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My name is Amanda Manigault. Although I was raised with both mom and dad, I was one of those girls who was dealt a bad hand early in life. Growing up as a young girl in Harrisburg PA living on the strip of N 6th street in one of the roughest neighborhoods in town. I had big dreams with a very little support system. I had minimal financial assistance and I became an entrepreneur early in life because I knew I had to take care of myself. I came from a religious family, a preacher's daughter. Yet somehow I became a teenage mom at the age of 16 years old. Being an entrepreneur was great but I could never receive help from the system when needed. Whenever times got hard for me I was always told NO! "You own a business... You see, both my parents had no more than an 8th grade education. At a very young age I was helping them read complete paperwork that arrived at the house and most of the time I had to figure it out... I also helped provide for my other 5 siblings. I was the first in my family to do most things. I never had a role model to teach me about life and/or business. I was the go-to in my family and I had to learn most things by trial and error. I became a born risk taker... Afraid of nothing but God and looking for opportunities to succeed. I dreamed a lot and I knew I wanted something different in my life other than my current situation. I had a wonderful career because I was passionate about making others look and feel good and I worked very hard to achieve that. But I also ran into many brick walls, made a lot of mistakes and what I remember the most is that no matter how passionate one may be, A STORM IS STILL GOING TO COME... When the storm came I had no one to pass the baton to, I had to figure things out on my own. I watched people around me receive help when the storm came... It seemed like they got free food, food stamps, rental assistance, free housing, cars and even monetary help etc... I could never get any help because I was a working woman who owned my own business. And even STRONG BLACK WORKING WOMEN need help at times... This made me stronger! I became a natural SURVIVOR! And became an expert at FIGURING THINGS OUT! It was that word NO that inspired me to one day become a philanthropist with a focus on the "Black Women & Girls." I wanted to help black women who looked like me and shared the same experiences as me; The low - and moderate - income working women helping to meet eligibility for earned income tax credit. The women that want more for their children and household and are not waiting around for someone to give it to them, yet they may need a skill or trade. The working single moms who fell into bad situations and had to fight to get back up on their own. Those specific women have a desire to work to help take care of their families. Those specific women have a hard time getting help, yet their income does not sustain their lifestyle... Most importantly, those women often lose hope, strength and stop dreaming because of the struggle of getting beat down and hearing the answer "NO, I can't help you..." our organization was built to be a support system for this group of black women.