

2011 YMCA ACHIEVERS



OMARI JAHI AARONS

Macy's Inc.

Strong leadership, analytic, and communication skills have helped Omari excel in his career. He joined Macy's in 2007 as a member of the company's Executive Development Program. His experience has included working to establish consistent auditing standards for service representatives and managing a specialized billing adjustment team. Today Omari is a learning and development director for Stores Loyalty Education where he manages the design and development of educational experiences for credit loyalty programs. Omari believes values are the building blocks of strong communities and enjoys

strengthening lives through his church's new members' ministry and commission for young people. He is also a founding member of Xavier University's Black Alumni Association and an active volunteer with the Obama Campaign.



KEN ANDERSON

Radio One, 1230 WDBZ

Ken has always believed the way to improve your own quality of life is by improving your community and your environment. It is that affirmation that has guided his career path as a talk show host, author, real estate developer and concerned citizen. Ken also realizes the value of education and its important role in personal development. In 2006, he earned a master's degree in secondary education. One quote that motivates him is, "the most powerful thing one may do for someone else is to teach him/her how to read." Ken has used his education and business experience to reach out and help others,

through tutoring students, mentoring young adults and advising others in business matters.



INEZ BARNES

Cincinnati Herald

Every week, Inez has a reason to be proud when she sees the Cincinnati Herald. As the Layout Design Artist it is her job to make sure the advertisements, articles and photos look their best. In addition to the Herald, she helps other businesses put their best foot forward as a freelance artist who designs logos, ads, brochures and more. Inez gets a lot of satisfaction out of sharing her talent with others. In the past, she has engaged children in learning through art and reading at CSR Academy; and assisted clients with job search skills at Superjobs Downtown Cincinnati. Inez is looking forward to volunteering through

her church Ministry of Exploits, a program she completed, that helps others reach their professional goals.



WANDA I. COLON-CANALES
Central State University

As a senior admission/diversity officer at Central State, it is Wanda's job to help people seek educational opportunities for reaching their fullest potential. With eight years of experience administering professional development and training, she recruits, advises and provides feedback in admissions to adult learners, military and multicultural students. Being fluent in both English and Spanish has enabled her to outreach to diverse communities and cultures. Outside of work she is active with LULAC and has served as vice president of the Dayton Chapter. She has received numerous accolades including

being a recipient of the Distinguished Ohio Award from the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, being an honoree of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, receiving a United States Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation, and a recognition of the Ohio Senate.



MARK CORBIN
PNC E.F.

Mark joined PNC E.F. as a credit underwriter. His ability to communicate clearly and manage with integrity earned him several advances to his current position of eight years as a team leader. Together, he and his staff generate ideas for continuous improvement. It is with that same dedication that Mark gives of himself to enhance lives through community service. He volunteers for 4-CHARIS, a nonprofit that provides HIV testing, counseling and education, the Mt. Airy Animal Shelter, the Salvation Army, and the City Gospel Mission; and is a Red Cross certified tester. Additionally, he chairs a weekly Bible study at the Spiritual Application for Recovering Addicts, and is a

deacon and praise team leader at his church.



TORRE' COOK
Macy's

For Torre' who believes in leading a life balanced with integrity, responsibility and caring, it is a natural fit to have a job that involves finding fair and objective solutions to situations. Torre' was hired by Macy's in 2005 and it didn't take long for the company to recognize his ability to bring out the best in people. Within nine months he was promoted to a supervisory position that grew into a coaching role and eventually to manager of Steps 2 Claims employee relations. Torre' has always believed the most important gifts one can share are time, friendship, perseverance and character. However he has been able, he has sought opportunities to give back as a participant of many Macy's

fund raisers and community service projects.



BRIAN A. DAVIS

Humana

When Brian cares about something, he gives with all that he has. It is with that passion that he has excelled both in work, in civic engagement and his personal life. In his six years at Humana he has gained diverse experience in numerous roles of increasing responsibility, and currently is a company contact lead in its Employer Concierge Unit. It is a role that requires a positive attitude and a strong ability to communicate effectively. His contributions have not gone unnoticed as he has been recognized with two Humana Star Awards. Outside of work Brian is committed to mentoring teens and fostering their positive growth while instilling Christian values. He is a youth supervisor at the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and a volunteer at the annual Price Hill Health Fair.



CARMEN DIAZ

Macy's

One of Carmen's greatest strengths is actually one of her greatest virtues – her pure joy in watching others succeed. In everything she does through work, community service and her personal relationships it is that sense of caring that brings out the best in those around her. As Credit Customer Service Manager at Macy's, she oversees two supervisors and 17 credit customer service representatives. Carmen motivates and encourages them by listening and offering constructive, fair feedback. She participates in many charitable company events not only because she believe in the causes, but also to be a role model to others. Outside of work, Carmen is active in her church and volunteers on its FreeStore/FoodBank Committee spending Saturday mornings sorting food for those in need.



RUBEN DEL MORAL

Luxottica Retail

Growing up in Venezuela in a family of modest means, Ruben and his siblings learned early on that achieving goals and getting ahead was the product of determination, strength of character, and teamwork. With limited resources, each child worked to financially support the ability of the next child to attend college. That responsibility empowered each of them to excel in taking on challenges paving their personal paths to success. Ruben's first employer was Procter and Gamble where he held numerous finance positions. It was because of a desire to pursue better opportunities for his family and his own children that they moved to the United States and found a home in Cincinnati. Currently he is finance manager for Luxottica Retail. He enjoys giving back as a soccer coach, treasurer of the Hispanic Culture Team at Luxottica Retail, marathon runner raising money for charity through Miles that Matter, and active member of his church.



TERRY DICKEY
Cincinnati Museum Center

Terry has a passion for strengthening communities as he fosters growth and educational opportunities for the business sector and our citizens. He brings a diverse background to his leadership position at Cincinnati Museum Center that includes sales, program management, strategic planning and marketing direction. After a brief career in the Canadian Football League, Terry traded his uniform for a suit and was instrumental for the State of Ohio winning the Governor's Cup for economic development, and for Cincinnati USA being ranked in Site Selection magazine's 'Top Ten Cities to Grow and Expand Your Business. Additionally he was invited to Washington D.C. by the US Commerce Department to discuss best practices in economic development. One of Terry's legacies was his initiation of a dual-membership structure between two major chambers of commerce in Cincinnati that resulted in the partnership structure that exists today.



MILAN DOSHI
Hewlett Packard

As someone with a deep passion for his beliefs and his relationships, Milan lives every day to its fullest and reaches for goals with determination. His first position at HP was as a Goto Market consultant responsible for understanding and being able to clearly communicate his company's service. His skills didn't go unnoticed as he was quickly transitioned into full time project management. It's a great job for Milan who says he gets a lot of satisfaction from being able to lead a team to success. When he isn't working, he enjoys leading bible studies, serving in a homeless outreach program, reading, exercising and playing sports, and focusing on his family.



WHITNEY FOLLINGS
Humana

Whitney is someone who takes nothing for granted, works hard for her accomplishments, and gives back with her whole heart. Through everything that she does, she always strives to put her best foot forward. Whitney began at Humana as an intern four years ago, helping its call center to deliver accurate information to over 100,000 members. Now, in addition to her job processing and responding to member correspondence, she coordinates her company's United Way Campaign in three service centers with a goal of raising \$65,000. Outside work, she volunteers for Special Olympics, Cincinnati Walk for Kids, and for numerous causes through her community service focused Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. She has also participated in a Girl Scout mentoring program.



KIMBERLY A. FORSYTH

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America

Moving to the United States from Costa Rica in 1993 meant Kimberly had to quickly adapt to a new culture and learn English. That life-changing experience taught her to appreciate diversity and value exposure to people who are different from herself. She has carried those lessons with her through everything she does. They are the inspiration from which she chose her education path, earning a degree in Operations Management and International Business at the University of Cincinnati. While attending college Kimberly joined the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity and participated in a co-op program that gave

her first exposure to Toyota's North American Headquarters. Upon graduation Kimberly was hired in the company's Logistics Department. She enjoys volunteering with Give Back Cincinnati, the Ronald McDonald House, and Toyota's business partnering groups including TODOS, Young Professionals, and Women's Leadership Forum. On her spare time, she also helps run Scandal Shoes, a family owned women's boutique.



RACHEL FROST

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America

As the strategic buyer of technology for North America, Rachel has a very important role in the fiscal success for Toyota. At the same time, she knows her career goals wouldn't be possible without a college education and it is that reason why she is so passionate about fostering the educational development of a younger generation. Rachel facilitates meetings, leads discussions and serves as a positive role model to students by mentoring students attending her alma-mater, Central State University. As she works to encourage self-esteem and self-confidence in young people, her personal theme is simple... 'feeling

good about you and who you are is job number one.' Rachel also volunteers for a number of local organizations and civic events as she feels strongly that 'we are all in this together', and living by the motto, 'in all things be grateful.'



LOUISE J. GISSENDANER

Fifth Third Bank

Vice President and Manager of Bancorp Outreach and Strategic Initiatives at 5/3, Louise is responsible for developing community strengthening programs with 18 affiliates in 12 states. She is a leader who knows how to cultivate collaboration and results; and has lent those talents to numerous boards including the Center for Families & Children, Deaconess Community Foundation, and the Women of Color Foundation. Additionally, Louise spends countless hours mentoring young professionals and serving on an array of committees. For all of her efforts she has received numerous accolades including the National Black MBA Association 'Community Impact in Business' Award.



MAISHA K. GRAY-DIGGS, Ph.D.

Procter & Gamble

As the Doctoral Recruiting Manager for P&G, Maisha manages all facets of the Ph.D. full time, post doctorate, and doctoral intern recruiting process. It is a job that fits her skill set perfectly – as a strategic thinker, a motivator, and a natural leader. Maisha champions innovation through her work and her community activities. She is a dedicated volunteer with organizations that improve the lives of young people, women, and minorities. Her involvement includes serving as Vice President of the board for iSPACE (a nonprofit that offers hands-on learning of STEM), planning and leading STEM exposure

opportunities at Cincinnati Hughes STEM High School, and sharing her tissue transplant story at LifeCenter (the Cincinnati affiliate of Donate Life Ohio) speaking engagements.



E.J. GREIG

Radio One

The son of a former television news anchor, pursuing a broadcast career was a natural path for E.J. It was actually when he accompanied his late grandfather, Bishop H.W. Speights, to his weekly radio broadcast that E.J. got his first experience operating a board. The rest, one could say, is history...landing broadcast jobs in Chicago, Atlanta, and Michigan before moving to Cincinnati where he is assistant program director and midday personality for 101.1 WIZF. However, that wasn't before his serving as a civil air patrol cadet, where, at 17, he was the first black man to rise to the rank of Michigan Wing Cadet

Commander. E.J. enjoys being involved in activities that benefit the community. He volunteers with Working with Whole Again International serving urban kids and with the Cincinnati Police Department.



DAMIAN HOSKINS

CET

Damian is the senior manager for Learning Services at CET but students in the YMCA Teen Achievers Program where he has volunteered since December, 2010, have come to know him as a role model and mentor who always has empowering words of wisdom to share. Damian has a dynamic way of bringing out the best in everyone and many young people have grown in meaningful ways because of him. In addition to his job at CET, Damian is an adjunct art education professor at Central State University. He is the former education manager for Time Warner Cable's Cable in the Classroom, as well as a

10-year classroom teacher and administration veteran in public private and parochial schools settings in Cincinnati and Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to the YMCA, Damian is a member of the 100 Black Men of Cincinnati and also serves on the Local School Decision Making Committee for SCPA.



NATHAN IVEY

Radio One

Nathan got his start in radio in 1996 at a small Cincinnati public radio station, and his popularity was instant. By 2004 he accepted a daily on-air position with 1230 AM, *The Buzz*. Shortly thereafter, he was named "Best New Talk Radio Voice". In 2008, *Talkers Magazine*, the radio industry bible, named Nathan to their esteemed "Heavy 250" list. He has been featured on EUR.com and in *The Cincinnati Herald*, and was recently named one of the "Coolest Cincinnatians." But, what matters most to Nathan, are the opportunities that radio has given him to give back. Nathan aspires for greatness, as defined by Dr. Martin Luther King, who once said, "*Everybody can be great because everyone can serve.*" On the air, Nathan promotes ideas

that help to create a safe world for children. Off the air, Nathan practices those ideas by sharing his time and his experiences mentoring, lecturing and role modeling for young people.



ROLANDA JOHNSON-WILKERSON, Ph.D.

Procter & Gamble Beauty

A seven year veteran of P&G, Rolanda is a scientist whose important research helps the global company test and develop new personal beauty products. Excelling in that field requires having clear goals, the capacity to analyze and communicate, and many years of education. Rolanda doesn't take any of that for granted. She has a passion for inspiring young women to find and pursue their own strengths. To that end she co-founded Beauty and Brainz, a mentoring program designed to engage, motivate and encourage young girls to reach their fullest potential. Professionally, Rolanda serves on the board of the Nutrition Council of Cincinnati, and is a member of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce WE LEAD program and 100 Wise Women of

Cincinnati. She lives out her passion for inspiring youth by serving as a mentor to young girls in grade school and college. Rolanda's scientific work has been published in key peer-reviewed journals and she has presented at several professional and scientific meetings.



Tamara Jordan

Luxottica Retail

A product specialist for Sears Optical, Tammy has been an associate of Luxottica for ten years. It is an especially fulfilling job for her because it allows her to help customers look their best and offers her the opportunity of working for a civic minded company that engages its employees in volunteer efforts. Tammy is a member of the LuxTigers Mentoring Program Steering Committee and the Luxottica Women of Vision Culture Team, and is secretary of the company's African American Culture Team. However her favorite activity has been serving as a Cycle of Sight captain for Luxottica's OneSight Foundation where

she attended two numerous local and national missions. Outside of work, Tammy has engaged many youth in strengthening life skills as part of her role in serving as coordinator of mime ministry at New Jerusalem Baptist Church.



MIRIAM KANNAN, Ph.D.
Northern Kentucky University

A native of Quito, Ecuador, Miriam is a regents professor in NKU's Department of Biological Sciences and the faculty advisor for the school's Biology Honor Society. Miriam is passionate about the role of education in preparing young people to be future leaders. Among her outreach activities are: serving as the current director of the NKU Latino Institute for Excellence; working closely with the Foundation for Ohio River Education and the Ohio River Foundation to educate students about water quality; being past president of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences and past chair of the Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education; and since 2004, Miriam has organized a Fun with Science summer camp that introduces

Latino and Multicultural students to science, technology, engineering and math.



DANIEL KERBEL
Procter & Gamble

Daniel is a leader, collaborator and capacity builder. Working in global marketing for P&G's Old Spice products, his strategic thinking and ability to command a global team has been a great asset to the Cincinnati-based consumer company. Daniel enjoys lending that talent to other causes that strengthen lives. He leads P&G's Job Shadow Mentorship Program with Junior Achievement benefiting minority students, and participates in other volunteering projects through the Cincinnati Jewish Community and the Mayerson Foundation. Before moving to Cincinnati, back in his hometown Mexico City, Daniel volunteered within the Mexican Jewish Community for 15+ years, and worked his way up to president of the Mexican Jewish

Community Youth Movement. He also served on the community board for three years and remains an honorary member. He is fluent in Spanish, English and Hebrew.



SHAWN KERLEY
Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

Shawn's professional career is guided by his passion for building healthy, secure, and confident young people – the building blocks that were instilled in him as a child through the YMCA. In 1998 he joined the YMCA in Hamilton, Ohio as a youth director and began a Black Achievers Program there. Later he joined the Melrose YMCA as senior program director where he helped strengthen the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Black Achievers Program by implementing five new satellite sites. After several years away, Shawn returned to Cincinnati in 2007 to work for CAA as youth development director. Through his leadership, CAA landed Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory's Summer Youth Employment Program providing jobs to hundreds of local

teens; and expanded its pre-apprenticeship construction training program. Additionally, he is founder of Strength Through Empowering People Inc., a nonprofit youth development program, and is the head men's varsity basketball coach at Western Hills High School. Shawn is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.



PAUL W. MARTINI, JR.

Fifth Third Bank

A distinguished United States veteran, Paul served eight years in the Army Reserve JAG Corp where he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant. He participated in one of the world's largest coalition training exercises in Egypt and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the XVIII Airborne Corp, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Such rigorous and demanding work required a sense of team camaraderie that prepared Paul for his career in finance. He has held numerous positions at Fifth Third, and currently is director of the Investment Management Group Administration. Giving back is equally a part of Paul's character. He has mentored and tutored through Literacy Center West and given of his professional expertise to a nonprofit spay-neuter clinic. He also enjoys volunteering at LaSalle Catholic High School, the White Oak-Montfort Heights Kiwanis Foundation and his church.



TONYA YVETTE MASON

Western & Southern Life

Tonya learned from her parents that hard work builds integrity and character, and that anything worth having is worth the effort. That belief has given her the capacity to excel in professional accomplishments and to guide others toward creating their own meaningful purpose. Initially hired as a temporary associate, Tonya's eagerness to learn and exceed goals got the attention of Western & Southern management who offered her a full time job and several promotions. In her current role she is responsible for quality assurance, coordinating training, and managing the company's vital Knowledge Management System. Outside of work, Tonya gives back by being a Sunday school teacher as well as participating in her church's Vacation Bible School program and backyard bible clubs, and 'Simply Dinner' program.



TOMAS MENDEZ

Duke Energy

Raised by parents who worked the coffee and sugar cane fields in Puerto Rico, Tomas grew up in inner city streets while his parents provided him the great experience of attending a private Catholic school where community service was encouraged. It was during his high school years that his passion really blossomed; and he has carried that through college and into adulthood. His job at Duke is as distribution planner for the Downtown Underground Network; however he has also served as president and community outreach chair for the company's LUCES. Additionally, Tomas is a board member for Students with Special Smiles, a nonprofit that supports Olyer Elementary School locally and operates a free school in Paraguay for children with disabilities. During his free time he enjoys coaching his son's sports teams.



GREGORY W. PAYNE II
YMCA of Greater Cincinnati

Being the oldest of seven children taught Greg early about the values of compassion, gratitude, understanding and patience as he continually worked at being the best role model for them. He has carried that sense of wanting to cultivate those building blocks in others through his entire life journey. In high school, Greg helped form an organization to empower urban elementary students. In college he volunteered daily as a mentor, and coached high school sports teams. It is those experiences, Greg said, that prepared him to be the 21st Century Site coordinator for Arnett Elementary School where he and his team teach good decision making and help students thrive. But Greg doesn't see his job as ending there. He is always looking for ways to build secure, confident and connected kids – whether he is cheering in the stands of a game, coaching, or being part of the PTA.



LEYLA PENA
TSJ Media

A native of the Dominican Republic, Leyla worked for 24 years in the United States and her homeland prior to moving to Cincinnati in 2008. She has an important role in keeping the Latino community apprised of information about the world and their region. For three years she was News Editor of TSJ's Spanish-language La Jornada Latina and now she is the editor of the company's publication Latinos Magazine in Cincinnati, Columbus, Kentucky and Detroit. Additionally, is Communications Director for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) for Cincinnati and the State of Ohio. Leyla is also a member of the Family and Civic Engagement Committee for Cincinnati Public Schools. In both roles – and her other volunteer work as well – she is an advocate for the Latino community in civil rights, education, health and equal representation.



LUIS PRATTS
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America

Luis credits his close knit family for nurturing him as a child through the tragic loss of his parents and guiding him toward becoming the caring, successful adult that he has grown to be. Relationships, he learned early, are not to be taken for granted. It was as a high school student in his homeland of San Juan, Puerto Rico where he first came to realize the immense gratification of passing those gifts on as a mentor to children. He continued that path when he attended the University of Dayton. There, he was a leader at a retreat that was all about helping students learn from their own life experiences; and he was president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, organizing numerous community service projects. Most recently Luis has given of his time to the Ronald McDonald House.



Richara Richardson
YMCA of Greater Cincinnati

Through Richara's strong faith, she has withstood many obstacles while staying on course to accomplish goals and raising a daughter with heart disease. It was during her greatest challenges that Richara developed a strong passion for education as well as a desire to give back and inspire others, especially youth. She earned a master's degree in educational administration and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education. Richara's work at the YMCA is as an extended learning specialist in the YMCA Tutoring Program where she manages, coordinates and guides both staff and students in academic enrichment. Additionally, she is a YMCA mentor and a board member for Mustard Seed Faith Outreach Services/Ministries; and has donated her time as softball and drill team coach for Cincinnati Public Schools and as an academic coach for the 'Play It Smart' Program.



SUKH SANDHU
U.S. Bank

Sukh learned about innovation and integrity from his father whose strength in character raised their family from an impoverished village in India. That upbringing has inspired Sukh to say he never wants to look back and feel as though he didn't give 100% to those around him. He brings that passion with him to work every day. As a vice president, region manager, Sukh is responsible for managing, coaching and developing advisors. He mentors them with that same level of honesty and pride that was instilled upon him by his father. Sukh's high energy and enthusiastic leadership style inspires all members of his team to succeed. Helping others, he feels, is the greatest virtue of humankind.



SAMUEL SARKODEE
U.S. Bank

Samuel is a leader, an organizer, a humanitarian and an advocate for youth. While attending college in his homeland of Africa, he was a student government president for the National Union of Ghana students. His role included overseeing capacity building trainings and outreach efforts to underserved communities. Samuel brought that sense of social responsibility with him when he moved to Columbus and co-founded a nonprofit that worked to empower individuals and families with economic hardships. Samuel finished his college degree in Cincinnati where he joined the U.C. Model United Nations Students Club. U.S. Bank has seen his leadership skills both through his facilitation in new hire orientations and his volunteer efforts. Outside of work he has enjoyed giving back and formerly served as music director and community relations coordinator for his church.



CHARMIN G. SPENCER

Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America

Charmin was a teen when she first made a vow to give back and inspire others toward paths of success. It was then that she and a friend founded an organization to support girls whose parents struggled with substance abuse. Later, she mentored freshman in college and volunteered through her sorority, by reading to older adults, serving food to people who were homeless, and participating in a reading program for kids. As a YMCA cheerleading coach, she taught team skills, encouraged healthy living and boosted the confidence of her squad. Never wavering from her conviction, Charmin currently teaches

Christian values to children through the Grace of God and other ministries; and is co-chair of Toyota's Benchmarking Committee for the African American Collaborative.



CHARLENE VICKERS

Ethicon-Endo Surgery

During Charlene's 13 year tenure at Ethicon, she has transitioned through multiple roles of increasing responsibility. Currently she manages the Global Package Labeling Solutions team. Charlene has a strong passion for service, which was instilled in her as a young child. She is currently a member of a J&J affinity group, the African-American Leadership Council (AALC) National Board, where she is leading an effort to educate associates on diabetes. She also volunteers with the Junia Company, a Cincinnati based organization focused on developing, and empowering women. Charlene has served as facilitator of life skills

classes for homeless women to equip them with knowledge, and also created the vision for an annual 5k walk/run. Additionally, she has served as a mentor for a number of young women over the years, and volunteered with several organizations focused on today's youth.



DORONNA K. VICKERS

Cincinnati Financial Corporation

As a child, Doronna's grandmother taught her two valuable lessons that helped shape who she is today: there is power in the spoken and written word; and when you take care of God's people, He will take care of you. Doronna is committed to helping local teens identify academic, civic and professional opportunities. Among her volunteer activities, she has participated at Winton Woods High School's job fair, Fairfield High School's career day, and Cincinnati Financial Corporation's annual World of Work tour, which teaches students how to be successful in Corporate America. She is a member of Higher

Ground Global Ministries where she previously served as director of the REACH mentoring program, administrator for the Education and Scholarship committee, and as a mentor with the Daughters of Noble Character ministry. Doronna is an IT communications analyst at CFC and is a member of the company's Wellness Committee and CIC Speaks, a Toastmasters club.



Kirk Villaloboz

U.S. Bank

In his childhood, Kirk remembers with a smile that he thought he'd grow up to be a famous football player...or the next Michael Jackson. However, positive adult role models convinced him that academics was important no matter his life goals. He earned a scholarship to a highly rated college preparatory school, an award that changed the course of his life. Years of perseverance landed him his first job out of college at DISCOVER Financial Services where he was accepted in a management training program. Throughout his 19 year career there, his skills earned him numerous promotions. He was a senior department manager when he left in 2008 to join U.S. Bank as an assistant vice president in the

Retail Lending Department. Kirk knows he is blessed and is generous with his time in giving back through organizations such as the Children's Hunger Alliance, Junior Achievement, the Salvation Army and others.