

## Sherrie Smith



Sherrie Smith is native of Detroit's West Side. Born in 1979, she is a proud graduate of Detroit Public Schools (including Cass Tech, of course!). She studied Electrical Engineering for years before changing majors and earning her Bachelor's of Science in Counseling Psychology in 2005 from Rochester College. Professionally she has worked various industries including: automotive supply, churches, non-profits, medical agencies, and mental health gym and most recently in demolition and vocational training. Her professional work has centered around working with people either physically, spiritually, mentally or emotionally.

Personally, she has served her community volunteering for numerous groups including: Siena Literacy Center, Detroit Public Television, Hospices of Henry Ford, Community Movement Builders Detroit, Detroit Public Library - Parkman Branch, Soar Detroit, Demographic Inspirations-Detroit, Peace Tree Parks, Hope Village Farmers Market, Free Press/TCF Marathon, Michigan Alliance for Justice in Climate, and 482Forward. Sherrie is a proud mother who homeschooled two of her children and makes learning a lifelong effort and priority. She is a voracious

reader and eager learner.

In 2019 she became an MSU Extension Master Gardener and has volunteered hundreds of hours in local gardens near her home. Sherrie is a member of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network where she has volunteered at D-Town Farm since 2019. She enjoys sharing information with others and took part in an educational series for beginning Farmers and Gardeners during the Spring/Summer of 2020. Growing food, introducing others to the amazing world of gardening and seed saving are her favorite land based activities.

Sherrie loves to create opportunities for people to reach their dreams so she became the Co-Lead of Central Communities SOUP (CC SOUP) at the end of 2019. In 2020 she hosted 2 SOUP events providing over \$1600 in direct assistance to winning pitchers. In 2021 Sherrie was able to accomplish a few of her major life goals giving her first Tedx Talk and winning one of 20 Tandem Ed - Own Your Story Community Investment Grants. In November of 2021 she became a Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund Awardee. In 2023 she was selected as part of the first Detroit cohort of the Builders + Backers Idea Accelerator program.

Sherrie sees it as her assignment to connect with others and foster connections between people and the world around them. Through these connections she plans to increase loving relationships in the black community everywhere she goes. She is currently working on two books, preparing to train for her first ultramarathon and creating an app to help black farmers find and support one another.