

# Patrick Daniels says that UCAN

by Elroy Reed

One of the most positive individuals one could meet in the Greater Chicago area is an outstanding leader in the Lawndale community, a youth development coach, Patrick B. Daniels.

"I'm on a spiritual journey now, and I believe that everything happens for a reason," says Daniels.

Patrick Daniels, 34, is the oldest of seven children in what some may describe as a blended family. As part of his spiritual journey, Patrick takes on the responsibility of bringing the family together and building a relationship with each of them. Sometimes he does this through the art of cooking, a craft that he loves. A craft that he has used in the community to help start a popular restaurant at the Lawndale Christian Health Center, the Green Tomato Café. The Green Tomato Café, located at 3750 W. Ogden, features healthy eating choices and is a great place to have lunch.

Patrick says that he loves his job as a youth development coach at UCAN. UCAN is a social service agency, which focuses on helping youth who have experienced trauma in their lives. UCAN utilizes the UCAN 360° Model, which is proven to help and empower youth who

have suffered from trauma. They work with teachers and partners to recognize students' trauma and help them begin to heal. Through a range of services, UCAN staff seeks to empower students, building resilience and hope, and enabling them to learn. This also helps to prevent future violence, strengthen communities and build future leaders.

Through his work at UCAN, Daniels says that he is able to help youth understand that they can overcome the obstacles in their lives and that they can achieve just about any goals that they set.

"I love what I do," Daniels said.

As a youth development coach, Patrick is also an outreach specialist and original member of project visible man, a program that has served youth who have suffered trauma and violence in Chicago for the last 10 years.

Patrick has earned certification in data processing and has received his certification in substance abuse counseling from Harold Washington College. He plans to attend National Lewis University in the fall to complete a BA in social service.

Patrick Daniels resides on the west side of Chicago and has a three-year old daughter named Summer.



**Patrick B. Daniels**