

VJ Smith
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**1998 - Present Minneapolis Chapter of Men Against Destruction – Defending
Against Drugs and Social Disorder (MAD DADS)**

National President of MADDADS and the Founder and CEO of Minneapolis (MADDADS)

The Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS was created in 1998 and adopted the goals of its National Chapter, created in 1989 by African American fathers in Omaha, Nebraska. After its inception, the local chapter identified a consistent theme throughout neighborhoods and broadened membership to include individuals and families from all ethnic and racial backgrounds. In addition MAD DADS has, at the request of law enforcement representatives, expanded services to some suburban areas.

As of December 31, 2019 MAD DADS served over 187,000 families; Since 1998 MAD DADS has spent more than 1,500,000 hours in the streets working to reduce violence in our communities; Since 2007 Minneapolis MAD DADS has been protecting riders on the city transit system, promoting ridership and creating safe environment for your daily commute; MAD DADS responded to over 1200 shootings since 1998. Our presence promotes peace, helps to resolve conflict, and offers alternatives to criminal and violent retaliations; Since 2014 MAD DADS has offered life-skills coaching to over 130,000 inmates at the Hennepin County Detention Center during and other correctional facilities, during our weekly visits; Conducted approximately 4,708 presentations to 27,562 youth in Minneapolis public high schools, Junior high schools and middle schools; Replication goal of MAD DADS Chapter model within EVERY state by the year 2020; As we enter into our 21st Year of Service, we continue our fight against drugs, gangs and violence, continue to work towards restoring our beloved communities and deterring youth from a life of violence and destruction.

Present - Minister at Shiloh Temple International Ministries.

A Christian kingdom center of activities willed by divine authority that distributes all services and products to its members courageously, passionately and effectively for kingdom growth, reputation and worship across time, people and place. Shiloh Temple International Ministries is a member of the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Dakotas District Council, the 7th Episcopal District, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, with Diocesan Bishop Richard D. Howell, Jr.

World Peace Leader for the American clergy leadership coalition.

President Elect for Northside Rotary International.

Community Advisor for the Minneapolis Police Department and Hennepin County Sheriff's Department.

Chaplin for International Free and accepted Modern Masons.

Local Founder of Minneapolis MAD DADS

Serving since 1998 Hennepin county sheriff's dedication award 2018

Hawthorne council award 2018

Proof award from James Badue-el 2019
Positive image outstanding community service award 2020
Humanitarian award from COS 2020
Men Against Destruction Defending
Against Drugs and Social-Disorder

V.J. Smith was born in Kansas City, Missouri; as a minister and a father he leads National MAD DADS and is the Founder of the Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS. He's a speaker, a visionary and a man that uses his past to change the future of men, women, and children. V.J. promotes education, entrepreneurship, responsibility and dedication to all communities. In 1999 he was awarded the National Crime Prevention Council Award of Excellence; in 2000 the Black Pages Humanitarian Award; in 2001 the National MAD DADS of the year Award and Virginia McKnight Binger Human Service Award; in 2005 the Shiloh Temple International Man of the Year and Minister Award; in 2007 the City of Minneapolis Good Neighbor Award, the state of Minnesota Governor's Council of Faith Award and Community Service. Best Practices Award; in 2008 he was a Devos Urban Leadership Graduate; in 2009 a Graduate from the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute and was presented the Bryan E. Thomas Award for service in violence prevention by the State Representatives Jeff Hayden and Bobby Champion. December 2009 V.J. received the Chief's Award of Merit from Chief Dolan: MAD DADS- C.O.P.S Program. 2010 V.J. Smith received the Sheriff's Award of Merit from Richard W. Stanek of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department. 2012 he also received the General Mills and UNCF Award. Met with Vice President Joe Biden 2012 Meet with President Barack Obama on February 4, 2013. Received a True Family Values Award in Chicago, Illinois 2015. Awarded President's Community Partner Award by Minneapolis Community and Technical College April 2016. Accepted the Peace Ambassador Medal of Honor Award from the little Angels 2017. Received medal of Honor from Wilkinsburg, PA May 2017. ACLC World Peace Day in Korea 2017. Hennepin Theatre Trust Great Streets Award 2017.

