



**Session II**  
**Kansas City**

June 8-10, 2011



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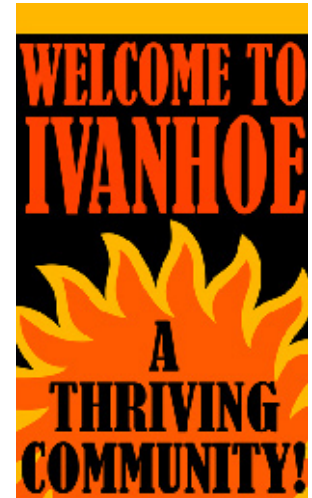


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# About Greater Missouri



The **Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation** is a Missouri non-profit organization that sponsors an annual traveling symposium designed to inform and inspire women leaders to make a positive difference for the state of Missouri. Through participation in this program, exceptional women from around the state gain knowledge about critical issues facing our communities, state and nation, and become part of a powerful network of leaders. Using their experiences and contacts as a springboard, Greater Missouri graduates are better positioned to influence and participate in solutions important to Missouri.

## ***Our Vision***

Engaged women, leading and serving their communities.

## ***Our Mission***

To educate and inspire women leaders to make a difference.

## ***What is a greater Missouri Woman?***

A Greater Missouri Woman is recognized as accomplished in her field of endeavor. The maturity and professionalism realized by reaching her level of success is demonstrated by her leadership, civic contributions and ability to inspire and support others. She is intellectually curious, engaging with others, passionate in her beliefs, and is open-minded when confronted with new points of view. She is committed to a life of learning and personal growth.

## **Board of Directors**

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## Session II Themes and Outcomes

### Diversity and Impact of Race Relations on Urban Renewal and Economic Development

Participants will understand the connection between diversity and economic development and better understand the opportunities, challenges, and impact that diverse communities have attaining economic success. **Learning Objectives:**

- Learn how Kansas City evolved and determined residential areas, business areas and social boundaries
- Tour different areas of Kansas City and learn how each area differed in revitalization and redevelopment efforts, including business and residential initiatives. Included in this will be information and perspectives to better understand the impact of diversity (ethnicity, race, socio-economic) on the evolution of and relationships within communities.
- Understand how funding sources and strategies help a city revitalize and sustain viability, including tax proposals, private investment, and community development corporations.
- Build greater awareness and perspective of our own internal biases.

### The Non-Profit Community

Participants will understand the role non-profits play in the vitality and stability of our communities. They will learn about the evolution of non-profits and how they respond to changing conditions in the environment and economy. **Learning Objectives:**

- Gain an understanding of the significance of non-profits to the health of the community and its changing landscape
- Be exposed to the relationship of marketing and philanthropic efforts in the non-profit area.
- Meet funders on non-profits and learn about giving strategies
- Learn how non-profits have responded to shifting funding strategies, economic challenges and the challenging and changing work of constituents in making non-profits work
- Be exposed to private and public collaborations in the Kansas City community and evaluate the effectiveness on programs and services

### Women in Leadership

We will introduce participants to women in leadership from different cultures, ethnicities, industries and positions within both the private and public sectors. **Learning Objectives:**

- Be exposed to women leaders with significant public and governmental roles
- Learn how women impact the criminal justice system and the unique issues women in criminal justice, public safety and social service face.
- Learn of resources available to them when running for public office and learn how women serve their communities in elected, appointed and staff capacities.
- Meet with successful women business leaders in the Kansas City community and understand their journeys, challenges and perspectives of the glass ceiling.
- Better understand and appreciate the issues confronting women leaders of color and how they address them.

### PLEASE TAKE TIME TO THANK OUR REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Each session of the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge is coordinated through the efforts of a small group of dedicated alumnae. They put in countless volunteer hours and call on their incredible network to provide each class a memorable, educational program.

#### Barb Wiman, Regional Coordinator Chair

B.E. Education Group LLC  
Class of 2005

#### Stephanie Bland

Director of Education Services.,  
Niles Home for Children  
Class of 2009

#### Mara Cohara

Partner, Lathrop & Gage  
Class of 2010

#### Yahna Gibson

Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity KC  
Class of 2007

#### Jeaneta Love

Senior Dir., Empl.Health/Infection Prevention  
Saint Luke's Health System  
Class of 2010

#### Laurie McCormack

VP Univ. Advancement, Park University  
Class of 2010

#### Dawn Murphy

VP Human Resources, Saint Luke's Health  
System  
Class of 2006

#### Roberta O'Keith

Customer Insights Manager, GE Energy

#### Paula Pratt

Director of Community Outreach  
Harvesters - The Community Food Network  
Class of 2010

#### Julianne Smith

President, Advanced Financial Solutions  
Class of 2005

#### Leigh Anne Taylor Knight

Executive Director,  
Kansas City Education Research Consortium  
Class of 2010

# Agenda

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2011

**8:30 - 8:45 am Registration in hotel lobby** - Hampton Inn and Suites Country Club Plaza, 4600 Summit, Kansas City, MO 64112

9:00 – 9:15 am **Board Bus to travel to Husch Blackwell Law Firm, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111**

**9:15 – 9:30 am. Welcome to Kansas City: Overview and Introductions**

Presenter: Shelley Simon, Executive Director, Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation

**9:30 -10:30 am The Kansas City Landscape: History**

Introduction: Barb Wiman, Owner and President, B. E. Education Group LLC,  
2005 Greater Missouri Alumna

Presenter: Vicki Noteis, Principal and Owner, Collins, Noteis, and Associates

**10:45 -11:30 am Revitalization of the Urban Landscape - The Green Impact Zone Initiative**

Introduction: Stephanie Bland, Director of Education Services, Niles Home for Children  
2009 Greater Missouri Alumna

Presenter: Arletha Manlove, Lead Community Ombudsman  
Green Impact Zone, Mid-America Regional Council

**11:40 - 12 pm Board Bus to travel to Guadalupe Center, 2641 Belleview Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64108-2392**

Arrive Guadalupe Center and Welcome

**12:15 - 1 pm Saint Luke's Health System Luncheon**

Lunch kindly prepared by participants in the Guadalupe Center's culinary program and  
**generously underwritten by Saint Luke's Health System**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm Making a Difference - The Power of One**

Introduction: Jeaneeta Love, Senior Director Employee Health / Infection Prevention  
Saint Luke's Health System, 2010 Greater Missouri Alumna

Presenters: Valorie Lynn Carson, Community Planning Director, Johnson County, KS  
Kar Y. Woo, President, Artists Helping the Homeless

2:00 – 2:30 pm Break

**2:30 – 3:00 pm Board bus and travel to Nutter Ivanhoe Community Center, 3700 Woodland, Kansas City, MO 64109**

**3:00 - 4:15 pm Revitalization of an Urban Neighborhood**

Introduction: Leigh Anne Taylor Knight, Ed.D., Executive Director, Kansas City Area Education Research Consortium,  
2010 Greater Missouri Alumna

Presenters: Margaret May, Executive Director, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council  
Alan Young, President, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council  
Ida Dockery, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Resident

4:30 - 5:00 pm **Board bus and travel to Rockhurst University Community Center, 5401 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110**

**5:00 pm Greater Missouri Leadership Networking Reception - Welcome**

**5:15 - 5:45 pm Humor in the Workplace**

Introduction: Barb Wiman

Presenter: Dennis DuPont, "A Person with a Different Perspective"

**5:45 - 7:00 pm Greater Missouri Leadership Networking Reception**

**7:00 pm Board bus and return to hotel for check in and informal networking**



# Agenda

## THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2010

6:00 - 7:45 am Breakfast at hotel on your own

8:00 - 8:30 am Board bus travel to Rose Brooks Shelter (confidential location)

### **8:30 - 9:15 am** *Collaboration for the Benefit of Families*

Introduction: **Barb Wiman**

Presenter: **Susan Miller**, Chief Executive Director, Rose Brooks Center  
2001 Greater Missouri Alumna

9:15 - 9:30 am ***Beverage Break sponsored by Rose Brooks Center***

**9:30 - 10:00 am** *Tour of Rose Brooks Center*

**10:00 am** *Board bus for tour - Shelley Simon introduces **Sister Berta Sailer***

**10:00 – 11:15 am** *Being a Poor Mother in Missouri: A tour of their reality*

Presenters: **Sister Berta Sailer**, Co-founder and Assistant Director - Operation Breakthrough

Guests: Urban educators on tour route to speak

**11:15 - 11:30 am** Arrive at ***Harvesters - The Community Food Network***, 3801 Topping Ave., Kansas City, MO 64129

**11:30 - 1:30 pm** ***The Lunch Challenge - This teambuilding activity and lunch is being generously donated by Harvesters***

Introduction: **Paula Pratt**, Director of Community Outreach, Harvesters – The Community Food Network  
2010 Greater Missouri Alumna

**1:45 - 2:00 pm** ***Changing Landscape of Non-Profits***

Introduction: **Joanna Sebelien**, Chief Resource Officer, Harvesters - The Community Food Network  
2009 Greater Missouri Alumna

**Presenters:** **Karen Haren**, President & CEO, Harvesters – The Community Food Network  
**Michelle Davis**, Executive Director, Nonprofit Connect

1:45 - 2:30 pm Refreshment Break

**2:45 – 4:45 pm** ***Overcoming barriers to eliminating –isms***

Introduction: **Shelley Simon**

Presenter: **Amy Hunter**, Director of Racial Justice, YWCA, Metro St. Louis

4:45 pm Return to hotel for free evening – Many shops are open on The Plaza until 9 pm.



# Agenda

## FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2011

6:00 – 8:00 am Breakfast at Hotel/Checkout for later departure

8:15 am **Board Bus and travel to Lathrop and Gage, LLP, 2345 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108**

8:45 – 9:00 am **Welcome to Lathrop and Gage**

9:00 – 9:45 am ***Encouraging Women's Full Participation in Public Policy***

Introduction: Roberta O'Keith, Customer Insights Manager, GE Energy  
2010 Greater Missouri Alumna

Presenter: CiCi Rojas, Vice President of Community Engagement  
Truman Medical Centers, Kansas City

9:30 - 10:15 am ***Supporting Women as Leaders***

Introduction: Barb Wiman

Presenter: Ellen D'Amato, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Central Exchange

10:15 – 10:30am ***Break sponsored by Lathrop and Gage, LLP***

10:30– 11:30 am ***Breaking the Barrier: Women in Business Leadership***

Introduction: Barb Wiman

Presenters: Darcie Blake, Media Consultant, Darcie Blake Media  
Gail Worth, Owner, Gail's Harley Davidson  
Sheridan Sechter, Founder/Publisher, Flourish! Magazine

11:40 am – 12 pm **Board bus and travel to Park University, 8700 NW River Park Drive, Parkville, MO**

12:15 – 1:15 pm ***Lunch and History of the University - Lunch generously sponsored by Park University***

Presenter: Laurie McCormack, Vice President for University Advancement, Park University  
2010 Greater Missouri Alumna

1:15 – 1:45 pm ***Reflection and review: piecing it all together and moving forward***

Facilitator: Shelley Simon, Executive Director, Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation

1:45 – 2:15 **Board bus and return to Hampton Inn / depart for home – Safe Travels!**



# Profiles

## The Kansas City Landscape: History

### Vicki L. Noteis, AIA

**Vicki L. Noteis, AIA, is an architect and urban planner with over 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors in Kansas City, Missouri.** She is also president of the consulting firm, Collins Noteis & Associates (CNA), which specializes in urban and community planning, strategic planning, economic development and government affairs. Prior to establishing CNA, Ms. Noteis was an assistant city manager and director of the City Planning and Development Department for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Throughout her work in both the public and private sectors, she has developed successful models for public involvement in complex public policy issues.

With the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Ms. Noteis was responsible for completing and implementing the “FOCUS Kansas City” Plan, the City’s first innovative long-range strategic and comprehensive planning effort since 1947. This intensive city planning effort involved over 5,000 citizens and resulted in a new policy framework for the City and a new comprehensive plan that links strategies in economic development, housing, preservation, the environment, social services and many other areas. The FOCUS Kansas City Plan serves as a model for integrated problem-solving and citizen based planning for urban areas across the United States. The FOCUS Kansas City Plan was nationally recognized by the American Planning Association for the 1999 Outstanding Plan “Award for Excellence”.

As Director of City Planning and Development, Ms. Noteis oversaw, the renewed Downtown Plan, and the development of the Bartle Hall Convention Center Expansion, the new Performing Arts Center, the site selection for the new Sprint Arena and more than \$800 million of new construction and renovation. Ms. Noteis also supervised over 350 neighborhood plans for priority service delivery, six primary corridor plans, and numerous area plans.

As a principal in the firm of CNA, Ms. Noteis’ experience includes the Vine Street Economic Development Plan; the master plan for Kansas City, Kansas; East Gateway Redevelopment Plan for the cities of Mission, Fairway and Roeland Park, Kansas; the Comprehensive Plan Update for Roeland Park, Kansas; the Bus Rapid Transit Troost Corridor Plan for the Kansas City Area Transit Authority, The Hickman Mills Area Plan for the City of Kansas City, Missouri and strategic planning for not-for-profit organizations.

Ms Noteis is an active member of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, **servicing as the first woman President in 1996. She is also on the board of the Kansas City Architectural Foundation, and is a member of the American Planning Association. Ms. Noteis was appointed in 1997 by the Governor of Missouri to serve on the Missouri Licensing Board for Architects Engineers and Land Surveyors, where she chaired the Architectural Division.**

## Revitalization of the Urban Landscape - The Green Impact Zone Initiative

### Arletha Manlove

Arletha is a graduate of Park University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources and Management. Arletha is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Affairs with an emphasis in Public Administration through Park University. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for the past decade and began her volunteerism at the age of 9.

In 2007 Arletha joined Bridging The Gap (BTG) to work with Keep Kansas City Beautiful (KKCB). Arletha joined Keep Kansas City Beautiful to work for an organization whose mission requires interconnectedness with business, government and neighborhoods and the natural resources the planet has given us. A program that impacted everyone was just the mission she was seeking. In 2008, BTG launched a new program, Five Green Things, a program designed to help bring citizens and communities to understand how to “go green” and add sustainability to their everyday actions by reducing carbon emissions. Arletha worked as the program manager for Five Green Things and as the program associate with KKCB. Arletha continues to be a volunteer presenter for Bridging The Gap working to help bring action to the environmental revolution taking place.

In September 2009, Arletha became the Lead Community Ombudsman with Mid America Regional Council, Inc. (MARC) Green Impact Zone. The Green Impact Zone is a place based initiative in Urban Kansas City, Missouri. The Green Impact Zone is working in partnership with community neighborhood leaders to help make the urban community environmentally, economically, and socially stronger tomorrow than it is today. Work at the Green Impact Zone is as stimulating as the funds needed to impact the community to move towards the green revolution and economy of the future.

# Profiles

## Making a Difference - The Power of One

### Valorie Lynn Carson

Valorie is the Community Planning Director at United Community Services. UCS is a nonprofit agency whose purpose is community planning to improve the human service system in Johnson County so that Johnson County residents, especially those facing challenges in daily living, have access to the services they need. UCS brings together human service providers, policymakers, funders and community leaders to address issues impacting the well-being of county residents. These partnerships insure that the collective human service impact in Johnson County is far greater than the accomplishments individuals can achieve alone.

Valorie's areas of focus as community planning director are poverty and homelessness and she convenes Johnson County's Continuum of Care on Homelessness, the local homeless assistance program planning network. The Continuum of Care is made up of agencies and organizations from the public and private sector committed to improving the response to poverty and homelessness. She is also vice-chair of the Homelessness Task Force, a multi-sector group of stakeholders from the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area committed to identifying and implementing strategies that will end homelessness throughout the region.

Valorie joined United Community Services of Johnson County in January 2008. Prior to then she was at the University of Kansas' Workgroup for Community Health and Development, where she worked in community coalition building, health promotion, and the evaluation of community-based projects. She has had a life long commitment to understanding and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved in the community.

### Kar Woo

Kar Y. Woo, a native of Macao, received a BS in Psychology and a MS in Counseling from the University of Kansas, the culmination of studies at Waldorf College and the University of Iowa. Much of Woo's career was in retail sales and art. He created and managed a local gift, art and home furnishings store which took him into many of the area's nicer homes, as well as homes in New York, Miami and Phoenix.

His education and business experience came together with the opportunity to address the need and cost of emergency care for the homeless. Shortly after moving his store closer to Kansas City's core, he encountered the homeless while walking his dog in a nearby park. When he saw some MNU students feeding the homeless, he joined them. Soon his store included a drop in center where he helped homeless address issues before they became costly, and sometime painful emergencies.

That work drew the attention of nearby Saint Luke's Hospital who invited Woo to a meeting to address the need and cost of emergency care for the homeless. The response was the BE THE CHANGE van program, launched in February 2010. Driving the van from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. provided an understanding of the needs and challenges of the homeless and his program, as well as a unique understanding of the programs, requirements and capabilities of Kansas City's network of homeless services. The program assisted over 800 people its first year, including 14 chronic homeless now in full or transitional reintegration and exceeded its goal of saving our community \$1,000,000 in emergency fees.

## Humor in the Workplace

### Dennis DuPont

A veteran of sales, marketing and management for 30 years, Dennis DuPont has the bloody nose to prove he knows more than just funny. He knows success "and just enough failure to know" he prefers success. Combine that with 15 years on stage as a nationally recognized speaker and you will find you are in for a fusion of fact, philosophy, fun and finding out a little bit about yourself, too. Starting in radio and television advertising in 1981, Dennis' evolutionary path has taken him through the doors of corporations as large as 100,000+ people, and as intimate as, you guessed it, one. He knows the nuance of big business, but also understands the needs of a local company looking to grow. This has allowed him to hone in on the strengths and weaknesses of the enterprise he is consulting with in order to help them create the right formula for success. You will laugh along with Dennis at those day-to-day things we really need to laugh about, and more often than not, you'll laugh along with Dennis at himself. He doesn't promise it will be pretty.

# Profiles

## Revitalization of an Urban Neighborhood

### Margaret May

Margaret J. May has been the Executive Director of the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council since October 2001. Ivanhoe, with boundaries of 31st to 47th and Paseo to Prospect, is one of the largest neighborhoods in Kansas City with approximately 8,000 residents.

From 1999 to the end of 2001, Margaret was President of the Swope Corridor Renaissance (boundaries 47th to 67th and Prospect to I-435). While leading this organization, she participated in the development of a number of excellent programs for children and senior citizens that were recognized by the Kauffman Foundation, in 2002, with a REACH Award for Excellence in Customer Service.

In 1998, after 30 years of service, Margaret retired from the Social Security Administration as the Director of Human Resources, providing administrative, personnel, employee relations, labor relations, and training services for more than 3400 managers and employees in the four-state Kansas City Region (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska).

From 1981 to 1989, Margaret and her family owned and managed their own business, Margaret's Finest Bar BQ. Margaret graduated summa cum laude from Park University with a BS in Business Administration.

Margaret served as the Vice President of the Missouri Commission on Compensation for Elected Officials from 2000 to 2004. Currently, she serves on the boards of: Keep Kansas City Beautiful and Swope Ridge Geriatric Center, as well as the Wet Weather Solutions Advisory Panel and the 20,000 Rain Gardens Advisory Committee.

Margaret has been recognized for her work in the community by the United Minority Media Association, Time Well Spent Award (2002); the Downtown Council, Urban Hero Award (2005); and the NAACP, Carl R. Johnson Humanitarian Award.

Margaret and her husband, Walt, are the proud parents of two living sons, two deceased sons, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson; additionally, they are eagerly anticipating the birth of two great-granddaughters in May and July, this year.

## Collaboration for the Benefit of Families

### Susan Miller

Susan Miller is the Chief Executive Officer for the Rose Brooks Center in Kansas City, Missouri. She is responsible for the management and provision of services to clients in the areas of crisis intervention, supportive services and domestic violence prevention. She oversees a budget of \$5 million, a staff of 90 and seven programs throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. She has been instrumental in expanding and improving services to victims of domestic violence. She has worked to enhance the anti-violence prevention program from serving high school students only, to include middle, elementary and pre-school students. She also increased service from 7 schools to 44 schools and four school districts reaching over 3000 students, expanded the hospital advocacy program from one hospital to six, and increased transitional housing capacity from 8 units to 30 units. She has successfully completed two capital campaigns (\$9.5M and \$5M) with another campaign to expand shelter and overall agency capacity. (\$5.3M)

Susan has received many awards and recognitions for her role in domestic violence education, prevention and leadership including: recognized as one of "Kansas City's Most Influential Women, Class of 2011" award from the Kansas City Business Magazine, "Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership" award from Support Kansas City in 2010, the "Pillar Award for Outstanding Community and Public Service" from the Missouri Association of Social Welfare in 2008, and the "Founders Award" at the Women's Lyceum Luncheon for innovative and courageous leadership. Rose Brooks Center was recognized by KC Magazine in 2009 as one of the "Best of the Best" philanthropic organizations KC magazine. In May 2006, Rose Brooks Center was recognized by the Governor of Missouri in the State of the State Address as an example of "what can be accomplished when we work together" and the power of partnership in building the new facility and serving the victims. Susan currently serves as Board President for the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Board President for Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas, and is a Core Team Member and Leadership Team Member of the Jackson County Safe Family Coalition.

# Profiles

## Being a Poor Mother in Missouri - A Tour of their Reality

### Sister Berta Sailer

Sister Berta Sailer is the co-founder of Operation Breakthrough, a not-for-profit agency that provides childcare and a broad range of social services for working-poor families at 31st and Troost in Kansas City.

Sister Berta and Sister Corita Bussanmas (BUSS-uh-muss) started Operation Breakthrough in 1971 in Kansas City, responding to pleas from urban core parents who wanted quality care and education for their children. Operation Breakthrough is now the largest single-site childcare center in Missouri, caring each weekday for more than 600 children, who come from homeless shelters, foster homes and struggling single parent families. In addition to early childhood education and enrichment activities for school-age children, Operation Breakthrough provides medical and dental care, mental health services, tutoring, mentoring, parenting education, a food pantry, emergency aid and case management for families in crisis.

For 40 years, Sisters Berta and Corita have advocated for Missouri children in need at local, state and national levels. And when their day of work is done at Operation Breakthrough, the sisters take the children home with them. Sister Berta and Sister Corita are licensed foster parents and are raising four children whom they have adopted, ranging in age from 9 to 16.

Sister Berta was recognized as a Missouri woman who has shown outstanding leadership and service as a role model and inspiration for other women, and received the 2010 Greater Missouri Woman of the Year award.

## Overcoming Barriers to Eliminating -Isms

### Amy Hunter

As director of racial justice for YWCA Metro St. Louis, Amy Hunter is responsible for ensuring that eliminating racism, part of the YWCA's two-prong mission of eliminating racism and empowering women, is incorporated in all of the organization's internal and external programming. She serves as a representative of the YWCA in matters that address institutionalized and systemic oppression in area corporations, organizations and throughout the St. Louis community. While she began her career at YWCA in Nov. 2008, she has more than 15 years of experience as a corporate and community organizer. She previously worked six years at Edward Jones in the area of diversity and served on the faculty for the Dismantling Racism Institute, a program of The National Conference for Community and Justice. Hunter is a consultant for the University of Missouri St. Louis and is a presenter on issues of race and social justice throughout the United States and Canada.

Hunter is a native St. Louisian and is currently pursuing her PhD in Social Justice from the University of Missouri St. Louis. She has served on several boards and committees in St. Louis and is the current board president of the North St. Louis Arts Council; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Jack and Jill of Greater St. Louis.

Hunter's zeal and passion for creating an equitable society is unmatched. She is extremely busy being engrossed in her quest for equality while loving and being loved by her family.

# Profiles

## Changing Landscape of Non-Profits

### Karen Haren

Karen Haren is President & CEO of Harvesters - The Community Food Network. Her expertise in nonprofit management and passion to feed the hungry was instrumental in Harvesters, this area's only food bank, being named Feeding America's 2011 Food Bank of the Year. This honor recognizes Harvesters as the leading hunger-relief organization in this region and as a role model for food banks across the nation in using resources provided by the community wisely and creatively to provide food and hope to hungry people.

Karen has been named the 2010 Nonprofit Professional of the Year by Non Profit Connect. The award recognizes her depth of experience in the nonprofit field, as well as her leadership, creativity and personal commitment to philanthropy.

Karen also received the 2009 Executive Director of the Year award from Feeding America, the nation's food bank network. The award honors the leader of a member food bank who has contributed an extraordinary effort to the network's viability and momentum.

Karen has been involved in hunger relief and hunger advocacy for 25 years. She served on the Harvesters' board of directors for 11 years, including three years as board president. In 1999, Karen was named Harvesters' executive director, and in 2007 she was named president & CEO. Prior to her staff positions with Harvesters, she spent more than 20 years in nonprofit agency management in organizations serving youth.

Karen grew up in Montana and graduated from Chapman University in Orange, California with a BA in home economics. She has a MBA from Rockhurst University in Kansas City. She was named a "Local Hero" by Ingram's Magazine in 2008 and received the Herman and Dorothy Johnson Award for Outstanding Public Service presented by the Missouri Association of Social Welfare (MASW) in May of 2009.

Karen is a member of Rotary Club 13, Early Bird Toastmasters and the Central Exchange. She serves on the US Bank Community Advisory Board. She serves on the National Advisory Council for Feeding America. She is an Advisory Board member for the Society of St Andrew Western Headquarters and is a founding member of the Hartsook Companies Kansas City Advisory Council. She also serves as president of the Missouri Food Bank Association. Karen serves on the Rockhurst University Board of Trustees

Harvesters-The Community Food Network distributed 35.8 million pounds of food last year to more than 620 non-profit organizations in 26 counties. Each week as many as 66,000 people receive food assistance through Harvesters' network, making it the largest source of food for nonprofit agencies in the region. Harvesters' mission is to acquire and distribute the food to non-profit agencies and to educate the community on the issue of hunger and possible solutions.

### Michelle Davis

Michelle has been the Executive Director of Nonprofit Connect since 2005. Nonprofit Connect is a membership organization that links the nonprofit community to education, resources and networking so organizations can more effectively achieve their missions. Non-profit seminars and forums, information resources and networking opportunities help nonprofit staff, board members and volunteers, as well as funders, lead effective nonprofit organizations which are the backbone of healthy communities.

Prior to joining Nonprofit Connect, Michelle spent 4 years at the national headquarters of the National Kidney Foundation as a fundraising consultant and most recently as the national director of training. Michelle also spent three years at the corporate headquarters of Ferrellgas managing special business projects. Michelle was a member of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurions Class of 2008 and Ingram's Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 Class of 2007 and serves now on the Board of Directors of Synergy Services where we envision a world without family abuse, violence or neglect.

# Profiles

## Encouraging Women's Full Participation in Public Policy

### CiCi Rojas

CiCi Rojas is Vice President of Community Engagement for Truman Medical Centers (TMC) in Kansas City, Missouri. The Community Engagement Division of TMC is the umbrella group providing direction and oversight in enhancing employee and community wellness while attracting, retaining and progressing intellectual talent for TMC. The division includes Employee Enrichment, Community Outreach, Employee Wellness, TMC Corporate Academy and Innovate TMC. In her role as vice president, Ms Rojas pursues, innovative revenue opportunities that enable TMC to become more community focused and patient-centered as it opens non-traditional avenues of service and sustainability.

Prior to joining TMC, Ms. Rojas served various communities in the business, political and advocacy arenas. Her executive roles included: Director of a State Political Party Committee; President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; President and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In 2005 she assisted Hispanic businesses across the nation in her role as Vice President of Strategic Alliance with the Washington, D.C.-based United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of the landmark changes she initiated in the Dallas, Texas, Hispanic business community, the Dallas Business Journal named her the Minority Corporate Business Advocate of the Year in 2009.

Ms. Rojas is active in civic organizations on the local, state and national levels. Leadership positions on the national level include: Chair for the Latino Coalition Foundation; National Multi-cultural Advisory Council; Board Member, MGM Grand Hotel and Casino Corporation. In Kansas City, she is a former KCMO Parks and Recreation Commissioner, the Chair of the Heartland Women's Leadership Council; Executive Committee Board of Directors of KCPT Public Television; and she serves on the Boards of Directors of Friends of the Zoo; Central Exchange; Hope House; Mattie Rhodes Center; Women in Public Service Network; and the Minority Business Development Alliance.

## Supporting Women as Leaders

### Ellen D'Amato

Ellen D'Amato joined The Central Exchange as president and CEO in November 2002. Under Ellen's leadership, the organization has seen a resurgence in membership with the institution of a new dues structure. Program attendance has grown each year with the introduction of new series such as Revitalization of Kansas City, Professional Development and Leadership Development for Women of Color.

Also under Ellen's helm, The Central Exchange has expanded its leadership offerings beginning in 2003 with an annual, day-long leadership conference, the Women's Lyceum. In partnership with Right Management, the organization launched an intensive, year-long leadership development program for emerging women leaders in the spring of 2006. The Central Exchange also entered into a partnership with The Kansas City Star beginning in 2006 to make public each year a women's leadership index -- the number of women on the boards of directors and in top positions at the region's largest public corporations.

Ellen has amassed considerable experience, insight and expertise in her career. She was an attorney for several corporations, and served as general counsel for a Sprint subsidiary and later as a vice president in the corporate law department where she managed a department of 40 lawyers, lobbyists and industry specialists across the country.

Ellen has served as president of the Folly Theatre Board of Directors and on the board of directors for the Family Conservancy. She currently is a member of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Council.

# Profiles

## Breaking the Barrier: Women in Business Leadership

### Gail Worth

Gail Worth owns and runs one of the largest Harley-Davidson dealerships in the Midwest. Gail grew up around motorcycles, started riding at an early age and developed her passion for Harley-Davidson® before most kids her age had even gotten behind the wheel of their parents station wagon. Gail wanted to learn as much as she could about the dealership and began working as a teenager – at the bottom of the totem pole – in her father’s motorcycle shop. Gail quickly learned all phases of the day-to-day operation and later assumed a variety of key positions. As Finance Manager, Gail was number one in sales for all Harley-Davidson® Finance Managers in the United States from 1985 – 1988 and was hired by Harley-Davidson® Corporate to steer a national finance seminar. As General Manager she increased sales a minimum of 15% every year from 1996 – 2000. And her dealership was nationally recognized in the top 15% of Harley dealers for customer satisfaction from 1997 – 2006.

Gail purchased the dealership from her parents in 2000, becoming one of a limited number of female Harley-Davidson® dealership owners in the country. Today the business is recognized as one of the top dealerships in the country and the recipient of a multitude of local and national awards. Although awards are an important aspect in gauging achievements, success in business is also about cultivating fun and long-standing relationships with customers. “Having a first-class experience at the dealership and then returning and having another great experience – that’s what creates lasting relationships,” said Gail. “We strive to be the absolute best in customer satisfaction, loyalty, and mechanical service and the most enjoyable and fun dealership to visit on your Harley.”

And Gail’s Harley-Davidson has long lived up to its tag line - where every day is an excuse to have fun! Gail’s is where riders go to have fun, especially on Saturday’s! The dealership has become a regular stopping and starting point for Saturday rides as well as the social hub. In order to satisfy the growing crowds, Gail’s provides live bands and a free cookout every Saturday from spring to fall. The atmosphere is relaxed yet lively as thousands of riders enjoy simply hanging out at Gail’s.

### Sheridan Sechter

Sheridan Sechter is the founder and publisher of flourish! Magazine, a bi-monthly publication, editorially-focused on providing information and inspiration to Kansas City’s community of business and professional women.

Indelible Media Inc., the company that publishes flourish! Magazine, was established in August 2003 for the express purpose of building a strong community among the businesswomen of Kansas City so that each may capitalize upon the Shared ideas that will inspire one another to build their careers, balance their lives inasmuch as that is possible, improve their wellbeing and enhance their individual and collective prosperity. Sheridan’s particular passion is the encouragement and support of women in business and demonstrates this through her business model and through her personal commitment to mentoring women new to the business world or those in transition.

Sheridan is past president of the Kansas City chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). She has been a member of the Central Exchange since 2004 and was elected to their Board of Directors in 2007 for a three-year term. Currently, she also serves on the University of Kansas Hospital’s Women’s Heart Health Community Advisory Council and on the Advisory Council for the Women’s Employment Network. In 2010, Sheridan was invited to join the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Alliance Board which exists to promote the success of minority-owned businesses in the metro area through mentoring and a myriad of other support services.

In 2005, Sheridan was named Kansas City’s Small Business Publisher of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration for demonstrating support, encouragement and editorial integrity in serving the small business community of Kansas City. In July 2008, she was recognized by the Kansas City Business Journal in its annual “Women Who Mean Business” award presentation. Twenty-five businesswomen in the metro area are selected each year. Sheridan’s top personal and business goal is to take the mission of connecting, informing and inspiring women in business to the rest of the United States. Her desire and plan to do so will be backed by similarly-minded women who know that working together enhances each individual, their network, and the community.

# Profiles

## Breaking the Barrier: Women in Business Leadership (cont'd)

### Darcie Blake

Darcie Blake is CEO of Darcie Blake Media, and a former morning show co-host/news director for 98.1 KUDL, Kansas City. After 25 years of co-hosting, doing the news, interviews for both the morning show as well as public affairs she “chose to sleep in and retire.” She is now focusing on voice work for both commercials as well as narrations and on hold systems, and has her own studio in her house.

Darcie swears she was born talking and starting her radio career at the age of 15 in North Dakota, dabbled in television for a while and then realized her true love was radio and voice work. After spending over 20 years at KUDL in Kansas City doing morning drive, Darcie decided it was time to focus on building her voice over business. She has been inducted into the Kansas City Media Hall of Fame and has won numerous reporting and advertising awards.

## History of Park University

### Laurie McCormack

Laurie D. McCormack began her duties as vice president for university advancement at Park University in January 2008. McCormack has an extensive background in higher education fundraising and advancement, as well as marketing and public relations in the private sector.

Prior to arriving at Park, McCormack was the assistant vice chancellor of advancement for development at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While at UMKC, McCormack directed the University’s first-ever nine-figure capital campaign, raising \$202.6 million. In addition, she conducted six- and seven-figure campaign solicitations, including one of \$5 million. Prior to her promotion to the assistant vice chancellor position, McCormack also served UMKC as the senior director of campaign planning and principal gifts, managing the development of strategies and delivery of solicitation to major prospects for gifts between \$100,000 and \$35 million., as well as managing campaign special events and fundraising for scholarship programs. McCormack’s career in fundraising began with the Heart of America United Way as the campaign assistant director, where she raised more than \$3.8 million through targeted efforts. McCormack has served as the director of marketing and client services at the law firm of Polsinelli Shughart, P.C., in Kansas City, Mo., where she developed the firm’s marketing initiatives, as well as its advertising and public relations efforts. In addition, she was the manager of community and public relations at Gateway 2000 in Kansas City managing the company’s marketing and charitable giving programs, in addition to directing its corporate public relations activities, employee communication programs and TIF administration.

McCormack serves as a board member of the Truman Medical Centers Foundation and NonProfit Connect. She is a member of Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, a lifetime member of UMKC Alumni Association; and is a centurion alumnus. She has also been a member of the United Negro College Fund Kansas City Board of Advisors and the Safehome Capital Campaign Steering Committee. She is formerly the president and board of director member of the Southtown Council, and the treasurer and board member of Safehome.

McCormack received her bachelor’s degree in communication studies from UMKC. She is also a graduate of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce’s Centurion Leadership Program, and a 2010 Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge alumna. In addition, she has been recognized by UMKC as a 2001 Community Champion and with the Law Foundation Service Award.















