

KEARNI WARREN

Professional Biography

Born in Chester, Pennsylvania, Kearni Nichelle Warren, always felt the pull toward something greater than herself. Her strengths have always come through faith, tenacity, and sheer determination. It is her natural compassion for humanity that sets her apart. Her passion for all life has taken her to some of the most devastated areas from natural disasters, like the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina and to the earthquake-stricken nation of Haiti. During her time as the chairperson of a (USA) local mission group, *Chester Friends of Haiti*, she traveled twice a year to Juampas, Haiti to assist with humanitarian efforts. The mission group has delivered over 100 bags of luggage filled with food, clothing, medical, and school supplies.

Demonstrating her commitment to social responsibility, she supports local and global community improvement efforts and educational programs. She has worked as a Substitute Teacher and Tutor and has been a mentor and advocate for youth in Chester, PA. For 6 consecutive years, she hosted annual fashion show fundraisers for junior high-school girls to help raise their self-esteem and to keep music and arts alive in the Chester Upland School District.

As a result of experiencing racism as a child and in the workplace, she has become a strong advocate for racial equity and social justice. So strong her heart took her to Ferguson, Missouri in the wake of the Michael Brown shooting and to Baltimore, Maryland after the death of Freddie Gray.

Kearni dedicates much of her life to giving back to her community and to our elders. In 2018, after the death of her mother, with a partnership between the Philadelphia Presbytery, 1001 New Worshipping Communities, and her local church, she founded The Caregiver Society, an affirming and intentional community that supports the spiritual, mental, and physical needs of caregivers. She has been a caregiver for 20 years and a union member leader with SEIU Healthcare PA and United Home Care Workers of PA for 8 years. In the summer of 2020 as a result of the politics of the pandemic and the racial reckoning protests happening in the streets throughout the country, she transitioned from member leader to being hired as a Political and Member Organizer with SEIU PA, fighting on the state and federal levels for living wages and benefits, personal protective equipment, and safe staffing for Pennsylvania healthcare workers. Showcasing her fearless advocacy, in March 2021, she along with 3 other SEIU caregivers fasted in the cold and snow for 3 days for the #Fastfor15, demanding Congress raise the minimum wage.

It was not until recently when her passion for helping others, her environmental justice activism, and the firm belief in “to whom much is given, much will be required” would be tested and lead to her most rewarding and challenging role, when she shook up the political establishment and made history becoming the first Green Party City Council Candidate in the Democratic led city of Chester, PA forcing a 12-year incumbent to campaign and participate in a debate. Kearni as a first-time candidate took almost 20% of the votes in a 3-person race.

Kearni is also a creative and advocate for the Arts. In 2019, she authored *Caregiving For A Warrior: My Life With My Mother*, Rev. Bernice Warren and is the co-author of *Successfully Broken: Stories, Blessings & Lessons on the Road to Success*. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Eastern University and has studied Television Management in the Westphal School of Art & Media Design at Drexel University's School of Graduate Studies. Kearni has made it her life's mission to assist others in becoming their very best. She currently works for Energy Justice Network as the Philadelphia Area Organizer fighting against incineration, specifically in Chester, PA. When not devoting her time to advocacy and activism, she enjoys producing empowerment events, trying new cuisines, and attending New York Fashion Week.