



BIO – DENISE SHELTON

Denise Shelton, CEO of Community Bridge Inc., has been actively engaged for over fourteen (15) years in growing woman owned business opportunities and advocating for the woman owned business community as a whole.

Community Bridge Inc. (CBI), a Washington DC based company established in January 2002, is solely owned by Denise Shelton. The company has historically provided opportunities for women to hold executive leadership positions where their talents and skills have had direct impact on the advancement of the organization. Under the direct mentorship of Denise Shelton, several female employees of Community Bridge Inc. have successfully ventured into entrepreneurial opportunities of their own. Denise has provided mentorship to women in the areas of:

- Financial Management
- Policy Development
- Human Capital Management
- Strategic Team Building
- Business Networking

Community Bridge Inc. currently employs women in the executive roles of President, Chief Operating Officer, and Business Development Officer. Community Bridge Inc. is a second generation woman operated enterprise as the current President, and named successor of the business, is Denise Shelton's daughter, Shawn Nance.

Denise Shelton is active legislatively in support of initiatives and petitions that advocate for equality for the WOSB community. Denise was a strong supporter of current DC Mayor, Muriel Bowser, during her mayoral campaign, and continues to actively support initiatives proposed by Mayor Bowser for the advancement of women in business.

Denise Shelton has also sought to conduct business to the greatest extent possible with other woman owned entities. Mrs. Shelton created a Community Bridge consortium which was a strategic alliance between several Washington DC based, minority-owned businesses, who came together under the leadership of Denise Shelton to pursue various business opportunities. Under the auspices of this consortium, Denise Shelton provided the opportunity for woman owned companies, specifically in the event planning, transportation, and executive coaching industries, to grow and significantly increase their market share.

In 2005, Denise Shelton established Community Bridge LLC which started as a subsidiary of the woman owned Community Bridge Inc. and has since transitioned into a separate woman-owned limited liability company, currently under the direct leadership and sole ownership of Denise Shelton's daughter, Shawn Nance.

In 2010, Denise Shelton established the Community Bridge Foundation which administers a program by which young girls afflicted by significant hair loss as a result of chemotherapy treatment receive, at no cost, a hair replacement system (wig), which is customized by a professional hair stylist based on stylist-recipient interaction to ensure the hair system is a perfect match for the recipient's style, personal liking, extra-curricular activities and/or hobbies, and comfort. The foundation has donated several thousands of dollars toward this cause since its inception.

Denise Shelton has been recognized for her success, having been the recipient of the

- **Minority Business Enterprise Award, a recognition given by the Top 100 MBE Organization, in two (2) years in 2010 and 2013.**
- **In 2016, Mrs. Shelton was the recipient of the Women in Business Champion of the Year presented by DC Chamber of Commerce.**
- **Most recently Mrs. Shelton was the recipient of The Top 100 MBE Award® honoring the top 100 MBEs in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia for 2019**