Lovelle A. McMichael Sr. – “Changing the world, one person at a time.”

“None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody - a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns - bent down and helped us pick up our boots.”

~Thurgood Marshall

A product of Germantown, Philadelphia – Lovelle A. McMichael Sr. was either destined for insignificance or greatness. And while not choosing his path for greatness, the work he does unceasingly speaks to his personal commitment to making the world a better place. Mr. Lovelle McMichael relocated to Arizona in 2001 after securing a job at the prestigious Vanguard. He felt God was calling him to the Valley and without hesitation he followed the call on his life. And over the past decade, Mr. McMichael has accomplished many achievements and accolades that set him apart from his peers.

He is the founder and establishmentarian of Impacted for Purpose (IFP), Arizona non-profit organization that specializes in community outreach. This organization not only serves the local community but reaches beyond the prison walls of Lewis State Prison were Pastor McMichael has served as Pastor to hundreds of inmates. Since its inception in 2005, IFP’s outreach ministry has serviced more than 200 families, and 600 individuals monthly through partnerships developed and sustained with United Food Bank, Walmart, Safeway, Albertson, Paradise Bakery, and Kneaders Bakery. Mr. McMichael has also developed a partnership with the Stardust foundation and has expanded the outreach to not only provide food items to individuals and families but much needed household goods as well. He has also fostered and maintained partnerships with the Maricopa County Workforce Connection. This partnership assists individuals in building their resumes and developing job readiness skills. Other community partnerships include the Mesa United Way, Feed America, and The Oasis Church. Mr. McMichael is making an impact in the community by focusing on and developing the holistic needs of individuals so they can improve mentally, spiritually, physically, and educationally.

In 2007, Mr. McMichael and his wife, Dr. Angie Williams-McMichael, established Turning Point Youth Facility, an Arizona non-profit organization that services teenage boys ages 14-18. Over the past two years, Mr. McMichael has serviced more than 500 youth and has been able to play an instrumental role in shaping our young men of tomorrow by providing quality mentoring and service in independent living skills. Mr. McMichael has fought for educational equality of the youth in his care and has been at the forefront of the juvenile justice department as an advocate for youth who traditionally are silenced and left without a voice.
As a minority owned business, and in times when unemployment numbers are rising and individuals who are unemployed are experiencing financial despair he has contributed to the economic growth and development of our community by employing more than 30 individuals. Notably, in just 3 short years he has grown TPYF from 1 home to 4 homes that service youth in 4 cities: Phoenix, Mesa, Queen Creek and Sierra Vista through 3 counties Maricopa, Pinal, and Cochise.

For more than a decade Mr. McMichael has been a leading force in the arena of social justice. For example, he was at the forefront of the Phoenix Trayvon Martin Rally. McMichael was featured on the front page of the Arizona Republic as a community leader who was leading the rally participants in prayer to unite everyone and take action in times of national crisis. He was a guest panelist at KTAR radio with Dr. Warren H. Stewart to shed professional and generation perspectives on such a tragedy and provide the outraged community guidance for action steps. His professional career has afforded him the opportunity to work at numerous colleges and universities and lead initiatives for providing minority youth access to higher education. While in Tucson, Arizona his research and implementation for a minority youth based substance abuse and HIV prevention program permitted his work to to be locally recognized. His collaboration with The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Tucson Urban League, and local schools facilitated a means for him to advocate and educate our community around these disparities that affect our community.

More recently, Mr. McMichael has served as a panelist and workshop facilitator for the National Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute in New York City. He has presented workshops on nonprofit and philanthropic careers for more than 600 students from private HBCU’s and he continues to provide mentorship and guidance to these youth across the globe. He has served on the Brother to Brother Career Panel with John Marshall (Thurgood Marshall’s Son) to provide youth with career and educational guidance. TMCF recognizes Mr. McMichael’s contributions to society and respects him as one of the leading young nonprofit and philanthropic leaders in his community. TMCF has also accessed his expertise to improve the overall quality of the Leadership Institute. Lastly, Mr. McMichael was chosen to stand in for Reverend Al Sharpton for the National TMCF Award Banquet and Fund Raiser to provide spiritual influence to the students and guests including Danny Glover, Lynn Whitfield, Fantasia Barino, Mary J Blaige and other TMCF Award recipients. It is no question that his activism and participation in social justice is among one of his leading qualities.

Mr. McMichael was influenced by his single mother growing up in the inner city of Philadelphia. His mother raised three boys on her own and had limited resources. Through times of desperation and despair, his mother was determined to allow positive male role models to influence and shape Lovelle into the man he is today. Mr. McMichael attributes his success to his grandfather, Henry Schley, a man with an eighth grade education who became a community pillar by starting a barber and beauty salon in the 1950's. His grandfather rose to the occasion of
making an economic impact and participating in community outreach in a time when African Americans were not likely to start or sustain businesses.

Mr. McMichael holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration/Marketing and with dual minors in Psychology and African American Studies from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. Additionally, he earned his Master’s in Secondary Education and an Arizona Teaching Certificate from the University of Phoenix. In 2004, Mr. McMichael was the 1st African American to obtain a teaching certificate in African American Studies through the State of Arizona Department Of Education. He has completed more than two years at Fuller Theological Seminary and will complete his Masters in Ministry degree from Central Christian Univerity in the summer of 2014.

Lovelle is a member of several professional organizations and participates on a local, district, regional, and national level. The organizations include: Life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, 100 Black Men of Phoenix, and the NAACP. He was a nominee for Youth Mentor of the Year at the 2012 Icon Awards, and has received numerous awards and certificates for his outstanding contributions to humanity. In 2009, Brother Pastor Lovelle McMichael established the Arizona State University (ASU) Gospel, and under his leadership the class has become a registered course for academic credit. Lovelle was a member of Phoenix’s African American Leadership Institute Class of 2013 through a community Partnership with Valle Del Sol and was among a class of peers that are top in their respective fields. Lovelle has received a citation from the Mayor of Mesa, Arizona for his eight years of service in the Mesa community and he was named one of the Phoenix Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 – Class of 2014. Most recently Lovelle has received the 2015 Phoenix MLK Living The Dream Award for his outstanding contribution to youth in the Valley of the Sun and the 2015 State of Black Arizona Community Luminary Award for being an asset to the community, affecting change and contributing to the quality of life in our cities and the state of Arizona.

As a committed humanitarian and philanthropic contributor, Lovelle has an unwavering desire to make a global impact and has utilized his position, power, and influence to conduct mission trips to Africa, England, and the Caribbean. There are many leaders in the world, but not all of them are exceptional. Kouszes and Posner assert that leadership is not about personality; it’s about behavior—an observable set of skills and abilities. Mr. McMichael exhibits exemplary leadership in that he leads by example, is dedicated to developing others, and is indeed selfless. Mr. McMichael always models the way; He inspires a shared vision, challenges the process by changing the status quo, and enables others to act. Above all, he encourages the heart by acknowledging that there is no "I" in team and that any organization he leads is a winning one because of the people that are a part of it.

With all the professional and community acolades, the biggest part of Brother McMichael’s life is his family. He has been married for more than 10 years to Dr. Angie Williams-McMichael and they have two sons, Lovelle Jr. and Logan. Additionally Brother McMichael has opened his home to a mentee from his group home and is now the proud foster dad to Kedrick Mitchell. Brother McMichael plans to adopt him before he turns 18 and be a permanent part of his family.
As an African American Lovelle is doing “the work”. He is flipping statistics on their head and leading from the front. He exemplifies outstanding leadership and commitment to his community which is a gift that will continue to impact the world for years to come.