

STACI PURPOSE KIRK

BIOGRAPHICAL VITA

Founder | Author | Health Equity Advocate | Community Impact Leader | Speaker

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Staci PurPose Kirk is an author, nonprofit founder, health equity advocate, speaker, and community impact leader whose career spans more than two decades of executive leadership, organizational development, advocacy, mentorship, and service.

Widely known as “The Warrior Coach,” Kirk has built a body of work centered on helping women navigate adversity, access support, reclaim their voices, and transform lived experience into individual and collective action. Her leadership bridges corporate and nonprofit sectors, community-based advocacy, cancer support, patient education, storytelling, and community-engaged research.

Kirk is the Founder and CEO of Stiletto Boss Foundation, a nonprofit organization established to empower and uplift women through community service, sisterhood, advocacy, and support. She is also the founder of Black Girls Fighting Cancer (BGFC), an initiative addressing gaps in cancer support, awareness, advocacy, and access, particularly among populations that have historically been underserved or underrepresented in traditional healthcare conversations.

A six-time cancer survivor living with metastatic breast cancer, Kirk brings an uncommon depth of lived experience to her advocacy. Rather than positioning survivorship as the culmination of her story, she has used those experiences to inform a broader body of work examining who is being left behind in cancer care, why disparities persist, and how communities can translate lived experience and data into meaningful action.

Her advocacy is complemented by specialized training in patient advocacy, breast cancer research advocacy, peer support, healthcare, and organizational improvement. Kirk is also a prolific author whose nine published works span personal development, resilience, family education, children’s literature, and lived experience. Her contributions to leadership and community service have been recognized locally and nationally.

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & CEO | Stiletto Boss Foundation | 2019–Present

Kirk founded Stiletto Boss Foundation as a nonprofit organization focused on empowering women through advocacy, support, community programming, leadership, sisterhood, and service. Under her leadership, the organization has developed initiatives addressing wellness, resilience, personal development, cancer support, and community engagement.

Her work through the Foundation reflects a larger philosophy of supporting the woman behind the work, recognizing that women who lead families, organizations, businesses, and communities also require spaces where their own well-being, development, and support are prioritized. Kirk oversees organizational strategy, partnership development, programming, fundraising, advocacy, communications, and community engagement.

Founder & Executive Director | Black Girls Fighting Cancer | 2025–Present

Kirk founded Black Girls Fighting Cancer to create a community-centered response to the realities experienced by women affected by cancer, with particular attention to communities frequently underserved or underrepresented in cancer care and support systems.

BGFC operates through three central pillars: Access, Advocacy, and Awareness. Under Kirk’s leadership, BGFC has developed direct-support, education, storytelling, community-engagement, and advocacy initiatives designed to meet women where they are while also examining the larger systems influencing their cancer experiences.

Programs and initiatives developed under her leadership include Warrior Boxes, Anchor Support Space, survivor storytelling and visibility initiatives, community wellness programming, BGFC Magazine, and community-based events connecting women with resources, information, healthcare partners, and one another.

Her leadership has increasingly positioned BGFC at the intersection of data and lived experience, using both to identify who is being left behind, understand the factors contributing to those gaps, and translate what is learned into community action and advocacy.

CORPORATE & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Prior to and alongside her nonprofit and advocacy leadership, Kirk accumulated more than 20 years of experience leading, coaching, mentoring, and developing women in business and community leadership. Her professional background includes executive leadership, organizational development, team development, operations, coaching, process improvement, and strategic leadership. Her Six Sigma Green Belt training complements a leadership approach grounded in organizational effectiveness, systems thinking, measurable improvement, and sustainable program development.

HEALTH EQUITY, PATIENT ADVOCACY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

Kirk's cancer advocacy is informed by both specialized training and extensive lived experience across multiple periods of diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, recurrence, and metastatic disease. Her work addresses access to cancer support and information, patient-clinician communication, cultural relevance, emotional safety, navigation, patient advocacy, survivorship, metastatic cancer, community education, and disparities affecting women whose experiences are not always adequately represented in conventional healthcare systems.

Her professional and community engagement includes work with Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center, Breast Cancer Fund of Ohio, and service as an American Cancer Society Ambassador.

The CARE Study: Cancer Care Access, Relevance & Equity

Kirk is the creator and organizational leader behind The CARE Study, a Black Girls Fighting Cancer health-equity research initiative designed to examine the lived cancer-care experiences of women of color across diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and metastatic care.

The initiative examines dimensions of the cancer experience including access, communication, clinician interaction, cultural relevance, emotional safety, navigation, ancillary support, and the ways healthcare systems engage patients beyond the clinical encounter.

The CARE Study reflects Kirk's broader approach to advocacy: using data and lived experience together to identify who is being left behind, understand why, and turn what is learned into community action and advocacy. Through this work, she convenes healthcare, academic, clinical, community, and lived-experience perspectives around questions capable of informing patient navigation, community education, workforce training, partnerships, funding priorities, and future policy advocacy.

COMMUNITY IMPACT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Through Stiletto Boss Foundation and Black Girls Fighting Cancer, Kirk has created and led programming spanning cancer support, women's empowerment, education, wellness, storytelling, community engagement, and advocacy.

- Warrior Boxes: tangible support and encouragement for women undergoing cancer treatment, with hundreds of boxes distributed across multiple states.
- Anchor Support Space: recurring virtual connection and support for women navigating cancer.
- Community wellness and educational programming connecting community members with healthcare professionals, advocates, organizations, information, and resources.
- Survivor storytelling initiatives that create opportunities for women affected by cancer to be represented beyond statistics and diagnoses and ensure lived experience informs community conversations.
- BGFC Magazine: an advocacy and storytelling platform highlighting cancer experiences, education, community resources, and survivor voices.
- HERVillage: a recurring women's community experience focused on connection, wellness, personal development, education, and sisterhood.

Kirk's leadership extends beyond individual programs to building collaborations among community organizations, healthcare systems, advocates, professionals, volunteers, and individuals with lived experience.

AUTHORSHIP & PUBLICATIONS

2026 *FEARLESS: Built Through the Crack That Tried to Break You*

2026 *Sam's Jazz 2*

2025 *What's Wrong with Grandma*

2024 *Hold On Sis, Let Me Take My Wig Off*

2022 *Mindset, Manifest, and Meditate*

2021 *The Pink Journal*

2011 *Sam's Jazz*
2010 *Soul of PurPose*
2009 *Begin Again*

HONORS & AWARDS

2026 Who's Who in Black Cleveland
2025 The President's Lifetime Achievement Award; Who's Who in Black Cleveland
2024 Cleveland Cavaliers Jif Diff Maker Award; Who's Who in Black Cleveland
2023 Beachwood Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award; She Elevates Award; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Community Honoree
2022 Beachwood Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award; Universal Women's Network Authentic Leadership Award; 100 Women of Excellence
2016 Who's Who in Black Cleveland

CERTIFICATIONS & SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Certified Patient Advocate, Living Beyond Breast Cancer Metastatic
- Project LEAD Graduate, National Breast Cancer Coalition
- Certified VOICES Ambassador
- Certified Family Peer Support
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Six Sigma Green Belt

SPEAKING, EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Kirk is an accomplished public speaker whose presentations draw upon executive leadership, cancer advocacy, patient experience, resilience, health equity, community leadership, and the power of lived experience to influence systems and communities.

Her work as a speaker extends from motivational and leadership settings to cancer advocacy, patient education, community health, and public awareness. Through speaking, media engagement, community programming, and storytelling, she has worked to move conversations about cancer beyond awareness alone toward access, advocacy, representation, and action.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
- University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center
- Breast Cancer Fund of Ohio
- American Cancer Society Ambassador

ADVOCACY PHILOSOPHY

At the center of Kirk's work is the belief that lived experience is not simply a story to be told. It is knowledge capable of identifying gaps, challenging assumptions, informing research, improving systems, and shaping more responsive communities.

Her career represents an evolution from corporate leadership to community service, from personal experience to patient advocacy, and from individual support to systems-level inquiry.

Who is being left behind, why, and what can we build, change, or advocate for to ensure they are not forgotten?