

## Sanitation Worker Becomes Local Icon, Authors Children's Book

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Children traditionally have not thought of trash collectors as heroes. Terrill Haigler's children were no exception. They thought their dad's job with the city Sanitation Department was uncool. So Haigler, aka Ya Fav Trashman, wrote a book for children about the importance of sanitation workers, titled *I'm Cool Too*, beautifully illustrated by Deborah Tyson.

It's the story of three children who have a dream that their dad is training them to be sanitation workers. They learn about the amount and different kinds of trash that people discard, and about how important it is to get rid of it to keep the city clean.

Because so many more people were home during the pandemic, trash piled up and sanitation workers were considered essential to health and safety. Haigler was proud of his job, and his children were proud of him.

Haigler plans to donate \$5 from every book sold to the School District of Philadelphia. His goal is to sell 200,000 copies at \$20 each and raise \$1 million for Philly schools, dropping off checks to principals to use the funds as they see fit. He is challenging businesses to purchase 100 copies each and donate them to a school or library of their choice.

Haigler has become an advocate for sanitation workers. While employed with the Sanitation Department, he started a fundraiser to purchase personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies for his coworkers. He created the Instagram page @\_yafavtrashman to give residents an insider view of sanitation work during the pandemic. He started the nonprofit trash2treasure\_21, and over the last two years has organized more than 80 cleanups and picked up over 300 tons of trash.

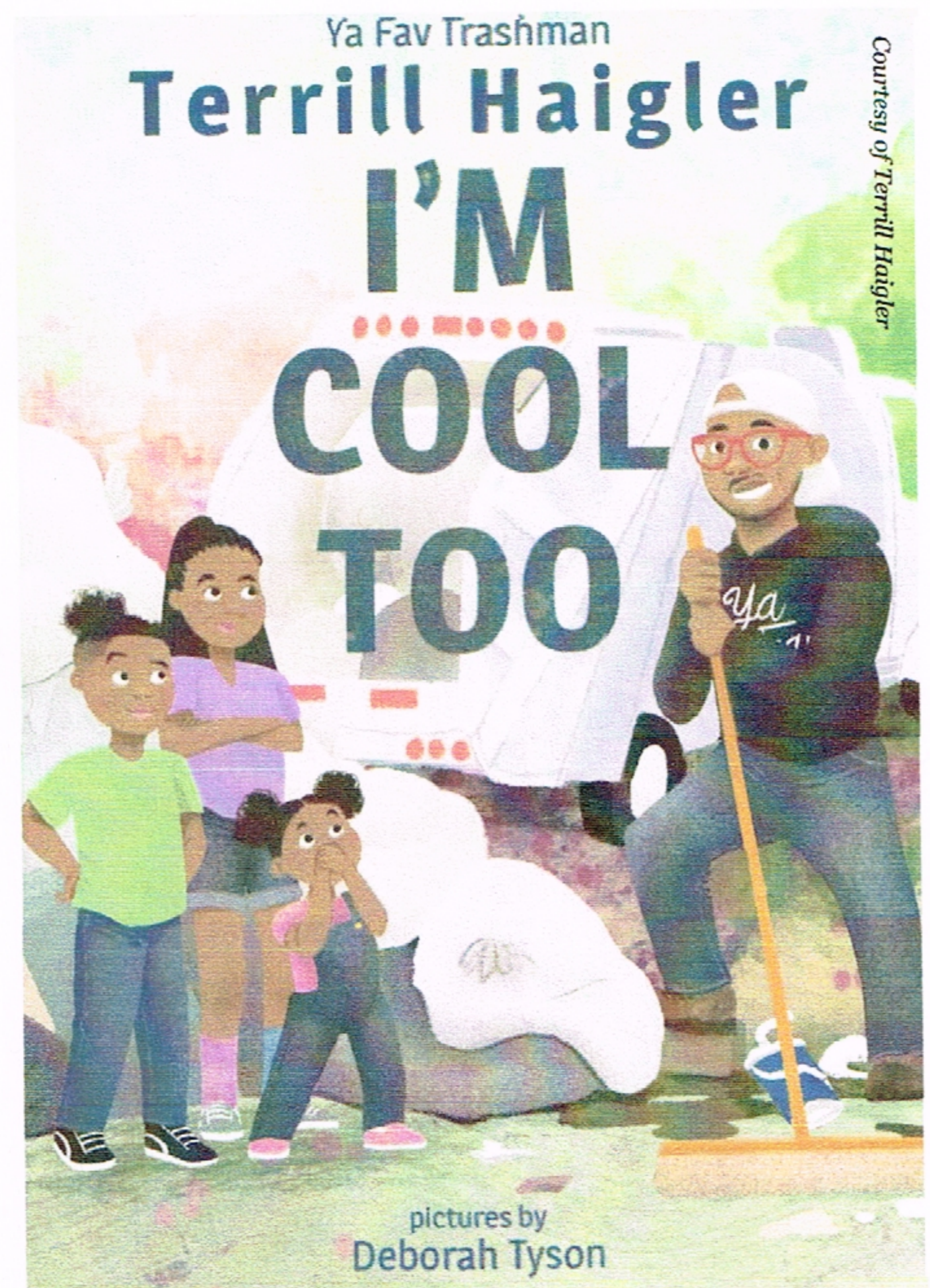
Haigler now owns a company that removes material at construction and demolition sites and hauls it away to a certified dump. He has purchased a trash truck to take away debris and litter from his neighborhood, instead of relying on city trucks to do the job. He wants to employ young adults to help clean the city.

"The youth in the city need something positive to do," he says, "so for me paying them to keep their community clean is a win-win. Studies show that when a community is cleaned, crime reduces by 30 percent." More information at <https://yafavtrashman.com/>

After graduating from the High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), Haigler studied and taught dance. Later, at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, he was a coordinator, trainer, and organizer of basketball leagues, water aerobics, jazzercise, and more.

[Philadelphia Citizen](#) says about Haigler, "Today, Terrill Haigler, CEO of YaFavTrashman LLC and founder of the nonprofit Trash 2 Treasure, is an influencer (with 28,700 Instagram followers), sanitation guru, public speaker, brand ambassador, entrepreneur, author, environmental activist and clean-up evangelist."

You can order your copy of *I'm Cool Too* at <https://yafavtrashman.com/product/im-cool-too-childrens-book/>



Terrill Haigler's book, *I'm Cool Too*, tells children about the importance of clean streets and the sanitation workers who collect the city's trash.