

## EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

### Meet the Mentors!

AL!VE is dedicated to the professional growth and development of leaders in volunteer engagement. The purpose of the Emerging Leaders Mentor Program is to provide a platform for AL!VE members to connect, share best practices and position themselves as leaders in the field through ongoing professional development and skills building. Participants will be paired with AL!VE Mentors to receive individualized coaching and support as well as monthly mentee peer sessions pertaining to leadership development topics.

The following AL!VE members are donating their time and talent to you! If you are interested in participating in this program, please learn a little bit about our mentors to help you determine who may be a good match for you! More about each mentor can be found at the link included featuring their LinkedIn profiles or professional websites.

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#### **Carol Ayars, CVA**

[www.linkedin.com/in/carol-ayars-cva](http://www.linkedin.com/in/carol-ayars-cva)

**Length of time in field:** over 25 years

**Organization type:** seniors

**Professional experience:**

- AmeriCorps Seniors Programs Manager (FGP & RSVP) at Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging
- AmeriCorps Seniors Professional Network (ASPN), Board Member At-Large
- Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (AL!VE), Board Member, Membership Committee, Past Mentor
- DC-VA AmeriCorps Seniors Directors Association (ASDA), Vice President & Governor's Advisory Board for Service and Volunteerism Commission Representative
- Greater Richmond Association for Volunteer Administration (GRAVA), President and presenter



**Personal Hobbies:** Loves being with her college sweetheart, video chats with her 3 granddaughters, playing board games with friends, listening or playing music (flute and handbells), doing cross-stitch, needle felting, and diamond art, watching old TV shows, and camping and hiking when the weather is nice.

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"To help inspire other professionals in the field the way I wish I could have been."*

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#### **Faith Brummet**

[www.linkedin.com/in/faith-brummet-74a11a12a](http://www.linkedin.com/in/faith-brummet-74a11a12a)

**Length of time in field:** 20+years

**Organization type:** Nonprofit

**Professional experience:**

- Director of Volunteer Services, Habitat for Humanity Elkhart County
- Past AL!VE Mentor



**Personal Hobbies:** Walking, reading, spending time with my family

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I love working with people, problem solving. With over 20 years of experience of working with volunteers and organizing programs, I would be a good asset to the mentor program. I love making connections with others to help myself grow as well."*

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#### **Brianne Fitzgerald, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brianne-fitzgerald-cva-ma-she-hers-ella-85395814>

**Length of time in field:** 13 years

**Organization type:** Health/aging

**Professional experience:**

- Senior Director, Community Engagement & Inclusion, Alzheimer's Association
- Masters in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Development, University of Northern Iowa
- Certified in Volunteer Administration
- Certified Nonprofit Professional



**Personal Hobbies:** I am a mom of three (senior, sophomore and 5th grade) and volunteer with a local leadership organization as a mentor as well.

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I serve as a mentor in my work at the Alzheimer's Association in an informal capacity across the country and absolutely love it. I thought this would be an amazing opportunity to mentor others outside of my day to day work and also learn from them."*

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### Meet the Mentors!

#### **Jenn Forristal, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennforristal/>

**Length of time in field:** 17 years

**Organization type:** News, information, arts, & culture

**Professional experience:**

- Volunteer Resources Manager, Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Trainer & Past President, Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association
- Board Member, Association for Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Past AL!VE Mentor



**Personal Hobbies:** running, yoga, reading, crafting, spending time with my dog, learning to cook, volunteering

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"When I began my career in volunteer administration 17 years ago, I reached out to Volunteer Coordinators at other Habitat for Humanity affiliates to learn from their experience. They were helpful and generous with their time, and I learned a lot from them. I would have loved to have had access to a formal program like this when I was starting out. I am excited about the idea of working closely with a colleague who is newer to the field. I expect that there will be much to learn from them, as well. After having completed a five-year stint on the Board of Directors for my local volunteer administrators association, I am excited for the opportunity to volunteer with AL!VE. One of the aspects of serving on the Board that I enjoyed most was connecting with colleagues from a variety of organizations. In my role with our local association, I served as an informal advisor/mentor to colleagues who were new to the profession. In my experience, the community of volunteer administrators is very supportive and collaborative. Each serves an important mission and represents a team of volunteers working to improve their communities. Through volunteering with AL!VE, I look forward to the opportunity to support my colleagues and their missions, in my small way."*

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#### **Jason Frenzel, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jasonfrenzel/>

**Length of time in field:** 20 years

**Organization type:** Municipal government



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#### **Professional experience:**

- Stewardship Coordinator, Huron River Watershed Council
- Past President, AL!VE
- Past AL!VE mentor
- Past City Councilmember, City of Ann Arbor

**Personal Hobbies:** Running, woodworking, local politics

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"Having benefited by mentors in my past, I would like to assist others in our industry. I also find the process of mentoring very beneficial personally and professionally."*

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#### **Elizabeth Garrabrant, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/egarrabrantcva/>

**Length of time in field:** 21 years

**Organization type:** food bank

#### **Professional experience:**

- Director of Volunteer Services, Mid-Ohio Food Collective
- Certified Volunteer Administrator since 2015
- Board President, Volunteer Administrators Network of Central Ohio



**Personal Hobbies:** Reading, puzzles, science, travel, crafting - I love a good rabbit hole!

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I've seen some things, I've gained ground. I want to empower the next gen of Volunteer Engagement Professionals so that they're starting out in a better place and can take us even farther as a profession. I'd like to provide support and resources my mentee needs to feel confident and comfortable in their position."*

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#### **Julie Greene, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/julie-greene-cva-94a35625/>

**Length of time in field:** 25 years

**Organization type:** Hunger relief

#### **Professional experience:**

- Director of Volunteer Engagement, Second Harvest Heartland
- Certified in Volunteer Administration
- Board Member, Corporate Volunteerism Council- Twin Cities



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**Personal Hobbies:** I enjoy reading, hiking, alcohol ink painting, and puzzles (crossword, jigsaw, etc)

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"This is a great opportunity to marry my passion for volunteerism and guiding individuals interested in growing. I place a high value on learning and development, and believe in a good mentor/mentee relationship, having myself benefitted from this partnership. I would love the opportunity to help guide and foster individuals wanting to grow in the profession."*

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#### **Kris Martinez Hamilton**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kristina-martinez-hamilton-84031289/>

**Length of time in field:** 9 years

**Organization type:** Animal Welfare/Wildlife Rehabilitation/Sheltering

#### **Professional experience:**

- Volunteer Experience Manager, San Diego Humane Society
- Volunteering with several military and civilian organizations
- Actively involved in organization's DEI committee
- Current co-presenter & facilitator for Non Profit Solutions – Volunteer Essentials 101
- Past AL!VE mentor



**Personal hobbies:** football, ice hockey, working on cars, track events, reading, horror movies, plants, spending time with Great Dane and exploring new things

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I have always been fortunate to have a great mentor helping & guiding me along the way. In fact, I started this career path because the volunteer coordinator saw something in me (that no one else, even myself saw), and said I would be perfect for this career.....almost 10 years later here I am because of her!! I will always be grateful to her, and this is my way of paying it forward. But I also think I will learn as much from the mentee as they could from me. There is always something new to learn, and I see this as a two-way opportunity to improve on my skills as a volunteer manager, and see things from another perspective."*



## EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

### Meet the Mentors!

#### **David Horwitz, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidchorwitz/>

**Length of time in field:** 10 years

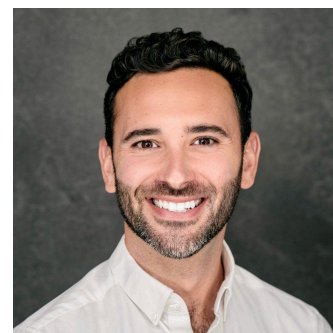
**Organization type:** philanthropy/education

**Professional experience:**

- Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement, Experience Corps, AARP Foundation
- Communications Lecturer, John Hopkins University
- Commissioner, DC Commission for National and Community Service (Serve DC)

**Personal Hobbies:** hiking, camping, painting and houseplants

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I want to meet more volunteer engagement professionals, facilitate connections, and contribute to the success of others and our field."*



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#### **Dana Litwin, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/danacorylitwincva/>

**Length of time in field:** 20+ years

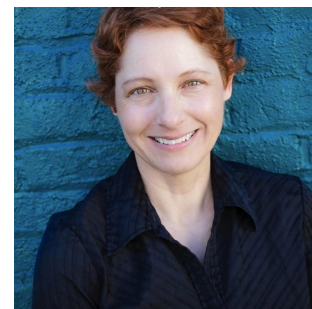
**Organization type:** Consulting agency

**Professional experience:**

- Principal Consultant, Dana Litwin Consulting
- Past President, ALIVE
- Past ALIVE Mentor
- Co-Facilitator, National Alliance for Volunteer Engagement
- Past presenter, ALIVE Hybrid Conference & Points of Light Conference

**Personal Hobbies:** Music, comedy, writing/reading, theater, petting animals, hiking, enjoying the beach

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I've been involved with the ALIVE Mentoring program since its origin, and I was sad to have to skip a mentoring cycle in 2021. Hope to rejoin the cohort and learn/share wisdom with new people in 2022."*



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#### **Kelly Mortvedt, CVA**

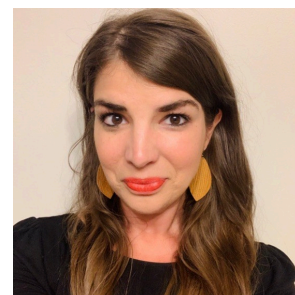
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kellymortvedt/>

**Length of time in field:** 12+ years

**Organization type:** Hunger relief

**Professional experience:**

- Volunteer Resource Manager, Second Harvest Heartland
- Oversees pro bono/skills based volunteer program, community partnerships, volunteer newsletter, and volunteer program support staff management
- MAVA Volunteer Leadership Intensive training facilitator; MAVA 2023 Annual Conference Presenter: Career Pathing & Person-Centered Volunteerism



**Personal hobbies:** People (hosting others for a meal), reading, and family/children

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"Volunteer engagement is a small, close-knit professional community. It's such a niche profession and having a community who understands the unique rewards and challenges is key! Mentors have been instrumental in my own skills development and career growth over the years. By nature I'm a listener and learner, leading with curiosity and questions. I love to extend that curiosity to mentees, especially those seeking the next move in their career or who are looking to take an innovative approach to their volunteer programs by trying new things."*

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#### **Kayla Paulson, CVA**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaylampaulson/>

**Length of time in field:** 12 years

**Organization type:** Volunteer Center, Service Enterprise Hub, Corporate Volunteer Council & RSVP

**Professional experience:**

- RSVP Director & Service Enterprise Trainer, United Way of East Central Iowa
- Board Member, Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Past Presenter, Points of Light Conference
- Past AL!VE mentor



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**Personal hobbies:** Gardening, almost anything outdoors, connecting with family and friends, cooking, baking, and crafting

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I have been a mentor and mentee both; almost equally benefiting from the experience. I have appreciated the time and relationship investments that helped me transition into volunteer engagement and would like to pay it forward."*

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#### **Robin Popik**

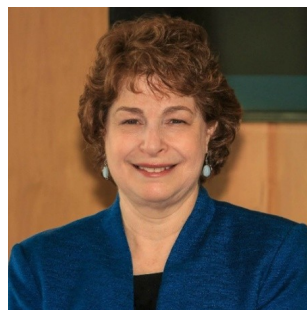
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/robin-popik-78663412/>

**Length of time in field:** 33 years

**Organization type:** Government/Non-Profit

**Professional experience:**

- Volunteer Resources Supervisor, Volunteers in Plano (retired in 2017)
- Volunteer Management Instructor/ Trainer at University of North Texas Dallas, Points of Light, NAVPLG, ICMA, City of Plano and more
- Founding Board Member (former), Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Founding Board Member & President (former), National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government (NAVPLG)



**Personal hobbies:** Enjoy watching my grandson grow, volunteering on various boards and at local theatres, training and consulting, taking classes, exercise, reading and playing mahjong.

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"Our journey of learning never ends and, after all, why should the kids have all the fun? I want to give back to a field I love and to keep learning. Throughout my career I've been a mentor, trainer and consultant to both new and mature organizations; brainstorming, problem solving, and strengthening volunteer programs. I feel I am a good leader, educator and advocate who also enjoys networking and information exchange."*



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#### **Beth Steinhorn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bethsteinhorn/>

**Length of time in field:** 30 years

**Organization type:** Consulting Firm

**Professional experience:**

- President, VQ Volunteer Strategies
- Leadership Team Member, National Alliance for Volunteer Engagement
- Past presenter, Points of Light Conference & AL!VE Hybrid Conference
- Past AL!VE Mentor
- Co-editor of *Transforming Disruption to Impact: Rethinking Volunteer Engagement for a Rapidly Changing World*



**Personal Hobbies:** running, cooking, Broadway theater

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to have had many mentors whose perspective, insights, and support enabled me to pursue paths I hadn't previously imagined and tackle challenges that would have otherwise been daunting. To be able to provide a bit of that for a fellow colleague is a real honor. Plus, working with the AL!VE mentees is rewarding and fun!"*

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#### PROGRAM FACILITATORS:

##### **Kim Soto, CVA**

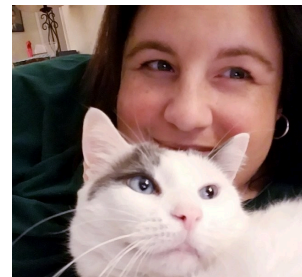
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-soto-cva-2b892740/>

**Length of time in field:** 20 years

**Organization type:** Animal Welfare/Wildlife Rehab

**Professional experience:**

- Senior Director, Volunteer Engagement, San Diego Humane Society
- Volunteer Services Specialist, Fleet Science Center
- Conference speaker
- Past ALIVE Mentor



**Personal Hobbies:** PTA Board Member, autism and special education advocacy

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"I have had four great experiences as an ALIVE mentor and I would love the opportunity to do it again. I learned so much and I love watching their careers catch on fire in the Volunteer Engagement world."*

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##### **Megan Vixie, MPA, CVA, PHR, SHRM-CP**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/meganvixie/>

**Length of time in field:** 18 years

**Organization type:** Healthcare, government

**Professional experience:**

- Chief Engagement Officer, Beach Cities Health District
- Certified Executive Coach
- Past President, ALIVE
- Past presenter, Points of Light Conference
- Past ALIVE Mentor



**Personal hobbies:** Spending time with family, volunteering, home remodeling/decorating

**Why participate as a mentor:** *"My purpose in life is to help others achieve what they thought would not be possible. Mentoring others in the field of volunteer engagement is a*



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*passion of mine so we can continue to elevate this field and ensure volunteer engagement professionals become critical, key decision makers at their organizations.”*

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#### Interested?

If interested in becoming a mentee: [Complete the mentee application here.](#)

**Applications are due by Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>!**

#### IMPORTANT:

If interested in participating, save the date for **mandatory orientation that will be held on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 12pm PST/3pm EST.** Mentors and mentees will attend to learn more about one another before selecting their preferences for mentorship.

If you have any concerns about this program, please contact us at [info@volunteeralive.org](mailto:info@volunteeralive.org).