



**BROOKLYN BY FAITH**  
**THE ONLY WAY TO MOVE**

*2019 Reception*  
**AT TILLY'S BKLYN**

*elevating the work of women and men  
who move by faith and inspire  
positive community change*



# ABOUT BROOKLYN BY FAITH AWARD RECIPIENTS

## ↑ GLOBAL IMPACT AWARD



Andre McDonnell was born in St. Michaels, Barbados, and came to Brooklyn, NY, at the age of five, with his parents and two younger sisters. In 2012, after playing basketball with friends, Andre spotted a homeless man with no shoes on his feet. A sense of urgency came over him that nudged his soul to take action. This nudge prompted Andre to take the sneakers off his own feet and offer them to this gentleman. Feeling the gravel under his feet, nothing compared with the immense gratitude Andre experienced with this small act of kindness, as the man returned a smile. Andre knew in his heart there had to be something more he could do to make the walk through life a bit easier for others. Compelled to

create a charitable movement, Andre began collecting donations and created a process for sneaker distribution that resulted in founding **It's from the Sole (IFTS)** which means to give from the soul of your heart, to the sole of your feet.

Soon after, IFTS attracted media attention and sneaker donations poured in from many other contributors with footwear they no longer wanted. For the first two and a half years Andre handled the collection, cleaning and distribution alone and at his own expense. He now recruits high school and college students, to support some aspects of the work, teaching them how to give back while performing community service for a cool organization. From the positive feedback he has been receiving, and most importantly, the expressions of appreciation, Andre believes his small grassroots movement is poised for future growth.

IFTS' next step is to affiliate with local retailers, footwear brands, churches, civic and non-profit organizations. He believes that learning the operations of this business, will enable him to spread the message of rebuilding the integrity and dignity of the homeless population far and wide.

Among a host of national and local media coverage, Andre's efforts have been featured on Ellen (2019) and CNN. To date, IFTS, has given out over 26,000 pair of sneakers to the homeless and less fortunate individuals domestically and internationally. Andre has distributed sneakers in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Texas, Puerto Rico, Washington DC, Oregon, and California. He has also had global impact by donating goods in Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Haiti, London, Paris, Colombia, Israel, and Uganda. He has won awards that include Yahoo's Nicest Man in Fashion Award 2014, a 2015 NAACP Award, the Danny Glover Power of Dreams 2017 Humanitarian Award, the Black Entertainment Magazine Modern Man of the Year 2017 and the Fashion 500 Award.

Find out more at [itsfromthesole.org](http://itsfromthesole.org).

## ↑ POINT OF LIGHT AWARD



Kenny Carter was born in Queens and grew up in South Jamaica, Queens. In 1988 after moving from shelters and welfare hotels with his mother and siblings, they were placed in Queensbridge housing projects, the largest housing projects in America. During Kenny's development, Kenny became involved in gangs and drug activities which landed him in jail during his teenage years. Kenny was 17 when he was offered an alternative to incarceration program. While Kenny was in Phoenix House he obtained a high school diploma. After the completion of the program he continued to identify avenues that would allow him to help and serve others. At the age of 19 he became one of the youngest junior substance

abuse counselors in this field of work. Kenny endured a heart wrenching personal ordeal and in 2006 he gave his life to Christ and joined Christian Cultural Center located in Brooklyn, NY.

After the murder of Sean Bell he became an advocate for the people in his community. Kenny participated in protests and rallies for justice against police brutality, as well as organized Marches for "ENOUGH OF US KILLING US", which is the slogan used by **Fathers Alive In The Hood (F.A.I.T.H)**. In 2011 Kenny founded F.A.I.T.H Since then Kenny has been an advocate to end street violence, police brutality and domestic violence. Today Kenny addresses the issues of the fatherless by providing mentorship services to at risk youth and troubled teens. Kenny believes fatherlessness is one of the roots to violence in our communities. Kenny Carter and members of his organization have been consistent in implementing their program approach in communities such as: Queens Bridge Houses, Astoria Houses, South Jamaica Houses, Redfern Houses, Ocean Bay Houses, Hammel Houses, and the Pink Houses and Seth Low Houses in Brooklyn, NY.



## ↑ CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD



**Monica Bartley**, Master's in Special Studies (MSS), Advanced Certificate in Disability Studies, is a **Community Outreach Specialist at the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)**. She has worked on promoting social justice for people with disabilities for much of her adult life. She leads the CIDNY Action Network (CAN) to educate people with disabilities and help them become leaders in community advocacy. Ms. Bartley organizes CAN member visits with legislators, trains people to survey polling sites, street access, restaurants and green markets. Her voting rights advocacy efforts contributed to a civil rights victory in the federal courts for people with disabilities in New

York City. As a child with a disability it ignited her drive to be a pioneer of the disability rights movement in Jamaica.

Ms. Bartley worships at Bethany United Methodist Church in Brooklyn where she assists with the Media Ministry, the Youth Confirmation class and she is the President of the local unit of Bethany United Methodist Women.

Her faith journey began from childhood nurtured by her grandmother who encouraged her to have faith in God and prayed fervently for healing after she became disabled. During her youth, God's word made an indelible impression on Monica. Attending Sunday school and church with her family was an integral part of her life and continue to characterize her faith journey.

## ↑ COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD



**Patricia Robinson** is a hidden gem emerging as an influential leader in the broadcast media industry and through her broader work in the community and social activism engagement. Her exceptional work ethic, apparent leadership, commitment, consistency, and consummate professionalism has earned her a dynamic career as **Director of Operations for Hot 97, WBLS, and WLIB**—spanning over fifteen years in the broadcast media industry. She has earned the respect and credibility of organizations and colleagues, as she consistently commits herself to ensuring people have equal and fair opportunity in the workforce, in addition to helping them identify their inner leadership potential.

Patricia is a media advocate, leader, mentor, public speaker, and champion of all things community. Her passion runs deep for contributing to a better society, and she starts with being an example of excellence in every arena in which she engages. She is involved with and supports numerous programs in the tri-state area that include NYPD's My School Has Rhythm Not Violence, NYC Department of Youth & Community Development, and numerous local programs that support the upward mobility of youth. She spends a lot of time encouraging young adults to cultivate their leadership potential. Her public speaking efforts are sought after on many platforms.

Patricia has been recognized in Black Enterprise 2019 and the September 2017 Huffington Post feature "On the Forefront of Next Generation African American Women Leaders in Media". Patricia was also recognized for her achievements and was published as one of Radio Ink's 2015 "Future African American Leaders in Radio." She won the 2017 Stars of NY Dance competition for \$5K, where New York City leaders raise dance education funds for children from low-income communities to help them develop discipline, confidence and self-esteem to succeed in school and in life. She was awarded the 2019 Driven Women Award by Playbook MG. Patricia was also just awarded the 2019 Female Leadership Award by the Lower East Side Girls Club in which she serves as the Executive Director for Colin Kaepernick's "Know Your Rights Camp". In the capacity of Executive Director, she works with Colin and the team to coordinate camps that provide free campaigns for youth adults ages 14-18 across the country through social activism strategies, education, financial literacy, law advocacy/education, health and wellness and community leadership.

Patricia holds a Master's of Management and Human Resources and a Bachelor's in Business and Finance, and she is a certified HR professional. She is also a licensed Public Notary and a Public Notary Real Estate Agent.

Patricia has achieved a wide array of career achievements demonstrated by her robust work ethic, but her passion and enthusiasm, coupled with her sense of humility, organically platforms her as the highly respected professional that she is today.

It is through her close relationships and stellar work reputation that she is also able to build key relationships across the country. Any opportunity Patricia has to uplift and empower others, she readily takes it. Patricia prides herself on her active involvement and direct tie in to "community". She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Black Spectrum Theatre.

She is a leader committed to evolving change both professionally and personally. Patricia Robinson is a contemporary leading example of a new generation of African American women leaders.

**Learn more about Patricia Robinson at [www.msparobinson.com](http://www.msparobinson.com).**

Read more ➡



# Supporting an Organization

## Little BRO Summer Camp

Our mission is to transform the literacy struggles, self confidence and life experiences for young men in under resourced communities. The camp will be a FREE 7-week program serving 3rd to 5th-grade young men in the Brownsville Community. Help us make this camp a reality.

**Contact Barry Cooper at [Bcooper4sc@gmail.com](mailto:Bcooper4sc@gmail.com) | 347-479-4580**



## Highlighted Organization



### About Progress Playbook

Progress Playbook is a business training and service platform that designs customized programs to give entrepreneurs a blueprint to start & grow successful businesses locally.

Progress Playbook's clients include over 20 organizations in NYC, including, NYC Department of Small

Business Services, The Actors Fund, Martha Stewart American Made program, New York University & more.

### Progress Playbook Services Include:

- Business Courses
- Expert advisory sessions
- Business Planning
- Business Formation (i.e. LLC, Corporation)
- Branding
- Website Development
- Fundraising

### Contact us

[www.progressplaybook.com](http://www.progressplaybook.com)  
[hello@progressplaybook.com](mailto:hello@progressplaybook.com)  
347-464-8178



# Brooklyn By Faith Prayer

Gracious Father, we believe as your word says, “Those who are wise will shine as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever” (Daniel 12:3). Therefore, we ask that you would have your way in our lives, in our hearts, in our endeavors, and in our communities. May the work of our hands and hearts bring joy to you, and blessing, healing and freedom to others through your name and for your glory alone. Let rivers of living water flow through us that wherever our feet land others will know that we walk with you and for you.

Be glorified in our lives like never before. We pray for the love, courage, boldness and great wisdom to do great exploits, by faith. We pray for our brothers and sisters gathered here and around the world. We cheer them on in you. We ask that you would grant success to our efforts to glorify you, in Jesus’ name, amen.

**The Lord will hold you in  
his hand for all to  
see—a splendid crown  
in the hand of God.  
-Isaiah 62:3**



↑ ABOUT OUR HOST



Jeanelle Drysdale Miller was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and is from a St. Lucian and Belizean family of 6 kids. She has been leading in youth ministry for the past 9 years and is living out her passion for sharing the gospel and empowering youth as the Area Director for Young Life in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn.

In her spare time she co-hosts a web-series entitled “Life with Tray and Jea” where she shares her walk through life as a believer. Jeanelle holds a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Sociology and a minor in Business Management and Africana Studies from Stony Brook University as well a Master’s of Divinity, where she concentrated on Theological and Biblical Studies from Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack College.

