## AH Muhammed Bio

Abdul'Haq Muhammed is the founder and Executive Director of Quality Life Center. He is a community leader and a motivational speaker with a vision for uplifting children and adults through confidence-building programs based on core values that will teach the tools of a rewarding life.

He is a native of Harlem, New York City. Muhammed served in the army and attended college in New York. He co-founded the Woodycrest Center for Human Development in the Bronx and developed programs for youth and adults. Muhammed served as Director of Youth Programs and Board Chairman.

Muhammed has conducted sensitivity training for officers with the New York Police Department. He has spoken at many universities including Brown, Rutgers, Vassar, NYU, Columbia, City College and Hunter College, and was a frequent guest at the United Nations. He became a Muslim and led a ministry. He trained chaplains to counsel inmates in penal institutions, including Riker's Island and Sing Sing.

With other concerned citizens, Muhammed founded Quality Life Center more than 20 years ago in order to meet the needs of underserved areas in southwest Florida in a way that is respectful and empowering. He developed programs to enhance character development, combat violence and drug abuse, reverse the "victim" mentality and tackle the negative self-image often found amongst the residents. Children in the program learn manners and self-respect.

Muhammed is an active member of the community. He and the team at Quality Life Center have partnered with various businesses, civic, government and interfaith groups to work on the issues that affect the people the Dunbar community and southwest Florida. He is a co-founder and Chairman of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Collaboration, a collection of community trustees, including faith-based leaders, who are united by the common purpose of developing solutions to community problems.

Muhammed has received many awards, including:

- "Florida's Finest" Award from Florida Governor Lawton Chiles
- Person of the Year from the News-Press
- Named "Influential Person Who Makes Things Happen" by Gulfshore Business
- Man in the Mirror Award from the Dunbar Community
- Preventing Crime in the Black Community Award from Florida's Attorney General
- Liberty Bell Award from Lee County Bar Association
- Trailblazer Award from the News-Press
- Face Award from Gulfshore Business Magazine

Muhammed has a vision of equality, dignity and opportunity for all. Through his leadership and example, he has generated a sense of community and hope.