



Lisa Williams is a survivor. She understands what it's like to be held at gunpoint, to be demeaned and called unprintable names, to be afraid in her own skin, to be repeatedly violated and tortured and then to be blamed for it all. She endured many years of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, abandoned and homeless at age 12. Lisa did what she had to do to survive on the streets and determined very early on that "attitude is everything". It has been *that* belief that helped her turn tragedy into triumph, obstacles into opportunities, and challenges into channels of hope for herself and countless others. To change the trajectory of her life, Lisa pursued her formal education, which today includes a Bachelor of Science from Campbell University, a Master's of Arts in Human Resource Development from Bowie State University and a Logistics Certificate in Petroleum Surveillance/Engineering from the United States Army.

On her journey to wholeness and healing from years of traumatic events, Lisa developed an unwavering passion for empowering women and youth, particularly those who have faced sexual abuse and exploitation.

In 1999, Lisa founded Circle of Friends, a not-profit organization of women helping women; trading in her financially rewarding private sector career, for one that would allow her to leverage her personal trials and successes to become a champion for others. In 2007, committed to righting the wrongs that she had been subjected to, Lisa conceived and launched what is today known as, Living Water for Girls, a residential, educational and therapeutic safe refuge for young American girls who have been brutalized by street life, prostitution, human sex trafficking and exploitation.

Taking no salary, Lisa leads a team of 120 volunteers and a staff of 8; she spends more than 60 hours a week working to ensure that girls and young women can find safety and heal from traumatic life events, pursue educational endeavors and acquire skills to become self-sufficient.

Lisa, a former military officer is a dynamic and inspiring woman; she is humble yet powerful. To hear her speak is to know instantly that you HAVE to be committed to her cause. The passion in her voice can be directly traced to her heart and to her soul.

Lisa Williams is the author of *Beautiful Layers: Stories from those who survived the life of prostitution & child sexual exploitation*.

Lisa is a Ford Motor Company "Ford Freedom Unsung Award" Winner, a L'Oreal Paris Woman of Worth, and the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a Proclamation from the City of Atlanta and Variety Power of Women Honor-Hollywood, CA. She has also been profiled on CNN and the BBC.

She is wife to her best friend of 25-years, and mother of biological and adopted children. She lives on a small farm in Georgia and thanks God continuously for "this good life" as she works to pursue a better quality of life for others.