



### **Emerald Blankenship**

#### **Vice President**

#### **Community Foundation of Howard County**

Emerald Blankenship is the vice president of programs at the Community Foundation of Howard County, which serves Howard, Clinton, and Carroll counties. In addition to managing grant and scholarship opportunities, she works with donors to establish endowment funds, connects nonprofits to resources, and oversees the implementation of a leadership and capacity building program for local nonprofit organizations. Blankenship previously worked in higher education and as an advocate for quality healthcare in underserved areas. She received her bachelor's degree in marketing and international business from Saint Mary's College and holds an MBA in nonprofit leadership and management from Liberty University. She resides in Kokomo.



### **Falicia Brewer**

#### **President**

#### **Brewer & Associates**

Falicia Brewer is president of Brewer & Associates, a company she founded in 2004 to provide comprehensive professional management services to nonprofit organizations and businesses throughout the Midwest. She volunteers for Unite for Change, Center for Leadership Development, and serves on the IPA Education Committee. Brewer received her bachelor's degree in special education, master's degree in political science, as well as a Certificate in Facilitation from Ball State University. She also earned a certificate in fundraising management from the Fundraising School at IUPUI. A lifelong Hoosier, she lives in Brownsburg.

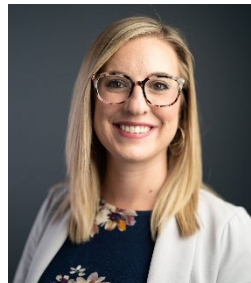


### **Crista Carlino**

**Director of Development &  
Communications**

**RecycleForce and Keys2Work**

Crista Carlino serves as the director of development & communications for RecycleForce and Keys2Work, two nonprofit organizations based in Indianapolis. Previously, Carlino was as a public school educator from 2009-2021 and is a former member of the Indianapolis Public Library Board of Trustees. She is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis, earned her master's degree in teaching from Marian University in 2012, and received her Building Level Administrator credentials (K-12 Principal/VP) from UIndy's iLEAD program in 2013. She is the District 6 City-County councilwoman representing the Indy's far westside, where she lives with her family.



### **Mandy Drakeford**

**Program Officer**

**AWS Foundation**

Mandy Drakeford serves as program officer at AWS Foundation and previously held leadership positions with nonprofits in Indiana and North Carolina. Mandy teaches courses for the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. She volunteers with GFW, Inc.'s Onboard Fort Wayne program, Peace Montessori Forest School board, and NEIDAC (Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition). Fort Wayne Business Weekly recognized her as a '40 Under 40' honoree in 2021. Drakeford earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in communications from the University of Cincinnati and her accreditation in public relations from PRSA. She lives in Fort Wayne.



### **Elise Erikson Barrett**

**Coordination Program Director**

**Lilly Endowment Inc., National Initiative**

Elise Erikson Barrett directs the coordination program for Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders, a multi-cohort initiative administered by the Center for Congregations. She is a former United Methodist pastor and writer. Erikson Barrett holds degrees from Duke University (Master of Divinity) and Hanover College (economics) and is pursuing a Ph.D. in American studies at IUPUI, focusing on issues of economics and faith-based organizations and working with the Shifting Ground initiative at Lake Institute on Faith and Giving. She lives in New Palestine with her family.



### **Kara Fulmer**

**Director of Planned Giving and Grants**

**Honeywell Arts & Entertainment**

Kara Fulmer is the director of planned giving and grants at Honeywell Arts & Entertainment, an organization whose mission is to provide arts, education, and entertainment for all. Fulmer spent the first 20 years of her career as a paralegal, after earning her associate degree in paralegal studies from Vincennes University. She serves on the boards of Kiwanis of Wabash County, Downtown Wabash, Inc., and Wabash County Christmas Spirit Foundation, Inc., and is a member of Tri Kappa Wabash Alpha Epsilon Chapter. Kara resides in Wabash with her family.



### Crystal Gunther

**Vice President of Community Philanthropy**

**Community Foundation of Southern Indiana**

**Crystal Gunther** is the vice president of community philanthropy for Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, where she implements and oversees its grant-making philosophy, grant and scholarship programs, and Youth Philanthropy Council. She graduated from Indiana University Southeast in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in business administration. She serves on the Center for Nonprofit Excellence Board of Directors and the Donor's Forum of Kentuckiana Executive Committee. She served on the Indiana University Southeast Board of Advisors and was an elected school board member for West Clark Community Schools. Gunther lives in Sellersburg.



### Allissa Impink

**Director of Family Philanthropy and Senior Philanthropic Advisor**

**Glick Philanthropies**

Allissa Impink serves as the director of family philanthropy and senior philanthropic advisor to Glick Philanthropies at Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF). In this role, she supports Glick Philanthropies' impact priorities and strategy by managing the competitive grantmaking process for the Glick Fund at CICF. Impink is president of the Fletcher Place Neighborhood Association, board member of Indy Mavens, and volunteers for the United Negro College Fund. She graduated from the University of Louisville and earned master's degrees from Marian University and Martin University. She lives in Indianapolis with her family.

**Brian Johnson****Director of Development****Fulton County Community Foundation**

Brian Johnson is the director of development for the Fulton County Community Foundation. He is a member and volunteer at First Baptist Church of Rochester, coordinates a local 4-H club, a volunteer youth baseball coach, and a past president and current board member of the Rochester Kiwanis Club. He is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in business management. Johnson lives in rural Rochester with his family.

**Julia Kaercher****Executive Director****Merchants Foundation**

Julia Kaercher is the executive director of Merchants Foundation and vice president of social impact at Merchants Bank of Indiana (MBI). Previously, Kaercher was a developer at Merchants Affordable Housing Corp (MAHC), an affordable housing development firm. She serves as national treasurer of the Women's Affordable Housing Network (WAHN) and board chair for the Indiana Chapter. Kaercher earned her degree in sports management from the University of Dayton. She lives in Carmel with her family.



### **Allen McClendon**

**Community Affairs Director  
OneAmerica Foundation**

Allen McClendon is the community affairs director at OneAmerica where he is responsible for leading charitable grantmaking programs of the OneAmerica Foundation. He previously led the corporate development program at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis and served under two Indianapolis mayors as the senior manager of community engagement. He serves as vice president of external affairs for the Terra Vista Neighborhood Association and volunteers with the Glendale Soccer Association. McClendon received his bachelor's degree in communications from Indiana University. A self-described "urban farmer," he lives in Indianapolis with his family.



### **Tina Patton**

**Vice President and Director of Nonprofit  
& Foundation Engagement  
Indiana Trust Wealth Management**

Tina Patton is vice president and director of nonprofit & foundation engagement for Indiana Trust Wealth Management. She is co-pastor at Kingdom Life Christian Cathedral, president of the South Bend Chapter of Links Inc., and a member of Indiana United Ways, Rotary of South Bend, and NAACP. Patton earned a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana University at South Bend and an executive MBA from University of Notre Dame. She also holds the Certified Securities Operations Professional™ (CSOP™) designation, as well as the Certified Information Security Manager® (CISM®) designation. Patton and her family live in South Bend.



## Alexandra Pflug

**Executive Director**

**Fayette Community Foundation**

Alexandra Pflug serves as executive director of the Fayette Community Foundation in Connersville. She joined it after several years in higher education donor relation roles. Pflug earning her bachelor's degree in linguistics and Japanese from Purdue University. She volunteers as a member of the Purdue University College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board. She received her master's degree in educational psychology from Miami University (Ohio). A native of Connersville, Pflug lives there with her family.



## Sarah Stone

**Communications Director**

**Putnam County Community Foundation**

**Sarah Stone** is the communications director for the Putnam County Community Foundation. Stone joined the foundation after several years in development and communications at New Hope of Indiana. She volunteers with Ridpath Primary School PTO, Special Olympics of Indiana, Impact 100 of Greater Indianapolis and Greencastle Rotary Club. Stone earned her bachelor's degree in public affairs from Indiana University. Originally from Monrovia, Stone resides in Cloverdale with her family.



### **Bridget Sutton**

**Director of Development**

**Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum**

Bridget Sutton is director of development at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum where she oversees grant writing, sponsorships, development, membership, and an upcoming capital campaign. Before joining the IMS Museum staff, her career included positions at IU HANDS in Autism, Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, IU Bradford Woods, and the IU Alumni Association. Sutton volunteers with Friends of Strays and is a member of Project Management Institute and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She earned her undergraduate degree in recreational sport management from Indiana University and her Master of Public Affairs from Indiana Wesleyan with a focus on nonprofit leadership. Sutton and her husband reside in Indianapolis.



### **Travis Tester**

**Chief Development and Communications Officer**

**Foster Success**

Travis Tester serves as the chief development and communications officer at Foster Success where he leads the organization in partnering with donors and community partners to support the successful transition of young people from foster care into adulthood. He previously served as the interim senior director of development & alumni relations at the University of South Carolina School of Law. He earned his bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and a master's degree in philanthropic studies from Indiana University Lilly School of Philanthropy. Tester serves on the boards of the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Central Indiana and Adoptions of Indiana.





### **Mary Tyndall**

**Program Officer and Chief Storyteller**

**St. Joseph Community Health  
Foundation**

Mary Tyndall serves as a program officer and chief storyteller for the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation where she manages the \$1 million federally funded Double Up Indiana program, two Indiana Department of Health nutrition grants, and the Healthy Eating Active Living initiative. Tyndall began her career as a television journalist then transitioned into public relations and community development positions for the City of Fort Wayne, United Way of Greater Battle Creek and United Way of Allen County. She is a board member for Union Street Public Market and Amani Family Services. She graduated from DePauw University.



### **Faith Van Gilder**

**Chief Development Officer**

**Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana**

Faith Van Gilder is chief development officer at Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana. Her career spans journalism, marketing and philanthropy, including the Dayton Journal Herald, U.S. News and World Report, Mortgage Bankers Association, News-Sentinel (Fort Wayne), Greater Fort Wayne Community Foundation, and Asher Agency. She serves on the board of the National Peace Corps Association, co-founded Advancing Voices of Women and is a graduate of Leadership Fort Wayne and Hoosier Women Forward. The Defiance, Ohio, native earned a journalism degree at Bowling Green State University and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Botswana. She lives in Hometown with her family.



### **Stephanie Wagner**

**Community Development Liaison**

**Johnson County Community Foundation**

Stephanie Wagner serves as a community development liaison for the Johnson County Community Foundation, where she assists with donor service activities, as well as working with the accounting and finance manager in overseeing donor information relating to funds and managing the donor database. In addition, she is leveraging 15 years of managerial experience in the financial services industry to help launch a new workforce development program for Johnson County. She actively volunteers with Franklin Rotary Club, Leadership Johnson County, and Discover Downtown Franklin. Wagner earned her bachelor's degree in finance from Franklin College. She resides in Franklin.



### **Shannon Walker**

**Vice President**

**Unity Foundation of La Porte County**

Shannon Walker serves as vice president of Unity Foundation of La Porte County. Her professional experience includes community relations, fundraising, nonprofit management, and strategic communication. She is active with the Rotary Club of La Porte, Women in Leadership of LaPorte County, and the League of Women Voters. Walker earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and public relations from Franklin College and a Master of Science in technology, leadership & innovation from Purdue Polytechnic Institute. She received a nonprofit management certificate from Indiana School of Philanthropy's Executive Education Program. She resides in La Porte with her family.



### **Bethany Watson**

**Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations**

#### **Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana**

Bethany Watson serves as the director of corporate and foundation relations at Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana where she collaborates with donors on ongoing programs, raises support to improve capital infrastructure, and implements innovations in the realm of food insecurity. Watson is a soprano with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. She holds a Master of Arts in philanthropic studies from the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Indianapolis. Watson lives with her husband in the Bates Hendricks neighborhood of Indianapolis.



### **Keylee Wright**

**Executive Director**

#### **Kendrick Foundation**

Keylee Wright currently serves as the Kendrick Foundation's first executive director. She previously worked within the Indiana State Department of Health and volunteered with the Indiana Public Health Association for years. IPHA named Wright a public health hero in 2014. The next year, she received the Indiana Cancer Consortium's highest honor—Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Control. Wright earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in wellness management and applied gerontology from Ball State University. She lives in Indianapolis.



## Leeann Wright

**Executive Director**

**Community Foundation of Pulaski  
County**

Leeann Wright, MNA, CFRE, serves as the executive director of the Community Foundation of Pulaski County. She previously worked in development at Valparaiso University, Indiana University Northwest, and Culver Academies. She is active with the Calumet Regional Striders, Memorial Opera House, and Project Neighbors. Wright holds a bachelor's degree and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Exeter and a Master of Nonprofit Administration from North Park University. She became a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) in 2020 and will complete her MBA from Valparaiso University in May 2023. She lives in Winamac.