

Amanda is the baby.

A story from the [because I said I would book](#), written by [Alex Sheen](#):

Jesse looks like he would drive a van with a mural of a majestic bald eagle playing the bass guitar painted on the side. He's an older rock-and-roll kind of guy, rough around the edges. When a lot of men like Jesse think about having kids, they think about having sons. Not Jesse. As a young man, Jesse really wanted to have a daughter. How bad? He just kept trying until he got one. That's how Amanda Messer ended up with four older brothers. Amanda, Jesse's only daughter and youngest child, was born on January 18, 1987.



Amanda grew up as a member of a big family in a small house. She always felt left out from her brothers. "Who wants to play with their little sister, right?" Amanda says as she reflects on her childhood. She is naturally introverted and has felt like a bit of an outcast at times. Amanda got picked on at school sometimes, but she never felt she needed many friends-- perhaps just a few good ones.

Maybe for these reasons, no one has ever made Amanda feel more loved than her father. Jesse has always listened when Amanda is talking and he has never pressured her to be someone she's not. He has always accepted her for who she is. When Amanda was growing up, she would stay up late watching movies with her dad. If she got into a fight with her mom, she would flee to her dad's arms.

For everything that Jesse did right as a parent, unfortunately, Amanda's father was not good at keeping his promises. He had great intentions, but sometimes intentions are not enough. Jesse would often promise to be there for his daughter-- maybe it

was something as simple as picking Amanda up from her mom's house. On these days, as a little girl, she would wait by the window, and time would pass with no sign of him. Crying, she would ask her mom, "Can't we call him again?" But Amanda's mom knew that it didn't matter how many times they called. Her dad wasn't going to show up. Her mom understood something that her little girl could not yet understand. Amanda's dad was an alcoholic and drug addict. He has been convicted of drunk driving over ten times.

When someone you love doesn't keep their promises, it hurts in a way that is hard to describe. Although her dad may have been more fun than her mom, over time, Amanda realized that her mom was the one who was truly reliable, even if they didn't get along all the time. Perhaps because of her father, Amanda grew up finding it hard to trust people.

Eventually, Amanda had a child of her own. Out of the pain of broken promises that Amanda felt with her father, she swore to herself that her own son, Trent, would never experience that type of pain because of her. She wanted him to grow up and be a man of his word. To give him the greatest chance of doing that, she knew that she must lead by example.

One day in 2012, Amanda was sitting at home when she saw a post on social media made by a friend and coworker who was going through hard times. The post was about family and what it meant to be there for one another. The words brought back emotions from Amanda's childhood. She felt compelled to do something.

Amanda was looking at my Facebook page the day I lost my father. She is the Co-Founder of *because I said I would*.

Amanda worked at Hyland Software, the same software company where I worked, and that's where we met. When my father died, she was the very first person to make a post on the Facebook page for *because I said I would* and has been our strongest supporter since that day.

Don't get me wrong: There were many people who helped along the way in those first couple years. Please understand that I appreciate their support. My friends and family who offered a few hours here and there made a huge difference. But Amanda was the only one who stayed up night after night. She is the only one who left her job to ensure our existence. There was only one person who believed in this movement enough to do what was needed for *because I said I would* to survive, and **her name is [Amanda Messer](#)**.

We are proud to announce the release of a new video about Amanda. As a two-time TEDxTalk speaker, she has shared her story and the story of *because I said I would* with audiences across the United States and as far as the Netherlands.

New Video: Amanda Messer, Co-Founder



[Amanda Messer video](#)

Interested in having Amanda speak at your event? 100% of her speaking fees help fuel *because I said I would's* charitable programs. Request her attendance here:

<https://becauseisaidiwould.com/amandamesser>

Chapters

199.



199 students came to our Canyon Lake High School Chapter meetup in New Braunfels, Texas. The program is only designed for *30 to 50 students*; they had to move the meeting to the auditorium to accommodate the crowd of students who wanted to join their *because I said I would* Chapter.

Interest for our school chapters is growing around the country and we are continuing to improve our programming. Our Chapter program delivers character

development workshops that are designed to help students strengthen their self-control to face life's adversities. We test the skills they develop by engaging these young adults in volunteer projects they promise to complete in their communities.

94% of students said that our character development programming was interesting or very interesting in a recent survey. We need to make content that students like enough to engage with on their free time and we are headed down that path.

Within only weeks of their first meetup, students at Canyon Lake High School had already volunteered to paint 12 little league dugouts, a restroom facility, and a storage shed at a local community center. Canyon Lake's revitalization project highlights how a promise can positively impact our neighbors and our communities.

Want to start a *because I said I would* Chapter in your high school? Because of the generosity of our donors, we have funding available to fuel more chapters, but space is limited. Let us know if you're interested:

<https://becauseisaidiwould.com/chapterinterest>

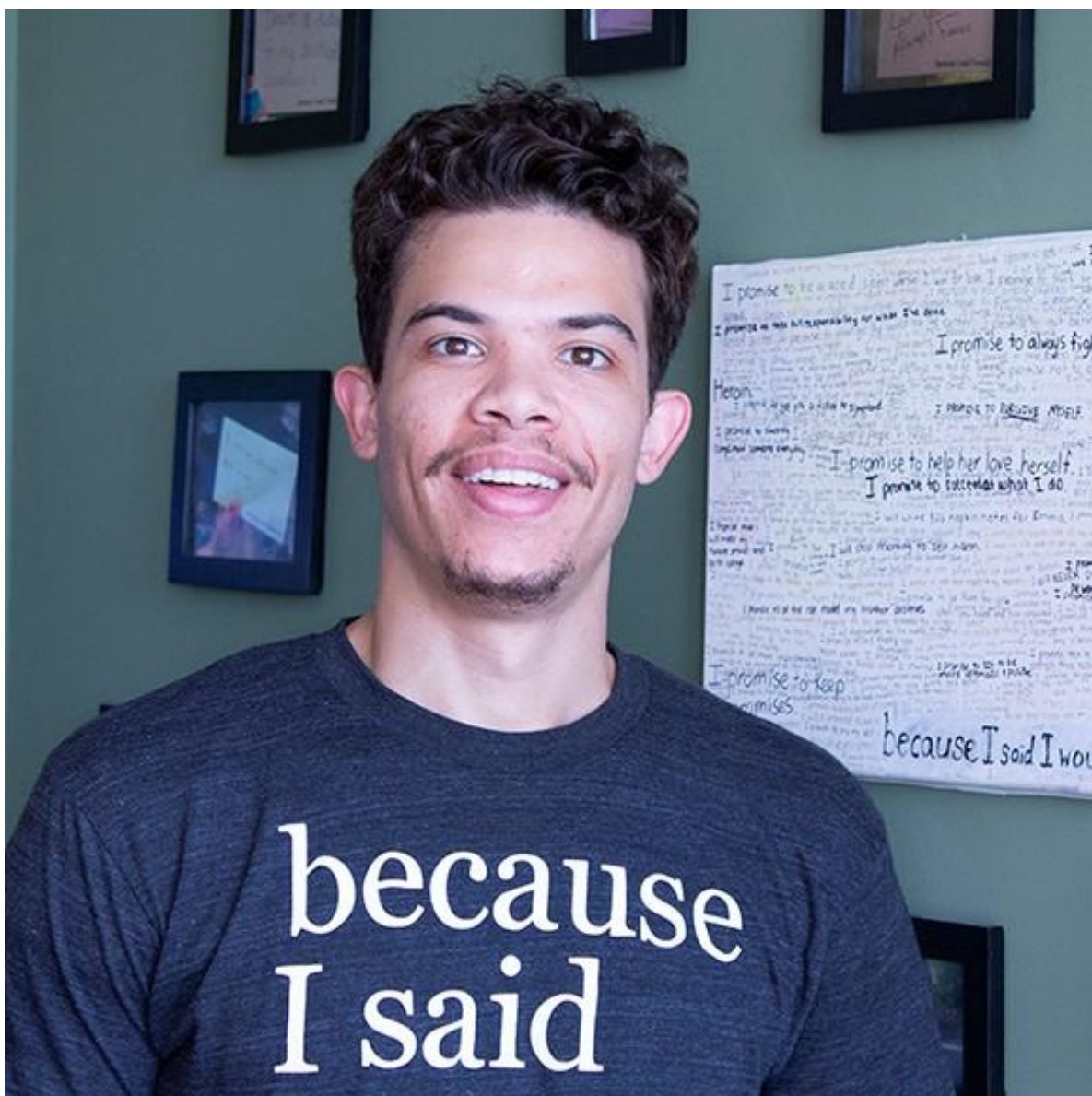
Open Positions

We currently have three full-time career opportunities open, several internships and are always looking for professional volunteers as well at *because I said I would*. All full-time positions are at our Cleveland-area headquarters in Ohio and include excellent healthcare benefits.

- Director of Speaking Engagements
- Director of Social Marketing
- Training and Programs Manager
- Various Internships

Who would you be working with?

Read more about your potential co-workers here.



<https://becauseisaidiwould.com/openings>

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I will stop self harming,
purging and never try
to commit suicide
again.

because I said I would.

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