

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce has implemented three goals in our new strategic plan. Two of our goals are to attract and serve a diverse group of members from all industries representing businesses in Greater Bethesda and to grow awareness of the Chamber among both members and the public.

Living up to these principles, we invite you to celebrate Black History Month with us through our third annual member spotlight series. This special feature helps our communities learn more about some of its leaders and their impacts they make every day.

Today, we would like you to get to know Khenae Pearson, CDP, CNA, EOLD, Agency Director of Serenity Estate Home Care.

"Khenae L. Pearson is the Chief Executive Officer of Serenity Estate Home Care, a premier home care agency that specializes in caring for oncology, stroke, and hospice/palliative care patients in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Charles County. Khenae was recently appointed as the Senior Healthcare Consultant at Pearson & Co. who serves healthcare leaders in nursing homes, hospitals, and hospice agencies who are facing employee burnout, low morale, elder abuse, and low Medicare ratings.

Before devoting her work full-time to Serenity Estate Home Care, Khenae served as a Certified Nursing Assistant where she was able to work in all settings in the healthcare industry. Khenae uses her personal and professional experiences, skills, and education to continue to grow Serenity Estate Home Care to be the home care agency that leads by example.

When Khenae doesn't have her cape on to make the healthcare industry better, you can find her rooting on her daughter at her dance competition, encouraging her husband at his next cooking competition, giving back to the community, or uplifting and empowering local women leaders."

We asked Khenae three questions surrounding leadership and goals. Read her responses below.

1. As you look back over your life, at what point did you begin to think of yourself as a leader?

Just to clarify, anybody can be a leader. You are the leader of yourself. You are a leader if you are a parent. You are a leader if you are starting up a business. You are a leader if you are making an impact in your community. What separates a good leader from a bad leader is the moment when you realize that there is no I in a team and at any moment you'll get your hands "dirty" when your team needs you. I always saw myself as a leader. I was always the one who would beat to her own drum. I was always the one who would look at any situation and say, "how can you make this better?". Once I started working, I was the person people would come to, to speak about their issues in the workplace, they would seek my advice. When I was an employee, I led my team to do better every day that we worked together. I never liked seeing a coworker of my struggle. So, I would take lead and change the narrative to make things better and logical.

2. Do you have a vision that guides your body of work? If so, has it changed over time or remain the same?

My vision is simple - shake the planet and change the narrative. One of my daily prayers is to ask God for clarity for the vision that He gave me. After that prayer, I would hear "shake the planet". Chileee, let me tell you that was my confirmation.

- 3. Does the work you do now play a part in the legacy you wish to leave behind? If not, describe what tools you need to help you achieve your goals.**

Absolutely! I am currently building the legacy that I want to leave to my children. Now for whatever reason, if they do not want to continue what I built, at least they'll have the resources that they need to start whatever it is that their heart desires. Not only will I leave the resources behind, but I hope that my strength, wisdom, courageousness, boldness, fearlessness, and confidence rub off on them so that they think back and say "If my mommy could build this, so can I."

Visit www.serenityestate.org to connect with Khenae and learn more about Serenity Estate Home Care.