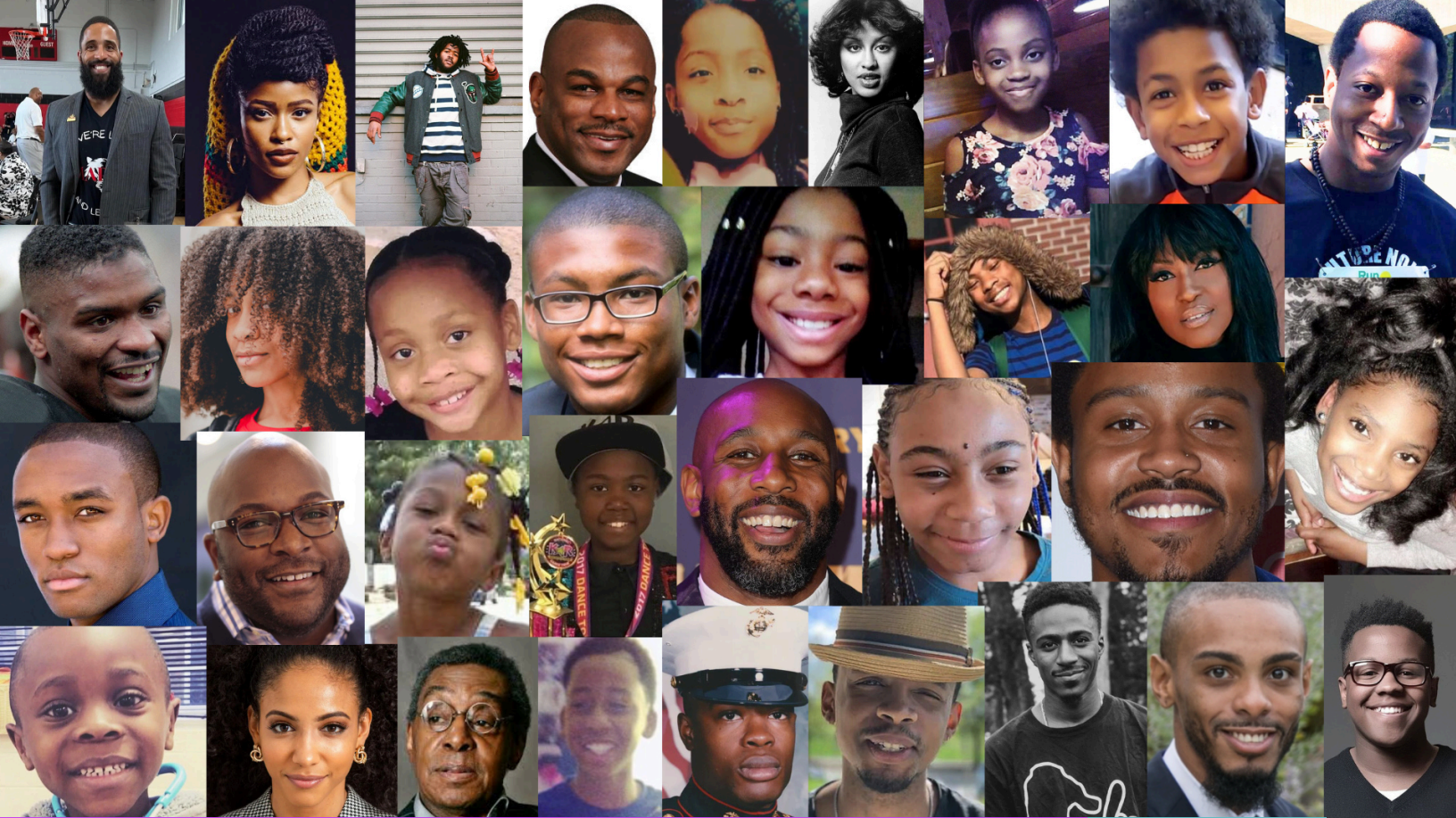




Y23-25 IMPACT REPORT

Centering Black Voices in Suicide Prevention and Healing

BLACK PEOPLE DIE
BY SUICIDE TOO

[BLACKPEOPLEDIEBYSUICIDETOO.ORG](https://blackpeoplediebysuicidetoo.org)



A Word From Our Executive Director

Reflecting on the past two years, I feel deep gratitude, humility, and hope. Black People Die By Suicide Too (BPDBST) was founded from my experiences as both a suicide attempt and loss survivor.

Too often, Black pain is overlooked, and resilience is emphasized at the expense of our full humanity. BPDBST's progress and impact have been nothing short of remarkable.

What began as a podcast in 2023 has grown into a respected organization that now offers peer support groups and has received statewide recognition. BPDBST is a trusted, peer-led organization rooted in lived experience and community care. We have expanded our reach nationally and internationally, created healing spaces, trained peers and allies, and advocated for suicide prevention in spaces where Black voices have often been excluded.

This work has not been without challenges. Like many grassroots organizations, we have faced limited resources, significant emotional labor, and the urgency of serving communities in crisis. Thanks to our board, funders, sponsors, partners, and community members, we continue to serve with integrity, compassion, and hope.

Thank you for believing in our mission, for trusting us with your stories, and for walking alongside us as we work to end stigma and save Black lives.

Love & Light,

T-Kea Blackman

T-Kea Blackman, MPS, CPRS, RPS
Executive Director &
Co-Founder

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A Letter From Our Board President

Dear Family and Friends,

As Board President of Black People Die By Suicide Too, I reflect on this period of leadership with responsibility, humility, and confidence in our direction. Since stepping into this role in 2025, I have seen meaningful growth not only in our activities but also in our mindset, leadership, and stewardship.

A key shift has been our focus on impact over activity. Instead of centering our work on events, we now prioritize outcomes that advance our mission and create lasting value for the communities we serve. This demonstrates our commitment to purpose-driven decisions and sustainable progress.

The Board has become more thoughtful in its oversight, more collaborative in leadership, and more closely aligned with our mission and vision. Stewardship remains central to our decisions, including the management of resources, relationships, and, most importantly, the trust our community places in us.

I am encouraged by the support from our community and partner organizations. Their belief in our mission has led to tangible progress toward our funding goals and reaffirms the value of our work. These partnerships represent not only financial investments but also confidence in our leadership, integrity, and long-term vision.

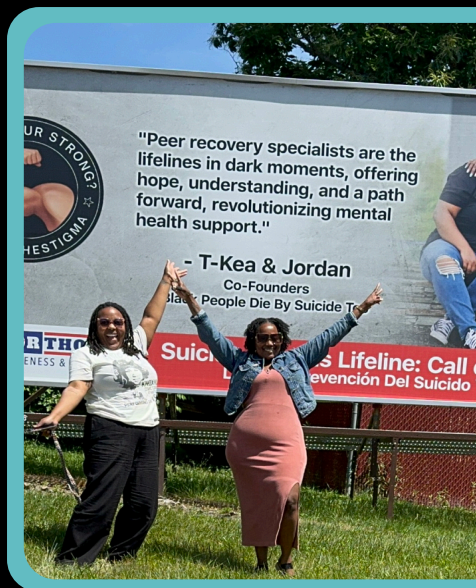
We remain realistic about the work ahead. The need is significant, the conversations are complex, and the systems we aim to influence require persistence and patience. We recognize that our work exists at the intersection of life, loss, hope, and healing, and we do not take this responsibility lightly.

As Board President, I am proud of our progress and even more committed to the work ahead. Our vision is clear, and our resolve to make a lasting impact remains unwavering.

Sincerely,

Courtney Anderson-Harvey

Courtney Anderson-Harvey, MSW, LCSW, CGP
Board President



Our Mission & Vision

Black People Die By Suicide Too (BPDBST) is a **peer-led** organization committed to breaking the **silence** surrounding **suicide** in the **Black community**.

Our mission is to dismantle the harmful myth that suicide only affects white individuals and to normalize open, honest conversations about mental health and suicide prevention. Through culturally responsive education, peer support, and resource-sharing, BPDBST instills hope, empowers individuals, and fosters a supportive community for Black people navigating mental health challenges.

We see a future where Black communities are supported, resourced, and empowered to prevent suicide; where Black lives are valued, mental health is openly discussed, and no one struggles in silence.



Our Core Values



Lived Experience

Centering the wisdom of those directly impacted by suicide loss and those who struggle with suicidal thoughts



Hope & Empowerment

Hope is a protective factor and a catalyst for change



Equity

Addressing systemic inequities that impact Black mental health and suicide risk



Community

Rooted in peer support, mutual care, and shared humanity



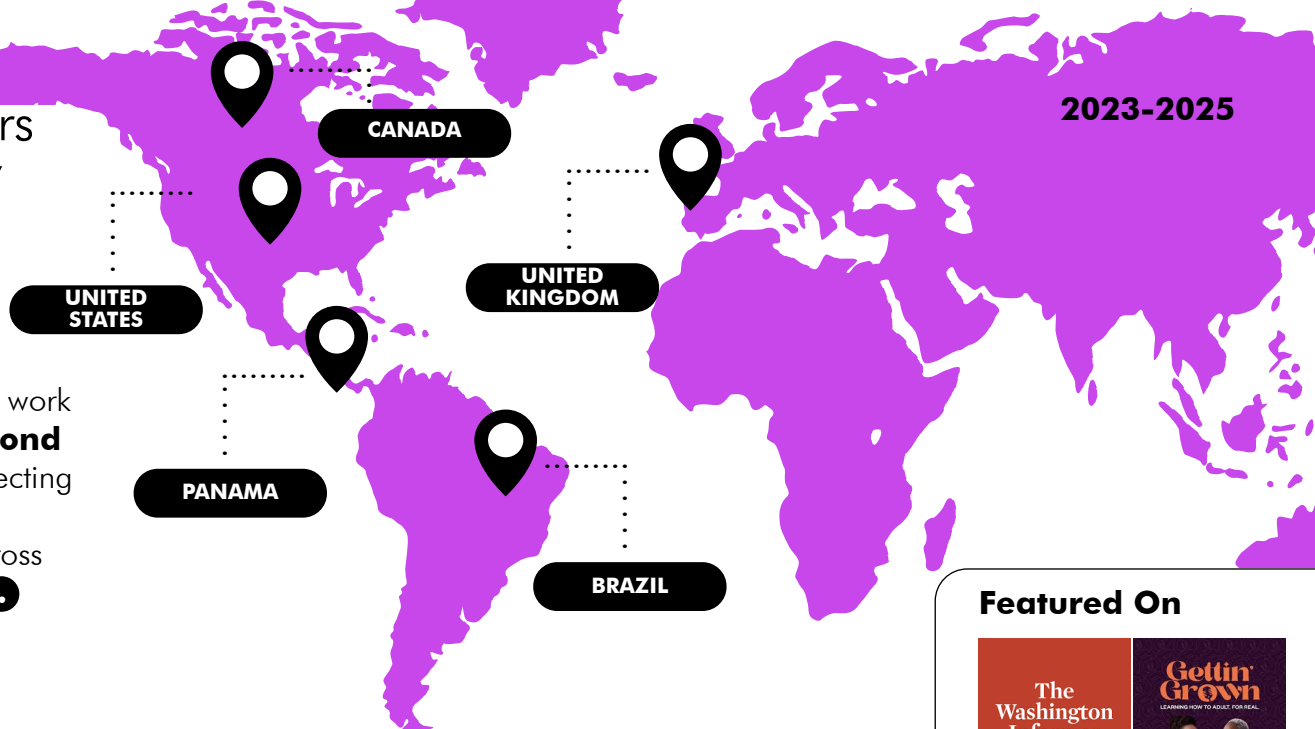
Healing

Honoring grief and collective restoration

Three-Years in Review

2023-2025

Since 2023, our work **extended beyond borders**, connecting individuals and communities across **five countries.**



Executive Director & Co-Founder T-Kea Blackman received **Peer Specialist of the Year by the Black Mental Health Alliance and National Peer Specialist of the Year Award by Mental Health and Addiction Association of Oregon**



Presented at national and international conferences, including: **Mental Health Expo (NYC) Counseling and Treating People of Colour (Panama)**



Led a youth-centered self-care workshop in partnership with **Prince George's County Public Schools and the Sheriff's Office**, serving middle school students



Invited to the **White House** by **SAMHSA** for the release of the **National Strategy for Suicide Prevention**



Grew **staff members** increasing operational capacity and **long-term sustainability**



200 individuals served in **20 peer support groups** and **6 suicide prevention workshops**



In 2023, **bi-weekly podcast** focused on Black mental health and suicide prevention with **21,000+ downloads worldwide**

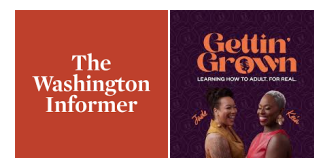


BPDBST was named **2023 Community Organization of the Year** by **Eustress, Inc.**



Participated in **30+ community events**, across Maryland, reducing stigma and building trust

Featured On



In 2023, BPDST was highlighted on Grammy Award-winner **Michelle Williams'** Instagram during the **Essence Festival**, amplifying our message to a national audience.





Before BPDBST, I carried my grief and suicidal thoughts in silence, rarely feeling understood or affirmed in traditional spaces. In this peer-led community, I finally felt seen, welcomed without judgment, and reminded that I am worthy of care, connection, and hope.

ASHLEY
(WASHINGTON, DC)
Support Group Participant



Program Highlights

In 2025, BPDBST launched Light After Loss in partnership with the University of Maryland Baltimore-Washington Center, a healing retreat designed specifically for Black suicide loss survivors. This peer-led service served 20 participants in its inaugural year and received a strong community response, with plans to expand the retreat into an annual offering.

The Black Peer Healing Circle, formerly known as Black & Suicidal, provides bi-monthly peer-led support spaces that foster connection, safety, and hope. These circles center lived experience and mutual care, creating affirming environments where participants can share openly without judgment or stigma. Participants also explore wellness tools to support their healing journey.

BPDBST delivers suicide prevention workshops, peer specialist trainings, and technical assistance for community members and organizations. Educational workshops include:

1

CARE & ALLY TRAINING

focused on suicide risk among LGBTQ+ individuals. With support from the Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration's Office of Suicide Prevention, our executive director was among the inaugural cohort trained in the country as a Trevor Project Facilitator through the Care and Ally training.

2

QUESTION, PERSUADE, AND REFER (QPR)

evidence-based suicide prevention training that teaches community members to recognize warning signs, ask direct questions about suicide, persuade someone to accept help, and refer them to appropriate resources, acting like CPR for mental health crises to save a life potentially. Because of our partnership with Every Mind, our staff became QPR instructors.

3

"IT'S NOT A WHITE THING: BLACK PEOPLE DIE BY SUICIDE TOO"

challenges harmful myths and equips participants with culturally relevant tools for prevention and support.







Government & Civic Recognition

BPDBST's advocacy and community impact were formally recognized by local and state leadership. We were honored to receive proclamations from Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and former Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month and our ongoing commitment to saving lives through culturally responsive support and education. Additionally, Governor Wes Moore recognized *Renewed Resilience Month*, which takes place in February and was created by our Co-Founder and Executive Director to honor suicide survivors and uplift pathways to healing, hope, and collective care. These proclamations affirm the growing visibility and legitimacy of our work and reflect a shared commitment to advancing suicide prevention, survivor healing, and mental health equity.

“

The group offered more than support; it provided a sense of belonging. I felt recognized as a whole person worthy of care, dignity, and hope.

ASHLEY
(WASHINGTON, DC)
Support Group Participant

A portrait of Janiah Fields, a Black woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling and resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a black leather jacket over a light-colored top and gold hoop earrings. The background is a solid teal color.

Now more than ever, **collective healing** is imperative. I see myself as a reflection of an **organization that cares deeply about the wellbeing and mental health of Black individuals.**

JANIAH FIELDS
Advocate for BPDBST

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION IN ACTION

Janiah Fields

When community leadership and mental health advocacy come together, meaningful change follows.

In recognition of Janiah Fields as a Birdland Community Hero, the Baltimore Orioles Charitable Foundation awarded a \$5,000 donation to advance BPDBST's peer-led suicide prevention and mental health initiatives. Janiah selected Black People Die By Suicide Too as her charity of choice, a decision that reflects both alignment and shared purpose.

For Janiah, the recognition carries significance beyond the title.

"Supporting minority communities in every way we can is a mission I proudly share with Black People Die By Suicide Too," she said. "Sharing this accomplishment with them reinforces my commitment to community and to amplifying voices that are too often silenced."

Her words reflect an understanding that this moment is not solely about personal achievement, but about collective responsibility and continued advocacy.

Janiah represents the next generation of Black mental health leaders. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical psychology at

Northwestern University and holds a degree in Psychology and minor in Africana Studies from McDaniel College. Across academic, community, and national platforms, she has demonstrated compassion, integrity, and purpose.

Her work includes mentoring students transitioning from Baltimore City Public Schools and amplifying Black youth voices in mental health advocacy, including at the White House. Rooted in lived experience, her advocacy centers collective healing and equitable access to care.

She has collaborated with national and local leaders, including the Black Mental Health Alliance, SAMHSA, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. These partnerships underscore her growing impact in the field and her commitment to advancing mental health equity.

This recognition honors Janiah's leadership while strengthening BPDBST's ability to continue expanding peer-led support in Black communities.

We sincerely thank Janiah and the Baltimore Orioles Charitable Foundation for investing in our mission and in the wellbeing of those we serve.

Partners in Collective Healing

Leaders and community partners share why culturally responsive suicide prevention work matters.

“



Black People Do Die By Suicide Too fills a **critical gap** in our community. For so long, we were told **suicide** didn't affect us, but this **organization** provides hope, support, and a space that **uniquely addresses** the impact of suicide.

MARIA GAY

Community Champion of BPDBST

“



**BRANDON J. JOHNSON,
MHS, MCHES**

Creator of The Black
Mental Wellness Lounge

As the creator of The Black Wellness Lounge, I see the work of Black People Die By Suicide Too as a **natural extension of our shared commitment to community and culturally responsive healing**. My partnership reflects what's possible when organizations and community members align around a common goal: **normalizing conversations** about suicide prevention and building **spaces** where Black communities **feel seen, supported, and safe**. Together, we are strengthening the **ecosystem of care** and showing that collaboration is a powerful tool for **collective healing**.

“



YOLO AKILI ROBINSON

Executive Director and
Founder of BEAM
(Black Emotional and
Mental Health Collective)

Through BEAM's support, BPDBST aims to **break the silence** surrounding suicide in the Black community, offering spaces for **connection**, healing, and education. As the broader conditions of this country continue to excuse **racism, transphobia, and unethical behavior**, it's important we support efforts that **protect and support our folks** by making spaces for us to discuss our struggles **without stigma**. BEAM is proud to support BPDBST as a part of a constellation of organizations **protecting our people's wellness**.

FROM VOLUNTEER TO BOARD MEMBER

Alexandra “Alex” Mosby, Board Secretary

Alex's journey with BPDBST reflects the power of service rooted in care, skill, and community commitment. A Pennsylvania-based licensed cosmetologist and educator, Alex brings a deep belief that confidence and self-worth are essential to well-being.

She first joined BPDBST as a volunteer, contributing her time and compassion to support community-centered mental health and suicide prevention efforts. Certified in Domestic Violence Awareness and Mental Health First Aid, Alex understands the importance of trauma-informed support and meeting individuals where they are.

In her professional work as a teacher, Alex challenges students to reach their full potential while reinforcing that they are capable of more than they may realize, an approach that mirrors BPDBST's values of empowerment and healing.

Recognizing her leadership and commitment, Alex transitioned into a board member, where she now helps guide the organization's mission to increase awareness, expand access to support, and foster community healing. Her lived dedication to care, education, and self-care continues to strengthen BPDBST's impact and sustainability.

Financial Overview (2023-2025)



Financial Snapshot

Our funding was strategically allocated to maximize community impact and organizational sustainability:



Funders

We are deeply grateful for the partners and supporters who made our work possible:



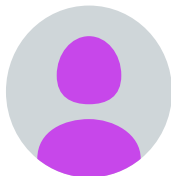
THE MATTIE FUND:
\$100,000

Leonard & Helen R. Stulman
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

LEONARD & HELEN R. STULMAN FOUNDATION:
\$28,000



BLACK EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLECTIVE:
\$10,000



INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:
\$14,434.24

With Gratitude

Heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, partners, and community champions, your belief in this mission makes healing possible.

Sponsors



Partners



Community Champions

Africa Queen
Ahniya Stephens
Alhakim Barbour
Amy Wahl
Anastasia Brathwaite
Ariel Steinbecker
Arielle Brown
Asia Blackman
Beth Terrence
Brandon Johnson
Briana Falco
Brittany Fooks
Camesha Jones
Candice Crosgrove
Candice Napper
Carmen Okpattah
Carla Harris
Cesaire Talom
Chikeia Boykin
Christina Pinkett

Crystal Young
Daija Burroughs
Dalando M. Vance
Damon Williams
Danielle Clark
Dawn Denise Allen
Deanna Paula
Dedra Spears
Denise Brown-Miller
Dominique Wynn
Donnisha Warner
Elizabeth Adeyemi
Emoni Johnson
Evelyn Spencer
Jamie Pagdonsolan
Jasmine Francis
Jeffrey Shultz
Jemima Kankam
Jesse J. Holmes Jr.
Jordan Douglass

Jordan Scott
Kaely Whittington
Katie Barney
Kim Mackanic
Kimberly Mackanic
Kyshaun Bradford
Landon Marina
Lauren N. Jenkins
Lilabelle Self
Lisa Daughtrey
Maria Gay
Michael Dunn
Michaun Carney
Nafeesa Jene
Natasha Graham
Nikkita Blackman
Rafiah Maxie
Raymond Baynard
Rhonda Walther
Sabri Murray

Sade Dunn
Shaela Lawson
Shantel Robinson
Sharon Lawrence
Shelia Brown
Shirley Holmes
Shirley Thompson
Stacy Herbert
Stephanie Padgett
Sunny Ellis
Tammi Gatling
Tameka Tucker
Taniyah Williamson
Tauraine Stukes
Taylor Lofton
Taya Dunn Johnson
Tramaine EL-Amin
Tyshiana Johnson
Willie Scott



Looking Ahead: 2026 Goals

Black People Die By Suicide Too is focused on long-term sustainability and impact. A key priority is strengthening organizational leadership by expanding and diversifying our Board of Directors to ensure our governance reflects the communities we serve and brings the lived experience, expertise, and vision needed to guide our future.

As part of this commitment, BPDBST is bringing the **Black Mental Health Awards (BMHA)** to Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month under the theme "Honoring Trailblazers, Empowering Futures: Celebrating Excellence in Black Mental Health." More than an event, BMHA is a movement that spotlights the urgent issue of Black suicide, raises awareness, and mobilizes resources to support free and low-cost, culturally responsive mental health care.

Our work is grounded in a commitment to reducing stigma and increasing access to suicide prevention resources centered on Black lived experience. Through education, peer support, and advocacy, BPDBST creates spaces where mental health conversations are normalized, healing is prioritized, and Black lives are affirmed.

To bring the BMHA to life and expand this critical work, BPDBST aims to raise \$50,000. These funds will support event production, community recognition, and the expansion of peer-led mental health

and suicide prevention programs. This investment will also strengthen partnerships, broaden our reach, and increase access to culturally responsive support nationwide.

The BMHA represent both a moment of recognition and a call for collective action. We invite sponsors and partners to support this signature event and invest in life-saving, culturally responsive mental health and suicide prevention resources for the Black community. Together, we can reduce stigma, expand access to care, and ensure Black lives are supported, affirmed, and protected.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities for the Black Mental Health Awards, please contact bmha@blackpeoplediebysuicidetoo.org.



What began as a **podcast** became a promise to **normalize** suicide prevention **conversations**.

What became an organization **grew** into a **movement**. This work is **our love** offering to **Black** communities, **rooted** in truth, **healing**, and the belief that our lives are **worthy of care**.

JORDAN SCOTT
Co-Founder

T-KEA BLACKMAN
Co-Founder



Join our movement to end stigma and save Black lives.

   @blackpeoplediebysuicidetoo

There are many ways to support
this life-saving work:



Donate to our
Black Mental
Health Awards
Campaign



Join our Board
of Directors



Partner,
Volunteer,
or Advocate

BLACK PEOPLE DIE
BY SUICIDE TOO



Scan the BMHA QR
Code or text **"BMHA"**
to **53-555** to give.