IMMIGRANT WELCOME & RESOURCE CENTER

Neighbor Stories: Dr. Pearl Quartey-Kumapley



Dr. Quartey with daughter Eliza at IWRC's Passport to an International Soirée in October 2026

Pearl Quartey-Kumapley grew up in Accra the capitol of Ghana in West Africa. She had a loving family, attended a good school, and was a happy child. But as she grew older, an idea began to form in her mind. The idea grew and grew until finally she said to her mother, "I want to live in the United States and become a doctor." In 1994, at the age of seventeen, by herself, complete with a Janet Jackson hairstyle, she landed in the U.S. carrying two suitcases and $200 in cash. She eventually stayed with a family from Ghana and attended a local community college.

In 1998, she moved to Chicago and worked in a warehouse to raise tuition funds. And in 2000 she enrolled in Benedictine University in their pre-med program, going for a degree in biochemistry. She continued to work and live with a friend to go to school.

During this time, she had a status problem with her visa. The paperwork, legalities, and the fees were overwhelming. Pearl considered herself to be in "status limbo." Finally, in 2002, the problems were solved, and that same year she graduated from B.U. While she was at Benedictine, she met Raymone Kumapley. They married in 2005.

With her high grades and B.S. in Biochemistry, she was offered an internship at Argonne Lab. Now she was on her way to fulfilling her dream. In 2006, she entered the highly-rated Case Western Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio. The challenges continued to be significant during her years of study and residency and included paying tuition, becoming a mother, family crises back home, and working long hours.

Was it worth it? Pearl says, "Absolutely! If I had stayed in Ghana, things would have been easier. Family and financial support there would have been helpful. I would have become a doctor much sooner. But there is a reason why God plants ideas in us. And the calling to become a doctor in the U.S. was inside me."

In 2012, Doctor Pearl began her practice at Cook County Health in Chicago. By 2020, God had placed her in Evansville, Indiana, recruited by Deaconess Hospital to serve as a Family Physician, the Medical Director of Health Equity, and the Medical Director of Deaconess Memorial Clinic.

When asked about her work in the Evansville community, she says, “I follow in my mom’s spiritual footsteps. Everything I do is because of God. The only fear I have is the fear of missing out on giving back.”

So here is a short list of what Pearl has contributed to our community:

- She helped establish the Deaconess Memorial Clinic (housed at Memorial Baptist Church in downtown Evansville). It innovatively provides community care based on people’s living conditions and individual needs.
- She volunteers at her three children’s schools.
- Pearl helped develop the Evansville Haitian Center, inspired by her work with her many Haitian patients.
- Using data from the Haitian Center, she was involved in the first conversations about establishing the Evansville Immigrant Welcome and Resource Center, and she sits on the Advisory Board.
- Pearl served for two years on the Unity and Reconciliation Team at Crossroads Christian Church.
- She also is a member of Africans in Evansville, a group which promotes connection and community.

Doctor Pearl says, “I believe that God has a plan for each of us. For me, he planted the idea of becoming a US doctor in my heart. And the passion to help people grew and grew. But I have now realized just how big God’s plans are for me – and for you. So don’t limit what God has planned for you. Life with Him is an adventure.”