



APRIL N. JACKSON

Founder & Executive Director, The House of Darla (The HOD)

April N. Jackson is the Founder and Executive Director of The House of Darla (The HOD), a nonprofit serving youth and families in Fairfield County through mentorship, leadership development, and wellness-centered programming. She brings over a decade of experience in education, nonprofit management, and youth empowerment.

April has worked in multiple nonprofit roles leading initiatives rooted in healing, access, equity, and excellence. She founded *Students With Aspiring Goals (S.W.A.G.)* and created programs such as *Art of the Heart*, *Summer of Success*, and the *Boss Up Challenge*, helping youth gain certifications, develop career pathways, and build confidence.

Her leadership is inspired by Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, emphasizing the importance of meeting youth where they are to help them thrive. April holds certifications in CPR, First Aid, ServSafe, DCF Therapeutic Support Services, Community-Based Life Skills, and CPI. She also directs The HOD's Fit & Fun Program and collaborates on the HODxSweet Darla community events including an annual Halloween Safety Event and family engagement & Parent nights.

April comes from a legacy of educators, entrepreneurs, and civil rights activists—including her grandmother, Addie Pearl Nicholson, associated with the Gee's Bend Quilters. Her mission is to create safe, creative spaces where youth can grow into who they're truly meant to be.

