****Talaya Parker is an entrepreneur and business leader. She is the Executive Director at HomeStretch Inc. She is responsible for increasing community awareness of the agency’s mission and funding opportunities to enhance revenue generation across the agency. Formerly, she directed emerging global opportunities within Sales, Marketing, Human Resources and Operations. As a corporate leader, Ms. Parker has extensive industry experience in media, retail, manufacturing, telecommunications and healthcare sectors. Ms. Parker executed transactions for Coca Cola, UPS and Lockheed Martin. During her corporate career, she generated more than $100M in revenue and she has received many awards and accolades. Ms. Parker was a part of team that achieved product placement on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Ms. Parker’s greatest passion and she believes is her purpose in life is to serve others. While residing in Augusta, GA, she started volunteering at the age of 13 as a candy striper at the VA Medical Center and various outreach organizations. She was the corporate ambassador for Communities in Schools. She also helped to organize her firm’s community participation in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, GA. Ms. Parker she was selected by corporate leaders to develop and to execute large scale initiatives related to community partnerships and corporate inclusion.

In 1999, Ms. Parker was offered an opportunity to relocate to Atlanta, GA, where she continued to develop corporate and social responsibility initiatives. She had the pleasure of working with prominent leaders in the community. Ms. Parker partnered with organizations that supported education, health, military veterans, empowerment and human rights.

Ms. Parker was asked to launch a Regional Diversity and Inclusion Program with a population over 4,000 associates in the southeast. She spearheaded Business Resource Groups such as Cultural Business Resource Groups, Women in Business (global) and First Responders. She developed a reading program for a local elementary school. Ms. Parker was the founding board member that created an employee mentoring and coaching program.

Ms. Parker served as an Interview Coach for Dress for Success, a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters, a tutor for Communities in Schools, a volunteer with Augusta Housing Authority, Red Cross, American Heart Association, NFCC, Mary Hall Freedom House, YMCA, Hosea Helps, The King Center and HomeStretch Inc. Ms. Parker’s volunteerism and charity work extends beyond the United States. Ms. Parker has served on missions that supported people in need in Africa, Haiti and India.