reinvention is always possible when purpose leads.



Her work empowers women by modeling courage in real time. After more than 20 years in social services, she shows that evolution is allowed and necessary. As a business owner, she creates economic opportunity, leads with dignity and compassion, and demonstrates that ownership is attainable. Through her book and speaking, she restores hope to women who feel overlooked, helping them reconnect with dreams they once set aside.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her leadership rooted in lived experience. She builds with vision, not ego, measures success by impact, and leads others toward possibility with faith, integrity, and courage.



Sherneice Gatewood -Alli

We Are Phenomenal Women, Inc.

CEO/Founder

Nonprofit/Domestic Violence Support

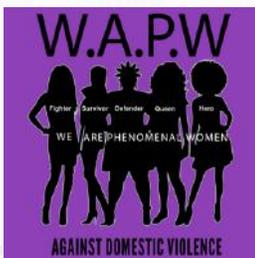
Website: www.wearephenomenalwomen.org/

In 2025, she reached an important milestone by completing her Grant Writing and Strategic Planning Certification Program. The accomplishment strengthened her ability to design sustainable programs, secure resources, and move her mission forward with clarity and intention. It marked a shift from passion-driven work to strategy-backed impact.

Her vision for 2026 is rooted in scale, sustainability, and legacy. She is preparing to fully launch 360 Place as a model of safety and empowerment while expanding educational offerings through group coaching, healing workbooks, and financial empowerment workshops. At the same time, she is positioning We Are Phenomenal Women Inc. to become a nationally recognized organization that not only supports survivors but also trains leaders, advocates, and community partners. The goal is clear: move from impact to infrastructure so the work can thrive beyond her.

Her work empowers women by meeting them where they are and walking alongside them toward stability and self-trust. Through education, advocacy, and safe spaces, she helps women rebuild confidence, reclaim their voice, and heal holistically. Her programs address real barriers, including financial abuse, housing insecurity, and emotional recovery, reinforcing the belief that survivors are not broken; they are becoming.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to see what is missing and build it. She blends lived experience, professional expertise, and compassion to create systems where women do more than survive. They rise.



Hyacinth Tucker

The Laundry Basket LLC

Owner/CEO

Laundry/Dry Cleaning

Website: www.laundrybasketdelivery.com

In 2025, she led The Laundry Basket® LLC through a major evolution, shifting the company into a scalable connector model built for national growth. The brand expanded into new territories, strengthened partnerships with VA hospitals, and launched Dorm Fresh, a student-run laundry program designed for college campuses. She also completed key work on the company's licensing framework and advanced development of a digital platform and received recognition for community impact. Together, these milestones marked a pivotal year of structure, scale, and momentum.

Her vision for 2026 is focused on expansion with intention. She plans to grow the licensing model into more cities, launch additional Dorm Fresh campus sites, strengthen workforce development curriculum, and continue advancing the company's technology to make laundry more intuitive and accessible. Her long-term goal is clear: position The Laundry Basket as the go-to brand for convenient, dignified laundry care while creating real career pathways in underserved communities.

Her work empowers women and communities by turning everyday services into opportunities. Through The Laundry Basket Institute, she creates flexible jobs, leadership roles, and entrepreneurship pathways for women and minority-owned businesses. She partners with nonprofits, supports families in need, and builds training programs for individuals seeking stability and a second chance.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to transform an overlooked industry into a national, impact-driven brand. She leads with purpose, creativity, and resilience, proving that smart business growth and social impact can move together.



REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Kyrie Teel

K. Style Collection LLC

CEO & Founder

Retail Sale & Network Marketing

Website: KStyleCollection.store

In 2025, she made a defining shift by expanding K. Style Collection beyond products and fully stepping into education and impact with the launch of the K. Style Collection Training Series. What began as a jewelry and accessories brand evolved into a platform for leadership and digital empowerment. With elite leaders enrolling and sessions filling quickly, the response confirmed what she already knew. Women were ready for more, and they trusted her to guide them. That year did not just grow a business. It solidified a movement rooted in faith, strategy, and purpose.



Her vision for 2026 is expansion with intention. She is scaling K. Style Collection into a nationally recognized empowerment brand and ministry at the intersection of faith, style, and strategy. Plans include advanced trainings, live experiences, and deeper AI and business education designed to help women build, lead, and earn sustainably. She is also strengthening infrastructure, developing leadership within her organization, and opening doors for more women to step into ownership, income, and influence.

Her work empowers women by creating access to confidence, education, and opportunity. Through mentorship, training, and community, she helps women move from survival to sustainability. As a breast cancer survivor, she leads with empathy, reminding women that setbacks do not disqualify them. They can fuel impact.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her ability to see beyond where women are and build pathways to where they are called to be. She builds people, not platforms, and leads with faith, resilience, and legacy in mind.



Dr. Dré Cleveland

Girl, Get Your Life Together

Your Personal POWER Coach

Coaching & Training

Website: www.heallovemanifest.com

In 2025, she created a powerful cultural moment with the launch of The Selfie Ball, an immersive event designed for Black women to celebrate their light and step boldly into their next level. That same year, she began the launch of her upcoming book, *Black Girls Manifest: Heal, Love, and Manifest the Life You Deserve*, marking a new chapter in her work centered on healing, self-mastery, and intentional living. Together, these milestones signaled the birth of something deeper than programming. They marked the emergence of a movement.



Her vision for 2026 is rooted in ministry and transformation. Through her book and signature offering, The Black Girls Manifest Experience, she is committed to bringing Black women home to themselves. Her work focuses on restoring inner power and helping women create the lives they truly desire, without limitation or exception.

Her impact is grounded in sisterhood. By centering the lived experiences of Black women, she creates safe spaces to heal, love deeply, and practice self-mastery. She believes that when Black women heal, families shift, communities strengthen, and generational change becomes possible. Collaboration with other Black women leaders is not an add-on. It is the foundation.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is how she leads. She does not follow trends. She births movements. Guided by spirit and grounded in real transformation, she turns wisdom into lived experience and helps women become who they already are.

REAL SISTERS RISING WOMEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S
Visionary Women CEO's to Watch in 2026



Charlotte Marshall

R.O.S.E.B.U.D.S./M.A.S.T.E.R. Mentoring Program Inc.

Founder/Executive Director

Youth Nonprofit Organization

In 2025, she expanded her organization's impact by launching the M.A.S.T.E.R. Boys Mentoring Program, Males Achieving Success Through Education and Responsibility. Introduced in March, the program was created to guide young boys through mentorship, accountability, and purpose-driven development. That same year, during her organization's domestic violence awareness event, she presented the inaugural Robin's Voice Beacon of Light Community Service Award to the Purple House Project, honoring their continued advocacy for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence. Both moments reflected a deep commitment to service and leadership rooted in action.



Her vision for 2026 is centered on broadening community support through new initiatives. Planned programs include Golden Gems for senior citizens, Children of Incarcerated Parents, an Arts Camp focused on film, writing, and acting, B.O.S.S. Entrepreneurs for young business leaders, and The Write Stuff for aspiring youth writers. Each initiative is designed to provide skills, enrichment, and meaningful engagement, especially for youth and seniors.

Her work empowers the community through consistent investment. Beyond mentoring, her organization provides food during holidays, essential clothing, annual book and bookbag giveaways, and literacy-focused programming. Her B.O.S.S. Entrepreneurs event also highlights representation by exposing young girls to women entrepreneurs.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her belief in lasting impact. She leads with resilience, courage, and hope, creating programs that uplift, inspire, and build a legacy rooted in love, light, and possibility.



Yvonne Christopher

Irresistablestyles

CEO/Founder

Design Costume jewelry

In 2025, she focused on building a strong foundation for her business by developing her website and deepening her understanding of what it truly takes to start and grow a company during a season of expansion and relocation. Rather than rushing the process, she committed to learning, planning, and positioning her brand intentionally for long-term success.

Her vision for 2026 is rooted in preparation and readiness. She has already built four distinct websites, each designed to support different aspects of her business as it moves forward. For her, knowledge is not optional. It is the backbone of every decision she makes. She believes that being informed, adaptable, and prepared allows her to move with confidence as her business continues to evolve.

Her work contributes to her community through shared knowledge. As she learns, she teaches. She makes a point to pass along what she discovers about starting and managing a business, helping others avoid common mistakes and feel less overwhelmed at the beginning stages. Her approach is honest and grounded in real experience, not theory.

What makes her a Visionary Woman to Watch is her mindset. Building a costume jewelry startup has taught her patience, passion, and discipline. She leads with action, stays committed to learning, and understands that growth takes time. Her vision is steady, her focus is clear, and she is building with purpose.



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Women Business Association

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A supportive community of sisters who understand and uplift each other, providing mentorship and guidance.



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Gain greater exposure through featured spotlights, networking opportunities, and access to platforms that elevate your business and brand.

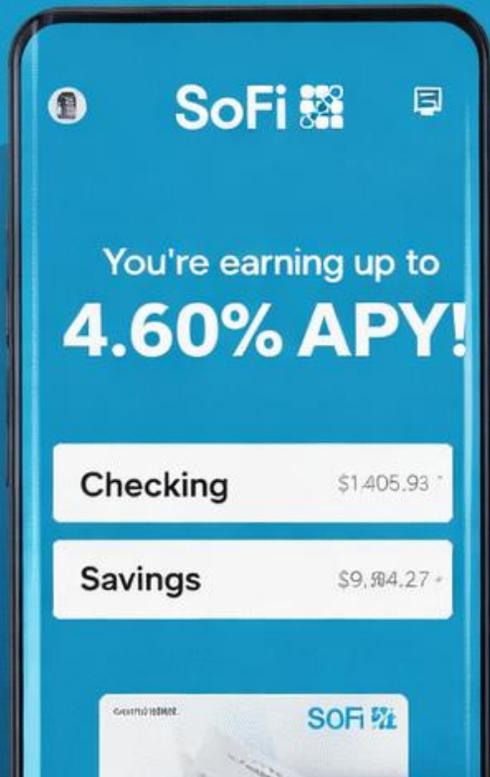


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THE BIG DEBATE: HONORARY VS. ACADEMIC DOCTORATE DEGREE

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE WITHOUT THE CONFUSION

The terms "honorary doctorate" and "doctorate degree" are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same. Understanding the difference matters, especially in business, leadership, and professional spaces where credibility is important.

Both recognize expertise and impact, but they come from very different paths.

What Is an Honorary Doctorate

An honorary doctorate is a distinction awarded by a college, university, or recognized institution to honor an individual's contributions, leadership, or service. It is not earned through coursework, exams, or academic research.

Recipients are recognized for real-world impact.

This can include business leadership, community service, philanthropy, education reform, public service, faith leadership, or cultural influence.

The institution chooses the recipient. The recipient does not apply in the traditional academic sense.



By ShaChena Gibbs

ShaChena Gibbs is the CEO and Founder of the Real Sisters Rising Women Business Association. She is an award-winning entrepreneur and educator helping women build businesses that create wealth, influence, and legacy. Learn more at www.realsistersrising.com

Types of Boards to Explore

You don't have to start at the corporate level. Many women begin small and build up as their experience grows.

- **Advisory Boards:** Great entry point. These roles allow you to guide startups or nonprofits, often for equity or a small stipend.
- **Nonprofit Boards:** These strengthen your resume and leadership profile while serving a cause you believe in.
- **Private Company Boards:** Mid-size businesses, family firms, and private investors seek diverse directors to help scale growth.
- **Public Boards:** The highest-paying and most visible board seats, typically requiring proven executive experience and governance knowledge.

The key is to view every board role as part of your growth ladder—not your destination.

What an Earned Doctorate Degree Is

A doctorate degree is an academic credential earned through years of formal education. This includes structured coursework, examinations, original research, and, in most cases, a dissertation or applied research project.

Examples include PhD, EdD, DBA, PsyD, and other professional doctorates. These degrees certify academic mastery and scholarly contribution within a specific discipline.

They are regulated, accredited, and academically verified.

Using the Title Doctor

With an earned doctorate, the title "Doctor" is appropriate in professional, academic, and formal settings.

With an honorary doctorate, the best practice is transparency. Many recipients do not use the title Doctor professionally and instead reference the honor as an honorary doctorate or Doctor Honoris Causa. This avoids confusion and maintains credibility.

Why Both Hold Value

An earned doctorate represents academic rigor and scholarly discipline.

Key Differences at a Glance

Honorary doctorate

- Recognizes impact, leadership, and service
- No coursework or dissertation
- Awarded by nomination and review
- Ceremonial and symbolic
- Not an academic qualification

Earned doctorate degree

- Represents academic achievement
- Requires coursework, research, and assessment
- Conferred after meeting degree requirements
- Professional and academic credentials
- Recognized for licensure and academic roles

An honorary doctorate represents influence, leadership, and measurable contribution.

One is not better than the other. They simply serve different purposes.

What to Be Cautious About

Legitimate honorary doctorates are awarded by institutions with clear criteria and review processes. If an organization sells titles, guarantees recognition for payment, or lacks transparency, that is a red flag.

Respectable institutions do not sell degrees, honorary or earned.

The Bottom Line

A doctorate degree is earned through academia.

An honorary doctorate is bestowed through impact.

Understanding the difference protects your reputation and helps you communicate your credentials honestly and confidently.

Money with a Mission: How Visionary Women are Redefining Wealth in 2026



Written by January Nuzzo,
Financial Services Professional
Sapphire Consulting Services

When I think of a “visionary woman” in 2026, I don’t just picture someone on a big stage or in a corner office.

I see the mom doing homework at the kitchen table after a double shift.

I see the small business owner refreshing her bank app, wondering if this month will finally be the breakthrough.

I see the woman quietly rebuilding after a divorce or saying goodbye to a loved one and suddenly having to manage money alone for the first time.

I see you.

For me, being a visionary woman isn’t about perfection. It’s about intention. It’s about saying, “I want more for myself, for my family, and for the generations after me—and I’m willing to look my money in the eye and make a plan.”

In a world where everything feels more expensive, more rushed, and more uncertain, financial wellness is no longer optional. It’s self-care. It’s protection. It’s power.

And we—all of us reading this—are allowed to want that.

WEALTH THAT FEELS LIKE YOU

I call myself a “Financial Doctor” because I’m determined to help heal people’s financial lives, one family at a time.

When I sit with someone, I don’t just see numbers on a page—I feel their story. I feel the fear behind the overdue bill, the hope behind the dream, and the quiet worry behind the question, “Will I be okay?” I share that with them. My passion to help doesn’t stay on paper; it walks into every appointment with me. It shows up in the way I listen and the way I speak to them, with them, and often for them when they don’t yet have the language for what they’re feeling. Finding answers to their questions, their concerns, and their worries isn’t just my job. It is my goal, my responsibility, and my passion.

Over the years, I’ve sat across from women who were:

- Embarrassed to show me their bank statements
- Afraid they’d be judged for their debt
- Intimidated by investing
- Nervous to admit they’d never really looked at their retirement accounts

You know what I see when they talk?

Not failure.

Not “behind.”

Not “bad with money.”

I see courage. I see women who have been doing the best they can with the information, stress, and responsibilities they’ve been carrying—often for everyone else.

Visionary wealth is not about what the world thinks you “should” have by a certain age. It’s about what makes sense for your life, your values, and your dreams

It looks different for each of us:

- The business owner who finally pays herself first and starts planning for her own retirement, not just her clients’.
- The career woman who stops leaving money on the table and uses her benefits, retirement plans, and investments intentionally.
- The stay-at-home mom or household CEO who says, “I might not have a paycheck, but I manage this home and these decisions. I deserve a seat at the money table.”
- The woman in transition—separated, divorced, widowed, changing careers, newly retired—who quietly decides, “I will not be in the dark about money anymore.”

Every one of these women is a visionary when she chooses to be awake, aware, and active with her money instead of drifting through it.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER TO START

Let me say this clearly:

You do not need to be “good with money” to become a visionary woman.

You just need to be honest about where you are and willing to take the next small step.

Here are a few simple, human, real-life steps you can start with:

- Name one thing you want your money to do for you.
- Not ten, not twenty. Just one. Maybe it's paying off a card, building a small emergency fund, taking a family trip, or finally breathing easier each month. Write it down. Put it on your fridge if you have to.
- Look your numbers in the eye.
- Make a list: what's coming in, what's going out, what you owe, and what you own. No shame. No judgment. Just data. This is your starting point — not your identity.
- Give your money a job before the month begins.
- Even a simple written or digital plan — bills, debt, savings, giving, fun — beats “I'll figure it out.” Visionary women don't let their money wander around without purpose.
- Protect what you're building.

Review your insurance, beneficiaries, and basic protections. Visionary women don't leave their families vulnerable if life takes a hard turn.

- Ask the “embarrassing” questions.

The questions you're afraid to ask? Those are usually the most important ones. And I promise you—you're not the first to ask them.

THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN DOLLARS

Money touches everything: where we live, how we eat, how we sleep at night, and what we can say “yes” or “no” to.

For many women, especially in our communities, we've been taught to:

- Be grateful and not ask for more
- Take care of everyone else first
- Stay out of the “big” financial decisions

But the visionary women of 2026 are gently, firmly breaking those patterns.

They're building businesses.

They're leading households.

They're co-leading financial decisions.

They're teaching their children — sons and daughters — about money with confidence instead of fear.

They're not just chasing more income; they're creating more options.

YOUR INVITATION: BECOME THE VISIONARY IN YOUR OWN STORY

The theme of this SistersRise! Magazine issue—“Visionary Women to Know in 2026”—is beautiful. We absolutely need to celebrate the women being featured. But I also want to celebrate the woman reading this. You.

You might not feel like a “Visionary Woman” yet. Maybe you feel tired. Overwhelmed. Behind. That’s okay.

Being visionary doesn’t mean you’ve arrived. It means you’re willing to see beyond where you are today and take one step toward where you want to be.

So here’s my challenge to you:

In the next 30 days, choose one brave money move.

Maybe it’s booking a financial checkup.

Maybe it’s making your first real budget.

Maybe it’s finally opening that retirement account.

Maybe it’s sitting down with your partner and saying, “We need to talk honestly about our money.”

Whatever it is, make it yours.

Call to Action: Say “Yes” to Your Vision

If something in this article tugged at you, don’t ignore it.

Let this be your Visionary Woman Year—the year you:

- Stop apologizing for wanting more
- Get clear about your numbers
- Start or update your financial plan
- Protect your family and your future

Build a legacy that feels like you

Connect with a trusted financial professional, join a circle of women who are having real money conversations, and give yourself permission to learn, ask, and grow.

Because the visionary women of 2026 are not just on magazine covers.

They are in our neighborhoods, at school pick-ups, on Zoom meetings, running small businesses, and holding families together.

They are rewriting their money stories—one intentional decision at a time.

And whether you whisper it or shout it, I need you to know:

That visionary woman can absolutely be you.





**YOUR NAME IS
BEING SPOKEN IN
ROOMS YOU
HAVEN'T ENTERED**

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ET

tinabrinkleypotts.com



by Tina Brinkley Potts

A quiet revolution is happening in front of us, one headline at a time. Artificial Intelligence and automation have ignited excitement, curiosity, and a fair share of fear. In some circles, these advancements are welcomed as tools that elevate human capacity. In others, they are described as threats to identity, livelihood, and meaning.

Whenever society experiences a technological shift this significant, two responses emerge. Some brace for loss, gripping tightly to what has been. Others lean into evolution, recognizing that progress has always demanded courage, creativity, and vision.

We are living at the intersection of those two truths. And the choice we make at that crossroads will determine not only how we work, but how we live, create, connect, and lead.

The truth is simple and profound. Technology is not here to replace us. It is here to reveal us.

Beyond Productivity And Into Presence

For decades, success has been defined by how much we could carry. How many tasks, responsibilities, roles, and obligations one person could hold at once. The more we did, the more valuable we were told we were.

Busyness became a badge of honor. Exhaustion became proof of dedication. Achievement was measured in output, not alignment.

AUTOMATED, ALIGNED, AND ABUNDANT: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS EXPANDING HUMAN POTENTIAL, NOT REPLACING IT

An exclusive interview with the CEO of a multinational technology firm delves into their strategies for navigating economic uncertainties and digital disruption.

But what if the next era of leadership is not about doing more, but about doing less — and leading more deeply?

Automation and AI offer us something previous generations could only dream of: the ability to systemize labor, outsource repetition, and expand capacity without sacrificing humanity, creativity, or well-being. These tools remove weight so we can rise into our highest work.

That is not the loss of soul. That is the protection of it.

Efficiency Is Not The Goal. Freedom Is.

The purpose of automation is not simply efficiency. Efficiency by itself is hollow. The true purpose is freedom: the freedom to think, to create, to innovate, to rest, to imagine, to lead, and to live.

When used with intention, technology returns us to ourselves. It gives us the gift of time — time to develop ideas that matter, to build relationships that nourish us, to focus on work that lights us up, and to live with dignity rather than depletion.

The question is not whether AI will take our place. The question is whether we will finally take our place as visionaries, innovators, storytellers, healers, builders, and original thinkers.

Women Are Poised To Lead This Shift

Women, especially, stand at the edge of extraordinary opportunity. For generations, many of us have carried emotional labor, domestic labor, community labor, and professional labor simultaneously. We became masters at holding complexity, even when it cost us.

TECHNOLOGY AND AI ARE NOT REPLACING HUMANITY BUT EXPANDING HUMAN POTENTIAL

Technology offers a new pathway — one where leadership is not tied to exhaustion, sacrifice, or constant motion. A world where women lead from clarity and intuition instead of survival and strain.

This moment invites us to build systems that support our genius instead of draining it. It encourages us to use automation not to harden business, but to soften the way we live inside our businesses.

Women do not simply adopt tools. We transform how they are used. We infuse technology with humanity. We bring soul to systems and consciousness to innovation. And when we lead this way, we shift culture, not just productivity metrics.

You Do Not Lose Yourself. You Meet More Of Yourself

Many fear AI because they believe it will erase identity. Yet when used thoughtfully, it does the opposite: it amplifies identity. It frees the parts of us that were suffocated by constant doing. It gives us space to express the fullness of our minds, our voices, and our presence.

Automation cannot replicate your intuition.

AI cannot mimic your originality.

No technology can replace your lived wisdom, your emotional truth, or your creative spirit.

If anything, this moment makes those qualities more valuable than ever.

This Is Not A Wave To Fear. It Is A Wave To Ride

Every leap in human history felt disruptive before it felt life-changing. We are not being asked to choose between humanity and technology. We are being invited to merge the two. To build with intention and lead with integrity. To adopt innovation without abandoning soul.

She believes that when women step into their brilliance, they elevate the world around them. When they use their voice, they shift culture. And when they embody sovereignty, they become unstoppable forces for global transformation.

Every leap in human history felt disruptive before it felt life-changing. We are not being asked to choose between humanity and technology. We are being invited to merge the two. To build with intention and lead with integrity. To adopt innovation without abandoning soul.

The leaders who thrive in this era will be the ones who embrace this shift with grace. They will pair strategy with intuition. Automation with embodiment. Intelligence with heart. They will not disappear. They will become more visible, more resonant, more impactful, and more sovereign.

The world is not asking us to become more mechanical. It is asking us to become more human.

Let technology carry the weight.

Let automation do the heavy lifting.

Let AI support your expansion.

Let your spirit lead.

This is not the end of human potential. It is its acceleration. And you were made for this moment.

Tina Brinkley Potts is a globally recognized business architect and producer whose strategic systems have generated hundreds of millions in revenue for entrepreneurs, corporations, and creative brands. As the founder of Trailblazers Academy and Happy Healthy Whole & Rich, Tina activates leaders to build influence, own their intellectual property, and scale through automation and aligned visibility. Her work champions a new era of leadership rooted in sovereignty, self-mastery, and spiritual intelligence. With clients ranging from emerging creators to multimillion-dollar organizations, Tina stands at the forefront of the movement empowering women to lead boldly, reclaim their voice, and build generational wealth in a rapidly shifting world.

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Staying Healthy This Winter: Small Habits, Big Impact

By Dr. Kym Oglesby

Winter brings cozy moments, holidays, and slower days, but it also brings cold weather, shorter daylight hours, and more germs. The good news is that staying healthy during the winter does not require a complete lifestyle overhaul. A few consistent habits can help protect your body, boost your energy, and keep you feeling your best all season long.

Start with supporting your immune system. Winter is the perfect time to focus on nourishing foods. Warm meals such as soups, stews, and roasted vegetables provide comfort while delivering important nutrients. Add fruits rich in vitamin C, leafy greens, and zinc-packed foods such as beans, nuts, and whole grains. Hydration remains important during colder months, so drink water, herbal teas, and broths even when you do not feel thirsty.

A great way to start your day is with a green smoothie. Ingredients such as spinach, kale, pineapple, and other fruits give your body an early boost of vitamins. Later in the day, add more greens to your plate. Be creative with salads. Mixed greens topped with strawberries and almonds make a balanced and satisfying lunch.

Next, keep moving, even when it is cold outside. Physical activity strengthens your immune system, improves mood, and helps fight winter fatigue. If outdoor walks are not appealing, try indoor workouts, stretching, yoga, or dancing at home. Aim for movement most days, even if it is only 20 minutes. If you have pets, they help keep you active by reminding you when it is time to get up and go outside. While cleaning or organizing, turn on a favorite song from the 1980s or 1990s and move your hips and feet. Every bit of movement counts.

Sleep is a powerful tool for winter wellness. Shorter days can disrupt routines, so be intentional about rest. Try going to bed and waking up at the same time each day, limit screen time before bedtime, and create a calming nighttime routine. Technology can be helpful by setting phone alarms not only to wake up but also to remind you when it is time to wind down.

Do not forget mental and emotional health. Winter blues are real and affect many people. Make time for connection by calling a friend, joining a book club, or planning small activities that give you something to look forward to. Fresh air and sunlight, even in short amounts, can improve mood and energy. If social options are limited, organizations such as NAMI offer in-person and virtual support groups. You may also check with your workplace about Employee Assistance Programs, which often provide access to counseling services and support hotlines.

Finally, practice prevention. Wash your hands regularly, dress in layers, and listen to your body. Rest when needed. One of the most important lessons learned during COVID was the importance of proper handwashing.

This winter, think of health as daily care, not perfection. Small, thoughtful choices matter, especially when you are managing a business, attending school, and supporting family members who depend on you. Taking care of yourself allows you to show up stronger, more focused, and better equipped to handle everything life places on your plate.



THE HIDDEN COST OF

Hustle Culture

Why Your “Always On” Mentality Is Killing Your Business (And You)

Here’s what nobody tells you about building a business: the “rise and grind” mentality that got your company off the ground is the same mentality that will eventually burn it down—with you inside. We’ve been sold a dangerous lie in entrepreneurial culture. That success requires sacrifice. That self-care is selfish. That rest is for people who don’t want it badly enough. But here’s what actually happens when you never stop: you start making worse decisions, your creativity disappears, you get sick constantly, and the people who love you start feeling like strangers in your life.

Most entrepreneurs work over 50 hours a week, and after about 50 hours, you’re not actually more productive—you’re just more tired. When was the last time you felt truly rested? Not just “slept okay” but actually restored, energized, ready? For most of us, it’s been so long we can’t even remember.

Burnout doesn’t show up with announcements. It sneaks in quietly, pretending to be normal stress. There are seven warning signs most women founders ignore until it’s too late, and you’re probably experiencing at least three right now. First, you can’t make simple decisions anymore. You used to decide things quickly, but now you’re stuck on everything—which email to answer first, what to eat, whether to take that call. Your brain isn’t broken; it’s overloaded. Second, your creative well has run dry. Remember when ideas came easily? That was your rested brain. Your exhausted brain can check boxes but can’t innovate. Third, your emotions are everywhere. You’re snapping at your team, crying in your car, rage-quitting tasks. This isn’t passion—this is your nervous system screaming.

Fourth, your body keeps trying to get your attention through headaches, stomach issues, jaw pain from grinding your teeth, and constant illness. Fifth, your wins don’t feel like wins anymore. You hit goals that should feel amazing, but they just feel empty. Success feels like survival, not joy. Sixth, you’re disappearing from your own life. You cancel on friends, you’re physically present with family but mentally at work, and being alone feels easier than explaining yourself. And seventh, Sunday nights fill you with dread. You’re dreading your own business—the thing you built because you loved it.

Your body can’t tell the difference between being chased by a bear and being chased by deadlines. Both put you in survival mode. When your business feels like a constant emergency, your body never gets the signal that the danger passed. You’re stuck running on fumes while trying to make strategic decisions. Here’s what that does: your brain stops working well and you become reactive instead of strategic. You forget everything—walking into rooms and forgetting why, blanking on names, losing your train of thought. You get sick after every launch, every big quarter. And for women especially, stress messes with hormones—irregular periods, no energy, stubborn weight gain.



By Lady Cee Cee H. Caldwell, MA, CLC, AICL, CWO

Hustle Culture

Why Your “Always On” Mentality Is Killing Your Business (And You)

Now let’s flip this completely. What if rest isn’t the opposite of productivity but what makes productivity possible? What if the founders who rest strategically are the ones who actually make it long-term? The best performers in every field work intensely, then rest intentionally.

They understand that growth happens during recovery, not during the grind. Arianna Huffington collapsed from exhaustion and broke her cheekbone on her desk. Now she says you actually perform better when you take care of yourself. Jeff Bezos prioritizes eight hours of sleep every night. If the founder of Amazon can make sleep a priority, maybe it’s not about time—it’s about values.

The most successful women entrepreneurs understand that their energy and health are more valuable than their pitch deck or marketing plan. Rested people make smarter choices. When you’re rested, you work faster and better. You handle stress better when you’re not running on empty. And here’s the truth: you built this business to matter. None of that works if you burn out in year three.

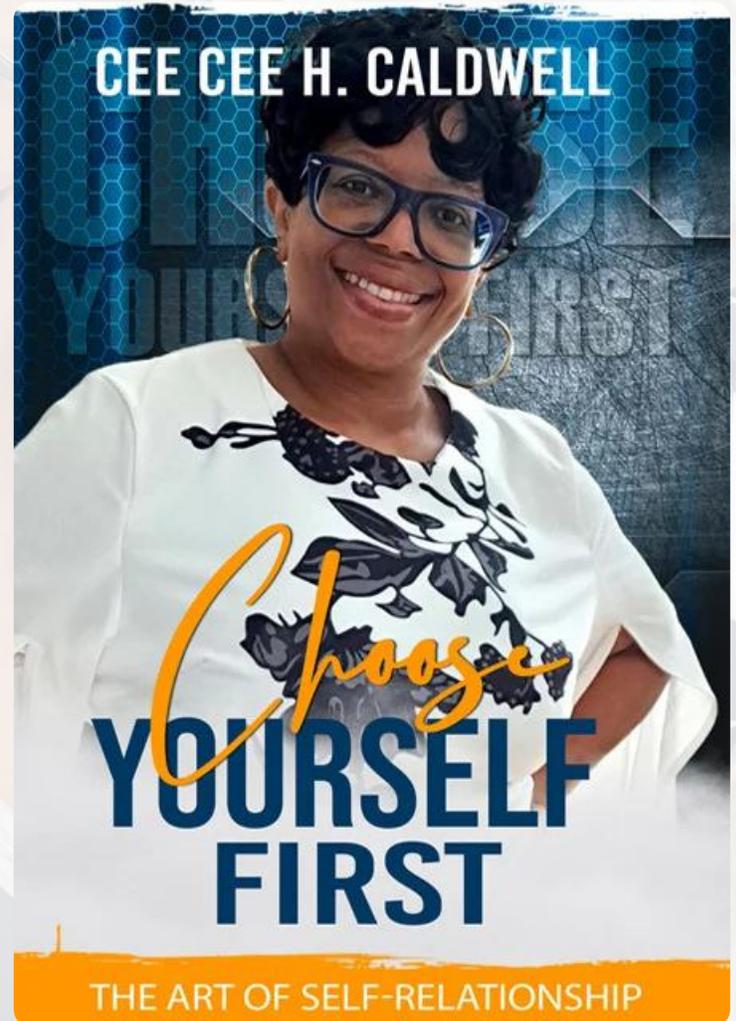
Moving away from hustle culture isn’t about working less—it’s about working smarter. It’s understanding that building a business is a marathon, not a sprint. It’s recognizing that you can’t pour from an empty cup. It’s permitting yourself to be human—to rest, to have needs—while still building something incredible. Jessica Honegger built a multi-million-dollar company while scheduling rest as if it were an investor meeting. She says she used to wear exhaustion like a badge of honor, but now she protects her boundaries like her life depends on it.

Over the next six articles, we’ll build a complete system for thriving as a woman entrepreneur. We’ll talk about listening to your body, fueling yourself properly, getting real sleep, managing your mind and emotions, protecting relationships, and creating sustainable systems. But it starts here with this truth: the hustle culture playbook isn’t working anymore. It’s time to write a new one.

Here’s your action step: tonight, put your phone in another room before bed. Tomorrow morning, don’t look at it for 30 minutes after you wake up. Notice how different you feel. That’s what we’re building toward—a life where your business enhances your life, rather than consuming it.

One final truth to remember: there will always be another launch, another quarter, another fire to put out. If you wait for the “right time” to rest, you’ll be waiting forever. Rest isn’t a reward for finishing your work. It’s what makes finishing your work possible.

Lady Cee Cee H. Caldwell is a holistic health and wellness, and self-care advocate; licensed evangelist; author; speaker; and coach empowering women to embrace self-care, emotional healing, and authentic living. With 17 self-published books and years of experience guiding individuals toward mind, body, and spirit balance, she blends faith-based wisdom with practical wellness strategies. Known for her heartfelt, genuine approach, Lady Cee Cee inspires women to prioritize self-love, reclaim energy, and live boldly as their true selves. Through workshops, programs, and resources, she helps women rise whole, thrive, and step confidently into vibrant, authentic lives.



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CREATE, CREATE, CREATE, Flow and Grow Through Transition

Transition is not easy. It is messy, emotional, and sometimes lonely. It is those moments when you know something has to change, but you do not quite know what is next. I have lived in that space more times than I can count. Moving to new cities, starting over, walking away from what no longer served me, and trying to keep my faith strong when my reality did not match my prayers. But through every single transition, one truth remained. God never left me.

When I started CantyCreates, it was not just a business idea. It was a lifeline. It came out of a season where I had to choose between staying broken or building something that could breathe life back into me. I was tired of pouring into everyone else and leaving nothing for myself. So I decided to create from my pain, to build from my lessons, and to let my story be the thing that helped someone else stand up again.

Creating is powerful. It is not just about making something pretty or polished. It is about taking what tried to destroy you and turning it into purpose. When I say "create," I mean build your peace, protect your space, design your future, and speak life into yourself daily. Because when everything around you feels unstable; creating gives you control over your own narrative.



Written by Shanikqa Canty

CantyCreates

Career Development

Shanikqa Canty is a driven career services advisor and founder of CantyCreates, a brand built to empower others to grow in their careers and purpose. With a background in business management and talent development, she uses her expertise to help students and professionals discover their potential, prepare for new opportunities, and walk confidently in their calling. Through CantyCreates, Shanikqa focuses on helping people create flow, build stability, and pursue lasting success. Her mission is simple: to inspire transformation through faith, focus, and intentional action.

Create, Flow, and Grow Through Transition

Then there is flow. Flow is the part that is hardest for me because it means surrender. It means letting go of the version of yourself that fit the last season. It means trusting God when the doors close and not begging them to reopen. It means moving forward even when you do not know the destination. Flowing does not mean everything is perfect. It means you have learned how to find peace even in the unknown.

And then comes growth. Growth is not instant. It is quiet, slow, and sometimes painful. It is crying on the bathroom floor one night and showing up the next morning like nothing happened.

It is learning to speak kindly to yourself when you used to be your own worst critic. It is forgiving people who never apologized and releasing things you thought you needed to survive. Growth is when you look back and realize you made it through what once felt impossible.

I have learned that life will always bring transition. But each season is an invitation to become more of who you were created to be. You have to create when it hurts, flow when it is uncertain, and keep growing even when no one claps for you.

So wherever you are right now, in the middle of the change, in the middle of the waiting, know that this is not the end. It is just the in-between where God is shaping you. Keep creating, keep flowing, and keep growing.

Because one day soon, you will look back and realize that every hard moment was preparing you for the peace and purpose you have now



Five Reminders for Seasons of Change

1. Create something small before you feel ready. Action brings clarity when emotions feel overwhelming.
2. Protect your energy during transition. Not every conversation deserves access to your process.
3. Release attachment to who you used to be. Growth requires making space for the next version of you.
4. Trust closed doors without revisiting them. What ends is often making room for what aligns.
5. Measure progress by peace, not applause. Quiet growth is still growth.

ONGOING LIST OF GRANT RESOURCES

1. [Amber Grant for Women](https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/) -
<https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/>
2. [Women's Business Development Center \(Quarterly Micro Grants\)](https://www.wbdc.org/en/funding-opportunities) -
<https://www.wbdc.org/en/funding-opportunities>
3. [YippityDoo Big Idea Grant](https://www.nerdwallet.com/business/loans/learn/grants-for-women) -
<https://www.nerdwallet.com/business/loans/learn/grants-for-women>
4. [IFundWomen Universal Grant Application](https://www.ifundwomen.com/grants/universal-funding-grant-application/welcome) -
<https://www.ifundwomen.com/grants/universal-funding-grant-application/welcome>
5. [Hello Alice's Small Business Funding Center](https://helloalice.com/funding/grants) -
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After working with Kisha this is what she had to say: Working with ShaChena, her guidance helped me get consistent and gain clarity. She stayed on course with me when my ADHD started ADHD'ing and gently kept me on track and focused.

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Most people think legacy starts with a trust fund, a will drafted by an expensive attorney, or a major life milestone. That belief keeps too many families stuck in delay. The truth is simpler and more empowering. Legacy begins the moment you decide that what you are building should outlive you.

You do not need to have everything figured out. You just need to start. Small steps taken consistently create protection, clarity, and continuity for the people you love and the businesses you are building.

Here are three practical steps anyone can take right now to begin leaving a legacy for their family, especially entrepreneurs.

1. Add a beneficiary to your accounts and ask better questions

If you have a bank account, retirement account, investment account, or life insurance policy, you should already have a beneficiary listed. If you do not, that is the first place to start.

Adding a beneficiary ensures that your assets transfer directly to the person you choose without unnecessary delays or legal confusion. But do not stop there. Ask your banker or financial institution what additional documents are required to make that beneficiary designation complete and enforceable. This may include contingent beneficiaries, payout instructions, or internal forms specific to that institution.

LEGACY IS NOT A LUXURY. IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY.

Legacy planning is not just about naming someone. It is about making sure the handoff is clean, clear, and respected.

2. Write a letter to your beneficiary with instructions and intention

This step is often overlooked and deeply powerful.

Write a letter to your beneficiary. It does not have to be perfect. It does not have to be short. It does not even have to be polished. What matters is that it exists.

In that letter, explain what you want them to know. Outline how you hope assets are used. Share values, priorities, warnings, and encouragement. If it turns into a book, let it. This letter becomes context, not just instruction. It gives meaning to the transfer of money, property, or business interests.

Legal documents tell people what they can do. A letter tells them why.

Families fracture when assets are inherited without clarity. This one step alone can reduce confusion, resentment, and regret.

3. Entrepreneurs must document how the business survives without them

If you are an entrepreneur, your legacy is not only personal. It is operational.



Too many business owners build companies that rely entirely on them and then assume their family will figure it out later. That assumption is risky. Your third step is to document the basics of how your business runs.

Start with three things. Where the money flows. Who has access to accounts and systems? What should happen if you are unavailable for thirty days or permanently?

This does not require a full operating manual. Begin with a simple document that names key vendors, login locations, trusted advisors, and decision authority. This protects your family from chaos and protects the value of what you have built.

A business with no continuity plan is not a legacy. It is a liability.
Legacy is built in motion, not perfection

Leaving a legacy does not require wealth. It requires intention. These steps are not about fear or worst-case scenarios. They are about leadership and care.

Start where you are. Add the beneficiary. Write the letter. Document the business basics. Each step compounds into peace of mind for you and stability for those who come after you.

Legacy is not something you leave behind someday. It is something you begin building today.

A woman with curly hair, wearing a purple and gold patterned suit, stands with her hands on her hips in front of the Wall Street Bull statue. The background shows a city street with buildings and an American flag.

“Legacy is not what you leave when you are gone. It is the clarity you create while you are here.”

ShaChena Gibbs ~



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“She Means Business”



– An RSRWBA Sitcom
*(Inspired by Friends)

[Scene: A cozy co-working loft in NYC, with purple walls, a mini stage, and a Keurig machine that everyone fights over. Five women—ShaChena, Kym, C.F., Cynthia, and Marcie—gather every Tuesday for what they call “The Strategy Sessions.” Today’s meeting starts like all the others: with caffeine, complaints, and charisma.]

ShaChena (arms crossed, pacing):

“Okay, y’all. We have a vendor expo, a grant-writing bootcamp, and a photoshoot in two weeks. We need a plan—and matching outfits. I vote for purple blazers and branded notebooks.”

C.F. (sipping iced coffee, laptop open, typing at lightning speed):

“Already made the Canva templates, set up the Eventbrite, and created a three-email funnel. You’re welcome.”

Kym (scrolling on her phone, hair laid, looking unbothered):

“I’ll go live about it tomorrow... but only if I can wear my shades and sip wine while I do it. Branding, boo.”

Cynthia (jumps in from behind the curtain, holding a vision board and a color-coded binder):

“I meditated on this, and spirit says we need to open with a panel called “The Soft Life Hustle.”

Marcie (arms full of tote bags and vendor applications):

“Ladies, can we focus? I just convinced the mall to let us host a pop-up inside their atrium. I need speakers, signage, and 15 vendors who won’t cancel last minute.”

[Everyone stares at her like she just dropped the mic.]

ShaChena (grinning):

“Marcie brings all the vendors to the yard... and damn right, they show up hard.”

Marcie (laughing):

“As long as abundance shows up in cash apps and contracts!”

Kym:

“I mean... she’s not wrong.”

[They all high-five and break into their assigned roles like it’s a heist movie. Cue the theme music: a jazzy remix of “I’m Every Woman.”]

C.F.:

“Let’s just not forget to collect the email addresses this time.”

Cynthia (smiling warmly):

“And affirm our abundance as we do it.”

[Voiceover: “They don’t just run businesses — they run the block. Welcome to She Means Business—where strategy meets sisterhood, and nobody gets left behind.”]

Check back next issue for another RSRWBA sitcom.

Jan/Feb 26

SistersRise! Magazine

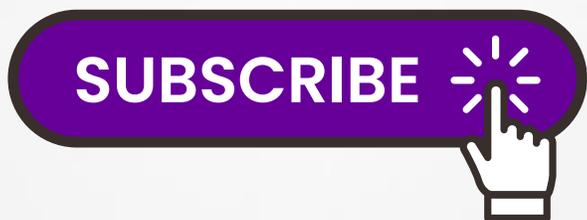


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