

## MEET SONNY

As Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Son of a Saint, Bivian "Sonny" Lee III has dedicated his life to transforming the lives of fatherless boys. Since the organization's inception in early 2011, Sonny has grown Son of a Saint to serve over 500 boys with an annual budget of over \$5 million. Over its 14 years of existence, Son of a Saint has raised more than \$50 million to support its mission and its young men.

Before founding the organization, Sonny served as chief aide to the owner of the New Orleans Saints and the former New Orleans Voodoo professional arena football team. He also previously served as the Director of Operations for the New Orleans Zephyrs AAA Baseball Team and Director of Programs for the New Orleans Jazz Institute.

Sonny graduated with honors from St. Augustine High School and later earned a degree in Marketing and Management from the University of New Orleans. In 2022, he earned his Executive Master of Nonprofit Administration (EMNA) from the University of Notre Dame.

A TEDx speaker on community service, decision-making, and the importance of education, Sonny's nonprofit work has been highlighted on CNN, NBC's TODAY Show, NPR, and many local television stations and newspapers. His work for his community and the Son of a Saint organization has garnered him numerous awards and accolades locally, regionally, and nationally.

### Awards & Recognition

- 2023 Tulane University Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award
- 2023 New Orleans Kingfish Honoree, New Orleans Magazine
- 2022 Worthy 100 List Honoree, Worth Magazine
- 2021 Association for Behavioral & Cognitive Therapies "Distinguished Friend to Behavior Therapy Award"
- 2020 Urban Heroes Award, The Urban Conservancy
- 2019 "A-List" Honoree, Adore Magazine
- 2018 Homer Hitt Alumnus of the Year, University of New Orleans
- 2017 Southerners of the Year, Southern Living
- 2017 Role Model Award, Young Leadership Council (YLC)
- 2017 Children's Hero Award, Children's Bureau of New Orleans
- 2016 New Orleanian of the Year, Gambit Weekly
- 2015 Angel Award, Blue Cross Foundation
- 2015 Ten Outstanding Young Americans, United States Junior Chamber
- 2014 People to Watch, New Orleans Magazine
- 2013 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award
- 2013 Champion of Change Award, Crescent City Chapter of Links, Inc.
- 2013 Millennial Change Maker Award, Spears Consulting
- 2011 40 Under 40, Gambit Weekly

