

Luana V. McMurray Hodges

The Visionary

In life, people have many titles. Some given and some earned. My name is Mrs. Luana V. McMurray Hodges, Assistant Controller in the Finance Dept. at the Navy League of the United States. I appreciate my current position as Assistant Controller, but it is the multiple titles I have held over my lifetime like daughter, sister, mother, wife, Soror, Youth leader, Church Financial Officer and Founder/CEO that have equipped me most for this moment.

My life journey began long before my employment at Navy League. Born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey. I was the youngest out of 3 siblings and the only girl. I was a very shy yet inquisitive child. Always asking questions and observing those around me. I learned a lot from my older brothers. Later I would graduate from John F. Kennedy High School and move on to attend Delaware State University as a Computer Science major with a minor in Mathematics. It was not until I became more involved with my studies that I realized Computer Science was not for me and that my natural talent was manipulating numbers. With this, Accounting became my new niche'. While in college I joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Being a member of this Sorority has taught me the real meaning of Finer Womanhood/Sisterhood, but my most significant life change during my college career was the birth of my oldest daughter, Kiera Danielle. Life as a single mother was not easy but with the support of my family and friends, I was able to take the best care of my daughter, my purpose in living. With new responsibility comes sacrifice. Got married on July 25, 1998, settled in the Washington, D.C. area. From our union came my youngest daughter and only son, Ciera Gabrielle, and Sherman Hodges III, affectionately known as Trey.

From my life experiences grew a passion to help the youth, especially young girls, to have a platform to express themselves without judgement, voice and solve some of their daily problems and to recognize the unique gifts and talents God has blessed each one of them with. Through my church family, New Hope Baptist Church of Prince George's County, I have been able to create and lead the NHBC Girl's Ministry and minister to boys and girls inside of the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) spreading a message of self-love, appreciation, and forgiveness.

My biggest accomplishments so far are raising three beautiful children who excel at academics, athletics, and the arts. My oldest daughter graduated from Bennett College where she followed in her mother's footsteps and joined Zeta Phi beta Sorority. My son is a senior and attends Friendly High School, and my youngest daughter is also a senior who attends Duke Ellington Performing Arts School. I cherish the relationships I have made with my Family, and close friends. I enjoy sharing my talents by being the Treasurer for, A Tribe Called Queens, Inc., and Treasurer for IgniteHer Country Club, and now Founder/CEO YBC- Youth Building Conversation. I am simply a Christian woman who loves God, works hard, plays hard, and loves harder. I take pride in being Reliable and Resilient.