

## **Biography of Dorinda E. Francis-McKenzie**

### **Life Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11**

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Dorinda E. Francis-McKenzie is highly regarded for her organizational, interpersonal, and listening skills which has enabled her to successfully manage cross-functional groups and assist in the development of many projects.*

Mother, wife, daughter, sister, niece, cousin, aunt, godmother, and friend, Dorinda E. Francis-McKenzie spent her formative years in Newark, NJ before moving to Irvington, NJ where the core values of the love for Christ, the importance of education, and family were instilled in her.

A product of the Catholic School System, Dorinda graduated from St. Paul the Apostle Elementary School in Irvington, NJ and Benedictine Academy High School in Elizabeth, NJ. Dorinda pursued her higher education at Monmouth University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Corporate and Public Communications with an interest in Business Management in 2002. During that time, Dorinda worked very hard to earn Dean’s List status. Always one to advance herself, she went on to earn a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication in 2009 and graduated with a 3.7 GPA.

Dorinda worked at Tiny Toddlers Daycare Center in Newark, NJ and Newark International Airport, before the opportunity to work at The Township of Irvington called. Entering her 20<sup>th</sup> year, she has worked in the Mayor’s Department and Building Department before transitioning to the Office of Community Development and Planning where she helps property owners and developers build their properties as the Land Use Administrator for the Township. In addition, Dorinda briefly worked part-time as a Support Coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities Services in Clinton, NJ.

In addition to Dorinda’s professional endeavors, she is an active member at Union Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark, NJ. To name a few, she has been a dedicated Steward Board Member since 2010; Co-Chaired Women’s Day in 2010, 2017, and 2021. In 2012, she Co-Chaired the Church’s 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In her youth, she was a member of the Celestial Choir and Junior Usher Board. In 1997, Dorinda participated in the African Methodist Episcopal Church’s Youth of the Year.

In July 2021, Dorinda was diagnosed with breast cancer. While this was an unknown terrain, she knew the God she served was with her. With the unbelievable love and support of her family, friends, and church family, she underwent a double mastectomy and continues to fight as she receives treatment daily and monthly. Thanks to early detection and the power of GOD, she is a two-year cancer survivor.

**In 2023, Dorinda became a Friend of Florence Avenue School and participated in the Celebrity Read Program. The program, held throughout the school year, encourages students to embrace the joy of reading. As reading is one of Dorinda's first loves, it is an honor for her to give back to the community and engage with the students.**

**Dorinda is married to Quinzell R. McKenzie. From their union are two beautiful girls, Quinn and Darla McKenzie. Of all of her accomplishments, Dorinda is most proud of her role as their mother.**