



**Frank Forsberg**  
**Senior Vice President, Greater Twin Cities United Way**

Frank Forsberg is the Senior Vice President of Systems Change and Innovation. He oversees impact planning, public policy government relations, and external engagement. He came to United Way in December 1999, from Catholic Charities, where he was administrator of the Advocacy and Outreach Division. He has a bachelor's degree in business from St. John's University and a master's degree in public administration from Hamline University.



**Denise Mayotte**  
**Executive Director, The Sheltering Arms Foundation**

Denise Mayotte is the Executive Director of the Sheltering Arms Foundation and the co-chair of the Start Early Funders Coalition. Previously, Denise worked as a program officer for the arts at the McKnight Foundation and as the executive director of the Neighborhood Resource Center. She serves on the board of In Progress, a youth media organization, as Policy Committee Chair of the Strategic Leadership Team for Youth Community Connections in addition to numerous other civic and community leadership roles.



**Jaime Tincher**  
**Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Mark Dayton**

As Chief of Staff, Jaime Tincher manages the daily operation of state government, an enterprise with more than 34,000 employees. Tincher serves as a key liaison and advisor for Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith, leading the Administration's efforts on high-profile issues including budget negotiations, state government reform, transportation, and education. Tincher also oversees hiring, emergency and crisis management, and is responsible for mobilizing the cabinet and staff throughout the Administration.

Tincher is originally from West Virginia. A graduate of Denison University, she majored in Communications, spent her junior year in Mexico, and played lacrosse and softball. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and two children.





**Nan Madden**  
**Budget Project Director, Minnesota Budget Project**

Nan Madden has been the Director of the Minnesota Budget Project since 1999. The Minnesota Budget Project is an initiative of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits that provides independent research, analysis, and advocacy on budget and tax issues, emphasizing their impact on low- and moderate-income persons and the organizations that serve them.

Ms. Madden has a BA from Macalester College, and an MA from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.



**Kurt Daudt**  
**Speaker of the House, Minnesota House of Representatives**

Kurt L. Daudt is a Minnesota politician and the Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. He's the former Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives. A member of the Republican Party of Minnesota, he represents District 31A, which includes portions of Anoka, Isanti, and Sherburne counties in the east-central Minnesota, north of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. He is also a business manager. He lives in Princeton, Minnesota.



**Chava Gabrielle**  
**Literary and Performance Artist**

Chava Gabrielle is a literary and performance artist, emphasizing in theater and poetry. She is a 20-year-old who lives in the Twin Cities of Minnesota and indulges in the idea of equity and justice—especially for women of color. A graduate of Central High School, Chava dreams intensely (with action) that equity for all will be more prevalent in our time, but is also all too aware of the fact that this work will never be finished. In life, she is inclined to emphasize caffeinated beverages, community, and other people's winter sweaters, she hopes to bring all injustice to light one cup of coffee, one poem and one conversation at a time.



**Jon Ruis**  
**President & CEO, United Way of Central Minnesota**

Jon has lead the United Way of Central Minnesota as President and CEO for the last 3 years. He is proud to lead an incredible team that brings positive impact to our local community. Before joining UWCM, he worked in development & fundraising at Greater Twin Cities United Way and Saint John's University. Jon's love of travel and adventure was fostered at Saint John's and during his 3 years in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer and trainer. Jon lives in Sartell with his wife, Joy, their 5-year-old son Oliver and 2 ½ year old daughter Olivia. Just to make sure things stay interesting, they have an 8-year-old lab and husky mix dog named Ruby.





**Leslie Bouchonville**  
**Executive Director, Pine River-Backus Family Center and the**  
**Northland Area Family Center (Remer)**

Raised three wonderful children; Kelcie, Anna and Aaron with her husband Mitch in Backus MN. Have been a resident of Backus for 22 years. Professional: Holds a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis on the Human Services from the University of Minnesota. Has a strong back ground in Early Childhood Education, demonstrates a strong background in leadership and nonprofit management training both formally and on the job.



**Brenda Cassellius**  
**Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education**

Since her appointment as Commissioner of Education in 2010, Dr. Brenda Cassellius has endeavored to enact comprehensive education reform that will benefit every child throughout Minnesota. Her straightforward, community-driven approach toward providing the best education possible has resulted in a remarkable list of accomplishments.

Since 1990, in her career as a classroom teacher, administrator and superintendent in school systems both in Minnesota and Tennessee, Dr. Brenda Cassellius led reform, redesign and change efforts that put students first, focused on achievement, and have resulted in better outcomes for all students. Dr. Cassellius believes that change can happen quickly if it is purposeful, collaborative, and grounded in effective strategies.



**Tammy Filippi**  
**Early Childhood Specialist, Initiative Foundation**

Tammy has over ten years of relationships and networks in the early childhood field. She coordinates our early childhood work that supports local coalitions and statewide efforts. Tammy also provides technical assistance to local Early Childhood Coalitions and is responsible for reviewing community grant requests. She represents The Initiative Foundation on statewide, regional and community efforts related to early childhood. Prior to joining the Initiative Foundation, Tammy spent seven years as the coordinator for the Brainerd Lakes Area Early Childhood Coalition. Tammy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Minnesota State University Mankato and a Masters in Business Management from The College of St. Scholastica.







**Patina Park**  
**Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center**

MIWRC is a 30-year-old nonprofit dedicated to providing culturally-appropriate holistic programming to heal, preserve and strengthen Native American women and their families. She is Cheyenne River Sioux and an adult-adoptee. Patina has enjoyed working throughout Indian Country and with state and county government agencies nationwide, training on topics including Federal Indian Law, working with Native Communities, historical trauma, and poverty and the impact on families. Patina is also co-author of *Best Outcomes for Indian Children, Child Welfare* Volume 91(3)(2012). Patina lives in Wisconsin with her husband, two kids, three cats, and an easy-going dog. She is also fond of cake.



**Bharti Wahi**  
**Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota**

As the Executive Director of Children's Defense Fund–Minnesota office Bharti Wahi brings 20 years of professional experience as an advocate in the nonprofit world and more than a decade of experience in education. Prior to joining Children's Defense Fund, Ms. Wahi spent three years with Greater Twin Cities United Way where she oversaw several grant portfolios related to early childhood education, two-generation interventions and literacy.

Ms. Wahi holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Saint Catherine University and a Master of Arts in public policy and nonprofit management from the University of Chicago.



**Joe Gothard**  
**Superintendent, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District #191**

In his role, Gothard serves as the chief executive officer and educational leader of the school district, which serves 9,500 students in K-12 and employs 1,400 people. Gothard has been passionate about public education his entire career. In his first two years as superintendent in District 191, he undertook a broad public engagement process leading to the development of "Vision One91."

Gothard is the only school superintendent serving on the Greater Twin Cities United Way Board of Directors along with representatives from several other organizations and businesses including General Mills, University of St. Thomas, Xcel Energy, Allina Health and more. He's also a member of the National Superintendents Roundtable.



**Kari Denissen-Cunnie**  
**Executive Director, Ignite Afterschool**

Kari joined Ignite Afterschool as their Executive Director in 2013 to build partnerships that close afterschool opportunity gaps. In her role, she focuses on advancing policy and strengthening effective practices in afterschool. community and neighborhood collaborations, including experience as both a youth worker and youth program manager. A contributor to numerous whitepapers and a frequent presenter at industry conferences, Kari studied youth policy and public and nonprofit management at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and has formal community organizing training from the Organizing Apprenticeship Project (now Voices for Racial Justice) and the National Training and Information Center.





**Senator Justin Eichorn  
Minnesota Senate**

For the last 30 years, Justin has been a resident of Itasca County in Cohasset and now Grand Rapids. He has a background in business and is now the third generation working at his family's outdoor store in Grand Rapids.

As a lifelong member of the Grand Rapids community, Justin fully understands the challenges facing our area today. Traveling the district, he hears the same things, and the message is very clear—get government out of the way of business and families; lower taxes and fees; restore the local economy; and make sure our schools stay great and treated equally compared to Twin Cities districts. Justin will work hard to ensure that we can lower taxes, get our business community thriving once again, and fight for our kids' education.



**Senator Susan Kent  
Minnesota Senate**

Susan is an experienced leader, dedicated advocate, former small business owner and a concerned community member who wants to ensure that Minnesota renews its commitments to citizens and end legislative gridlock at the Capitol.

Susan and her family have long held ties with the east metro community. Her husband of 27 years, Chris, is a Maplewood native and has worked for 3M for more than 30 years. Susan and Chris reside in Woodbury with their son, Andrew.



**Representative Jenifer Loon  
Minnesota House of Representatives**

My work in the legislature has focused upon improving our economy and growing jobs so that all Minnesota families can thrive. By reducing our tax burden and eliminating unnecessary regulations, we can create a stronger business climate in our state that increases economic opportunities, now and in the future. Educating our children to their greatest potential so they can successfully compete in tomorrow's job market is important to all of us. That begins with rigorous academic standards, strong support from parents, adequate funding and accountability for results. You work hard, and government should give taxpayers the best value for your dollars. In fighting against wasteful spending, and insisting upon measurable results for all government programs, I will continue to be a watchdog over intrusive government and insist upon efficient delivery of essential services.



**Representative Erin Maye Quade  
Minnesota House of Representatives**

Born and raised in Apple Valley, Erin Maye Quade has always enjoyed a strong connection to our community. A graduate of Eastview High School and the University of St. Thomas, Erin never got too far from her roots. During college, she volunteered with the UST's Tutor-Mentor Program, and was able to return to her middle school, Falcon Ridge, to tutor students in math with one of her favorite teachers, Mrs. Hoffman.

Erin is locally rooted, committed to growing opportunity and will never stop working for you.





**Sarah Caruso**  
**President & CEO, Greater Twin Cities United Way**

Sarah Caruso has been Chief Executive Officer and President of Greater Twin Cities United Way since November 30, 2009. Ms. Caruso has worked with the Board of Directors and Staff to insure the strategic goals of the Agenda for Lasting Change are achieved. Much of her work is externally oriented with donors, volunteers, public policy leaders and agency partners. Internally, she works with the leadership team to set and meet annual goals, as well as assure a strong, positive work environment for all staff, volunteers, board and agency partners.

She has a Master's in Business Administration from Stanford University and a Bachelor of Arts with high honors in economics from Smith College.



**Lori Sturdevant**  
**Editorial Writer and Columnist, Star Tribune**

Lori Sturdevant writes editorials and a weekly column about topics she has covered for more than 35 years, state government and politics. She joined the Minneapolis Tribune as a summer replacement reporter in 1975, returned as a reporter in 1976, and was lead Capitol reporter and a newsroom assignment editor before joining the editorial staff in 1992. A native of South Dakota, Lori is a graduate of Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and a member of that institution's Board of Trustees. She has been the editor or co-author of eight books, including "A Man's Reach: The Autobiography of Elmer L. Andersen." Her latest book is "Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement," released by Minnesota Historical Society Press in 2014. She is also the author of "The Pillsburys of Minnesota," Nodin Press, 2011. Lori lives in St. Paul with her husband; they have three grown children.



**Laura Bordelon**  
**Senior Vice President, Advocacy, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce**

In her role, Laura Bordelon leads the organization's public policy, grassroots and political engagement strategies.

She directed the Minnesota Chamber's education, telecommunications and energy policy from 2000-2004. She was a policy director for Governor Tim Pawlenty from 2004 to 2005 and then was named director of legislative and cabinet affairs in 2006. She most recently was director of corporate state government affairs for Medtronic Inc.

She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota. Her community involvement includes being a board member of the Minnesota Government Relations Council and the Minnesota Zoo.

