

**Danielle J. Rhodes**  
***Platform: Breast Cancer Patients***

My Name is Danielle Janae' Rhodes. I am the proud daughter of David M. and Yulonda E. Rhodes. I am a native Memphian and currently a senior at Houston High School. I participate in various school activities such as, Business Professionals of America, PAMOJA, (a club that promotes student togetherness), Student Impact, (a Christian Club), the Yearbook Staff, and Step Team. My parents have always held education with such high regard and I have always been encouraged to be a leader and not a follower. I credit them with my ability to show my creativity and my desire to be academically successful.

After graduation, I plan to attend Tennessee State University or Rust College to pursue an undergraduate degree in biology. After completion of my undergraduate studies, I plan to attend Meharry Medical College with concentration in the area of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I am also very interested in the work of the Nurse Anesthetist. In the summer of 2007, I had the pleasure of being a participant in the National African American Youth Initiative (NAAI), where I was afforded the opportunity to study at Howard University and meet several physicians from various areas of the medical field. That experience had a great impact on why I chose those two particular fields of study. My passion for medicine was heightened when HIV/AIDS began to affect young women in my age group. I would like very much to be able to research to help find a cure for this dreaded disease that is affecting our community at epidemic proportions. Breast Cancer is also an area that I would like to work with research professionals to help find a cure. Both if these diseases have made serious impacts on my life.

I am a member of Soul Winners Baptist Church, where my father serves as Senior Pastor. I serve in the capacity of Junior Sunday School Superintendent, member of the youth choir, member of dance and step teams, and youth advisor. My father accepted his calling as a preacher when I was 5 years old. At that time, I had no idea what impact being a Preacher's Kid would have on my life. Now that my father is a Pastor, the impact is even greater. I thank God for all the things that I have learned growing up in a Christian home. Not only have my parents shown me how a true Christian lives, they have shown me what a true Christian marriage looks like. I thank God for my parents. I also thank Him for the opportunity to participate in this pageant and pray His blessings upon each and every Delegate.