



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.



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.



Sondra Samuels
President & CEO, Northside Achievement Zone

Sondra Samuels is the President & CEO of the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), a collaborative of over 40 partner nonprofits and schools. The NAZ Collaborative is working toward a single goal—to prepare low-income North Minneapolis children to graduate from high school ready for college.

Ms. Samuels is a 19-year resident of North Minneapolis and a national leader committed to results-based leadership and accountability for low income families and children of color to truly share in the prosperity of the Twin Cities Region. Under her leadership, NAZ was named a federal Promise Neighborhood, and has become a nationally recognized model for community and systems change.

Sondra serves on the Leadership team of Generation Next, (a Strive Initiative); the boards of Minnesota Private College Council, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and the 2018 Super Bowl Host Committee Advisory Board. She was also appointed by Governor Dayton to serve on the Hennepin County Fourth Judicial Selection Commission.





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.



Dr. Carlondrea Hines
Principal, Creative Arts Secondary School

An African-American, humbled, woman leader with the responsibility of inspiring youth to speak their truth to change the narrative within their school community. With 18 years in the field of education, Dr. Hines has served as a business teacher, AVID Coordinator, Dean of Students, Senior Director of Educational Effectiveness and Principal in the State of Minnesota and the State of Tennessee. She currently serves a principal of Creative Arts Secondary School with the St. Paul Public School District.



Diana Anderson
President/CEO, Southwest Initiative Foundation

Diana Anderson was named Southwest Initiative Foundation's (SWIF) president/CEO in January 2015 after serving as interim president/CEO since August 2014. Diana joined SWIF as development director in 2001, leading SWIF's fundraising and starting SWIF's community foundation program.

Prior to joining SWIF, Diana spent 11 years in administration at Sanford Canby, as well as the South Dakota Newspaper Association and Hendricks Pioneer newspaper. Diana received her degree from Augustana College in Sioux Falls and later continued her education at the U of M School of Public Health. She has a background in communications, business administration and healthcare administration.

Current board service includes Community Foundation National Standards, Vacker Place dba Lakeview Ranch and Aveyron Homes, Inc. She also serves on the Ninth District Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.





Patrick Walsh
Principal, Hutchinson Senior High School

Patrick Walsh is the HS Principal at Hutchinson (MN) Senior High School. He has been a HS Principal for 20 years. He has been named Division Principal of the Year three times (2009, 2011 and 2014). Patrick is a native of Osakis, MN and has degrees from North Dakota St., Minnesota-Mankato and the University of Minnesota. His wife Nancy is a Nurse Practitioner. They have six children.

Educationally, the significant landmarks for Mr. Walsh's schools are: being named to the AP District Honor Roll twice; named by Washington Post three times to the "Most Challenging High Schools" list; the TigerPath Academies initiative partnership with local workforce development and the opening of a brand new high school in 2018.



Nancy Jost
Director of Early Childhood, West Central Initiative

Nancy Jost is the Director of Early Childhood for West Central Initiative, a regional community foundation serving nine counties in west central Minnesota. She oversees 10 Early Childhood Initiatives in the region, as well as the Early Childhood Dental Network and Early Childhood Mental Health Network. Nancy works to increase communication and partnership between early childhood stakeholders. As an advocate for quality early childhood care, education and policy development, she serves on several statewide committees and serves as the chair of Minnesota Governor Dayton's Early Learning Council.



Kelly Monson
Executive Director, Minnesota's Children's Cabinet

Prior to becoming Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet, Kelly Monson served as the Manager of the Cabinet, the Help Me Grow System Coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Policy & Systems Advisor at the Minnesota Department of Health.

Monson holds a master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University, and a bachelor's degree in Child Development, with a minor in Early Childhood and Family Education. Monson also is a Minnesota licensed Pre-K and Family Educator.





Craig Warren
Chief Operating Office, Greater Twin Cities United Way

As a member of United Way's executive team since 2014, Craig leads the Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Information Services, Donor Operations, Facilities, and Community Impact Operations functions and also serves as the chief of staff.

He brings more than 18 years of global leadership experience to the organization with expertise in executing large-scale change initiatives, implementing shared services delivery models, and partnering with organizational leaders to unleash the potential of their employees. Craig was most recently at Best Buy as a senior director. His reputation in the shared services field has been established at some of the most widely recognized corporations, among them Rockwell Automation; The Coca-Cola Company; and Towers Perrin. He is also a military veteran having served as an Armor officer in the United States Army.

Craig has a deep history with United Way: prior to joining the staff of United Way, he held memberships in the Leadership Giving Cabinet, the Emerging Leaders Steering Committee and United Way of Greater Milwaukee Emerging Leaders Council. He is passionate about creating a more equitable community through United Way's focus on fueling lasting change by uniting people for social good. Craig's community involvement includes service with Twin Cities RISE! America's Corporate Partners, 2019 Final Four Impact Advisory Council, and Neighborhood House. He holds a M.A. in public policy from The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and a B.A. in political science and anthropology from The Johns Hopkins University.

