

"FREDDIE BOY WE'RE GOING FAR!"

Let me introduce myself. My name is Frederick Lee, and I'm from Marvell, Arkansas. I am a self-made entrepreneur. I am happiest when I'm spending time with my family, seeing a business plan come together, and working with my kids.

My story started early, as a little boy. I worked for the summer program at Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center (BGACDC). My first summer job was at the fairgrounds. Then I worked for the city of Marvell and as a youth mentor for BGACDC. I learned so much in those jobs. First, I learned to get up early and to work hard every day. My father's work ethic helped me. I was always a dreamer but growing up involved one parent working fulltime and five siblings. I grew up watching my dad go to work, day in and day out, which instilled in me the same work ethic.

Seeing many of my peers have what I didn't have drove me to do more and to achieve more, by sheer hard work and persistence—to chase the success I wanted and to never give up my dreams.

I started college and soon realized it wasn't for me. I needed to make money right away. I sometimes found myself working three jobs with sometimes two or three hours of sleep between jobs. I realized that I didn't like punching a time clock, so I started a business that followed my boyhood love of cars. I flipped vehicles for extra cash flow, which led to starting up a pre-owned car lot called Coach's Corner Auto. I have been in business for more than sixteen years.

I got into real estate almost by accident ten years ago. A door opened for me, and I wasn't afraid to take it on, although I had no knowledge in this area. It grew rapidly. In little time, I went from one property to eighteen and a trailer park.

The most important thing was my faith in God and the knowledge that I couldn't do anything without him. The rest is a strong work ethic, a good support system, and not being afraid to take a risk, while giving back by blessing others. At the end of the day, the faith to take a chance on myself paid off.

God has blessed me abundantly. In return, I believe in blessing others. I tell every child that I've mentored to keep God first and find a spouse that has the same mindset that you have. You can make it, too.

My sister Michelle always told me: "Freddie boy, we're going far. Remember where you came from. And always give back to Marvell."

I am doing my best to keep that promise.

For the past 44 years, BGACDC has striven to keep the children from Marvell from being left behind.



Freddie and his sister, Michelle