



John Hope Bryant Biography and Credentials

John Hope Bryant is a philanthropic entrepreneur and businessman. On January 22nd, 2008, Mr. Bryant was appointed vice-chairman of the President's Council on Financial Literacy by U.S. President George W. Bush.

Mr. Bryant is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Operation HOPE, America's first non-profit social investment banking organization, now operating in 51 U.S. communities and South Africa, having raised more than \$400 million from the private sector to empower the poor.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton described Mr. Bryant in his recent bestselling book *GIVING* saying, "*John Bryant is a 41 year-old whirlwind of ideas and action. Lean, intense, focused, and completely positive in his belief in the potential of poor people to prosper, with 'a hand up and not a hand out.'*"

A national community leader cited by the past four sitting U.S. presidents for his work to empower low-wealth communities across America, and an active advisor to the past two U.S. presidents, John Hope Bryant is one of the most authoritative and compelling advocates for poverty eradication in America today.

Raised in Compton and South Central Los Angeles, California and homeless for 6 months of his life by age 18, John Hope Bryant is today a businessman and social entrepreneur who has traveled the world tirelessly promoting a sense of hope, self-esteem, dignity, and opportunity for the under-served.

As a co-founder of Global Dignity, John Hope Bryant has conducted *Dignity Day* teaching sessions with youth and leaders in Canada, Turkey, India, Switzerland, Finland, South Africa and Amman, Jordan with Her Majesty Queen Rania and HRH Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, amongst other countries.

John Hope Bryant is also a businessman, he has served on several corporate boards, is author of *BANKING ON OUR FUTURE*, a book on youth and family financial literacy, is a former goodwill ambassador to the U.S. for the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, a partner with former U.S. President Clinton and his foundation in teaching financial literacy and promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a member of the Forum of Young Global Leader for the World Economic Forum, and working with HOPE global spokesman Ambassador Andrew Young, is also a leader for a new movement bridging civil rights to silver rights.

John Hope Bryant has received more than 400 awards and citations for his work to empower low-wealth communities including the *Use Your Life Award* from Oprah Winfrey, and was named a "*Community Hero*" by People Magazine on the 10th anniversary of the worst urban civil unrest in U.S. history. In December, 1994, Mr. Bryant was selected by TIME Magazine for their "*America's 50 Most Promising Leaders of the Future*" cover story.

Mr. Bryant received an Honorary Doctorate Degree of Human Letters from Paul Quinn College of Dallas, Texas.

John Hope Bryant was born on February 6, 1966, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, California, and resides in Los Angeles with his wife Mrs. Sheila Jenine Kennedy Bryant, and their dog "*Little Man.*"