

Peace and blessings. I am Zina Davis. The community calls me Mama Zina. I am a professional educator, entrepreneur... I am a advocate... I am harmony and order - and I represent peace and love for the community in the village.

When I think about my ancestral lineage and I think about the inspiration of my grandmother. Her name was Hattie May Booth, she came from Rome, Georgia and they migrated up here to Detroit. When I think about her, she was as I am. So I'm the mama of the community and she was the mama of our family. She was what we call a hustler. She did whatever she needed to do as an entrepreneur to take care of the family. They used to call her, back in the day, the numbers lady. And so everyone came to her back in the day... it was a lottery. It was running the numbers. And people put money into a pot of numbers. And she was always the one to keep the pot. So a lot of people in the community trusted her. She had a lot of friends, a lot of people that just loved her. She would give parties, she would give car parties, she would bring gatherings together. And she kept our family together and she passed away in 1994. But what I got from my grandmother was love, peace and light. And that to treat people in a way of who they are and not what they do. And then one day I was working as an executive administrator and my grandmother had a childcare, on my father's side, she needed help. I quit my job, humbled myself to go work with her, to help the family. And that's when I realized my gift. I walked through the door and the children run... Mama Zina, Mama Zina, here's Mama Zina. And I said, wow, this is something that I enjoy doing and waking up to in the morning. So now I invested in my education for early childhood and I started to learn a more holistic way of life.

I feel like I am empowering children, teachers and parents. And every morning I feel like I'm on a journey and a mission. The journey and the mission is to bring light to the community and to people. This is not just a career... this is my passion.