

Beverly A. Najt, Founder & Executive Director

Beverly Najt founded 4Ekselans in 2005 out of a sense of divine purpose and her desire to see children, especially those growing up without fathers, have a chance at life.

First traveling to Haiti in 1986, Beverly was initially gripped with the disturbing scenes of crushing poverty, disease, darkness and death in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Behind the decay were remnants of what must have once been a beautiful city.

Being a native of New Orleans, she easily recognized the French-influenced architecture and culture, while experiencing a sense of *déjà vue*. But on a deeper spiritual level, she immediately felt connected to this strange land and her people. Touched deeply, never to be quite the same again, Bev felt her life become entwined with theirs. She knew that the Lord had called her to serve Him by serving the people of Haiti.

Most of Beverly's career has been focused on delivering growth and development tools for the whole man, with a particular emphasis on the spiritual, through the means of seminars, public speaking, teaching, writing, counseling, coaching, mentoring, and radio broadcasting. She has directed nonprofits serving the community's youth and young adults, such as Louisiana Teen Challenge, and has also provided counseling and life-coaching services to a clientele of adults and professionals. She has conducted leadership seminars both domestically and internationally.

From 1984 to 1994, Bev directed The King's Ministry and lead or participated in missions to several Latin American countries (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Peru, and Mexico) and Native American reservations in the Southwest United States. She worked closely with the Hopis and Navajos of Arizona for two years.

In 1989, she and her two youngest, daughters 10 and 13, took up residence in Haiti for five years, living among the poor and addressing their most urgent needs through education, leadership training, health care, evangelism, and micro-enterprise.

In March of 1994, Bev returned to the States for some needed surgery. She expected to return shortly, but the volatile political climate, insecurity, and embargo at that time prevented her from doing so. Instead, she lived in New Orleans, working with Social Services, then attending Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine as a special, non-degree graduate student studying Clinical Tropical Medicine.

Moving to New York in 1996, Bev worked in the corporate world, primarily in the financial services industry, and was employed by Citigroup for four years. However, a decade and nine grandchildren later, her heart and mind were still set on making a difference in the lives of young people. She presently lives in Jacmel, Haiti and

devotes herself to building a healthy organization that effectively invests in developing future leaders among Haiti's youth.

Bev has volunteered with a number of nonprofits (Mentoring Partnership of New York, Digital Clubhouse, Junior Achievement, Operation Hope, and ASPIRA) as a mentor to youth, as well as an instructor of financial education. She has served on the Citigroup Hispanic Network (CHN) Community Outreach Committee as a co-coordinator of the CHN/ASPIRA Mentoring Program.

Wherever she is, Beverly's passion is to make a valuable difference in people's lives by giving them hope, as well as the tools and opportunities to become the best they can be. Bev has been greatly blessed of the Lord in this life and she therefore has a responsibility to give back to others. She possesses a wealth of experience and God-given wisdom that can help others more effectively navigate the courses of their own lives.

Bev received her B.S. with a Psychology major from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. As an avid lifelong learner with varied interests, she has also earned graduate hours in Social Work at LSU, Baton Rouge and Clinical Tropical Medicine at Tulane University School of Public Health in New Orleans, LA.