

Woman of Faith Lives the Dream She Helps Girls to Achieve

Danae Davis purposely surrounds herself with little tools to keep faith front and center in her life. Among those tools are books of daily devotions she keeps on her toiletry table so they're the first thing she sees every morning.

"I do intentional things to prepare myself to be open to God," says Danae. "I reinforce my faith every single day. I work on things—like right now it's forgiveness—and only God

and I know when it's time to move on to something new." God was right by her side in 2006 when Danae moved on from the corporate world to become CEO at non-profit PEARLS for Teen Girls, Inc. Since then, Danae has set a course to reach 10,000 at-risk girls with the positive-thinking, goal-oriented leadership program that strives to instill Personal responsibility, Empathy, Awareness, Respect, Leadership and Support.

PEARLS serves primarily African-American, 10- to 19-year-old girls who are at high risk for teen pregnancy and inadequate education. The highly structured program offers weekly



meetings designed to help girls discover their own power to make life-changing choices. Based on the belief that education is the foundation for a self-sufficient life, PEARLS helps girls develop skills and set goals to succeed in middle- and high-school and attain college admission and graduation. A five-point Leadership Compass fosters community service and guides the teens in their journey of self-development. Along the way, PEARLS provides a safe space where girls can have a voice and interact with adults who believe in them.

In 2011, 100 percent of high school seniors engaged in PEARLS graduated and were accepted into college. In the same year, 99.6% of all 850 PEARLS girls avoided pregnancy. PEARLS works because it includes teen girls in developing program activities and holds them accountable to show evidence that they achieve their personal goals.

In nominating Danae for the Salvatorian Sisters' 2012 Woman of Faith Award, a PEARLS colleague wrote: *Danae's strong faith has led her to a place of lifting others up—often those unable to lift themselves up on their own. She is one who stays strong because of her faith in God... and she shares that strength with all those she touches.*

Psalm 23

Danae Davis uses the word *foundational* to describe her favorite Scripture passage, saying, "I think Psalm 23 is the basis of our faith."

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*

"God guides me in and out of stuff," says Danae. "I may not understand why things happen, but if I pay attention, He's always there for me."

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

Danae has had her share of deep pain in life, most recently the death of her 22-year-old nephew in a hit-and-run incident. Still, she works hard to see her glass half-full because she knows God has blessed her in many ways. Danae even looks back on serious health problems as a blessing because she used time spent in the hospital to reassess her life at the time she was working as director of diversity for Miller Brewing Co.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

Out of her recuperative, reflective time, Danae came to appreciate how everything in her life—whether seemingly positive or negative—is a gift from God. Eventually, she gave in to the tug to give back to her community, and says she knows divine providence was at work in timing her opportunity to join PEARLS for Teen Girls, Inc.



If you wish to attend this free event, please reply by September 14 to (414) 466-7414 or sdsdev@salvatoriansisters.org.

Please join us to honor
**Danae Davis, CEO of
PEARLS for Teen Girls, Inc.**
for faith-filled service to her community,
inspiring teen girls to believe
in themselves and their future.
**Thursday, September 20, 2012
7:00 p.m.**
SDS Community House
4311 North 100th Street, Milwaukee