

## Kevin Hunt, Sr., Arkansas

Kevin Hunt, Sr. dropped out of school in junior high. His life went into a downward spiral for many years afterward. He fell victim to the stereotypical life of a young black, fatherless male in an urban environment, in jail and illiterate. It wasn't until the death of his grandmother that he realized education would be his ticket out of a life of crime and into one that was productive and fruitful!

In 2001, Kevin made a decision that would be the catalyst for changing his entire life. He enrolled in the Shorter College GED® program. After earning his GED® certificate, Kevin courageously enrolled at Philander Smith College in 2002. He not only received a business degree but also graduated with honors. He went on to receive a master's degree in December of 2015 from Webster University. Upon graduating from Philander Smith College in 2006, Kevin volunteered for then-Attorney General Mike Beebe's campaign for governor of Arkansas. This eventually led to a part-time job working for Beebe's campaign. Mike Beebe won the election for governor, and Kevin was hired on as full-time staff. During the next eight years in the office of Governor Mike Beebe, Kevin worked as communications assistant, spending five of those years as Minority Affairs Liaison.

A man of God, Kevin joined Second Baptist Church in 2005. Kevin now works at the University of Arkansas for the Center on Community Philanthropy at the Clinton School of Public Service, which focuses on community-based philanthropy. He is happily married and the proud father of his son Kevin Hunt, Jr. Kevin invests countless hours of hard work and dedication for the betterment of his community by serving as a mentor to others and volunteering at The Watershed. Currently, he is focused on launching his nonprofit mentoring program, Inspiring Other People (IOP), whose motto is "Leading by Example." In March 2018 he published a book, *Why Me God? "Because I Ordained Your Steps,"* which tells his story of how faith, education, and hard work brought him out of a life of crime into a life of remarkable purpose.