



## VAFRE 2023-2024 Board of Directors Biographies

### **Victoria Arkesteyn, Housing Families First – Returning Board Member**

Victoria is the Donor Relations Manager at Housing Families First, Richmond's largest emergency homeless shelter for families with children, where she executes annual fund coordination, donor stewardship and communications, fundraising event planning, and provides staff support to the Board of Directors. A Richmond native, she graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Art History. From 2009 to 2018, Victoria worked as the Education Manager at Henricus Historical Park. During her museum career she completed the Professional Certificate in Grant Writing & Management through the University of Richmond's Institute on Philanthropy. In an effort to gain meaningful experience in the field of philanthropy, Victoria left the museum field after nearly a decade and joined The Virginia Bar Association in 2018 before joining Housing Families First in 2020. Victoria and her husband, John, live in Mechanicsville with their three children, two Great Danes, Lincoln and Otis, and their cat, Kevin.

### **Grace Barrett, St. James's Episcopal Church– Returning Board Member**

Grace joined St. James's as the Director of Stewardship and Development in October of 2022 after working as the Director of Development at World Pediatric Project. She has previously worked for Sportable, Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity, and Make-A-Wish Greater Virginia. Before making the move into development, Grace taught Kindergarten and First Grade at St. Andrew's School here in town and in New Orleans. She received her Masters of Nonprofit Studies from the University of Richmond and undergraduate degree from Sewanee: The University of the South.

### **Leigh Busby, Greater Richmond Fit4Kids – Returning Board Member**

Leigh Busby is the Development Director at Greater Richmond Fit4Kids, improving children's health and wellness through physical activity and healthy eating programs. After starting her career in human resources for technology companies, Leigh transitioned to the nonprofit sector when she moved to Richmond in 2011. She spent 5 years working for YWCA Richmond overseeing the volunteer program, in-kind donations, corporate partnerships, and the young professionals board – Young Women's Leadership Association (YWLA). Since 2017, Leigh has worked at Greater Richmond Fit4Kids overseeing individual giving, donor stewardship, event planning, communications and strategy, and board management. She is the 2022 VAFRE Rising Star honoree and has served on several nonprofit boards over the last 10 years, completed the Emerging Nonprofits Leaders Program in 2014, and is part of the Leadership Metro Richmond class of 2023. Leigh graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and loves watching basketball and showing her Tarheel pride. She is married and has two amazing young boys and loves live music, hiking, being outside, and spending time with family and friends.

### **Samantha Charlet, MCV Foundation – Vice President**

Samantha Charlet became an active member of VAFRE in February 2015. Since then, she has served on the board and the membership committee, reaping the many benefits of participating in the P3 program (twice!). Samantha joined the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Foundation as Assistant Director of Development in July 2022. Prior to this opportunity, she spent nearly a decade in corporate fundraising with United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Samantha graduated from James Madison University with a BA in Print Journalism and minors in Writing & Rhetoric and Women's Studies. From there, she earned her MA in Women's Studies from Florida Atlantic University. A Richmond resident since 2011, Samantha resides in Newtowne West with her husband, John, their twin daughters, Rosalee and Martigan, and their cat, Yoshi. She enjoys live music, vegetarian cooking and cuisine, traveling, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends. Her favorite place in RVA is The Byrd Theatre.

### **KJ Delgado, Sacred Heart Center – New Board Member**

KJ is the current Development Coordinator at Sacred Heart Center. She is best known for her stewardship and donor services skills. Her focus is annual giving and management of the Neighborhood Assistance Project. Prior to Sacred Heart Center, KJ began her nonprofit career in Virginia, supporting the work of antiviolence awareness, education and advocacy. She coordinated training requests, managed the recruitment and onboarding of volunteers and planned outreach and community building events. Outside of work, KJ spends her time volunteering at The Steward School and at local urban gardens. KJ has managed projects from New York City, Los Angeles, Tampa and Richmond. She holds a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College, enjoys social dancing and loves an excuse to create a data sheet!

### **Rachel Dyer, Dyer Strategies – Returning Board Member**

Rachel started her own firm, Dyer Strategies after her time working with the firm of Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies in January 2020 as a government relations professional. Just prior to that, she was the finance director for the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus where she raised over \$20.2 million dollars to benefit the 2019 Virginia Senate Democratic races, managed 23 staff members, and executed over 200 fundraising events for 19 Senate Democratic Caucus members and seven targeted races. Rachel is a founding member of New Leaders Council (NLC) of Virginia, which is considered a hub for progressive millennial thought leadership. She also serves as the development director of the VCU Political Science Alumni board.

### **Will Glasco, Preservation Virginia –President**

Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, Will Glasco became interested in Virginia history and culture at a young age. He learned the value of hard work at his family's business and attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. After graduation in 2008 with a degree in Creative Writing, he worked for the American Civil War Museum in both the Education and Development Departments. Since 2014 he's led the Development program at Preservation Virginia, where he works to save unique historic places and revitalize communities across the Commonwealth. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Rural Plains Foundation in Hanover County.

### **Stephanie Glenn, Community Foundation for a greater Richmond – Returning Board Member**

As Vice President of Diversity and Engagement at the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, Stephanie Glenn leads the development and implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion strategies across the organization. She provides counsel and support to the board and staff in areas such as recruiting, communication, engagement and business planning: she also manages a relationship portfolio in the community to bring diverse audiences and perspectives into the work of the Foundation. She is the lead staff for the Foundation's affinity-driving giving programs and the *Giving Black: Greater Richmond* study, which is designed to build an understanding of philanthropy in Black communities by spotlighting the contexts, conditions and capital investments needed to transform the cycle of philanthropy in Black communities. When she's not working, Stephanie is making memories with her son, Gerald, and spending time with her family and friends. Her dedication to community service includes serving on nonprofit boards and volunteering with organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Stephanie is a proud alumna of Wilberforce University and has settled into Richmond as her home for over 13 years.

### **Susan Herzick, CFRE, Weinstein JCC – Returning Board Member**

Susan Herzick is the Annual Fund Director at SOAR365, a nonprofit founded by families for families to create life-fulfilling opportunities for people with disabilities. She graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in business and a graduate certificate in event management. Susan started her fundraising career as a young Girl Scout selling cookies to fund a week at summer camp. She earned her CFRE in 2019. Susan moved to Richmond in 2015 and now resides in Lakeside with her husband, two boys, and two dogs. She enjoys traveling, creating new experiences for her kids, and learning to garden. Her favorite Richmond places are Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and PARK365.

### **Alan Hutson, MPA, CFRE The Monument Group – Returning Board Member**

Alan Hutson is the Principal & Managing Partner at The Monument Group where he has focused on converting people's passions and good ideas into viable programs. His work has resulted in nonprofit organizations raising over \$150M (US based clients). He also serves as the Senior Partner Consultant of the Management Centre (=mc consulting) international network. Alan is a member of AFP as well as VAFRE and, in addition to regular presentations at VCU, has been a presenter at numerous international and local programs. He is the first person from Central Virginia elected to AFP's International Board and has served on the Executive Committee of the AFP Foundation for Philanthropy, as co-chair of AFP's Fundraising Board and served on the Strategic Planning Committee. Locally he has served on the boards of the local AFP chapter, Circle Center Adult Day Services, and 1708 Gallery. Additionally, he has been a member of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau Serving Central Virginia, the Richmond Business Council's Education Subcommittee, and the Rotary Club of Richmond. Alan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Davidson College. He also holds both a Masters of Public Administration and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Nonprofit Management from VCU. He is a graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond and AFP's Faculty Training Academy.

### **Nikkia Johnson, Legal Aid Justice Center – Secretary/Treasurer**

Nikkia Johnson, Senior Development Officer at Legal Aid Justice Center, is a nonprofit development and operations professional. Prior to joining LAJC in October 2020, she was at Voices for Virginia's Children where she moved through the ranks, ultimately learning the fundraising ropes as the Development Manager. For the past decade, her career has been centered on nonprofit management and development, relationship building, and empowering marginalized communities. Born and raised in NYC, Nikkia's upbringing and experience in direct service and advocacy informs her commitment to advancing philanthropy rooted in equity and social justice. Nikkia is passionate about mentoring the next generation of leaders and is involved in many community organizations and mentorship groups. She currently serves on the Board of the Virginia Association of Fundraising Executives and has served as the Chair of the Programs Committee. Her biggest hobbies are dancing, cooking, and traveling. Nikkia graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. in sociology and completed the AFP Central VA Inclusive Fundraising Fellowship in 2021.

### **Carol Anne Lajoie, Richmond SPCA – New Board Member**

Carol Anne Baker Lajoie is the chief advancement officer for the Richmond SPCA. She joined the Richmond SPCA in 2019 as director of development before being promoted to chief advancement officer in 2022 where she oversees fundraising, communications, and children's humane education programming. In prior roles, Carol Anne served as director of development and external relations for the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University and chief development officer for the YWCA of Richmond. Carol Anne spent 11 years at the Virginia Historical Society before joining the YWCA. She holds a bachelor of science degree from VCU and a master's from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Carol Anne has previously served on the VAFRE board and is a past chair of Richmond Impact 100, a women's grant-making collaborative. Her passions include Bruce Springsteen, making up songs about her dogs, and being around smart women. She lives with her husband, three adopted dogs, and a flock of highly entertaining chickens in North Chesterfield.

### **Katy Latimer, Sportable – Returning Board Member**

Katy Latimer is the Development Director with Sportable, working to create opportunities by making sports accessible and inclusive for individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments. Prior to joining Sportable, she worked in development at Rx Partnership, Daily Planet Health Services, and she started her career at Fairy Godmother Project. She received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Mary Washington in 2013 and is a graduate of the Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Program of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond. She is currently a member of the ouRVA Collective and the Virginia Public Health Association. Born and raised in Richmond, Katy enjoys seeing live music, camping, cooking, and spending quality time with her cat Sushi. She is an avid collector of hot sauces and has successfully completed the "hot ones" challenge.

### **Jay Lugar, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Richmond – New Board Member**

A native of Roanoke Virginia, Jay Lugar possesses a wide range of development experience, including annual fund, fundraising events, board giving and grants writing. In 2019, He completed a \$5.5M capital campaign for the Heart of Virginia Council, Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, for more than ten years, Jay served as Marketing Director for the State Fair of Virginia, responsible for more than \$3M in ticket sales revenue and \$75,000 in corporate sponsorships annually. In leading cause marketing efforts at VCU Massey Cancer Center, Jay led the team to raise nearly \$2M, then a record. Jay currently serves as Vice President of Development & Marketing for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Richmond. He lives in Richmond with his college sweetheart and three groovy kids. In his free time, he goes fishing and plays drums with his band at local dive bars.

### **Joycelyn Mahone Ferebee, UVA Alumni Association – Returning Board Member**

Joycelyn Mahone currently serves as the Director, Ridley Scholarship Program, at the UVA Alumni Association. Most recently, she had served as the Director, University Development at Virginia Commonwealth University. With more than ten years of experience in fundraising, she has worked for various public and private institutions throughout her career. A native of South Florida, Joycelyn earned her BA in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida and later earned her Masters in Organization Leadership from Brenau University. In her spare time, she loves to hang out with her husband, family and friends. Joycelyn loves to cheer on her UCF Knights in college football in the fall and VCU in basketball in the spring. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

### **Samantha Wheeler Marrs, Virginia Commonwealth University – Immediate Past President**

Samantha Wheeler Marrs joined VCU in 2000 as a frontline fundraiser. Today, she oversees the infrastructure that supports the comprehensive campaign for the university and its health system. She started her philanthropic career in 1991 when she joined The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as a program associate for population health. She has started or served on the boards of numerous nonprofits in the Richmond community, most recently on the boards of AFP and Richmond Shakes. She volunteered as a VAFRE P3 leader for 3 years, and in 2020 she received the CASE District 3 Mentor of the Year Award. Her passion is coaching high school students participating in FIRST Robotics, and in 2023 she received the Woodie Flowers Mentor of the Year award for FIRST Chesapeake district. Samantha is the 2017 recipient of VAFRE's Nina Abady Award. She holds an undergraduate degree in literature and ancient studies from Smith College and a masters in public health from Columbia University.

### **Elizabeth Mason, St. Joseph's Villa – Returning Board Member**

Elizabeth Mason is the Director of Development at St. Joseph's Villa, where she has been since 2016. A native of Richmond, Elizabeth is passionate about serving our community, and loves being able to affect change by connecting community members and leaders with the real needs of our neighbors. Elizabeth has been involved with other local organizations including St. Andrew's School, the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls, Fellowship of Christians in Universities and Schools (FOCUS), and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. She is also a member of



Leadership Metro Richmond's class of 2023. Elizabeth graduated from Collegiate School and Sewanee: The University of the South.

**Alex Moore, CFRE, UVA Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy – Returning Board Member**

Alexandra (Alex) Moore is the Director of Development at the UVA Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Prior to joining the Batten School last year, she served as the Vice President of Philanthropy for the YMCA of Greater Richmond. Alex began her career at the YMCA nine years ago as the Director of Stewardship and Annual Giving and later as Senior Director of Development. Prior to the Y, Alex was at Virginia Commonwealth University as Director of Stewardship for VCU Athletics then as Assistant Director of Donor Relations for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of James Madison University and received her master's in Sports Leadership from VCU. In 2012, Alex was selected as the recipient of Virginia Association of Fund Raising Executives' Rising Star Award and received her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation in 2018.

**Rainey Niklawski, Shalom Farms – New Board Member**

Rainey Niklawski is the Director of Development for Shalom Farms, a nonprofit farm and food justice organization working for an equitable food system in Richmond. A graduate of VCU, Rainey also has had her CFRE designation since 2021. When not stamping appeals and posting to social media, she can be found reading or outdoors running, hiking, and biking with her husband and two children. She is an avid traveler, and has never met a taco she didn't like.

**Nell Nutaitis, ChildSavers – Returning Board Member**

Nell Nutaitis has been the Vice President of Development & Communications at ChildSavers for the last two years, leading the Development team during a \$15 million comprehensive fundraising campaign, the largest in ChildSavers' history. Prior to her role at ChildSavers, she was the Chief Development Officer for the Red Cross' National Capital Region and held fundraising positions at George Mason University, The East Harlem School in New York City, and the University of Pennsylvania. Nell graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Mary Washington and a master's degree in educational policy from the University of Pennsylvania. Originally a native of New Jersey, she has adjusted nicely to the more temperate Virginia climate as have her two daughters, Tess and June, husband, Matt, and dog, Jack.

**Anna Powers, Virginia Museum of History & Culture – Returning Board Member**

Anna Powers joined the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) in 2019 as the Vice President for Advancement. Under her leadership, she has reorganized the development operation in support of a comprehensive capital campaign culminating in the most successful fundraising effort in the institution's nearly 200-year history. As a member of the VMHC's executive staff she provides administrative oversight for philanthropic programs and overall strategic direction and management of the museum. Previously, Anna served as the Chief Officer for Advancement & External Affairs at the Florida State University's John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art. The museum successfully completed a historic \$100 million

comprehensive campaign and two strategic plans resulting in five new facilities, a 35% increase in museum attendance and a doubling of annual philanthropy. Other prior positions have included serving as the first Director of Development for the U.Va. Art Museums, Director of University Arts Development at UVA, serving as the Director of Development for the College at Washington and Lee University, the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Manager at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and as the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Coordinator at the Oakland Museum of California. Anna was a Regent Scholar at the University of California Santa Cruz and majored in History. She earned her master's in museum studies from San Francisco State University with an emphasis in Non-profit Management and Development.

### **James Romanik, VCU School of Social Work – Returning Board Member**

James Romanik is the Director of Development at the VCU School of Social Work, a position he's held since April 2022. In his role, James works closely with emeriti faculty, alumni, and community stakeholders to advance the school's mission through philanthropic and volunteer engagement. Previously, he was the Director of Development at The Doorways and St. Michael's Episcopal School. He relocated to Richmond with his wife in 2018 after working in development for a variety of causes in New York City. James graduated from Ithaca College in 2013 with a Bachelors in Arts Management; he is currently pursuing an M.B.A. from VCU with graduation expected in 2022. Personally, James is an avid cook, gardener, amateur beer brewer, pianist, and proud member of the Richmond Symphony Chorus.

### **David Sams, Virginia Department of Taxation – Returning Board Member**

David is currently an administrative advisor and former Executive Director of The Community Tax Law Project. David is a graduate of the University of Florida where he received his Juris Doctor and his Master of Laws in Taxation. Throughout his legal career, he has volunteered with and advised a number of not-for-profit organizations including Gulfcoast Legal Services, Three Rivers Legal Services, Sprite's Hero, and Tech For Troops. David currently sits on the Advisory Board of the University of Richmond's Institute on Philanthropy and the advisory team for the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Clearinghouse. David is an alumnus of Florida Blue Key, Leadership Metro Richmond, Lead Virginia, and VCU's Minority Political Leaders Institute.

### **Megan Schowengerdt, The Menokin Foundation – Returning Board Member**

Megan Schowengerdt serves as Development Director at the Menokin Foundation, where she oversees and executes their \$9.5 capital campaign and all other organizational development efforts. She has over 17 years of professional development, communication and nonprofit management experience. Prior to Menokin, Megan served as the Development Director at the Virginia Hemophilia Foundation, where she was responsible for various peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns, an annual fund campaign and overall volunteer management. She has held other leadership positions at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the March of Dimes, the James River Green Building Council, Airports Council International and the Museum of the Confederacy (now the American Civil War Museum). She enjoys relationship building, writing and empowering others to embrace the spirit of philanthropy. A Virginia native, Megan grew up

in Midlothian and attended James Madison University, where she graduated in 2005 with her B.A. in English and Speech Communication. She currently resides in Mechanicsville with her husband Robert and two children, Rylan and Evie. In her free time, Megan enjoys reading, travel, cooking, yoga and hiking.

### **Jennifer Whiteside, VPM – Returning Board Member**

Jennifer Whiteside is currently the Director of Membership for VPM, Virginia's home for Public Media. Prior to joining VPM, she was the Annual Fund Manager for Richmond Ballet. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Washington with a double major in Business Administration and Theatre & Dance. While working in a sales position for a non-profit theatre company, she discovered that her interpersonal and organizational skills were well-suited for connecting the philanthropic passions of individuals with the priorities of an organization; thus a career in fundraising was launched. Born and raised in Midlothian, Jennifer was excited to return to the Richmond community in 2015 after working in Washington, D.C. for about 5 years. She now lives in Glen Allen with her pup, Callie. She also enjoys cross-stitching, attending local ballet and theatre performances, exploring Richmond's local restaurant and brewery scene, and spending time with family and friends. She has been a member of VAFRE since 2019, completed the P3 program in 2020 and currently serves as the Membership Committee Chair.

### **Trevor Worden, VCU – Returning Board Member**

Trevor Worden currently serves as a University Gift Officer for Virginia Commonwealth University. There he has created a VCU's first scholarship for the LGBTQIA+ community, in addition to several other identity-based scholarships. Prior to serving the entire university, Trevor worked specifically for the College of Health Professions as VCU. While there, he created their leadership annual gift program, including an annual giving circle. Prior to joining VCU, Trevor worked at several smaller nonprofits, some of which while he pursued an acting career in New York City. He is graduate of the University of North Carolina at Asheville. In Richmond, he has previously served on the board for Patrick Henry School for Science and Arts and on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for Stonewall Sports. He lives near Forest Hill Park with his husband Bartley and their sweet dog Finn.