



# CHRISTINA PEOPLES

BIOGRAPHY

Christina Peoples is an experienced leader, advocate, and visionary with over 17 years of experience in community organizing, nonprofit leadership, and trauma-informed program development. As the Founder and Executive Director of The Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center (AAAWLC), Christina has built a healing-centered organization dedicated to uplifting underserved individuals and families in San Joaquin County through programs rooted in health, education, social justice, and healing.

## **A Legacy of Service and Impact**

Born and raised in Stockton, California, Christina was deeply inspired by the life and legacy of her grandmother, Pastor Amelia Ann Adams, whose compassion and advocacy for overlooked and forgotten communities left an enduring impact. Following Pastor Adams' passing, Christina founded AAWLC to honor her memory and continue the work of empowering families to move from surviving to thriving. Under her leadership, AAWLC has launched transformative programs such as Empowered Women of Excellence, HousingWORKs, Black Youth Protecting Black Peace, SistaCoach, and the Thought Partner Program, directly addressing systemic barriers and creating pathways for healing and success.

## **Professional Experience and Expertise**

With a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Kentucky State University, Christina's career has been defined by her deep understanding of community needs, policy development, and program implementation.

## **Director of Local Policy, Public Health Advocates**

Christina led initiatives to develop and advance local policies aimed at improving health outcomes and addressing racial disparities within the Black community in San Joaquin County. She worked closely with African American faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, community leaders, and residents to create policies that promoted health equity, implemented trauma-informed practices, and improved access to resources. Under her leadership, initiatives like REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) were recognized nationally as models for community-led change by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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## **Trauma-Informed Policy Development:**

Through her leadership in the Healing South Stockton project, Christina conducted extensive research, led community listening sessions, and developed trauma-informed care strategies to build community resilience.

## **Community Organizer and Advocate:**

For decades, Christina has worked alongside P.A.C.T. (People and Congregations Together) and P.I.C.O. (People Improving Communities through Organizing) to develop leaders, drive policy change, and address systemic inequities.

## **A Champion for Healing and Resilience:**

As a woman of resilience herself, Christina is passionate about creating spaces that prioritize healing and empower individuals to reclaim their stories. With a personal ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) score of 8+, she understands firsthand the importance of trauma-informed care and non-traditional healing methods. In 2010, she piloted a healing support group for women, a program that continues today, integrating tools like journaling, reflection, and motivational speakers to promote emotional well-being.

Her approach centers on fostering relationships, recognizing that true community engagement comes from listening, understanding, and responding to people's lived experiences.

## **Vision for the Future**

Christina's work is guided by the belief that "Your pain is your purpose", a principle imparted to her by Pastor Adams. She remains steadfast in her mission to build equitable, healing-centered spaces where individuals feel seen, supported, and valued. Through AAWLC and her broader community work, Christina envisions a future where every person has access to the resources, relationships, and opportunities needed to thrive.

"I wanted to create an organization that made people feel the way my grandmother made me feel—seen, supported, and loved. My goal is to ensure her name and legacy live on through the transformative work we do, rooted in healing, compassion, and justice."