

## **Single Parenthood in Black Communities**

For a long time, there has been a stigma on single parents in the Black community. In the past 10 years, African American children living in single-parent homes have steadily by an average of 67%. We remain the highest percentage for single-parent homes. We are expected to live in a broken home with one parent. In most cases, the father is absent from the home and/or in the child's life completely. Parents are judged if they decide to raise a child alone and judged if they do not keep the child. It is assumed that most crimes committed by our community are linked to single parent households and that the home is "broken." However, this is not the case most times.

I plan to partner with organizations that will touch on all aspects of raising children including Single Parent Advocate. I will host events, such as a back-to-school drive, clothing drives and a household necessities drive. I also plan to partner with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to organize a nonperishable food drive for lower income families as well as a facilitate a volunteer opportunity at their site located in OKC to package food for children in school. My goal is to educate the Stillwater community on the various ways they can help those in need.

The platform provided by the title of being Miss Black OSU will allow me to leverage my efforts and partner with organizations to shed a positive light and knowledge on single parenthood and begin to erase the negative stigma that has been placed on our community.

**Miss Black Oklahoma State University 2021, Becka Cammon**