



## Cheryl P. Johnson Executive Biography

*“One of my greatest achievements is the development of the servant leader that I am today. I honor relationships at all levels and understand deeply my role and purpose for being.”*

- Cheryl P. Johnson

Ask what Metropolitan Detroit homeless women, corporate executives, nonprofit leaders, and promising young professionals have in common, and Cheryl P. Johnson is the likely answer. A Certified Integral Life Coach and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for COTS, Cheryl P. Johnson is a true servant leader. She not only answers the call and “blooms where she is planted,” Cheryl P. Johnson transforms the constitution of the field.

Purpose-driven and accomplished, Cheryl is dedicated to alleviating suffering in the world wherever she finds it. For the past twenty-eight years, she has endeavored to improve the lives of homeless families in Detroit through her work at COTS. Cheryl leads a staff of committed advocates and, most importantly, serves thousands of homeless women, men, and children annually. A staunch advocate for what is right rather than what is easy, Cheryl has led COTS through popular and unpopular transitions – all with the best interests of families in mind. Perhaps the greatest demonstration of her thought leadership and strategic alliance building on behalf of homeless families is the creation of COTS’s *Passport to Self-Sufficiency™* a theory of change, which aims to change the legacy of poverty for the next generation and beyond.

Informing her work with families, and at the core of her work with executives and young professionals is Cheryl’s training as an Integral Life Coach. For over a decade, Cheryl has applied this holistic approach to coaching that attends to both individuality and social context to increase client self-awareness, intentionality and competence to create long-term success. Keenly aware of how our suffering is often tied to the stories we tell about ourselves and our lives, Cheryl is known for prompting COTS residents and executive coaching clients alike to consider the question: *How is my current narrative getting in the way of what’s possible for me?* She credits this transformative question with countless breakthrough insights for herself and others, inspiring people to consciously create the future they desire for themselves, their families, organizations, and communities.

Founder and president of her own independent consulting practice CPJ Consulting Group, Cheryl leverages her vast knowledge of the nonprofit sector, Harvard Business School

executive education in nonprofit management, and community college teaching experience to provide nonprofit start-up and board development consulting. She develops, adapts and facilitates trainings for senior leadership as well as line staff on topics such as Maximizing the Present, Servant Leadership, Living and Working with Purpose, Strategic Thinking, Jim Collin's *Good to Great*, and John Maxwell's *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*.

Of all of her contributions to founding, leading and growing organizations and people, Cheryl is most proud of founding The Circle. A hallmark creative contribution for Cheryl, The Circle's mission is to provide and nurture a confidential, non-competitive network of intentional African-American women who will advance and advocate for the personal and professional success of its members and create a safe place for them to be their authentic selves, with the objective of uplifting the community, enriching the City, growing the region and impacting the world.

In addition to the profound impact Cheryl has on the individuals, families, and organizations she serves, it is a well-known fact that to work with Cheryl is to respect and love her. Members of her staff who she has mentored and prepared for respected positions in other organizations are often equally excited about their new roles and saddened to leave the unique fold of inspiration, teamwork, and growth opportunities that Cheryl fosters for employees and project team members.

Cheryl also works to further the missions and growth of several local, regional and state organizations through committed board service: New Detroit, Inc., Integrated Care Alliance, Warrior Women Against Poverty, Authority Health, The Empowerment Plan, the University of Michigan – Dearborn's Women's and Gender Studies and Women in Learning and Leadership, GreenLight Fund (Detroit), the state of Michigan's Homeless Action Council and African American Church & Foster Care National Strategy Forum Council are among the boards and Councils on which Cheryl has served.

Among her many awards and honors Cheryl was named Crain's 40 Under 40 honoree, 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Detroit Community Service Award, Women's Informal Network *Most Influential Women in Metropolitan Detroit*, Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence 2017 Honoree and Crain's Detroit Notable Women In Nonprofits 2018.

When she is not working, Cheryl enjoys spending time with her husband Gerald Johnson, Jr., owner of the House of Johnson Funeral Homes; their four adult children Dominique, Emmanuel, David, and Mercedes; and their two beautiful granddaughters, Brooklyn and Madison.



*Passport to Self-Sufficiency™ - Assisting families in reaching their housing, economic, health, education, and career goals through coaching, mentorship and support as they strive to overcome homelessness and break the cycle of poverty for the next generation and beyond.*

