Denise Crittendon is a veteran journalist and the founding editor of the former African American Family Magazine, an award-winning lifestyle magazine for black families in Metro Detroit. She also wrote “Positive Thoughts,” a self-help column that appeared once a month in The Detroit News.

The Detroit native and graduate of Michigan State University worked for 15 years as a reporter/features writer for The Detroit News. In 1994, Ms. Crittendon became the first woman in the history of the NAACP to be appointed editor of its national magazine, The Crisis (founded in 1910 by W.E.B. DuBois). She also worked as reporter/features writer and assistant teen page editor for the Kansas City Star newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri.

In addition, she is author of Life Is A Party That Comes With Exams, a youth empowerment guide and Girl In The Mirror: A Teen’s Guide To Self Awareness, a book that focuses on the character development, self esteem and self empowerment of pre-teen and teenage girls.

In 2001, she received the Detroit City Council’s “Spirit of Detroit Award” and was honored by the Women’s Informal Network as “One of the Most Influential Black Women in Metropolitan Detroit.” Other honors include a 1986 National Press Foundation Fellowship to study Spanish for three months in Cuernavaca, Mexico and a 1987 Rotary Foundation Fellowship for International Understanding. Under the fellowship, Ms. Crittendon traveled throughout Africa and studied for a year at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare, Zimbabwe, near South Africa.

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Ms. Crittendon has taught magazine and feature writing classes as an adjunct professor in the Journalism Department at Wayne State University in Detroit and served as host for “Reclaiming The Village,” a series of panel discussions that aired on WTVS Channel 56 and WB20 in 2005. She currently teaches English at Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD).

- Voted One Of The Most Influential Black Women In Metro Detroit, 2001
- Spirit of Detroit Award, 2001
- Life Directions’ Mary Ball Children’s Advocacy Award
- Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists’ Column Writing Award
- Aishe Shule/W.E.B. DuBois Academy
- LEGACY Award
- The UPI Award
- 2001 Salute To Excellence Award from the National Association of Black Journalists
- Five Gold Awards from Parenting Publications of America

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