

KEISHA Y. BROWN ANGEL WINGS SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Keisha Y. Brown
1972-2014

Keisha Y. Brown was a brilliant woman. She was a daughter, a sister, a wife and a mother. These roles she cherished above all. Along the way in life, she was a friend, a coach, and a mentor to literally thousands of people—young and old—who will always remember life’s lessons they learned from Keisha Brown. One of the most important, and one she used to mention in speeches when she was asked to present, was a question she posed to audiences: Do you react or respond? For goodness sake, she would say, respond! What will it take for people to simply think before they speak? That’s the key difference in whether you *respond* or react.

Pearls of wisdom like that, incredible patience, respect for all people, and a devotion to God made Keisha an amazing woman. She was able to lead others—even through adversity herself—and when she died in 2014, she left a legacy of great respect and service above self.

Keisha was born on March 3, 1972, the daughter of Johnny Mac and Mamie Lou (Skinner) Johnson, Sr. She obtained her Master’s Degree in social work from Tulane University in New Orleans. She married her soul mate, Damon Brown, on May 24, 2003, in New Orleans. Keisha said a “dream came true” when she and Damon had a baby girl, whom they named “Angel” in 2002.

Keisha became part of the Sacred Heart family when she accepted a role as elementary principal in 2009. She later served as athletic director at Sacred Heart Academy, and coached the SHA girls and boys varsity basketball teams. From 2003 to 2009, Keisha led the Irish boys teams to several conference and district titles, regional crowns, and a runner-up showing in the 2006 Class D State Championship game. She also coached local AAU teams in the off-season. She had previously been employed by Gratiot County Mental Health, and later was the head coach for the Alma College women’s basketball program. Coaching basketball and mentoring youth brought her incredible joy.

She created the Angel Wings Fund after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Keisha fought hard and beat cancer twice, but bravely lost her final battle in 2014. The Keisha Y. Brown Angel Wings Fund is dedicated to making a difference for individuals who have lost a parent to cancer by providing financial scholarships and raising awareness about cancer education and services. The Fund has a positive impact in many ways, including the endowment established within the SHA Foundation, which provides tuition assistance at Sacred Heart Academy. *Keisha’s devotion to God, family and service to others lives on.*



For further information about the **Keisha Y. Brown Angel Wings Scholarship Fund** or other Named Funds, contact the SHA Foundation at SHAFoundation@sha.net

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