

# TASHMICA TOROK

## PROFILE

I am a nationally recognized survivor activist working to end child sexual abuse. I'm a powerhouse movement maker who has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless volunteer hours in support of my work.

Through my leadership, the Firecracker Foundation is spearheading trauma-sensitive yoga in the Lansing area and providing services to the Lansing School District, Child & Family Service's Angel House, Community Mental Health and to youth and families in the community. In 2017, the growth of this innovative organization inspired a move into a larger space where all programs — mental health therapy, trauma sensitive yoga, and pediatric medical advocacy — are hosted under the same roof.

As a leader, I am clear about where I am skilled and where I am not. This self-awareness has gifted me the ability to recruit a multidisciplinary gathering of people invested in the mission of the foundation. This team is made up of staff, contractors, board members, committees, volunteers and program partners who utilize their own professional expertise — donated and paid — to benefit the programs and services of the Firecracker Foundation.

I'm a published storyteller and a nearly retired roller derby skater. I'm also the mother of three boys, wife to a talented tile installer and a behind-the-scenes volunteer.

## KEY COMPETENCIES

### Movement building

- Built, funded and led survivor leadership training.
- Sought-after expert on best practices regarding survivor visibility, trauma-informed training and youth-led program development.
- Built collaborative efforts aligned with the mission and values of the Firecracker Foundation.
- Elevated survivor storytelling to a level that our community is now steeped in it.
- Utilized JBC funding to take risks, test new approaches to child sexual abuse.
- As a founder with boots on the ground, recognizes the vital importance of capacity-building support to build movements.
- In five years, raised \$750K primarily through grassroots funders.
- Served nearly 300 clients in five years, after just three the first year of operation.
- Collaborate closely with intersectional partners, touching transformative justice, restorative justice, healthy sexuality, the #MeToo movement, Sisters in Strength and dozens of local partnerships with youth-serving organizations.

### Cultivating strategic alliances

- Skilled at connecting other social justice movements to childhood sexual abuse.
- Improve organization's cultural competency through intentional connections with partnerships with and inclusivity of other communities.
- Extend educational efforts to improve the youth response to police brutality trauma.
- Use intentional communications strategies in public responses to help people see the connection between childhood sexual abuse and other movements.
- Assess full spectrum of client barriers from the very first meeting and actively work to dismantle those caused by oppression because of intersectional analysis.

### Cultivating engaged, informed donors

- Built monthly giving program and continues to grow monthly donors.
- Created a community of donors engaged beyond dollars — volunteers, board members, committee members.
- Remained visible in the local community throughout the Larry Nassar trial to give people a tangible way to support survivors in our region.
- Grown the Firecracker Foundation from \$20K to \$320K budget in five years.
- Built a community of volunteers who undergo in-depth, custom-built training.
- Prioritized mission over capital; willing to risk funding and relationships when the giver is misaligned with the work of the Firecracker Foundation.

*Inciting riots of generosity since 2010.*

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

<b>The Firecracker Foundation</b>	Founder and executive director	2013–present
<b>The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project</b>	Development associate Executive assistant	2011–2013 2010–2011

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Texas–El Paso</b>	General studies, with a focus on music education
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## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

<b>Survivor Strong</b> <i>Board of directors</i> 2019–present	<b>Raliance Policy Committee</b> <i>Member</i> 2018	<b>Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Team</b> <i>Member</i> 2014–present
<b>Child Abuse Prevention</b> <i>Local council</i> 2019–present	<b>Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment</b> <i>Board visioning group</i> 2018–2019	<b>Lansing Transformative Justice Collective</b> <i>Member</i> 2017–present
<b>MSU SANE</b> <i>Advisory committee</i> 2019–present		

## SPECIALITIES

### TECHNICAL

- Grant writing
- Social media
- Salesforce, Sage
- Network for Good
- PowerPoint
- WordPress

### PERSONAL

- Building relationships
- Fundraising
- Communication
- Networking
- Public speaking
- Event planning

## SPOTLIGHT

- **TEDxLansing Presentation:** [The Love Below: Discovering a Holistic Approach to Combating Poverty](#)
- **USA Today profile:** [Lansing woman shares story of sexual abuse, lessons learned](#)
- **Survivor interview:** [Every Two Minutes](#)
- **Podcast interview:** [Radical Healing: Relearn Self-care for Deeper Healing](#)

## AWARDS & HONORS

<b>Inaugural Organizational Grantee</b> <i>2016–present</i> Just Beginnings Collaborative, honoring The Firecracker Foundation	<b>Emerging Leader</b> <i>2016</i> Sistrum Lansing Women’s Choir
<b>Greater Lansing Woman of the Year</b> <i>2019</i> Michigan State University MSU Center for Gender in a Global Context	<b>Characters Unite</b> <i>2015</i> USA Network award winner
<b>Child Advocate of the Year</b> <i>2017</i> Exchange Club of Greater Lansing	<b>Outstanding Young Michigander</b> <i>2014</i> Michigan Jaycees Foundation