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**Lance McGraw**  
Entrepreneur

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Lance McGraw was born and raised in East Orange, NJ in Little City Projects. Lance's Father was a drug addict who eventually died from AIDS. At the tender age of 9 y/o in an effort to help support his mother, who was a victim of domestic violence, Lance washed car windows on Speedway Avenue as a way to provide for his family. He made \$25 a day and gave \$20 to his mother for food and kept \$5 for himself. By the age of 14 Lance had become involved in the drug game. After seeing close friends going to prison and losing their lives to street violence, Lance decided to make some serious changes in his life. He left the streets at age 20, went back to school and earned his G.E.D. A few years later, Lance married and eventually secured his dream job on Wall Street. As a young husband, the challenges and stress of marriage in addition to the events of September 11th, contributed to Lance suffering a nervous breakdown. As a result, he lost his dream job and his marriage fell apart. Divorced, depressed and unemployed, Lance found himself back in the projects and selling drugs, a life he thought he left behind more than ten years before.

The second time around, Lance's attempt to abandon the streets would not leave him unscathed. Lance was arrested and faced at least seventeen (17) years in prison, in addition to sixteen (16) indictments. However, Lance was given a five-year prison sentence. As he served his time, Lance began reading self-help books that empowered him and gave him a new mindset. He also surrounded himself with prisoners who too were on the trajectory of positive change. Immediately upon his release, Lance vowed to himself that he would become the man he was destined to be, a man of dignity, respect and honor. With hard work, consistency and patience, Lance graduated from inmate to motivational speaker. He is also a life and job coach and author of a new book to be released early 2019. He has founded and is the leader of the movement HUSTLEUTION (The evolution of a hustler)! Lance continues to devote his life to assisting, educating and empowering brothers and sisters returning home from prison so they do not make the same mistakes that he did.

Lance does recognize he has been an inspiration to those who want to make a positive difference in their lives. He also understands, that change does not happen overnight, it is a process. Though he has had many set-backs he also has had many come-backs. His experiences have helped him to be the man he is today. He epitomizes a quote by Les Brown (National Motivational Speaker) which is "if you can look up, you can get up". Lance has proven that he is a man who has made no excuses, took responsibility for his actions and is currently an example of a person who speaks truth to power and is no longer the problem in his community but rather the solution. Lance appeared on Tell A Vision to tell his story, November 2018.