



Chennelle Naomi “Nell” Jackson

Chennelle learned to swim at the Summer Camp of Delphi Academy at approximately the age 5. She then joined the swim team at the Dorchester YMCA Tiger Sharks and never looked back. At the age of 14, Nell joined the Flaherty Dolphins and began to swim at a Novice level. After training with, Flaherty Dolphin coaches, Chennelle achieved her goal time in her favorite stroke butterfly, while attending the NBHCSM in North Carolina. She attended Boston Latin Academy and of course immediately joined their swim team. During the Summer of her Junior year, she embarked on Swimming as a USA swimmer with Bernal’s Gator’s Swim Club. There Chennelle learned the importance and the detail of stroke technique, endurance, dedication, and the commitment of training for competitive Swimming. Her Swim Team friends & families were all remarkable experiences, that Nell loved throughout her life, she was truly a water baby.

Realizing the challenges and lack of Access to Swimming in the inner-city communities, Chennelle found her passion, teaching children to swim. As a graduate in graphic design, she began by developing the “Boston Elite Swim Team = BEST” swim team logo. As a USA Coach she was phenomenal in her roles as Swim Instructor, Asst. Coach then Head Coach for Boston Elite Swim Team. During her time with BEST from its inception, she touched many lives. Her kind, patience, and compassionate demeanor always won the children over. Nell was one of the few female coaches of color if not the first in New England Swimming’s LSC. She was vibrant, energetic and had a smile that lit up the room/deck every time she arrived. Her infectious giggle is never to be forgotten. Chennelle was small but mighty, and her life was not lived in vain. She impacted the lives of many and made everyone around her a better person

Chennelle left us all too soon, during the pandemic, we discussed the potential of bringing her coaching career to an end due to low enrollment. Her words were “NO! Every kid is important, and every kid should be able to swim, we will NOT turn our backs on them, because they are only a few. I will do what it takes to keep the program going and we will rebuild”. This was exactly what she did, her final day on deck was Dec. 11, 2021. She was super excited that our 3 became 5, then 7 within a short period of time.

It is only fitting that her Legacy is honored and carried on supporting her community, family and children who may not have the full or partial financial means, to learn to swim or participate in the sport of swimming. With a goal of it being valuable and instrumental in their life experiences in shaping their lives to becoming a leader in the community like Chennelle. Support for the family is available via the Gofundme page set up in honor of Chennelle: <https://gofundme/42462b>

