

Pam M. Mines

Author | Speaker | Philanthropist | Special Needs Advocate

BIOGRAPHY



Pam Mines is a true example that with perseverance, hard work and faith, anything is possible. Pam's career began in the field of early childhood development. She has evaluated, consulted, directed and founded multiple Day Care and Child Development Centers in Richmond, VA. By 2005, Pam and her husband, Perry, were working together full-time for the organization they founded, Luv'em Like MINES Youth Services, Inc., helping and mentoring at-risk youth between the ages of 5 and 21 years old.

Pam and Perry have three children: Michelle, Sydnee and James Perry (JP). In 2005, JP was diagnosed with a developmental delay, and soon after diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Their daughter, Sydnee, joined their family in 2008 after her biological mother, and Pam's god-sister, passed away from complications of neurofibromatosis (NF). Sydnee also has NF as well as ADHD.

Pam views her children's diagnoses as a blessing and a calling. She has adopted a pro-active approach to raising differently-abled children and become an advocate for all children and families with special needs. She founded JP Jumpers Foundation, to positively

impact families affected by Autism, Special Needs and unique circumstances. Through JP Jumpers Foundation, she has raised money and awareness for both non-profits and for-profits that serve this community.

She has written a book, *God Chose Me: An Interactive Book to Promote Family Building*, with her daughter, Michelle as the illustrator. *God Chose Me* serves as a learning tool and guide for children with different abilities.

In 2014, Pam led the legislation to establish "JP's Law" (SB367) in Virginia. This law gained bi-partisan support, and established a special identification card for persons with special needs. This identification card helps law enforcement understand when they may be engaging with someone with special needs. The training programs she has led trains law enforcement how to safely, responsibly and successfully engage in these situations and understand some responses of those with special needs.

Her work, advocacy and ability to inspire meaningful change has been recognized several times over the years. She has been named a "Richmond's Top 40 Under 40", Urban League of Greater Richmond's "Leader in our Community Award", Richmond's Radio-One "Hometown Champion", and a national Steve Harvey "Good Neighbor" Award finalist for her community work. She has been asked to serve on several advisory committees and panels. In 2016 she shared her experience through her talk "Learning to See Unseen Communities" to a sold out TEDxRVA crowd. In 2017 she was recognized as a "Hometown Hero" for her work in the community, in 2018 she was honored as a "Richmond History Maker in the Encouraging Regional Collaboration" category, in 2019 our nation's capital, the District of Columbia adopted JP's Law and she was selected as a "Story Slammer" for the sold out Women's Achieve Summit audience hosted by Queen Latifah (To view a full list of accomplishments visit www.PamMines.com)

Pam continues to write, speak, give and advocate. She feels blessed and grateful that God saw fit to trust her with such a tremendous responsibility; to not be *the* voice for the special needs community, but to be A voice for those with special needs. This remarkable woman hopes that she will be able to positively impact many, showing them that through their many challenges, they are CHOSEN.

To book Pam Mines for speaking engagements, panel discussions, hosting and/or appearances; go to www.PamMines.com or email BookPamMines@gmail.com

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AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pam is very well known in the community for the work she has done for the special needs community and the support she has given other community leaders and their organizations and/or causes. For that she has been recognized with the following awards and accomplishments:

Chosen as a *Story Slammer for the Women's Achieve Summit hosted by Queen Latifah* for a sold out audience of more than 1,400 (2019).

Trained all DC DMV Service Center employees on the behaviors of those with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities after *DC adopted "JP's Law"* (2019).

Selected (along with her son JP) as the faces of the state-wide *Special Olympics Virginia WaWa "Be a Change Maker" Campaign* (2019).

Honored with a *Professional Business Woman Award* from the Gamma Delta Chapter of the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. for initiating legislation for JP's Law and bringing awareness to the Special Needs Community (2018).

Chosen as a *Richmond History Maker Honoree* in the Encouraging Regional Collaboration category for making lasting contributions to the Greater Richmond region (2018).

Selected as one of the *Allen & Allen Hometown Heroes* for community work done for the Autism, Special Needs & Homeless communities (2017).

Nominated as one of the Top 4 Nominees in the country for the *Steve Harvey Neighborhood Awards, "Good Neighbor Award"* and attended the awards show in Las Vegas, NV (2016).

Received *Richmond, VA's Hometown Champion Award* in honor of her outstanding service in the community and attended the NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles, CA (2016).

Chosen as a *TEDxRVA Speaker* for a sold out audience of more than 1,500. Her talk titled "Learning to See UNseen Communities" is sure to go viral (2016).

Selected for the *Citizen of the Year Award* from the Phi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc for significant contributions made to her community and mankind (2016).

Asked to be on the *"ChangeMaker Panel" (Women Making a Difference)* for US Senator Mark Warner's 2016 VA Women's Conference (2016).

Recognized by the *Richmond, Virginia City Council with a Proclamation for Autism Awareness Month and a Recognition Award* for raising awareness for the Autism and Special Needs Communities (2016).

Wrote an article for CEO Magazine titled *"3 Families Journey towards Gratitude"*, helping others understand that families affected by Special Needs are grateful despite their challenges (2015).

Lead the legislation to establish *"JP's Law" (SB367)* in VA with the support of Senator Donald McEachin, chief patron on the bill. On 7-1-14, "JP's Law" became effective and her son JP was the first in the state of VA to get this specialized identification card. Virginia Governor McAuliffe had a ceremonial Bill Signing for JP's Law and this accomplishment was acknowledged by US Senator Warner, US Senator Tim Kaine, US Congressman Bobby Scott and others (2014).

Created a You Tube Video for the Pharrell Williams song "Happy" featuring the Richmond, VA special needs community called *"RVA Happy in a Special Way"* and it is going viral with more than 2,500 views (2014).

Was specifically asked to represent the Dale District as a parent representative on the *Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee* (2013).

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