

Board of Directors Bios

Laura-Jo Bhimani

Broker Associate/Partner, The Group Inc. Real Estate



Laura-Jo is a licensed broker/realtor at The Group. She's energetic and enthusiastic, and likes the opportunity to make someone's day by helping them find the perfect home for their family. She used to be a youth Board member in high school, then left to attend college in Omaha, NE., where she earned a double major in finance and entrepreneurship. She was a competitive rower in college, recruited by Creighton University. She's returned to Fort Collins and accepted a 3-year term on the Board. She likes being involved and in-the-know, and is impressed to see the new Collective Impact model in action. In her job as a realtor, she has the opportunity to evangelize United Way's mission to the many people she interacts with. Laura-Jo has backpacked through Europe; rafted through the Grand Canyon, and visited her sister in Australia. When on home turf, she visits breweries with friends, and stays in shape with cross-fit training.

Karen Wong Brown

CEO, Unified Workforce



Karen Wong-Brown is a first-generation Chinese American born in Hong Kong and came to the States at the age of six. She has resided all over the United States but has lived in Colorado for three decades.

She has been an active community member serving on various boards either as a leader or volunteer. Her passion lies within diversity and inclusion initiatives. Her educational attainment comes from Colorado State University and Regis University. She also worked in many different fields, but her most recent one is in human resources.

Currently, she is the founder of Unified Workforce which helps underrepresented communities find employment through training and education and having a peer mentor while the individuals map their own road to success. She also helped companies in human resources issues such as onboarding, retention, employee appreciation, and diversity training. She is passionate about social justice; therefore, she identifies herself as a JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion advocate). When she is not working, she loves spending time with her loved ones and friends. She loves to travel, learn about the culture, and eat new foods. Her creative side entails her love of writing poems and coloring.

Tegan Camden

Chief Operations Officer, SummitStone Health Partners



Tegan Camden is a licensed clinical therapist who currently serves as Director of Outpatient Services for SummitStone Health Partners. Originally from Illinois, Tegan earned a Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Bradley University as well as a Master's Degree in Clinical Counseling from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Tegan has nearly fifteen years of experience in the nonprofit community mental health sector and has served in executive leadership since 2014. She has an extensive history in nonprofit management and building systemic community-based initiatives. She has provided leadership to numerous organizations,

teams and committees aimed at improving mental health and substance use service delivery models for community members of all ages and their families. Tegan currently resides in Loveland and is a member of the Human Services Commission. She and her husband love all that Northern Colorado has to offer and spend their free time biking, paddleboarding, hiking, and camping all over this beautiful state.

Jason Damweber

Deputy Town Administrator, Town of Estes Park



Jason Damweber is the Deputy Town Administrator of Estes Park. In this role he oversees the Town's Information Technology department and the Estes Park Museum, serves as the Town's Risk Manager, and manages a variety of projects and initiatives related to workforce housing, childcare, and recovery and resiliency related to COVID-19 and wildfires. He also serves as the Staff Liaison to the Town's Family Advisory Board, Treasurer of the Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center, the Town's representative on the Chamber of Commerce Board as an ex-officio member, and a member of the Estes Valley Economic Development Corporation's Entrepreneurial Center. Jason received BAs in Government and Economics from the University of Virginia and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also proud of his experience as a Teach for America Corps Member. Jason enjoys being outdoors with his spouse, Amanda, and their two elementary school aged children, Emmett and Quinn. He loves cooking (especially grilling!), reading, and has been known to pick up an acoustic guitar every once in a while.

Colleen DePasquale

Executive Director, Estes Chamber of Commerce



Colleen DePasquale worked over 30 years in the hospitality industry, working with Marriott and Interstate hotels from Manhattan to Denver as well as 2 years in Moscow, Russia opening Marriott brand hotels. Colleen changed careers in 2011, becoming the President and CEO of the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce and its Foundation in Fort Myers, FL. Colleen moved to Estes Park, Colorado in May of 2022 to take on the role as the Executive Director of the Estes Chamber of Commerce.

Kelsey DiAstra

Creative and Communications Manager, Foothills Unitarian Church



Kelsey is the Creative and Communications Manager at Foothills Unitarian. Kelsey holds a B.A. in Psychology from Bucknell University and completed a Semester in Journalism program at George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs.

Kelsey first worked with United Way while serving with AmeriCorps in rural Pennsylvania. Throughout her service at a Community Action Agency, Kelsey partnered closely with the local United Way to close gaps in access to essential services. The experience sparked a passion for tearing down barriers to positive health, education, and socioeconomic outcomes and fostered deep respect and gratitude for the mission of the United Way. Kelsey is thrilled to help further United Way of Larimer County's mission. She is especially passionate about improving childcare and closing education gaps, with a particular focus on accessibility.

Kelsey volunteers as an Our Whole Lives Facilitator, helping middle and high school youth build self-esteem, foster healthy relationships, and improve decision-making. She enjoys yoga, creative writing, paddle boarding, and roller skating. She lives in Fort Collins with her husband, Alec, their beloved dogs, and an occasional foster pup.

Anne Folk

Vice President Human Resources, Nutrien Ag Solutions



Anne Folk is the HR & Communications Leader for Nutrien Ag Solutions, the largest Agricultural retailer in North America based in Loveland, CO. In this role, Anne oversees the HR function for her business and is a member of the HR leadership team for the corporation. A member of the Ag Solutions Leadership Team, Anne defines and deploys the HR strategy across North America, Australia and South America ensuring alignment with the business strategy. She leads the talent management process and outcomes for the retail business. As a global leader, Anne is responsible for compensation, recognition, hiring, retention, organization development, labor relations and cost management throughout the business. She is currently spending a lot of her time supporting the efforts to establish a

culture focused on organic growth and digital platforms as they Nutrien is on its journey to become the ag retailer of the future. Anne started her career in HR with Honeywell as an intern in the HR early career program in 2000. During her 18-year tenure with the company she worked in multiple industries and countries leading change and growth. Fort Collins, CO is the current home for Anne, and her family. Having moved 10 times in the last 18 years, they consider themselves relocation professionals. She has worked and lived in Asia, Europe and all across the US. Anne was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, gained her bachelor's degree in English from University of Illinois and Masters in HR from University of Minnesota. She has been married for 11 years to Ben who runs his own education consulting firm. Together they have a 4-year-old son Ulysses and are expecting their 2nd son in August of 2019.

Joni Friedman

Retired Community Leader



Joni is the recently retired director of the Larimer County Workforce Center, which provides services to our community such as: assisting businesses in many different ways and helping customers looking for employment or needing one to one career counseling, workshops or training. She has the best team of individuals who provide these great services. She is new to United Way's Board and cannot wait to serve! Originally, Joni grew up in Denver but she has been living in Fort Collins since 1977. She is also married and enjoys hiking with her husband during the summer. During the winter, they both enjoy cross country skiing. She loves traveling with her sisters too. So far they have been to Viet Nam, Ecuador, and are planning for Europe this year. A pretty cool thing that Joni has done was watch the Beatles perform at Red Rocks Amphitheater!

Caesar Garduno

Environmental Sustainability Specialist, Community Engagement & Climate Action, City of Fort Collins



A recent graduate and passionate community builder, Caesar is keen to bring his dedication to equity, stewardship, and collaboration into this new role.

His professional journey has spanned many levels of public service from State, County, and Local government through non-profit organizations and academia at Colorado State University. Throughout his career, Caesar has consistently strived to promote equity and inclusivity, underpinning his steadfast dedication to community unity. Recently, Caesar has been serving as an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Fellow with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network at the City of Fort Collins. His experiences and academic background in Economics, Psychology, Sociology, and later, Public Policy and Administration at CSU have honed his understanding of community

dynamics. His time facilitating events with the Center for Public Deliberation has been pivotal to understanding how to navigate dialogue across differences. His focus on sustainability, while important, is one of many aspects of his holistic perspective on community service and development.

Colorado's strong sense of community and equitable leadership influenced Caesar's decision to reside here. He hopes to channel these inspirations into his contributions to the United Way Board. At the heart of Caesar's beliefs, faithful stewardship and community building begin with personal reflection and sincerity. He strives to model these values as an EDI Fellow and is eager to uphold them on the United Way Board. Caesar looks forward to learning from fellow board members and co-creating a more inclusive and supportive community. When he isn't engrossed in community initiatives, Caesar takes time to connect with nature through time in the outdoors. These activities serve as a reminder of the importance of stewardship, especially when trying to leave these places better for future generations. As Caesar embarks on his journey with United Way, he's excited to collaborate, learn, and share experiences with his fellow board members. He brings a fresh perspective and an open mind to the United Way Board.

Lee Greene

Vice President of Contract Administration, Woodward



Lee Greene currently serves as the Vice President of Contract Administration at Woodward in Fort Collins. Lee has responsibility for negotiation and management of large, complex long-term contracts for Woodward's Industrial business as well as leadership over the commercial operations and customer service functions. As a global leader, Lee manages a team of more than 85 members in 12 different locations around the world. For more than 20 years, he has engaged in corporate diversity and inclusion (D&I) efforts, which include establishing and leading D&I Councils and employee resource groups. Lee enjoys community service and tries to serve whenever he can. A native of Tallahassee, Florida, he enjoys playing golf, watching sports, and barbecuing on the weekends. Lee attended Florida A&M University, a distinguished HBCU, where he played football and received a bachelor's degree in business. Lee also holds a

master's degree from Florida Institute of Technology in contract and acquisition management. Lee and his wife of 25 years (Jackie) moved to from the metro Atlanta area in 2022, where they had lived for 15 years and raised two children. They currently reside in Windsor.

Linda Hoffmann

Retired County Manager, Larimer County, Colorado



Linda Hoffmann retired from her role as County Manager for Larimer County in 2022 having served since 2012. As County Manager, Ms. Hoffmann reported directly to the Board of County Commissioners to establish policy, achieve strategic initiatives, ensure efficient government, and improve the quality of life in the community. Prior to becoming the County Manager, Ms. Hoffmann was Larimer County's Planning and Building Services Division Director. She is also a former Principal of a civil engineering consulting firm comprised of seventeen offices in the western United States and Mexico. Ms. Hoffmann holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Kansas State University and is a former adjunct professor at the University of

California at Davis. Raised on the farm in Kansas her family has owned since the 1880s, she has lived in Fort Collins since January 2020. Linda enjoys keeping in touch with her friends and siblings, travel, cooking, working on home projects, and especially spending time with her daughter.

Alexis Kennedy

Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration – Colorado State University



Dr. Alexis R. Kennedy is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration at CSU. Her research focuses on public management topics including the interactions between public, private, and nonprofit organizations in the pursuit of public outcomes, community engaged research, and social equity. At CSU, she teaches classes on human resources management, organizational theory and behavior, advanced public administration, social equity in public service, and nonprofit management. In addition to her academic work, Kennedy has worked as a practitioner in the energy industry in New Jersey and as a public finance consultant for nonprofit and public entities in Colorado.

Amy Kolczak

Senior Associate General Counsel, UCHealth



Amy Kolczak is in-house counsel for University of Colorado Health, providing legal advice to the non-profit health system's vast network of hospitals and clinics and serving on the senior leadership team for UCHealth Northern Colorado. She is passionate about service and envisions a community in which each person has the opportunity to meet their full potential and live the life of their dreams. Amy serves on the Board of Directors for Book Trust and United Way of Larimer County. She grew up in rural northwest Iowa and was the first in her family to graduate from college. She and her family moved to northern Colorado in 2010. Amy lives in Timnath with her husband, their two sons (Alex and Max), and their two dogs (Coco and Luna).

Kelly McBartlett

Real Estate Broker/Partner, The Group Inc. Real Estate



Kelly is a partner and real estate broker for The Group, Inc. He also has served on the Board of Directors for several years. He was Chair on the GroupGives Board in the past, which funds housing related issues in Larimer, Weld and Boulder counties. He really enjoys working with his clients to help them accomplish their dreams and make the best decisions that they can in terms of their Real Estate holdings. Kelly enjoys being on the United Way Board because he is inspired by the collective impact model with all the collaborations in the community. Originally, Kelly is from Monte Vista, Colorado but has lived in Fort Collins for the past 10 years. He and his husband Blake have two beloved retired Greyhound Racers, Lex and Viktor. They love Northern Colorado life, but also enjoy traveling and hope to get in a trip to Spain & Portugal in the coming years. They also enjoy hiking, hanging out with friends and family, and being active in the community.

Yolanda McKnight

Retired, Deputy Court Clerk (Assistant Director), Austin Municipal Court – Austin, Texas



Yolanda McKnight is a retired public servant who served 30 years with the City of Austin in various leadership positions with the Austin Municipal Court and the Austin Public Library. She was instrumental in overseeing the acquisition and construction of a new facility for the Austin Municipal Court in 2020. Due to her work on this project, she was a recipient of a proclamation to declare November 10th as Yolanda McKnight day in Austin, Texas.

During the pandemic, Yolanda relocated her parents and daughter to Colorado to be closer to her sister so that their close-knit family could be in one place again.

Yolanda earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Texas State formally known as Southwest Texas University.

Serving on the board of United Way of Larimer County aligns with her passion to support and address community needs while ensuring access, equity, inclusion, and economic mobility for everyone in our community.

Dawn Paepke

Senior Specialist, Community Health & Engagement, Kaiser Permanente Colorado



Dawn Paepke is a Sr. Specialist in Community Health & Engagement with Kaiser Permanente in northern Colorado. Dawn has over 20 years of experience working in leadership roles for nonprofits in fundraising, marketing, sponsorships, grants, and management. Social justice, equity, and access to affordable health care are important to Dawn and she's fortunate to do this work through her role at Kaiser Permanente. Dawn has a Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, and is working on a second Bachelor's degree in sociology from Colorado State University. Dawn has been in Colorado since 1993, enjoys volunteering, reading, live music, running, and community development work. She's also a disc jockey at a public radio station, 105.5 The Colorado Sound.

Lori Rasmussen

Retired Community Leader



Ms. Rasmussen is an enthusiastic lover of the Larimer County community. Recently retired from nonprofit leadership, Lori has been honored to serve on the United Way of Larimer County's Community Impact Committee for the past two years. Rasmussen has deep experience in operations management, fundraising, finance, communications, and government affairs. After an early career in the corporate world, Lori embraced political and nonprofit leadership roles beginning in 2007, with a focus on leading organizations that provide educational and career opportunities for marginalized populations. Lori considers herself a recovering nerd, with an undergraduate degree in Industrial and

Systems Engineering and an MBA in Finance and Economics.

Barbara Walton

Retired CPA, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP



Barbara is a retired CPA. She has served on the UWLC Community Impact Committee for the last year and on the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Community Impact Grant Committee panel from 2011-2022. CI Committee volunteering gives her a greater understanding and appreciation of the community and its issues. She is also the Treasurer of the Poudre River Friends of the Library and serves on the Board of Realities Focus Inc. (Fort Collins VITA) and volunteers as a VITA site coordinator. Barbara worked in international tax consulting with PriceWaterhouseCoopers for 20 years and with Dr Pepper Snapple Group for six. While in Dallas Barbara was active in the community, serving on the Board for Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas and volunteer teaching ESL to both adults and first grade students for many years. Barbara is originally from Halifax, NS, Canada. She and her husband Bill, a retired family physician, immigrated to the US and worked in Dallas for many years. They spent every summer vacationing in Estes Park

and, upon retirement, fulfilled their lifelong dream of moving to Colorado. They, their son Dan, and their 3 dogs settled in Fort Collins in 2019 and love the outdoor life here, especially hiking and cycling, and being active in the community.

Stephen West

Managing Member, Chapel & Collins, LLC



Stephen is a partner and financial planner at Chapel & Collins Personal Wealth Management. He currently provides planning services for individuals and families, as well as leading the retirement plan consulting team at Chapel & Collins. Stephen has been volunteering at the United Way on the Finance & Audit Committee since 2012 and began serving on the Board of Directors in 2021. He is active in volunteering at other non-profits and enjoys engaging with his Alumni at Colorado State University. Stephen and his wife, Lacie, are proud parents of their 2 children, Lee & Aubrie. They enjoy camping, CSU athletic events, and traveling.