

JAMIE UPSHAW

Jamie Upshaw is the Founder and Executive Director of a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization called Autism Urban Connections Inc. Ms. Upshaw formed Autism Urban Connection Inc. as a support group that began in 2015 after her son received a fairly late diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and the lack of support and services in our African American communities. The growing organization has now evolved as the number of families that received services continued to grow, thus Autism Urban Connections Inc. was born with a mission to provide education, support, advocacy, and empowerment with an emphasis on self-care to parents/ caregivers of those diagnosed with Autism, with priority placed on the African American, minority, and economically disadvantaged member of the community.

As an advocate for the Autism community and more, Jamie just completed as a full-time graduate student at Arizona State University for a master's degree in special education with an emphasis on Applied Behavior Analysis with a GPA of 3.73. A former PEAL Center Board Member, Jamie, is a Certified Parent Ambassador under the Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh and served as Chair of Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC) Policy Council for 2 years and Vice-Chair for one year.

Ms. Upshaw is a Pittsburgh Native, 44-year-old, proud mother of 3 who possesses an extensive background in human and community service, including a master's degree in criminal justice administration and a bachelor's degree in legal studies from Point Park University

