



Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley

May 2, 1953 - November 6, 2022

PHYLLIS ANN TINSLEY was known by many names most notable as PIG! She peacefully passed away on November 6, 2022. Phyllis's greatest love was her family, pets, and her commitment to her work at Community Assistance Network (CAN).

Phyllis Ann Tinsley, born on May 2, 1953, was raised by Ann Bundy (Godmother) and Vernetta Elliott (Foster Mother) William Park (father) and Helen P. Gaines-Tolson all preceded her in transition.

Phyllis received her education through the Baltimore City public school system. Phyllis worked as a Nursing Assistant for a short time. She moved on to work for the State of Maryland as a toll collector for about 3 yrs. She later earned her a degree in Business Management at BCCC. Phyllis followed her heart to give back, by finding employment in her community.

Over the next 38 years she dedicated her life's work with a non-profit organization, Community Assistance Network (CAN). She was happy, vibrant, and full of energy, always smiling. Phyllis has humbly served her community in various roles at the Community Assistance Network (CAN) as her last role was Director of Special Projects. Phyllis began her career as a volunteer at CAN in March 1983. She was later hired as an Outreach Coordinator June 1984, became Director of Services in 1990, and Director of Special Projects in

2016. Some of the highlighted programs she was instrumental in starting and operating include early iterations of Emergency Shelters, Head Start, food pantry and the Fuel Fund. Phyllis work was exceptional and impactful. It is difficult to encapsulate and describe all of the positive work Phyllis has done for CAN and the Baltimore County community at large over the past 38 years. Phyllis was CAN's glue, and through her tenure she has held everything together, laid the groundwork for a number of programs CAN has operated, and inspired and mentored a wide array of staff and clients. "Phyllis positively impacts CAN's ability to serve our clients the way we do. She pours a lifetime of lived experience and empathy into all she does at CAN, and she has grown and changed with the organization as it has transitioned from a tiny office into the large organization we are now. There is no substitute for her or the meaningful, generational relationships she has established both at CAN and throughout the Baltimore County community. She is trusted by everyone on staff, gives great and valuable advice and direction, and has a wealth of institutional knowledge and memory. Always ready to lend a helping hand for those in need, Phyllis has led by example, led by her actions, and given direction to numerous projects and programs over the years at CAN, affecting the lives of countless thousands of people facing economic challenges in Baltimore County. Phyllis has formed a strong support foundation for CAN that has led to its growth and has set CAN up for continued success in the years to come. Her years of acquired knowledge and wisdom from lived work experiences are indeed exceptional. Her thoroughness and compassion when advising and guiding staff and clients through personal and business matters are second to none. Strong Pillars Build Strong Institutions. Without Phyllis Johnson-Tinsley, CAN would not exist as it does today."

As committed as Phyllis was to her family, friends, animals and community, love was calling her name. On a fall September night two hearts collided. Keith Tinsley saw Phyllis, a sight for sore eyes with a gap that would make anyone smile. After days/ nights/ months of texting, 5 – 8 dates and, two dog

biscuits in each hand, New Year's Eve 2018 a proposal was made. Two hearts became one April 24th, 2019. Never looking back, the fantastic duo traveled, picnicked, remodeled, and drove state to state.

Phyllis, lovingly known by "Pig," leaves to cherish loving memories: her husband, Keith Tinsley; three children, Adam Gaines Sr., (Tasuha), Nichole June-Williams, (Troy), Cheisa Howard (Ronald); god-sister, Phyllis Smith, Siblings; Cornelius, Percy, Dorinda, Ophelia, Darnell, Coreatha, goddaughters, Eva and Kandis; grandchildren, Adam Jr., Eric Williams, Shatea, Phillip, Shane, Antione, Nicholas Anyia, Makayla, Nijah, Nia; great-grandsons, Zhane, Zarah, Davante Curry Jr., Melani, Mason, Monroe, devoted friend, Rose and Marion; host of nieces, nephews, and friends on Reisterstown Rd., in Middle River, and Northeast Baltimore; her dogs Babygirl and Debo. She is preceded in death by (Brother) Maurice, (Granddaughter) Kimberly Brown and (Cousin) Wayne.

Her pets were a very important to her. If she found a stray, she would find it a home. Many of you are owners of her findings. If not an owner, you contributed in some form or task just by listening to her tell the story of how she found a cat or dog and was seeking a home. Thanks to Dr. Foster and staff for 30 years of caring for Phyllis's pets.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV 18. 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Wake

NOV 19. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Funeral Service

NOV 19. 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home - West
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Live Streaming

NOV 19. 11:30 AM (ET)

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4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Webcast of funeral for Phyllis in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



March Funeral Homes - November 15, 2022 at 03:31 PM

SH

Ms. Phyllis, you've been with CAN since I started in 2004, you're CAN, a piece of foundation laid without a strong foundation the structure crumbles. Always a warm hello with that beautiful smile welcoming thousands of people throughout your years of service with CAN and by your very nature left those individuals in a better state by giving you. I really don't have the words to say how very much I've appreciated you. Although my years have been full-time in the shelters and never spent much time at the main office I knew you were there if I needed anything. Thank you Ms. Phyllis no one will fill those special shoes and no other Ms. Phyllis you're the one and only. With love to you Ms. Phyllis you'll surely be missed.

Sharon Marie Hamilton - December 19, 2022 at 12:44 PM

NJ

“ *MOMMIE I MISS YOU SO MUCH EVERYDAY I THINK OF YOU*

NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - December 12, 2025 at 11:05 AM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - December 12, 2025 at 10:54 AM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - December 12, 2025 at 10:53 AM

NJ

“ *Love you mommie miss you*



Nichole June-Williams - December 04, 2023 at 09:36 AM

NJ

“ *My mother was the best and I think of her every day missed so much*

Nichole June-Williams - September 26, 2023 at 10:06 PM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - July 21, 2023 at 01:40 PM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - March 01, 2023 at 09:19 AM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - March 01, 2023 at 09:19 AM

KJ

“ *Ms. Phyllis was my supervisor, mentor, and friend. She inspired and encouraged me to work hard and to enjoy life! She was very knowledgeable and taught me how to be strong and confident!*

She helped me during some challenging times in my life! I will forever be grateful! She helped thousands of clients and would take the shirt off her back if you needed it! She loved her family and always talked about her dogs Bear and Swoll! May she rest in heaven! I will miss her dearly!

My condolences to the family and to Nikki and Cheisa

Love, Keisha Jean-Baptiste

keisha jean-Baptiste - December 29, 2022 at 12:30 AM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS sent a virtual gift in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - December 22, 2022 at 01:02 PM

NJ

“ *NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*



NICHOLE JUNE-WILLIAMS - December 22, 2022 at 01:02 PM

SH

“ It is not the same without you here at the office, I miss you deeply we really don't know how important someone is until they are gone. But this is a farewell not a good bye Love always Shapreice

Shapreice - December 19, 2022 at 02:13 PM

LE

“ Ms. Phyllis was professional, efficient, and super caring. She did so much for CAN in her long history with the organization. I will miss her as will all of Community Assistance network. Lee Bacon, LCSW-C

Lee - December 19, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ Thank you "Mother" for your LOVE, support and, strength.



Cheisa Howard - November 29, 2022 at 09:41 PM

MH

“ I cherish deep in my heart memories of my dear friend Phyllis. My prayers go out to the Gaines/Tinsley family.

Michelle Hruz - November 27, 2022 at 10:46 AM

TY

“ My sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers for the family. Peace, love and God's love from Tanya C. Young and family.❤️

Tanya C. Young - November 19, 2022 at 09:25 AM

NE

“ *My Deepest Condolences to the entire family.
May the Good Lord Comfort you during this
time.Love you all!*

Niecey

Neicey - November 19, 2022 at 09:22 AM



TY

“ *Tanya C. Young lit a candle in memory of
Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley*

Tanya C. Young - November 19, 2022 at 09:21 AM



LM

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the
Tinsley/Gaines family.*

Lydia T Mayo - November 18, 2022 at 08:48 PM



RH

“ *Sincere condolences to the Tinsley/Gaines family. Sonny and Ruth
E. Hudson*

Ruth E Hudson - November 18, 2022 at 01:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley.*



November 17, 2022 at 11:28 PM



“ *The Entire Parks Family purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley.*



The Entire Parks Family - November 17, 2022 at 08:43 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley.*



November 17, 2022 at 11:45 AM



“ *Mommie I will miss you so much* 🍀🍀🍀



Nichole June-Williams - November 16, 2022 at 06:23 AM

F!

“ From your CAN Family love always ! purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley.



From your CAN Family love always ! - November 14, 2022 at 04:08 PM

FT

“ Floretta Tillman lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley



floretta tillman - November 14, 2022 at 10:47 AM

DS

“ As I ponder on the life of Phyllis G Tinsley aka (Pig) . I think of the richness of inspired blessings demonstrated throughout the years, both personal and professional, the love she shared and her ability to make "you" feel like you were her best friend. You didn't have to doubt her sincerity because she always spoke her mind and opinion in a respectful manner. She will always be cousin Pig! Keith, Nicki Cheisa and Adam, you are in my prayers. To Community Assistance Network, we CAN and will get through this. Her legacy lives on. The Lord's peace and comfort be with us all! 🙏

Darlene Smith - November 12, 2022 at 07:18 PM

CW

“ We are so very blessed to have had the opportunity to share in your life ministry. God used you as an appendage of him to serve as his hands and feet in the earth. Your feet left a trail of good works behind, and made a positive impact in this troubled world. Your living was not in vain. You personified Dr. King's declaration that "anybody can be great because anybody CAN serve" You were selfless enough to share what you had - even if it were a smile, which of course could light up a room (a ministry within itself). Rest well from your labor. Your work is done. Thank you for entrusting us with pleasant thoughts and warm memories of you.

God be with you till we meet again!

Cortly Witherspoon - November 12, 2022 at 07:05 AM



“ I am so saddened to read of Phyllis's passing. My sincerest condolences to her family and friends. Phyllis was my supervisor at C A.N a number of years ago. I will always remember her deep love of animals and truly compassionate spirit.

Amy Giggey - November 11, 2022 at 09:05 AM

PL

“ To Keith, Adam, Nikki, Cheisa, Pudding, grandkids, sisters, brothers and the wealth of friends who knew and loved Phyllis. Sincere condolences from John and myself. I met Phyllis 1985, and we formed a forever friendship until her death. Whatever were the needs of family and friends, she was there for them Phyllis was passionate about her job and the wellbeing of her clients. And don't forget she could throw down in the kitchen. Words cannot express the cherished memories I will forever have of Phyllis. John and I share the grief and heartaches of entire village of family and friends of Phyllis. May Ps 34:18 give you some comfort "HE is close to the broken hearted and crushed in spirit." John, Peggy and Tia.

P Land - November 10, 2022 at 10:41 AM



Thank you Aunt Peggy!

Cheisa Howard - November 29, 2022 at 09:38 PM

RH

“ Robert Hartlove lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Ann Gaines Tinsley



Robert Hartlove - November 08, 2022 at 11:18 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - November 07, 2022 at 05:36 PM