

Yusef Bunchy Shakur captures the essences of what life was like for a misguided and angry gang banging boy surviving the mean streets of Detroit in the 80s. His parents were teenagers when he was born; his father was imprisoned and his mother battled alcohol, which led her to abuse him as a way of discipline. In his critically acclaimed memoir, "The Window 2 My Soul", Shakur educates the reader on how he became a social predator and takes you inside the prison walls, where he met his father for the first time, who ultimately redeemed and transformed his own life and passed those lessons on to his misguided and angry son.

Shakur pulls you deeper inside the depths of his soul with the groundbreaking sequel "My Soul Looks Back," which invites you to explore his 16-year journey through the many challenges he faced trying to reintegrate back into society as a redeemed man. Shakur's story serves as a catalyst for redemption, transformation and hope in the era of mass incarceration, as well as an educational tool for society searching for answers of how to rebuild our neighborhoods, support families and assist men and women who have either been to prison, are trying to avoid prison or those who are fighting to survive in the sometimes not so forgiving society.

He has answers for parents, youth, students, educators, professionals and the disengaged in venues such as the local neighborhood, conferences, community gatherings, and churches and on panels at top colleges and universities across the country. His first book "The Window 2 My Soul" has been used as required readings at several universities across the country. He has presented at Chicago Ideas Week and featured in the production Broken Mirrors: Bullies and Bystanders. As a neighborhood organizer Shakur has dedicated his life to community-based initiatives such as the annual Restoring The Neighbor Back To The Hood Backpack Giveaway that is hosted in his old neighborhood. Over 10 years this neighborhood festival has distributed over 6000 backpacks filled with school supplies to Detroit youth. He also opened and ran a local bookstore cafe/community center in his old neighborhood, which offered neighborhood services such as mentoring, neighborhood forums, promoted literacy, computer training, fostered gang intervention and healthy meals. After the doors were forced to close, he embarked upon his most challenging endeavor of rehabbing an abandoned house in his old neighborhood into a neighborhood center, which will offer similar services as the former bookstore.

For his work, the Knight Foundation honored him with a 2012 Black Male Engagement Leadership Award. He was also named a Best Community Leader finalist in Steve Harvey's 2012 Neighborhood Awards. He is featured in the critically acclaimed book "Reach: 40 Black Men Speaking On Living, Leading and Succeeding" that has taken the American nation by storm. He has also been a Huffington Post contributor. His message of hope and story of redemption and transformation has been shared on numerous television and radio shows, and he has been featured on international and national programs such as BBC, Black America Web, CBS, Let It Rip Fox 2 and Al Jazeera. His story of redemption and transformation was just featured in the Detroit Public TV epic documentary "Pathway To Prisons". He works for Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion as Co-Director of Programs, and attends University of Michigan of Dearborn working on his Bachelor Degree.