



Maimah Karmo Bio

Maimah Karmo is the Founder and Executive Director of the Tigerlily Foundation, which she founded after being diagnosed with breast cancer. While going through chemotherapy, Maimah made a promise to God and her daughter that she would change the landscape of young women and breast cancer and that she would spend her life working to effect this change. That promise is Tigerlily Foundation. Tigerlily Foundation's mission is to educate, empower, advocate for, and provide hands-on support to young women affected by breast cancer.

Breast cancer changed the way Maimah saw life and the way she lives. After being diagnosed, and facing her own mortality at 32-years old, she realized she had to create the life she desired and not wait for life to happen to her. She also realized that a challenge could be a gift.

Through her advocacy, Maimah has been able to touch women and men around the world. She is asked to speak nationwide as a breast health expert, and has been featured in magazines, including *Essence*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Cure*, *Women and Cancer*, *Pink Magazine*, *Council Magazine*, *Exceptional People Magazine*, *Global Woman Magazine*, and in numerous web-based and regional magazine and newspaper print publications, including the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Examine*, *USA Today*, *Loudoun Times Mirror*, *Ladybrille Magazine* and *Talk Loudoun*. She has also been featured on *Fox 5*, *WJLA 7*, *NewsChannel 8*, *W*USA Channel 9*, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America*, and many local and national radio shows, including on XM and Sirius stations.

Maimah is a member of several national cancer advocacy organizations. She serves on the *Young Survival Coalition's* Diversity Outreach Committee and a speaker for *The Breast Cancer Network of Strength*. She is a member of the Intercultural Cancer Consortium and the *D.C. Cancer Consortium*. She supports the *African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA)*, and is on the *Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) Young Adult Alliance (YAA)*. Maimah is a breast cancer grant reviewer, and a supporter of many local and national women's health initiatives specific to breast cancer. One of Maimah's proudest advocacy moments to date is her work on behalf of the Breast Cancer **Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Act**, along with Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman's Schultz's Office. This legislation would provide nationwide awareness, education and funding specifically targeting young women and breast cancer.

In October 2009, Maimah was selected as one of 10 nominees, by L'Oreal Paris' Women of Worth. She was also recently given a Key Women of Health Award by Reston Hospital for her work creating awareness of young women and breast health.

She is also writing a **best-seller** about how her breast cancer diagnosis transformed her life. Maimah is a dedicated breast cancer and women's activist, who is dedicated to helping women around the world. She believes in living an extraordinary life every day; as that is the birthright of every woman.

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