

With a career in education, a new book, a new stage play, growing special event business, *Dream Catchers*, and a family, Kristy Jackson's days are always eventful. Kristy and her husband James, a minister, music producer and professional drummer for the jazz band Good 4 the Soul, developed Dream Catchers, an event planning and consulting business in 2004. Due to the diversified nature of Dream Catchers, the company designs a range of special events and consults in various areas, including spiritual development, education, and music production (JAJ2 Music). While charting the performance opportunities of their own children, KelC, a song writer and artist, and Jada, a model, actor and soccer player, they naturally volunteered industry information and helped guide/support others with integrity along their entertainment path to "Katch their Dream". A few of their most noted clients are the Casino Queen, Stages St. Louis, Varsity Children's Charity, Anheuser-Busch, Fontbonne University, Joyce Meyer Ministries and jazz artists, Denise Thimes and Tim Cunningham.

Coming from a family of educators and musical artists, Kristy easily found her niche in consulting. Her mother, Ernestine Jones-Gordon, a noted vocalist in the St. Louis Area, has always encouraged her to follow her dream with the reminder that "nothing beats a failure but one who tries". In 2005, Kristy published her first curriculum program called the "Captain MAP" testing program that MO schools used to teach testing strategies for the MO Assessment Program. Following the success of "Caption Map", Kristy made the decision to continue her education by pursuing a Masters in Teaching (MA.T) and an Education Specialist Degree (ED.S) in Leadership and Administration from Webster University in St Louis, MO, graduating with Honors. In 2011 Kristy was hired as the first African American District Coordinator of Gifted Education for the Webster Groves Schools. Her community engagement includes volunteering as a contributing author to ConnectED Learning, Board of Directors for Fontbonne University, YMCA Community Literacy, Maryville University Young Scholars Advisory, Stages St. Louis, & Metro Theater Company, membership with St. Louis Association of Black Administrators (SLABA), MO Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC). "I am excited about the work that each organization is doing to ensure that young people have exposure to excellence in education and the Arts."

Bible study just got a little more interesting thanks to Kristy Jackson. With her new book, "Girlfriends & God," she provides a year's worth of menus, music and crafts for women's bible or fellowship meetings. The book has 12 devotional themes for women that don't have time to plan, but want to host a fellowship. The guide includes everything from invitations to community outreach projects. Jackson shares, "It's exciting to see women coming together and sharing life through the fellowships. I'm grateful to put out a book from my heart expressing my love for God and people" Kristy's husband produced the "Worship in Your Presence" CD that is a companion to the book. In August of 2014, Jackson will produce a new play, "Girlfriends & God: The Retreat", that centers around the stories of women who use the Girlfriends and God devotionals to work through life issues. The production includes original music, a collage of touching monologues, and humor that will allow other women to connect to the importance of sharing their story. Future plans include women's conferences, mentoring programs, and a magazine.

The accomplishments that Kristy is most grateful for are her roles as a child of God, wife and a mother. "I feel very blessed by God to be able to follow my dreams." She in turn desires to be a vessel to help others follow dreams of their own.



*Kristy L. Daniels - Jackson*