

HISTORY OF "MAKING IT TO THE FINISH LINE"

"Making It To The Finish Line," a 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization, was organized in 2001 by Gladys Pearson, Founder/CEO. Gladys's vision began after the revelation of a secret she had carried for 32 years. The nature of this secret left her feeling shame, and as a result, her self-esteem suffered. Gladys told no one about the secret. For many years, she blocked the secret out of her mind. As secrets have a way of doing, after 32 years, it revealed itself.

Gladys wanted to share her story with other women. She understands that she could not be the only person to have endured such an experience and to hold on to a secret for 32 years. Gladys wanted to help others. Now, Gladys was ready to pursue her dream of helping other women. She, at first, only wanted to tell her story. And Gladys did tell her story. But Gladys' mission was greater than her story. God's plan for our lives is always Greater than we can envision. God gave Gladys a vision: "Making It To The Finish Line."

Because of Gladys' vision, "Making It To The Finish Line," a non-profit organization has sponsored several self-esteem and drug-prevention workshops. Gladys and the women of her organization have volunteered at shelters for abused women and have held discussion groups at the Denby Home for Girls.

Gladys is a firm believer in higher education. She always stresses to our youth how important education is and that she would not ask them to do anything that she would not do. Gladys has achieved an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree, and a double Master's degree.

After 24 years of dedicating herself to helping others, Gladys Pearson and her team at the organization, "Making It To The Finish Line," continue to work daily to make a difference in the community. She has taken her story, which could have led to a life of trauma or hardship for some, and transformed a traumatic experience into something beautiful and positive. She chose to use what she was given to help others.

Throughout the years, Gladys and her team have fed families and organized workshops for women struggling with substance abuse. The organization has held bookbag drives so students in the community can have the supplies they need when returning to school: The organization calls this program "Tools for School." They have also provided new formal gowns to young women in need of prom dresses. Making It To The Finish Line donated prom dresses to young ladies long before many other organizations in the community adopted similar efforts. The Young and Elegant Cotillion Program mentors and prepares young people for a successful future. The boot camp component of this program helps students develop character and confidence as they get ready to face the challenges of the "adult" world. In 2017, Gladys Pearson received the AARP Michigan Andrus Award. This prestigious award honors Michiganders who share their experiences, talents, and skills to enrich their community through volunteering. Keep in mind, this is AARP's top honor. Gladys Pearson was chosen from over 30 nominees.

The young people who have benefited from this program are also part of its history. Their individual successes are part of this history as well. There wouldn't be a "Making It To The Finish Line" without Gladys Pearson.

To support the many programs and services that MITTFL provides, the organization holds an annual theme fundraiser and other fundraisers throughout the year, as well as receiving donations from private individuals and its one corporate sponsor, EARS Financial Services

Currently, the organization consists of the Board of Directors, Board members-at-large, an advisory board, members, and volunteers who assist with program development, fundraising, and website development.

The organization has operated solely with volunteer staff, which means 100% of all funds generated by the organization go directly to providing programs and services.

If you want more information about "Making It To The Finish Line," become a corporate sponsor, a board member, a volunteer, or donate; contact Ms. Gladys Pearson at (313) 460-0596 or visit the website: www.mittfldet1.org for more information on the organization.

I leave this with you: "If you believe you can achieve, through God, all things are possible".

Mission:

The goal of Making It To The Finish Line is to mentor youth ages 7-17 by empowering them with training, motivation, encouragement, and support to reach their highest potential.

Vision:

It is the vision of Making It To The Finish Line that every girl has the right and opportunity to reach her highest potential.

Thank you!!