

## MISCHA DUFFIE

HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTOR • PROFESSIONAL SPEAKER • PROFESSIONAL WRITER

“Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it.”

~RABINDRANATH TAGORE



Well known as a high-spirited inspirer, Mischa has a special gift for curating conversations and conditions that compel individuals to explore the more of life. She skillfully helps individuals and companies find the reason and the courage to live out their highest ground narrative.

As a 30-year veteran of the human service profession with a specific expertise in human behavior and the human spirit, Mischa has spent more than half of her life giving individuals the necessary tools to navigate through their hopes, hurts, dreams, devastations, ideas, and insecurities.

Mischa proudly acknowledges that her greatest investment and most effective credential remains her own incredible life that has been transformed using the same valuable practices and tools she has shared with audiences from Princeton University to the White House Council on Women & Girls.

For 17 fruitful years, through Greatness Now®, Mischa and her team worked collaboratively with over 85 corporations, educational institutions, churches and community-based organizations nationwide. During this time, Greatness Now® became known for the development of strength-based programs and curriculum that was designed to improve behavioral, emotional and social outcomes. Mischa’s professional career has involved working in the non-profit, for profit, juvenile justice, social justice, and educational sectors in capacities that range from volunteer to grassroots organizer to administrator to executive management leadership roles. Mischa currently serves as a professional speaker, consultant, coach, master trainer and writer who, with great conviction, teaches greatness through the prism of courage, authenticity, intentionality and gratitude.

As a passionate, principled, prolific writer, Mischa has published 20 of her own books. As the owner of *Morals & Values Press*, Mischa has served as publisher, ghostwriter, coach, and consultant for those with a burning desire to share their story or perspective with the world. She is also the designer/creator of her company’s more than 500 hundred inspirational products. She has done freelance writing for *Jubilee Magazine* and *The Baltimore Sun’s Unisun Magazine*; and was a contributing writer for the *National Cares Mentoring Movement Mentors Manual*.

To meet the needs of a growing and diverse constituency, Mischa became the master mind behind the development of three subsidiary entities of Greatness Now®: *Morals & Values Press*®, a publishing company; *Black Love Talk*®, a national movement purposed to improve perception as well as the quality of relating among men and women of African Descent; and *She Ain’t Angry for Nothin’*®, an intervention and behavior modification program designed to identify, confront, and eradicate causal factors associated with anger and aggression in girls.

As a pioneering agent of change who is always seeking innovative and unconventional ways to effectively move individuals’ lives forward, Mischa was the visionary/lead organizer of the first ever Youth Empowerment Summit held inside the Baltimore City Detention Center. In 2008, Mischa worked with a professional filming team to produce the inspiring DVD presentation *Serve, Learn to Serve, or Move Graciously Out of the Way*; for which she is the host and executive producer. The DVD presentation, funded by The John D. Catherine T. MacAthur Foundation’s DMC Network, encompasses interviews with six human service professionals across the field who candidly share their perspectives about what the word “serve” must mean to those who enter the human services profession. In 2010, Mischa co-founded the GG (Great Girls) Project, which was a community collaboration between Greatness Now®, Towson University’s Women’s Center, and Baltimore City Women’s Detention Center where female college students served as mentor-pen pals to incarcerated teen girls. And in 2011, Mischa became the creator of the groundbreaking *Make Her Great Leadership Program*, a mentor-based program model that took

high school girls who once struggled with anger, put them in a teaching environment that allowed them to heal while learning leadership principles, and then share those principles with elementary school girls.

Through evolving her efforts to make a difference in the world in general and with females of color in particular, in 2014, as a result of a historic partnership with Morgan State University's Earl Graves School of Business, the Mischa Toland Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls opened as a 28 week non-traditional learning experience designed to support the social and emotional intellectual development of the next generation of innovators, world changers and entrepreneurs. With the help of dedicated staff and instructors, the Academy also serves as an incubator which nurtures the dreams, aspirations and gifts of girls of color. To create a sustainable infrastructure for the Academy's valuable work, in 2015, Mischa founded GIRLS as CEOs Foundation; a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing as well as eradicating inequity by elevating excellence for girls of color through education, mentoring and philanthropy.

Mischa's body of work expanded in 2015 when she was appointed as the Director of Training & Technical Assistance for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake's Maryland Mentoring Resource Center (MMRC). After just three short months, Mischa was promoted to Director of MMRC. Through this appointment, Mischa's portfolio included budget development, supervising staff, assessing and overseeing training, technical assistance and resource development needs of mentoring programs across the State of Maryland, developing curriculum that supports mentoring best practices, and identifying, training, and assigning individuals who would serve as statewide trainers of MMRC. After just eleven months, Mischa resigned from this appointment to be in total alignment with her calling to develop greatness in others.

Subsequently, in 2016, Mischa spearheaded the first ever two-day professional conference for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls of color in the state of Maryland. With the amazing support of more than 20 volunteers and 14 incredible sponsors, the conference was a huge success hosting a sold-out group of 150 enthusiastic girls. Because of the power, conviction and presence of 16 phenomenal keynote speakers and workshop presenters - two of whom traveled from Atlanta and Chicago - the girls left with a wealth of insight, new perspective and even bigger dreams for their lives.

Having heard the call from God to leave Maryland and relocate to California, Mischa dissolved her two companies at the end of 2017 and rebranded after relocating to California at the start of 2018 as MischaInspires to more accurately capture the new direction, spirit and chapter of her professional journey. In October 2018, Mischa was hired to serve as ghostwriter on three different book projects. One project was a motivational book for a nationally known entrepreneur. Another project was a children's book and an autobiography for a retired aerospace engineer who played a significant role in the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing. In 2019, Mischa was hired as a ghostwriter to pen the autobiography of a well-known California politician. Later in the same year, Mischa was added to the Suite Life SoCal Magazine team as a contributing writer where she had the distinct honor of interviewing World Renowned Artist, Charles Bibbs and the first African American Woman Board Chair of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Denita Willoughby.

Mischa attended Morgan State University where she majored in Social Work/Psychology. She is a licensed minister and has been the grateful recipient of many citations, certificates and awards. Of all Mischa's accomplishments, her most valued is that of mother, mentor, and friend to her two grown sons, Kyle and James; and MaMa to her three grandchildren, Kyle Jr., Ari and Kylie. Mischa resides in Los Angeles, California but serves globally. Get a more thorough look at Mischa's portfolio of work by visiting [mischainspires.com](http://mischainspires.com).

## ***AFFILIATIONS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS***

### ***Experience***

- Human Capital Investor
- Founder, Greatness Now
- Founder, Girls as CEOs Foundation
- human service professional
- master trainer/facilitator
- national speaker
- writer/author/publisher
- personal mentor/professional coach

- volunteer/philanthropist
- licensed minister
- cohort member, ICJS Entrepreneur Luncheon Series
- former board member, Whitehead Institute of Family Living
- former board member, Shake and Bake Community Development Center, Inc.
- former faculty member, Baltimore Corps
- former member, National Speakers Association
- former member, National Council of Negro Women
- former statewide trainer, Maryland Mentoring Partnership

#### Other Projects

- architect of the groundbreaking curriculum and training model *She Ain't Angry for Nothin'*, an intervention and behavior modification tool designed to unmask and address the contributing factors associated with anger and aggression in girls; has been/is being used in over thirteen states around the nation
- former television show host of *The Mischa Toland Show* on WBFF-2 this tv, Baltimore
- founder, *Black Love Talk*, a monthly social forum that was designed to support as well as teach Black men and women how to honor one another; in it's five years of existence over 5,000 men and women attended the forum

#### Publications

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| • <b>The Silent Confidence Killer, Author</b>   | Published 2018 |
| • <b>Everything God Does is Right, Author</b>   | Published 2013 |
| • <b>Mastering the Art of Success, Co-Author</b>  | Published 2012 |
| • <b>stream keepa runnin through my soul, Author</b>  | Published 2012 |
| • <b>Empowered: 100 Affirmations for Aspiring Entrepreneurs, Author</b>                           | Published 2012 |
| • <b>In Celebration of You: Words of Affirmation for Those Living with Breast Cancer, Author</b>  | Published 2011 |
| • <b>Building Youth Leaders Curriculum, Author</b>  | Published 2010 |
| • <b>Serve, Learn to Serve, or Move Graciously Out of the Way, Author</b>                         | Published 2010 |
| • <b>Let's Pray, Author</b>   | Published 2009 |
| • <b>Encumbered: An Engaging Teen Novel, Author</b>   | Published 2009 |
| • <b>31 Days of Inspiration for Struggling Parents, Author</b>                                    | Published 2009 |
| • <b>Serving: 100 Affirmations for Human Service Providers, Author</b>                            | Published 2009 |
| • <b>Champs: 100 Affirmations for Boys &amp; Young Men, Author</b>                                | Published 2009 |
| • <b>Together: 100 Affirmations for Couples, Author</b>   | Published 2009 |
| • <b>Grounded: 100 Affirmations for Spiritual Folk, Author</b>                                    | Published 2009 |
| • <b>She Ain't Angry for Nothin': Intervention &amp; Behavior Modification Curriculum, Author</b> | Published 2008 |
| • <b>What Tough Times Taught Me, Author</b>   | Published 2007 |
| • <b>30 Things He Told Me But Can't Tell You Because You Won't Listen, Author</b>                 | Published 2006 |
| • <b>Revolutionary Revelations, Author</b>  | Published 2005 |
| • <b>Sacred: 100 Affirmations for Teen Girls, Author</b>  | Published 2004 |
| • <b>Wounded Voices Unwise Choices: The Truth from Our Youth, Author</b>                          | Published 2004 |

#### Awards

- Greater Baltimore Committee LEADERShip Class 2018-2019\*
- Mayoral Citation 2016
- White House United State of Women Changemaker 2016
- Zeta Phi Beta Fraternity Education Award 2016

- Choo Smith Integrity in the Community Award 2016
- MBABSE Women Making a Difference Award 2016
- Community Commitment Award 2015
- Comptroller's Office Citation 2015
- Community Leader Award 2014
- Champion of Mentoring Award 2014
- Top 100 MBEs in the Mid Atlantic Region Award 2012
- Above & Beyond Award 2011
- Woman of Power Award 2010
- Senator Citation 2009
- Mayoral Citation 2009

\* Though chosen by the selection committee after a very competitive process of vetting over 300 applicants, Mischa could not accept this prestigious honor because she relocated to the West Coast.