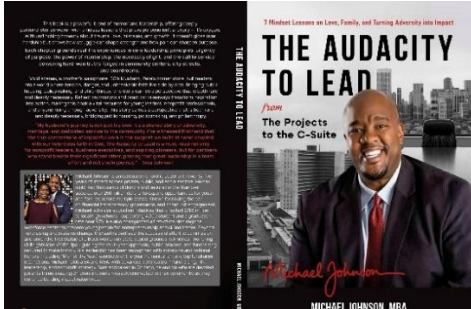


# MICHAEL JOHNSON LAUNCHES AUDACITY TO LEAD: A BOLD BLUEPRINT FOR COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP

*Michael Johnson*



A local non-profit CEO and changemaker, Michael Johnson, has published his transformative new book, *Audacity to Lead: 7 Mindset Lessons from the CEO Who Raised \$250 Million for Kids & People in Need Across the Nation*. Through heartfelt storytelling and impactful leadership insights, Johnson explains how courage, empathy, and service can transform communities, even during times of crisis. “The world doesn’t change by playing it safe; it changes when you have the audacity to lead,” Johnson writes.

## LEADERSHIP THAT BREAKS BARRIERS

Over the past decade, Johnson has partnered with significant influencers and public figures, including his work featuring Comedian Dave Chappelle, actor Omari Hardwick, and Larenz Tate, to name a few, as well as working with the mother of Ahmaud Arbery and others to help communities heal, raise millions in relief funds, and ignite conversations on justice and leadership. “Leadership is not about standing tall when things are easy, but standing firm when the ground shakes beneath you,” Johnson notes. “True leadership is built in adversity, and listening, especially when it’s hardest, can turn division into progress and protest into purpose.”

## TURNING PROTEST INTO SUCCESS

During the unrest after George Floyd’s death, Johnson faced public criticism for his bold choices yet turned that tension into one of Wisconsin’s most meaningful moments: the campaign to erect the first statue of an African American woman, civil rights icon Vel Phillips, on any U.S. state capitol grounds. “Out of tension came unity,” Johnson recalls. “By listening and leading with purpose, we transformed anger into action and protest into a lasting symbol of hope.”

## FROM SUFFERING TO STRENGTH

In *Audacity to Lead*, Johnson shares how a racially motivated assault during his college years at the University of Minnesota Morris nearly broke him but ultimately shaped his philosophy of resilience and servant leadership.

## AN HONEST VOICE IN MODERN LEADERSHIP

Johnson’s book features reflections from his wife, Toya W. Johnson, who remarks: “Approximately 20% of *The Audacity to Lead* is about love and managing priorities. Successful leadership involves effective communication and a willingness to listen, enabling us to lead with confidence at work and at home.

### About Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson is the President & CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County, where he has raised over \$250 million to support youth, families, and community growth. His efforts have been highlighted by USA Today, NBC News, The New York Times, and Madison365. He holds an MBA and various certifications in nonprofit management, fundraising, and leadership.

### Availability:

**Audacity to Lead is now available  
Media & Speaking Requests:**

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🌐 [www.mjohansonceo.com](http://www.mjohansonceo.com)

