



## **Daniel Society Launches Collaborative Hope Building Model to Reduce Global Poverty On Micro Level**

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**BROOKLYN, NY**—A team of physicians, attorneys and educators have joined together to launch a Brooklyn-based organization with a global mission to reduce poverty, one family at a time, by smart, compassionate and sustainable initiatives that empower the poor to hope again.

“The Daniel Society isn’t just another charitable organization giving handouts without any real impact on poverty,” says its President and Founder, La Toya McBean. “We will engage people in a collaborative process to share ideas about resources that can really improve their well-being and empower them to take their future in their own hands,” says Ms. McBean, an attorney who has advised federal, state and local government officials in the United States.

“We will also listen first and then act. Oftentimes we forget that some of the most innovative ideas come from the minds of people enduring hardship. We won’t make the mistake of underestimating their creativity and ingenuity as they collaborate with us to design and implement our initiatives,” says Ms. McBean.

The Daniel Society believes that all lives have value, purpose and potential. The organization approaches its work on a micro level by analyzing the needs and well-being of sick and poor women, children, refugee families and incarcerated people. It begins with an assessment of its target population, country conditions, existing resources, risk levels and collaborative opportunities on the ground. It then designs culturally appropriate and family-centered resources to meet those needs and empower people to have a more sustainable future.

The Daniel Society has plans to pilot a HIV/AIDS public health project in Zambia, where 12.37% of the population is living with HIV/AIDS. “To be most effective, we have to collaborate with government and civil society organizations to create an infrastructure for accountability,” says Ms. McBean. The organization will set up Hope Building committees at its project sites and hold them accountable for good outcomes and ongoing leadership.

“Our hope is that our work will impact individuals, which will then impact families and communities, ultimately leading people to a more sustainable future,” says Dr. Jerry Vuncannon, Jr., vice-chair of the organization’s Board of Directors and assistant professor at Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana.

“Evaluating the real impact of our work is also important to us because our goal is successful outcomes. We will use appropriate evaluative tools and make adjustments along the way to achieve our goals,” says McBean.

The organization carries out its mission through its Center for Law and Justice and Center for Global Initiatives. The Daniel Society’s Board of Directors is made up of the following members:

- **Merline Antwine**, volunteer coordinator at The Daniel Society and local entrepreneur.
- **Dr. Ruth Boadu**, resident at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Connecticut.
- **Michelle Hazeur, MA**, founder of an organization that mentors and empowers young women.
- **Sherana Jackson, MEd**, educator of English language learners in the New York City Public School System and adjunct lecturer at New York City College of Technology.
- **Dr. LaTisha Marshall**, public health professional with over 16 years of experience and expertise in the areas of surveillance, evaluation and health disparities.
- **La Toya McBean, Esq.**, chair, president and founder of The Daniel Society.
- **Natasha McLeod, BS**, teaching artist in the New York City Public School System.
- **Dr. Jerry Vuncannon**, assistant professor of Graduate Counseling at Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana and licensed professional counselor.
- **Aneesah Whaley, Esq.**, attorney providing counsel and directing policy on environmental issues with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Daniel Society’s Advisory Board includes the following professionals:

- **Rev. Devon Bailey**, senior pastor at The Great Commission Church in East New York, Brooklyn.
- **Nathalie Jeter, MA, MPP**, writer, editor and adjunct French professor.
- **Dr. Victor Kolade**, associate in Internal Medicine at The Guthrie Clinic.
- **Sonia Morris, MPP, JD**, business operations solutions expert and education administration consultant.
- **Monica Moyo, Esq.**, international human rights researcher and advocate.
- **Marty Paula, BBA**, director of Retail Operations at Advantage Solutions.

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#### **ABOUT THE DANIEL SOCIETY**

*The Daniel Society is a not-for-profit organization that is committed to reducing poverty, one family at a time, by smart, compassionate and sustainable initiatives that empower the poor to hope again. The organization applies a Collaborative Hope Building Model to tackle the challenges of poverty on a micro family and neighborhood level. For more information about The Daniel Society, visit [www.danielsociety.org](http://www.danielsociety.org).*