



Anna Jones, the sixth of seven children was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi in August, 1979. In 1993, Anna's mom traveled to Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood on the city's westside, determined to provide a better life for Anna and her siblings. As a child growing up, Anna loved to laugh, interact with children and cling to elders. A product of public education, Anna grew to love her teachers and mentors. Like her mother, teachers and mentors were other outlets of inspiration, motivation and support for her.

Though Anna graduated from Manley Academy High School in 1997, she always knew the importance of furthering her education. Despite having a high school diploma and from fear of becoming idle, shortly after graduation, she joined Joliet Job Corps Center (JJCC). After successful completion at JJCC and obtaining a clerical certification. Ms. Jones began to work at the Department of Children and Family Services, where her love for children expanded. In 1999, while working for the department she took evening classes at Robert Morris University. In June of 2000, Anna received her Associate in Applied Science and gave birth to her eldest daughter in January 2001. Having to impact a child of her own, made Anna realize the importance of giving back to her community and the importance of impacting the lives of others. That one day her daughter would be effected by the community and other children who resided in the community and vice versa.

Anna Jones and her now 4 children currently live in Bronzeville on the southside of Chicago since mid 2010. Due to her love for children and the direct impact of nearly 50 school closings (the largest number of school closing in American History) under the rule of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Ms. Jones is a proactive advocate for education, parent leader and a proud member of the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization. Having had the honor and growth to mentor 4th grade students at Irvin C. Mollison Elementary not only inspired the students but also inspired Ms. Jones. Her ability to continue to advocate for children and the equity of education for all was inspired by her own childhood experiences, children she's impacted throughout her journey, her biological children, the children she has had the privilege to mentor and generations to come. Ms. Jones has committed herself to the young wherever she goes as an ongoing responsibility. Ms. Jones currently spends her evenings working with after school students ages 6-14 to enhance their academic abilities and build literacy skills.

On August 17, 2015 Anna Jones and 11 others launched a hunger strike, as they went 34 days without eating food to save "Dyett High School" the last open enrollment (public high school) in the Bronzeville Community.