

## Interview Questions/Narration

**Narration:** This is Suandra Brailsford, daughter of Albertus and Carrie Brailsford. She was born January 22nd 1960s and raised in Harlem. She is the middle child of three, sibling to Sharon and Albertus Jr . As a young adult she pursued a career in modeling and fashion design. Suandra raised four children as a single mother; Ronald Thomas, Canae Brailsford, Tramaine Massiah and Errick Massiah. This is her story.

### **Brailsford S.**

1. Where did you all live when your children were young?
2. Can you tell me about your kids when they were young which was each child like? What are some of the earliest memories that you have of your children?
3. Did you find it hard raising four children and being a full time employee?
4. When was the first time you started using drugs and what were you using at the time?
5. During that time did you experiment with any other drugs and what were they?
6. What was the catalyst for using cocaine/crack?
7. Can you explain the feelings and of experience you had when using these drugs?
8. During this time did you feel like you had an addiction?
9. How were you able to maintain a job while you were using drugs?
10. Was there anyone who knew about your addiction? Did your children know?
11. What type of effects do you think or know your drug use have on your children?
12. How do you think you children felt about you at the time?
13. What was the catalyst for your recovery? Was it the first time you tried to get clean
14. Can you tell us about the day you decided to get clean? What was going on, what were your feelings?
15. What was the key to your journey to get and stay clean? Where did you go to get clean? How many years have you been clean?
16. Who were you during and who are you now after this experience?

## Ronald & Canae

1. What are some of your earliest memories living at 1005 with your family?
2. Can you describe your siblings and your relationship with them?
3. What was Tramiane and Errick's father like? Do you have any memories of him? What type of relationship did you have with him? What was the relationship like with him and mommy? What is he like now?
4. With you being the two oldest do you have any memories of your mothers drug addicts? How did you find out, how old were you? What was that experience like for you as children?
5. What change did you see around the house?
6. Can you discuss pretending to be super heroes. Did they have names? Who were you trying to protect and from whom?
7. At what point did you feel the need to move out and why? How old were you? What was the experience like for you when you moved out? When and what made you move back to 1005?
8. How did it make you feel? What effects did it have on you and your younger siblings? Did you try to shield them from it?
9. Describe aunt Karen and her relationship with the family. Discuss the day aunt Karen came over to help mommy.
10. Describe the type of person your grandpa is? What memories do you have of grandpa? What was grandpa's status in the family? Feelings towards grandpa's death?
11. Was there ever a time you saw her using and or high on drugs? Did you try to get her help?
12. How did you feel/think when your mother sought out help? What did that process look like from your eyes? How did you feel once your mother was clean?
13. Describe what mommy does when the family is together partying
14. Who was your mother during and who is she now after this experience? What did you learn from her? What are the strengths you see in her? What do you love about her?

## **Tramaine & Errick**

1. What are some of your earliest memories living at 1005 with your family?
2. Can you describe your siblings and your relationship with them?
3. Thoughts on mommy dressing us alike
4. What was dad like when we were younger? What memories do you have of him? What is he like now?
5. Describe the type of person your grandpa is? What memories do you have of grandpa? What was grandpa's status in the family? Feelings towards grandpa's death?
6. Do you have any memories of your mothers drug addiction? If not, how did you find out about it and how did it make you feel?
7. Describe who mommy is? Who is your mother in your eyes? What do you love about her? What have you learned from her? What are some strengths you see in mommy?