

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2011***Project Management  
Solutions Group*

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**BY JULIA PAULUS**

In 2005, when Mike Ward's brother called to tell him that his mother was passing away, he immediately got on a plane from Phoenix to St. Louis. "My mother ended up holding on for a few more months and we had the opportunity to talk out some issues, so I was at peace when she left," says Ward. "I had been here so long that anything I had going on in Phoenix was over."

So Ward decided to build a career in St. Louis. "My experience was usually as good as or better than the person interviewing me," he says. "One person in particular said, 'I can't hire you, but I can do business with you. You're a minority and a vet. Go to the Secretary of the State Office and get an LLC. Then come back and we'll do business.' So out of frustration, that's what I did."

That's how Project Management Solutions Group, a full service project management organization, was born. After struggling for a year and a half to break the ice in St. Louis, Ward was finally given a chance by a ma-

ior player. "I went up to Bruce Holland of Holland Construction Services at a Southwestern Illinois Leadership Council meeting and he said lets do business," says Ward.

From there Ward became the prime contractor on a St. Louis area VA Medical Center, and that's when PMSG hit its stride. Today Ward shares

his experience by mentoring other African American entrepreneurs. "When I began to receive awards and recognition, I started getting calls from other African American business owners asking me on how I did what I did," he says. "I would say, 'Why don't you come to my office and we can talk.' I am spiritual, so I think blessings are to be shared not coveted. Otherwise they will stop coming."

