



Janaia DeShields
Co-Founder



Janaia graduated from the United States Military Academy earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering and Sociology. She was commissioned as an Adjutant General Officer for the Army in 2003. Her military assignments included serving as a Human Resource Officer for the 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, TX; Plans and MWR Officer in support of Operation Iqai Freedom; and Operations Officer for the Training Support Battalion, Fort Jackson, SC. During her military career she received numerous awards for her contributions to diversity programs, emergency relief efforts, and personnel programs. Her drive for excellence resulted in her being awarded the Distinguished Honor Graduate during her advanced military schooling. During her military service she also earned her Master of Human Resource Management from Webster University.

At the conclusion of her military service, Janaia transitioned into the federal government where she served as the Human Resource Database Manager for the Installation Adjutant General on Fort Hood, Texas in which she monitored the personnel deployed strength for over 40,000 service members. Following this role, Janaia was afforded the opportunity to work for Target Corporation as a retail manager overseeing the daily sales and operations for stores located in Texas and then Virginia after relocation. Within her first three months in role she was selected as the “Most Valuable” team member and categorized as a high-potential candidate for promotion. In the midst of her employment successes, Janaia missed the camaraderie

and the community aspect of the military. Deciding to follow her passion to serve veterans and military families, Janaia accepted a position with The Mission Continues as the Fellowship Program Director. She was responsible for all aspects of the program including the management and representation of the Fellowship Program staff, oversight of all program development and operations, and coordination of internal and external organizational efforts. The Fellowship Program grew exponentially due to her extensive background in recruiting and training, database creation and management, and human resources and program management.

Janaia presently serves as the Vice President, Veterans and Military Programs for Points of Light (POL). POL is the world’s leading organization focused on volunteerism and civic engagement and is also the national home and administrator for the Community Blueprint Initiatives. Janaia develops the military strategy for the organization and the programs that support moving the strategy forward. She is involved with expanding the Community Blueprint, embedding National Service in the military and veteran community, and identifying ways for service members, veterans, and their families to integrate successfully within their local communities.

Janaia’s passion for service has continued outside of her professional work. In her personal time, she is a committed member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, a high school recruiter for the West Point Association of Graduates, an event coordinator for the West Point Society of DC and a community volunteer for both the Travis Manion Foundation and The Mission Continues. She also serves as a Board Member for Peace Through Action USA, a nonprofit organization that leverages national service to enact peaceful change and hope in local communities.

