

# FEARLESS TRANSFORMERS

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



### A Letter from the Founder

Dear Fearless Family,

December is a time of reflection, gratitude, and renewed hope—and my heart is full as I look back on all that we've accomplished together. This season reminds me that Fearless Transformations is built on giving: giving time, sharing wisdom, and showing up consistently for our girls and our community.

Over the past year, I've seen our girls step more confidently into who they are becoming—asking deeper questions, learning to lead with intention, and discovering the power of choice in shaping their futures. Their growth mirrors our own as an organization, as we continue to strengthen our foundation and prepare for what's ahead.

As we look toward 2026, I am excited for the expansion, opportunity, and impact that lies before us. Together, we are creating spaces where young women feel seen, supported, and empowered to lead. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your continued belief and generosity make this work possible.

With gratitude,

*Cleo Elledge*

Founder & Executive Director

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"Embrace challenge, inspire change, lead with courage."

# FEARLESS LEADER: DECEMBER FEATURE INTERVIEW



## AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. CLEO ELLEDGE, FOUNDER OF FEARLESS TRANSFORMATIONS

**Natalie:** December's theme is giving to others. How has giving—of time, talent, and resources—shaped the culture of Fearless Transformations?

**Cleo:**

Giving is the foundation of who we are. Fearless Transformations operates as a community ecosystem, not a competitive organization. Our volunteers, mentors, and partners give freely of their time, skills, and wisdom without expecting anything in return. The girls witness adults showing up consistently, modeling generosity and collaboration. As a result, the girls learn that leadership isn't about standing apart—it's about standing together. They support one another, share ideas, celebrate wins, and grow collectively. Giving has shaped a culture rooted in connection, accountability, and purpose.

**Natalie:** Fearless Transformations has grown tremendously over the past year. When you look back, what accomplishments or milestones are you most grateful for as the organization continues to expand?

**Cleo:**

What I'm most grateful for is the *shift* I've seen—both within the organization and within the girls we serve. Over the past two years, Fearless Transformations has moved through intentional phases of growth. Phase One was about having a dream and sharing that dream with the community. Phase Two required us to structure that dream—bringing in the right people, refining our vision, and building systems that would allow us to truly implement our mission.

Today, we are standing on a solid foundation. We now have a structured, replicable program model that can be rolled out to schools and communities beyond our own. We've built strong partnerships, including a Microsoft nonprofit partnership, which has transformed how we collaborate, document our work, and track progress. Our board and volunteers bring diverse expertise—from education and nonprofit compliance to technology and strategic planning—which has strengthened our capacity to grow responsibly. This year hasn't just been about expansion; it's been about *transformation*. We are seeing our own evolution as an organization, and that has been incredibly powerful.



**Natalie:** Fearless Transformations does extraordinary work with young Black girls in STEM and leadership. What inspires you most about this mission, and what keeps you motivated year after year?

**Cleo:**

My professional background is in IT leadership, where I spent years focused on problem-solving, gap analysis, and strategic thinking. Fearless Transformations allows me to share those same skills—conflict resolution, critical thinking, emotional intelligence—with our girls in ways that truly matter.

What motivates me is knowing that I still have so much to give. I want to be an example—not just of leadership, but of giving back. This work is my way of pouring into girls who are eager to learn, grow, and lead. It aligns perfectly with who I am and what I value, and that keeps me grounded and committed.



# FEARLESS LEADER: DECEMBER FEATURE INTERVIEW



## AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. CLEO ELLEDGE, FOUNDER OF FEARLESS TRANSFORMATIONS



**Natalie:** Can you share an example of how a volunteer, mentor, or community partner made a meaningful impact on the program?

**Cleo:**

Our volunteers are essential. One powerful example involved a volunteer whose professional connections opened doors we didn't even realize were possible. Through his network, we were introduced to Microsoft's nonprofit resources, giving us access to tools, systems, and opportunities that elevated our capacity to serve. That experience reinforced an important lesson: when people give their time and talents, the impact often extends far beyond what we can immediately see. Building authentic relationships and networks allows generosity to multiply—and our program is stronger because of it.

**Natalie:** Looking ahead to the new year, what dreams or goals do you have for Fearless Transformations, and how can supporters help make those goals a reality?

**Cleo:**

We are ready to scale. With strong systems, documentation, and training hubs now in place, we can expand Fearless Transformations into more schools and communities. We're also looking to broaden our offerings—introducing workshops focused on life skills such as etiquette, financial literacy, technology, and college readiness.

Our goal is to prepare girls for the adult world with confidence and competence, exposing them to experiences they may not otherwise have access to. Supporters can help by volunteering, mentoring, donating resources, and advocating for our mission. Every contribution—big or small—helps us continue this work and deepen our impact.

**Natalie:** Final reflection, what does giving mean to you personally?

**Cleo:**

Giving is how I stay aligned with my purpose. Every day, I try to do at least one thing that honors myself while continuing to serve others. When we give from a place of wholeness, we show up stronger, clearer, and more present. That's what I want for our girls—and for everyone connected to Fearless Transformations.

## December Holidays: Kwanzaa and Christmas

### **Celebrating Christmas**

Christmas is a season rooted in love, generosity, and hope. It reminds us of the power of giving, not just through gifts, but through kindness, compassion, and showing up for one another. During this time, we reflect on the joy found in connection, family, and moments that bring light into our lives.

At Fearless Transformations, we embrace the spirit of Christmas by encouraging our girls to lead with empathy and gratitude. As they learn to serve others and believe in their own worth, we are reminded that the greatest gifts we can offer are love, presence, and the courage to uplift those around us.

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### **Honoring Kwanzaa**

Kwanzaa is a celebration of culture, community, and collective purpose. Grounded in the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, Kwanzaa calls us to unity, self-determination, responsibility, and faith in ourselves and one another. It is a time to honor heritage while planting seeds for a stronger future.

At Fearless Transformations, the values of Kwanzaa align deeply with our mission. As we empower girls to define who they are and who they wish to become, we celebrate the power of identity, shared responsibility, and community building; principles that guide us not only during Kwanzaa, but throughout the year.





# FEARLESS TRANSFORMERS

## GIVE TO FEARLESS TRANSFORMATIONS THIS SEASON

### National Day of Giving

The season of giving is upon us, and there are several ways you can support Fearless Transformations and our work with girls in STEM and mentoring.

National Giving Day is December 2, and we encourage you to consider donating to Fearless Transformations as part of your annual giving. Every contribution directly supports programming, hands-on STEM opportunities, and mentorship for girls across our communities.

You can also support us at Kroger—simply choose Fearless Transformations during checkout and round up your purchase. Your spare change truly makes a difference.

And finally, on ***Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, please consider dining in at Buddy's Pizza on Broadway in Detroit.*** When you dine in and mention Fearless Transformations, a portion of your bill will be donated to our organization. Bring your family, enjoy a meal, and support a great cause at the same time!

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you and your families a very warm and happy Thanksgiving season.



**Board Member, Dr. Resha Greenidge Foster, at the Fearless Kickoff event October '25.**





Leadership Program



# ***FACILITATORS NEEDED***

Fearless Transformations Is Expanding!  
And we need YOU to help us pour into the next  
generation of Detroit's young women.

Because of the overwhelming growth of our  
Leadership Program, we now have the opportunity to  
serve even more schools within the Detroit Public  
Schools Community District for **Afterschool  
programming.**

**Starting January 2026. \***

Our curriculum is already built, structured, and ready  
for facilitators to bring to life — all we need are  
passionate leaders who want to give back. If you have  
one hour, you can make a difference. If you feel  
called to do one session or many, your presence  
matters.

We invite you to donate your time and help guide our  
emerging young women through powerful workshops  
on leadership, confidence, emotional intelligence,  
and personal growth.

Sign Up Today  
Visit our website and share  
your interest. We will match  
you with the school of your  
choice and walk you through  
the next steps.

(All facilitators are required to complete a  
background check)

✨ **One step counts.**  
**One session counts.**  
**One voice counts.**

\*will depend on how many facilitators we receive.

**Sign  
UP**







# GIVEBACK

## 16 DECEMBER 2025

**DINE IN WITH US**  
**12PM-2PM**  
**DEC. 16, 2025**

Buddy Pizza  
Downtown Detroit  
1565 Broadway St,  
Detroit, MI 48226

**Earn 20% back for your cause!**  
**How to Support Our Buddy's Pizza Giveback**

**You can help us raise funds simply by doing any of the following on our Giveback day:**

- Show your flyer — present a paper copy or digital version to your server.
- Mention the Giveback when dining in or placing a call-in order.
- Share your support — show your server a social media post promoting our fundraiser.
- Order online at [buddypizza.com](http://buddypizza.com) and enter the Giveback promo code at checkout.

**Your purchase counts toward our fundraiser for dine-in, carry-out, and online orders placed through [buddypizza.com](http://buddypizza.com). (Not valid on third-party delivery apps.)**



**POST A PICTURE**  
**@FEARLESSTRANSFORMERS**

**PRESENT THIS FLYER TO GIVE OUR ORGANIZATION CREDIT.**

**or**



**Online Ordering**

**or**



**Carry-Out**

**FROM 11AM-9PM**  
**SATURDAY ONLY**

  
**Fearless**  
TRANSFORMATIONS





# FEARLESS TRANSFORMERS

## GET INVOLVED! SPEAKER, SPONSOR, DONORS OR VOLUNTEER!

You can be the reason a girl believes in herself.

We're actively seeking:

- Special Guest Speakers for in school events.
- Donors & Sponsors (\$25/month supports 1 girl in the program)
- Swag & Supplies (journals, shirts, snacks, school supplies)

Become a supporter or email us at:

**[hello@fearlesstransformers.com](mailto:hello@fearlesstransformers.com)**.



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**Fearless**  
TRANSFORMATIONS