



EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN'S COACHING

The Tiara Spotlight

Shining our light on inspiring women around the world.



Leanne Berry

President & Owner, Mom Corps - Chicago

www.momcorps.com

Who are you? I am Leanne Berry, CPA and President of Mom Corps Chicago; as well as COO, CFO, VP of Public Relations, Facilities Maintenance Manager, Administrative Assistant, Head of Canine Affairs, and Personal Chauffeur for Berry Family Incorporated. I laugh when I write this, but I think this analogy is so true for many women today running and managing their families.

What are you passionate about? I am truly passionate about the advancement and equality of women.

Why are you involved in your business? I believe there is an untapped market of professional top-tier talent that employers are missing out on. Many of them are moms who have chosen, for one reason or another, to seek out opportunities for flexibility. My mission is to consult with employers on how to use flexibility as a strategy, and to connect them with the amazing Mom Corps Chicago database. My hope is that this connection is a win for the candidate and the client. It is the true reward of my efforts.

How did you end up here? What's your journey been like? I started my career at Arthur Andersen and then worked as a controller for a large Chicago-based architectural and engineering company. During this time, I had a two-year old at day care and was struggling to give 100 percent at the office and 100 percent at home. Soon after, I became pregnant with twins and my career goals were put on the back burner. One day, I saw Allison O'Kelly, CEO of Mom Corps, talking about her company and the benefits of flexible work on the Today Show. I was fascinated and knew it was a brilliant idea. I registered as a candidate and told all my friends to do the same. A year ago, I was looking at the Mom Corps website and noticed that there were jobs all across the country with the exception of Chicago. I spoke to a Mom Corps representative over the phone and learned they had moved into a franchise model. I was passionate about the benefits of flexible work, knew Chicago was home to a strong professional candidate pool, and believed in the value these clients could offer Chicago businesses. I spent several months searching my soul, and ultimately decided to take the plunge to launch in March 2012. It has been an amazing ride ever since.

What are you grateful for? I am grateful for my family and our health. I have witnessed many friends and family who have faced health challenges and am inspired by their strength and courage.



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How do your clients benefit from your products/services? My goal is to bring exceptional service and attention to all my clients. I am here to listen and embrace the challenges they are facing in their business, bringing several years of experience to provide guidance and support especially in the area of talent acquisition. I hope to save my clients time and money, while working extensively to help them find great people to add to their team. I have over 4,500 candidates in the Mom Corps Chicago database, which is a great jumping off point for both clients and candidates.

What inspires you? I have met some incredible people who have provided amazing advice, guidance and support during the first year of my entrepreneurial journey. Many of them are women entrepreneurs and business owners who inspire me to be the best I can be; I am honored to call these women my colleagues and friends.

What's next? I plan to grow and expand my business and continue to earn the opportunity to be a trusted resource for job seekers and employers throughout Chicago, and to stop and smell the roses every now and then.