

Jodina Hicks, Executive Director

UrbanPromise's Executive Director, Jodina Hicks, returned to Camden in 2010 after previously working with the organization at its start. Jodina began working with founder Bruce Main 1988-2000 and initiated and led the organization's adolescent programs, including the StreetLeader job training, UrbanPromise Academy, college preparation, and the performing arts.

UrbanPromise is an organization deeply committed to Camden, NJ, with a mission to equip children and teens with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth and leadership. As a non-denominational organization, the UrbanPromise community seeks to fulfill this mission through after school programs, summer camps, alternative schools, job training initiatives, experiential learning, and a host of other programs that challenge youth to develop their academic, social, creative, spiritual and leadership potential. UrbanPromise works with 600 children in the Camden community and is also the largest private employer of teens in the city of Camden, with close to 100 teenagers on its payroll each year. UrbanPromise has off-shoot locations in Honduras, Malawi, Canada (Vancouver and Toronto), Trenton (NJ), Wilmington (DE), and Miami (FL).

From 2000-2010, Jodina developed social interventions and impacted research and policy in the realms of youth development, faith-based initiatives, and corrections reform with Public/Private Ventures and the Safer Foundation. At Public/Private Venture she served as Deputy Director for Community and Faith-based initiatives (including Amachi, National Faith Based Initiative, Ready4Work). While working at Safer Foundation, she was initially Vice President of Policy and Community Partnerships and then Chief Program Officer/Vice President, overseeing programs that served 10,000 individuals with criminal records in Illinois and Iowa.

Jodina's publications include *The Illinois Plan to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Public Safety*, Chapter 4 (2009); case studies in *Managing a Job Retention Program for Ex-Offenders: A Step by Step Guide* by T.A. Ryan (2005); *Expungement and Other Relief*, Chapter 6, Illinois Institute for Continuing Education (IICLE) (2007 and 2010); *The New Scarlet Letter "X"*, the Christian Association for Prison Aftercare (2008); and *Employment Upon Reentry in Corrections Today* (2004). She also wrote Illinois legislation and provided support to Public/Private Ventures publications on Amachi, the National Faith-Based Initiative, and Ready4Work. Jodina received her B.A. in Urban Studies from Eastern University and her J.D. from Rutgers Camden School of Law.