



**Ricky G. Grant – CEO**



## **World Outreach Youth Organization**

It all started as a young boy in my hometown of Portsmouth, Ohio. My Grandmother raised me while my parents worked hard in Bronx, New York City to support and provide a good life for me. At the time I didn't really understand their plan for doing this, however now I know. Thanks to my family for positive direction and giving me the opportunity to flourish in life. To GOD be the Glory!

Looking back on my early years at school, it was a great honor to be voted captain of the traffic scouts; which taught me the importance of self-discipline. Thanks to the help of Portsmouth Inner City Development Youth; and others i.e. Mayor Albert White and Chief of police Ted Wilburn, Directors, Jean Collins and Carl Ferguson.

I became a Jr. Portsmouth Police Cadet of Portsmouth, Ohio; which provided knowledge about the self-worth in staying safe and the value of law enforcement. Years later, traveling back from Portsmouth, OH to Bronx, NY; life was much different with the heroin drug use, poverty and violence within the inner city; happenings I'd never seen before. Even then my parents pushed hard for me to graduate and I did, from Notre Dame Portsmouth, OH. I continued my studies at Bluefield State College then on to Wilberforce University majoring in Pre-Law and Political Science.

Later, during the 1980's, Judge Grossman and Eileen Burgmann believed in my methods of how to reach-out to young people by offering me the opportunity of working within the Juvenile Court system in Cincinnati, OH. Outside of following the procedures and guidelines of the organization, my main goal was to uplift the spirit and minds of the younger generation as well as pass on the teachings and experience I had learned and seen through-out my life.

All these things helped me understand my purpose in life; wanting to help people who were suffering with homelessness and hunger. Communicating with our youth and advising them about positive ways to excel in life. By talking to individuals who struggle with drugs and violence, yet seek a better life. I give thanks to the great men who took me by the hand and gave me opportunities to succeed; i.e. Council members Vern Riffe, Ted Strickland and Deputy Sheriffs John Knuff, Jack Colley and Bill Flanagan of Scioto County Sheriff's Department. They all worked with Simon Leis of Hamilton County in Cincinnati, OH to show young people like myself another way to a productive lifestyle.

As it's been said, it takes a village to raise a child. I'm truly grateful to my mother Sr. Pastor Marie Lykes and my aunt and uncle, Mr. Jim and Elizabeth Grant for the guidance and support they have provided me over the years; by keeping me on the right course and teaching me about the importance of doing the

right thing. Also, people like Pittsburgh Pirates' Al Oliver, Minnesota Twins Larry Hise, Operatic Soprano Kathleen Battle, Lee Bass, Screaming Eagles 109<sup>th</sup> division, Vietnam Veteran; were instrumental in my life. Here are people who lived across the street or around the corner from where I grew up; who reminded me to never forget where I came from and how I should always remember those less fortunate than myself.

All the great people as well as life experiences, inspired me to establish World Outreach Youth Org. "W.O.Y.O."; the imprint of what resonates in my soul to this day is about how you treat people. Understanding the needs of the people by providing food, clothing and housing was passed on to me and many other young men and women growing up. So now it's time for us all to rise up and lend a hand to all of those in need today. We must be enriched within ourselves in order for the compassion to rain outside of ourselves. My hope and desire is that all American people will work together to encourage the helpless, to lift up their spirit, for them to know there is another path in life besides homelessness, drugs and violence. Let's formulate a push collectively as one for the common good of mankind; for in GOD we do place our trust and faith.

#### **Other Accomplishments:**

1980's - Learned a trade through my mentor George F. McCloud's construction company, Cincinnati, OH.

1990's - Joseph Ahern, Cincinnati, OH provided me the opportunity to oversee and manage several buildings and apartments under his organization.

2009 - The nonprofit organization 3CDC (Cincinnati Center City Development Corp.); Fountain Square Management Group allowed me to speak at Cincinnati Fountain Square, with a message for our fellow men, women, and children about compassion, love and respect.

#### **Special Acknowledgements:**

The Great Bootsy and Pattie Collins - has always welcomed me in their lives as brother and friend.

Chuck Ealey, Portsmouth Notre Dame Hall of Fame (CFL All-Star) mentor and role model

Dr. Keith Melvin, Cincinnati, OH - role model

Curt Gentry, Portsmouth Trojan Hall of Fame, Chicago Bears - mentor and role model

Reggie Calloway, singer/songwriter - tutored inner city kids in Cincinnati, OH

Dr. Howard Darrell Melvin, Cincinnati, OH - role model