



EMPOWER GENNOW NETWORK

# 2021 Annual Report

## Letter from the Founder and CEO

Seven years ago, I dreamed about this new idea for networking and growth. I was a young professional, career driven and motivated. Seeking professional and personal development and growth opportunities to enhance my skills. I was always on a journey to strive to find the information necessary to help me excel. Always eager to adapt from my humble "working class" beginnings. I was born into the generation of young professionals, raised by TV and technology. Access to these tools, lead to unlimited access to information. The choice of how we use this information separates us by either achieving our goals or taking no action. We can transform our dream goals into real achievements. Or, without action, our dreams can remain only as our dreams. Hard work transforms access to information and big dreams into great career and personal achievements. As a child of an athlete and coach, my father instilled the importance of practice and training. These developmental values built the genetic makeup of the woman I have become today. Consistent practice and skills development also propel my career advancement.

**“These developmental values built the genetic makeup of the woman I have become today.”**

– RENIKA J. SMILEY

It was leaders, like Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece, who taught me the importance of networking. To increase my network to increase my net worth. With the power of networking, I opened doors early in my career. My network helped me launch Generation NOW Cincinnati Network six years ago. Our LinkedIn Networking Happy Hour events were the start of this amazing organization. These monthly events grew from a crowd of 50 to 300 young professionals. We highlight businesses across the country, locally and regionally. We land sponsorships with Cincy's top Fortune 500 companies, such as P&G. We award young professionals for their career achievements. Join our organization in our next strategic transition. From hosting events to offering training opportunities and education for young professionals. Our organization now provides access to resources through membership. We continue to plan and grow with the launch of longer cohort programs and courses.



## Mission Statement

### Mission

To provide all young professionals with world-class networking, mentorship, and career training.

### Vision

For all young professionals to thrive in a diverse and inclusive workforce.

### Values

#### Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion

We promote diversity, equity, and inclusion to increase workforce productivity and innovation.



### Community

We network to foster community and offer opportunities for advancement.



### People

We put people first in all that we do.



### Transformation

We believe in continual improvement and the transformational power of professional development.



## What We Did in 2021



Expanded our Board from 3 to 15 members



50,000

Launched our YouTube Series 'It's Possible', reaching over 50,000 views within 3 months



150 volunteers participated in our program survey



3,000

attendees participated or viewed Generation NOW physical and virtual events

Submitted a new trademark: Empower GENNOW Network

Sponsored by the Hallie Foundation, Paycor DEI, and RDI for our events and services



87

87 Catchafire Volunteers supported our initiatives through our grant from Catchafire foundation

Became a Hallie's Foundation Grantee

Launched our podcast 'Cubicle Chronicles'

Became a part of Innovation Catalyst Cohort Program brought to you by OCDCA SEIP

Pivoted our program into a Technology Membership Nonprofit

Hosted LinkedIn Networking Program



50,000

Raised \$150,000 in funds and donated items



15

Cohort 15 graduates of the Social Venture Lab Pre-Accelerator Program

Joined statewide program

## Support and Donation

In the coming years, your continued support will help young professionals succeed and thrive.

[Donate](#)

