



There is a conversation happening right now in our country that is long overdue. And it's one that I want to use my voice in so that together we can make sure it's a turning point.

George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery.

Three senseless killings of black people, two at the hands of police.

This hits home for me. My mother was a Baton Rouge city police officer who lost her life serving her community. When I was little, I would wait up every night until I heard her come home. Then I would get into bed and fall asleep, knowing she was home safe. I was two days past my 18th birthday when she was killed. Because of my mom, I know what the badge is supposed to mean— *To Serve & Protect*. And I know that the vast majority of police officers live up to that oath.

But that doesn't mean we don't call out the systematic issues we see across this country when it comes to race, policing and our criminal justice system. It *demands* that we do. And beyond that, it requires us to do the hard work of looking at where other inequities exist, ask ourselves why, and start creating and implementing solutions to eliminate disparities.

This has been our work at Warrick Dunn Charities for the past 23 years, and now it's more important than ever.

When I started the charity, it was personal. I wanted to live my mother's dream of home ownership through other single parents. I'm proud to say that with your help, we have done that, assisting 177 families and counting.

Doing this work also challenged me to look closer at inequalities within our communities. I started to understand more about the lack of affordable housing, the displacement that often occurs in black communities, and the effect of decades of housing discrimination and unfair policies— many of which still exist in different forms today.

At Warrick Dunn Charities, we are committed to making a difference by expanding our programming into more underserved communities across the country and making an impact in the lives of those families with the greatest needs.

Over the last several weeks, our team has been listening to the needs of our recipient families. Many have been directly impacted by the current pandemic. Employment, childcare and food security are very real challenges facing our families, and our team is working hard to provide assistance.

In this most challenging time in our country, I remain hopeful about our future. Important dialogue is taking place. Action is being taken. But it's up to us to make sure that real change happens.

Moving forward means acknowledging our past while looking towards the future, calling out inequities when we see them, and working together to solve them.

We can do better. And we will.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warrick Dunn".

Warrick Dunn, Founder
Warrick Dunn Charities, Inc.