

Debra Vines

Founder & CEO The Answer Inc. Autism Awareness & Support Agency

Debra Vines, Founder and Executive Director of The Answer, Inc has been married to her husband James Harlan for 33 years; has 2 children Mark and Jason.

Jason, who is now 30 was diagnosed with Autism when he was 18 months, thus beginning her journey. As the mother of a son with Autism, she understands the joy, pain, and frustration that can mount with having a child that has special needs. In response to her own questions and need for support, she founded The Answer, Inc., in 2007, a not for profit organization that assist parents and caregivers in navigating through the systems of social services and academic institutions by providing: case management/referral services, recreation, and resources for families with individuals having Autism or other developmental disorders.

Subsequently, Ms. Vines has served within various communities and with several organizations, including:

Ms. Vines has been the recipient of:

Women's Black Expo Phenomenal Woman Vanguard of Health Award,
Arc of Illinois Leadership Award, Aka Sorority Community Leader Award, Delta Sigma Theta Community Leader Award, The Fred Hampton Scholarship Award", "Women Ambassadors of Christ Award", Women's Treatment Center Rising Star Award, Proviso Community Crisis Committee Award, Hillside Commission Dr. Martin Luther King Dream Award and the host of The Answer Inc Show

Under Mrs. Vines leadership The Answer Inc has developed some amazing evidence based programs (Spectrum University Tutoring Program & Music N Me) with great outcomes that has made significant changes in the students lives.

Ms. Vines knows too well and understands the importance of advocacy, community involvement, partnership and giving. She also knows just how important it is to sincerely give selflessly in order to promote and create change in the lives of persons with Autism and other disabilities. Her greatest accomplishment has been to watch the families that she has aided reach milestones that were once told to them as unobtainable.

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