

Brother Carl Hardrick was born and raised in Hartford and graduated from the Hartford school system. Carl is the son of Claude Hardrick and Marion Whaley Hardrick and is one of twelve children.

Brother Carl Hardrick is the husband of Marilyn Hardrick, a father of two, grandfather of five and fourth of twelve siblings. A Hartford native, Carl was born and raised in the Bellevue Square Housing Project where he became active in the affairs of his day.

Since the 1960's Brother Carl has served as a youth development leader, gang intervention specialist and community activist. He is best known for his work with helping youth and young adults stay away from gangs and providing them with positive and life changing alternatives.

Brother Carl's work has extended over 50 years and he's changed the lives of thousands of Hartford youth. He not only has a local reputation, but he is recognized state-wide and nationally as a gang expert and intervention specialist.

Currently, Brother Carl is employed by the Wilson Gray YMCA in Hartford and partners with Hartford Communities That Care-Crisis Intervention Team as a first responder to help shooting victims and their families. Brother Carl also partners with and coordinates his gang intervention strategies alongside those of the Hartford Public Schools, the Hartford Peace Builders and Hartford Police Department.

Carl was the Founder and Executive Director of the Hartford Youth Peace Initiative and the Teenager Minority Entrepreneur Program. He served on such boards as the Women's League Daycare Center, Chairman of the Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative, Board of Directors for Community Renewal Team as well as South Arsenal Neighborhood development, to name a few. On the national level he served on the board of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprises and the National Tenant Association.

Carl has received national awards for Ambassador of Peace given to him by the National Leadership Council of Bridgeport, CT; Achievement Against the Odds, from the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise in Washington D.C and the Community Service Award from Hartford Communities That Care, Inc.

Mr. Hardrick was also the first to "pilot" a Violence Free Zone (VFZ) gang intervention and reduction program in Connecticut during the 1900's. Utilizing the strategies embodied in the VFZ he was able to reduce and help eliminate the last and most deadly vestiges of organized gang violence in Hartford.

To this day, the VFZ prevention and intervention have guided the work of Brother Carl and countless other intervention specialists here in Hartford and throughout our state.