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D36 District Manager  
Yvette Stubbs

Yvette (center) with her team

(L-R) Regional Vice President Tony Lemma,  
Yvette and Northern Division President  
Crystal Hanlon

## Roads to success with DM Yvette Stubbs

The Home Depot has unlimited opportunities available for growing a successful career. In this series, we're highlighting the different roads to success that our associates have taken. Recently, the myApron news team caught up with D36 District Manager (DM) Yvette Stubbs on Long Island, New York.

### How did you get started with The Home Depot?

I started in 1993 as a part-time cashier at Store 1208 in Elmont, New York. Before that, I had no experience with The Home Depot. As soon as I went to orientation and Cashier College, I fell in love with the Company. I spent my first two years as a cashier and was promoted to a full-time Front End supervisor the following year.

### What was the first milestone you reached that made you decide to make your career in an orange apron?

I clearly recall the day my DM pulled me aside to say he had been monitoring my progress. He said I had the potential to do great things for this Company. He also encouraged me to take advantage of the unlimited opportunities to advance. I began to observe various leaders who started out just like me. That's when I decided I would make a go for it. I joined a team opening a new store in the Bronx, Store 1221. Six months later, I was promoted to assistant store manager.

### Who has had the biggest influence on your Home Depot career and why?

There are many people who influenced my career, but the one person who stands out is Chris Waits. Early in my career, Chris was my DM. He was very instrumental in my development, encouraging and mentoring me to take on the challenge of becoming a DM. He provided me with stretch assignments and captainships to grow my leadership skills. I led the team when he was out, supporting stores in the absence of a store manager, and mentoring other store managers. Chris created an environment that allowed me to develop the confidence in myself, which ultimately led to my promotion to DM.

### What's your career advice to others who are interested in growing their careers within the Company?

- I believe it's critical to take care of your people – your associates and customers. Whatever you do, you must incorporate these two.
- Set both personal and professional goals, and use a blueprint to map out your plan.
- Identify a mentor you trust and who will provide honest feedback. Be open and receptive to feedback (both positive and constructive), understanding it for the gift it is. Take a step back to look at yourself first.
- Network throughout your district, region and division. Allow yourself the opportunity to gain a different perspective on issues or concerns. Remember, people will follow your lead because they trust and believe in you. In turn, you will learn from them because you are open and honest.
- Finally, enjoy this moment in your career. Where you are now is a stepping stone to where you want to be.

### Any interesting stories you can share?

I was the first African-American to be promoted to DM in the New York Metro district. During one of my early morning store walks with (at that time) Regional Vice President Aaron Flowe, a department supervisor from another store was shopping in the aisle. She stopped to introduce herself. She said it was a proud moment for her to see the Company promote an African-American woman to DM. She said that it inspired her to be even more committed to her own career growth, believing there was now an opportunity for her, too. I think about that day often and hold it near and dear to my heart. I understand the important role that I play for up-and-coming leaders who aspire to grow their career.

### Please share some "favorites" with us.

- **Favorite hobby:** Karaoke
- **Favorite movie:** The Sound of Music
- **Favorite sports:** Football and basketball
- **Favorite music:** R&B

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