

2022 NFDW AWARDS

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

Britney Thornton



Britney Thornton was nominated for the Humanitarian Award by the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women.

Britney Thornton is a proud native Memphian from Orange Mound. A master social worker licensed K-8 educator, and former law student, Britney has found her passion as a community organizer. A graduate of Baylor University and the University of Pennsylvania, she has called Memphis home for 32 years.

Founder of the non-profit JUICE Orange Mound, Britney continues to challenge systems of oppression by thinking of new and creative ways to address old issues. Under her leadership, she has mobilized residents to invest over \$12,200 in spare change to fund community-based initiatives. A strong belief in meeting people where they are, Britney is proud to have canvassed every street in her home community of Orange Mound and even led the non-profit to pivot into mobile service during the pandemic.

Her standard of excellence in dedicated service has been recognized by the White House as she holds the 2020 President's Volunteer Service Award. In February 2021, Britney led by example and opened the doors to the ONLY homeless shelter in Historic Orange Mound. Uniquely housing over 80 men, women, and children, the HubOM homeless shelter has been featured on all local news outlets for its impact and service to the community.

Moving the needle, Britney's leadership continues to motivate local churches, citywide supporters, and Orange Mound residents to get more involved. In fact, her work has motivated over 25 churches, including New Salem Missionary Baptist Church and World Overcomers Outreach Ministries to take direct action to support the homeless community of Orange Mound. New connections within the Muslim and Jewish communities, the LGBTQ community, the local business community, and even the political community have all been established under her leadership. Most notably, Britney initiated a weekly worship service for the homeless community where local worship leaders still come to the shelter to create a praise and worship experience for residents. Her impact reaches beyond the boundaries of Historic Orange Mound as Britney is truly a natural leader.