



## *A Message From Our Executive Director*

***The events over the past few weeks and months have left me speechless. My emotions have been so up and down I have naturally been unable to express how I feel in a given moment. I've struggled looking at my children and trying to figure out how to explain where we are right now as a country and as a people. A few years ago, to celebrate Black History Month I created daily posts surrounding #FearBlack. It was my futile attempt to share the fear of and in Black America. The fear that I've seen walking through a store, when on elevators, interacting with police, with colleagues and even supposed friends. The fear I've felt from sharing my emotions, code switching, hiding my blackness and interacting with my own people. Unfortunately, it is our collective fear that keeps the hate and racism alive. Fear constantly allows us to take the easy road. Fear allows us to remain silent when we should speak up.***

***We've given fear so much power that change is no longer an option. So growth, peace & love are put on shelves until times of crisis. Only then can we come together. Yet in still, after the crisis subsides fear returns to its rightful place. As I look at the protests, civil disobedience and the aggressive collection of reparations emerging all over our country and the world, I know that many share the same feeling - enough is enough. The cycle must stop. It's time to put fear to rest and have faith. With real faith, we are able to eliminate the word can't from our vocabulary. So we can exercise the internal power we have to overcome traditions, habits, ignorance, hate and fear. With real faith, we will then be able to not only embrace and care for our fellow man and woman regardless of race, socio-economic status, religion or gender, but also embrace the great humans that we can be individually. It is my hope that after all this is said and done we all share the same attitude that we all must do better.***

**If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.**

**Mother Teresa**

**Know Better. Do Better. Lead Better.**



**Executive Director**

