

Tracee' L. Black-Fall, Founder and Executive Director Tova's N.E.S.T.

Tracee' L. Black-Fall has a genuine commitment to advocate for those that live with mental health issues and co-occurring disorders. This commitment stems from unconditional love for her daughter, Tova who lives with bipolar disorder. Two beautiful journeys filled with trials, tribulations, and the awesome recovery of Tova from Bi-polar Disorder, and Tracee' from a brain aneurysm led Tracee' to the development of Tova's N.E.S.T. which "Gives a bridge of hope as people move toward new beginnings." The vision of Tova's N.E.S.T. is to educate and raise the awareness of the African American faith-based community, populations at risk, and other systems regarding mental health issues, co-occurring disorders, suicide prevention and to eliminate stigma while promoting recovery and resiliency. The mission of Tova's N.E.S.T, Inc. embraces all families and communities, with an emphasis on the African American faith based community and populations at risk.

Tova's N.E.S.T. Inc. is a not for profit 501c3 organization with a foundation in faith, and designed to embrace the capacity of all communities to support individuals challenged with mental health issues and co-occurring disorders. When asked why there is an emphasis on the African American community and minority populations, Tracee' explained, "True enough, mental health issues have no color; however the health disparities for African Americans and other minority communities are overwhelming. We fall in the crack and no one knows we are there. I have walked the walk, and I know how the system has treated people who look like me."

Tracee' and Tova spoke in November 2003 at the National African American Mental Health and Substance Abuse Summit in Washington, D.C. where Tracee' shared the vision of the "N.E.S.T. for the first time. Tracee' has received several awards, including the "Voice Award" in 2005, with national recognition for her advocacy work from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in Los Angeles, California. She was also honored at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio 2005 annual conference where she received the "Stigma Buster" Award.

Tracee' graduated Cum Laude in 2006 from Columbus State Community College in Applied Science, despite being given a dim prognosis of recovery from a brain aneurysm. She is also a graduate of The Ohio State University John, Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, Leadership 2000+ Academy.

Tracee' is an active community partner in education and advocacy with the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Multi-ethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, and the Ohio Mental Health Network for School Success. She serves on several boards and committees throughout the nation.

Tracee' is committed to eliminate stigma, to be a voice, and a drum major for justice for all communities.

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