

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.

Paula Allen, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/paula-allen-m-a-c-v-a-72164215/>

Length of time in field: 13 years

Organization type: Healthcare- dialysis

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Specialist, Satellite Healthcare
- Vice President Programs & Advocacy, Association for Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Past AL!VE Mentor



Personal Hobbies: Reading, playing Dungeons & Dragons, painting miniatures, Sci-fi/Fantasy tv, cooking/preserving

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have had a wonderful time mentoring an intern for Programs & Advocacy, and find deep value in helping incubate the career of someone earlier in their professional journey. Not only do I benefit from leadership skills and networking, but I gain insight into the perspective of the mentee, and better understanding of the challenges in different sectors."*

Carol Ayars, CVA



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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."*

Christina Basey, MPA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christina-basey/>

Length of time in field: 7 years

Organization type: Social Services- Hunger

Professional experience:

- Manager of Individual Volunteers, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana
- Board Member, Central Indiana Association of Volunteer Administrators
- Past AL!VE Mentor

Personal Hobbies: Reading, photography, travel

Why participate as a mentor: *"I wish I would've had a mentor when I first started. I use my network from Central Indiana Association of Volunteer Administrators and the Feeding*



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America ListServ for volunteer managers quite often and I know that not everyone has access to resources like these. As a board member at CIAVA, I get questions a lot about what I would do in certain situations. It's still amazing to me that I've been in this field long enough to have insight into how volunteers work - I myself still have a lot to learn but I am happy to share what I have learned already with others."

Julie Booth, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/juliebooth2018/>

Length of time in field: 14 years

Organization type: Volunteer Program Management and Nonprofit Capacity Building

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Engagement and Nonprofit Community Relations Professional
- Currently the nonprofit, corporate, and volunteer liaison with the Volunteer Center of Lehigh Valley
- Volunteer Executive Consultant, RSVP Montgomery County (PA)
- AL!VE Rural Community of Practice Facilitator
- Past AL!VE Mentor



Personal Hobbies: Avid hiker/walker in ALL seasons (fall and winter are my favorite walk seasons!), art museums, live music outdoors with friends, my daughter and my great-nieces and nephews, word games, and all things fun and interesting!

Why participate as a mentor: *"I really enjoy volunteer program management. It's about connection, which speaks to both my personal and professional strength. It's challenging and requires creative thinking and problem-solving at every turn. It's about people and support and sharing talent and skills. I get excited and even more productive when I get the opportunity to connect with other practitioners in the field. I have the same anticipation of excitement with the prospect of serving as a mentor, supporting, troubleshooting, sharing, with another practitioner who is newer to the work."*

Faith Brummet

www.linkedin.com/in/faith-brummet-74a11a12a

Length of time in field: 20+years

Organization type: Nonprofit



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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."*

Kelli Crawford, MA, CVA

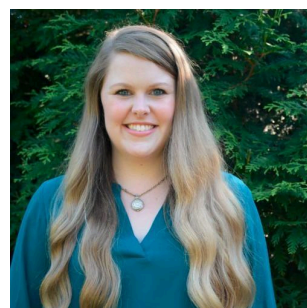
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kelli-crawford-b8196645/>

Length of time in field: 10 years

Organization type: Museum/Zoo/Aquarium

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Coordinator and Curator of Collections, Greensboro Science Center
- Board Member, Association for Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Vice-Chair, Volunteer Management Committee of Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- Past AL!VE Mentor



Personal hobbies: Marathons/triathlons, planning/organizing

Why participate as a mentor: *"I originally envisioned myself working in a history museum but was bitten by the volunteer management bug when I interned for the Greensboro Science Center. When offered a full time position to stay on at the GSC after completing my Master's, I jumped at the chance because it meant continuing to work with the GSC volunteers. In seven years, I have grown the corps of volunteers by 300%, built a talented team in the Volunteer Office and doubled my budget. That growth has been a product of hard work from my staff and volunteers as well as advocacy for the volunteer management profession both within my organization and at a national level through my work on the Volunteer Management Committee with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. I am especially passionate about advocating for the profession because I remember what it was like to be a new volunteer manager who struggled at the onset. I want to help new and*

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veteran volunteer managers build on their successes, overcome their challenges and elevate the profession.”

Micaela de Loyola-Carkin, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/micaela-de-loyola-carkin-9a94084a/>

Length of time in field: 14 years

Organization type: Government/Healthcare

Professional experience:

- Project Coordinator, Serve Idaho
- Volunteer Coordinator, Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Idaho
- Junior Volunteer Coordinator, St. Luke’s Health System
- Treasurer, Southwest Idaho Director of Volunteer Services



Personal Hobbies: Reading, camping, backpacking, jewelry making, walking

Why participate as a mentor: *“I have benefited from mentors throughout my life and career. Having now been in the field for almost 15 years, I can provide my experiences and expertise in volunteer coordination to others starting out in the field. The opportunity to help mentor and develop others in the volunteer management field will be very rewarding personally and will also allow me to continue to grow and develop professionally as well.”*

Dr. Harriett Edwards

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/harriett-edwards-b4154813/>

Length of time in field: 20+ years

Organization type: Education / Government

Professional experience:

- Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University
- Past President, North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administrators and Association for Leaders in Volunteer Engagement

Personal Hobbies: Volunteer at a local food pantry, sewing, reading, card-making

Why participate as a mentor: *“I enjoy working with a variety of individuals serving myriad organizations, so from a selfish perspective, it is a great opportunity to learn from others. I*

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have worked within and beyond the university campus in consulting roles and believe I have experiences to share with those newer in the profession. This is also an opportunity to use skills to coach and encourage others as they further the profession. Engaging with other volunteer administrators is motivating and energizing."

Deborah Engler

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

Length of time in field: 23 years

Organization type: Social work – domestic violence

Professional experience:

- Manager of Community Collaborations & Volunteering at Healing Abuse Working for Change
- Volunteer Engagement Specialist at Greater New England Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Masters of Social Work (MSW), Washington University

Personal Hobbies: Meditation, mindfulness based stress management, summering in Greece, LGBTQ parenting and support, writing and gardening

Why participate as a mentor: *"Mentoring fellow "people and service" navigators is how we continue to impact change across industries and sectors. Emily Dickinson wrote, "If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain; If I can ease one life the aching, Or cool one pain, Or help one fainting robin Unto his nest again, I shall not live in vain." This sentiment is what drives me to direct another's journey in service & the seeking to inspire their giving of time and experience. Mentoring others is something I already do, as it's exactly the practice that maintains a volunteers commitment year after year. Personally, there is no higher service than passing on, in collaborative spirit, my breadth of experience and depth of insight!"*

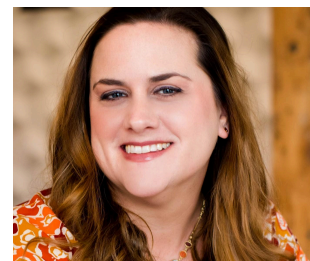
Brianne Fitzgerald, CVA

<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:



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- 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."*

Jenn Forristal, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 18 years

Organization type: News, information, arts, & culture

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Programs Manager, Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Trainer & Past President, Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association
- Board Member, Association for Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Past ALIVE 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 18 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 ALIVE. 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*

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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 ALIVE, I look forward to the opportunity to support my colleagues and their missions, in my small way."

Jason Frenzel, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 20 years

Organization type: Municipal government

Professional experience:

- Stewardship Coordinator, Huron River Watershed Council
- Past President, ALIVE
- Past ALIVE 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."*

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*

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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."

Kelly Gascoine, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kelly-gascoine-cva-a3095822>

Length of time in field: 10 years

Organization type: Museum

Professional experience:

- Manager, Carnegie Science Center volunteer and internship programs
- Committee Member, Carnegie Science Center IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Coalition and the Physical Spaces subcommittee
- Committee member, Carnegie Science Center Safety and Crisis Management Team; Chair of the Safety Training Subcommittee
- President, DOVIA, VASP (Volunteer Administrators of Southwestern PA)

Personal Hobbies: Running, reading, quilting, and cross stitch

Why participate as a mentor: *"I participated in the fall 2021 program as a mentee and had a wonderful experience with my mentor where I learned a lot! I've also benefited from other professionals in the field who, while not mentors, were always willing to share their expertise and knowledge. I'd like the opportunity to pay it forward and support a colleague in their career."*

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
- Board member, Valley Outreach food shelf
- Certified in Volunteer Administration
- Board Member, Corporate Volunteerism Council- Twin Cities



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

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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."*

Rebecca Hand, MPA, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 10 years

Organization type: Municipal government

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Resources Coordinator, Volunteers in Plano, City of Plano
- 2022 Conference Chair, Texas Volunteer Management Conference
- 2020 and 2021 Communications Chair, Texas Volunteer Management Conference
- Committee Member, ALIVE Marketing Committee
- Membership Chair, Dallas Association of Directors of Volunteers
- Nonprofit Leadership Studies Advisory Committee, University of North Texas
- Past ALIVE Mentor



Personal Hobbies: Reading, home organization, being out in nature, watching reruns of Parks and Recreation, spending time with family

Why participate as a mentor: *"I was a mentee several years ago and found the experience refreshing and motivating. It helped build my confidence and encouraged me to expand my horizon by continually pursuing professional development in the volunteer administration field. I would like to utilize my experience and background to provide that opportunity to someone newer to the field as well as be reinvigorated by meeting others with the same passion that I possess for volunteer administration."*

Mary Beth Harrington, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/501c3/>

Length of time in field: 30+ years

Organization type: Nonprofit consulting



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Professional experience: Passionate Nonprofit Expert, 501c3 Empowering Nonprofits

Personal Hobbies: Hiking, biking and walking my puppies

Why participate as a mentor: *"I love assisting new and emerging leaders."*

David Horwitz, CVA

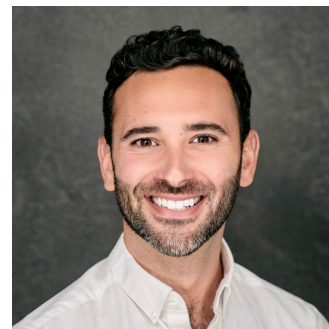
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidchorwitz/>

Length of time in field: 10 years

Organization type: Nonprofit/Philanthropy

Professional experience:

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



Personal Hobbies: Camping, painting, and houseplants

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

Marie Howell, CVA, CAVS

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marie-howell-cva-cavs-57832a25/>

Length of time in field: 18 years

Organization type: Pediatric Medical Center

Professional experience:

- Manager, Volunteer Services, Cook Children's Health Care System
- Member, DOVIA Tarrant County & Beryl Institute
- Past presenter, AHVRP Conference
- Past AL!VE Mentor



Personal Hobbies: Family, reading, needlework, cats, volunteering, word games, cooking, writing, pro football.

Why participate as a mentor: *"I've done some mentoring through our local DOVIA and enjoyed being able to be a support to those new to the field or wanting to learn more. I*

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have also been a mentee when I first started in the field and understand how important it is to have someone experienced to turn to.”

Sherry Keller

Length of time in field: 34 years

Organization type: food pantry

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Manager at Community Hope Center
- Volunteer Management roles with children in the US and the Philippines

Personal hobbies: volunteering for a warming center that sleeps people experiencing homelessness as well as in hospice, children’s program and church environments

Why participate as a mentor: *“I would like to share some of the things I have learned.*



Jesse King, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-king-cva-78681a4b/>

Length of time in field: 9 years

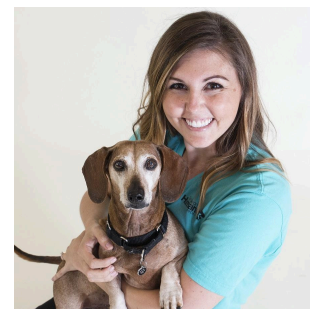
Organization type: animal welfare

Professional experience:

- Director of Volunteer Program Development, San Diego Humane Society
- Conference Speaker on Volunteer Engagement, Cal Animals 2019 and 2021
- Bachelor of Arts in Event Management with a minor in Women’s Studies, San Diego State University

Personal Hobbies: I have two young sons who are my main hobbies at the moment. We like to explore San Diego and enjoy the beach, hiking, zoo and more.

Why participate as a mentor: *“I have seen what a special opportunity it is to connect with a fellow volunteer manager and share what I have learned over the last decade. I hope to connect with a mentee who can benefit from my skills and experience, and keep our relationship past this 6 month mentorship!”*



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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, AL!VE
- Past AL!VE Mentor
- Co-Facilitator, National Alliance for Volunteer Engagement
- Past presenter, AL!VE 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 AL!VE 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."*

Donna Martin, MAET, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 25+ years

Organization type: Youth Development

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Services Manager, Boys & Girls Club of the Valley-AZ
- Associate Professor, ASU Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions
- Service Enterprise Trainer
- Past AL!VE mentor



Personal hobbies: camping, hiking, reading, baking, needle arts (crocheting, locker hooking), storytelling

Why participate as a mentor: *"I am passionate about furthering our profession and helping newer volunteer managers navigate the ever-changing and newly evolving world of*

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nonprofits and volunteerism. Over the past two years I've been honored to participate in this program and find this to be a very valuable experience for both the mentor and the mentee. The exchange of ideas, sharing experiences and building community makes this an invaluable experience."

Brittany McGarry, MA, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 10+ years

Organization type: Healthcare

Professional experience:

- Senior Manager, Volunteer Engagement and Acquisition, National MS Society
- 2021 Emerging Leader Award Recipient, AL!VE Impact Awards
- Past Chair, DOVIA Colorado Conference on Volunteerism
- Past Americorps VISTA

Personal hobbies: Volunteering, hiking/walking, national geographic, reading

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have been lucky enough to have some incredible connections and mentors in my career. I enjoy connecting with people, and especially helping them grow and feel confident in themselves and the work they are doing. WE MATTER as professionals just as much as our fundraising colleagues and I want to help people FEEL that in a big way. It's nice to feel a part of something--it's also nice to feel like someone believes in you. Additionally, I like to challenge people to step outside of their comfort zones. Being a mentor would be a great joy!"*

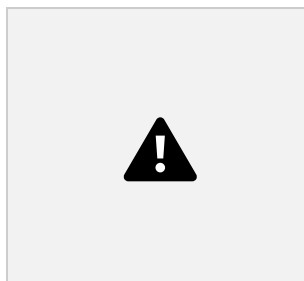
Kelly Mortvedt, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 12+ years

Organization type: Hunger relief

Professional experience:



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- 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.”*

Val Parker

www.linkedin.com/in/val-parker

Length of time in field: 30+ years

Organization type: Hunger/Homeless, Youth Programs

Professional experience:

- Consultant, VP Solutions
- Volunteer Program Manager, Share Our Selves
- Director of Volunteer Services, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County
- Executive Director, Power 4 Youth mentoring program
- Director of Membership Extension & Community Cultivation, Girl Scouts of Orange County



Personal hobbies: mountain biking, bouldering/rock climbing, anything sports/outdoors

Why participate as a mentor: *“This is exactly what I love to do! I believe strongly in the value and power of mentoring. Volunteer Management has been my chosen profession, and I love to share and learn with others.”*

Kayla Paulson, CVA

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



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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

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."*

Jared Peer, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jared-peer-cva-9b40ba57/>

Length of time in field: 6 years

Organization type: Social Services/Seniors

Professional experience:

- Lead RSVP Coordinator, Knox County Community Action Committee
- Volunteer Coordinator/Park Ranger, Zoo Knoxville
- Certified in Volunteer Administration since 2023



Personal hobbies: Gardening, building with Lego, board and card games

Why participate as a mentor: *"I received a mentor for the Spring 2023 program and would like to give back. Fall is the busiest season for me, so I'd prefer to serve Spring 2024. As a volunteer match maker, I place volunteers at about 25 locations - nonprofit partners, civic centers, etc - and my favorite part of the job is mentoring the location managers on volunteer best practices. I love consulting and would enjoy mentoring another volunteer management professional. I excel at working with data/reporting, doing graphic design in Canva, building presentations, and creating strategic community partnerships to build my recruiting base."*

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Robin Popik

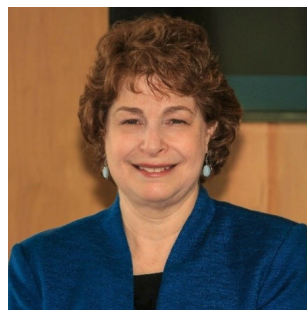
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/robin-popik-78663412/>

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."*

Ashley Ramsdell, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashley-ramsdell-62288122/>

Length of time in field: 13 years

Organization type: Healthcare

Professional experience:

- Sr. Liaison, Territory Volunteer Experience, ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



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- Global Advisor, Volunteer Programs, ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Past Board Member, Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement
- Past ALIVE Mentor

Personal Hobbies: Taking kids to sports, traveling, camping, boating, and anything outdoors

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have had mentors throughout the years support me as I was developing in my career and I enjoy doing the same for others."*

Cairn Reisch, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cairn-reisch>

Length of time in field: 10 years

Organization type: manufacturing – corporate giving

Professional experience:

- Community Relations Manager, Marvin
- Ethics Committee Member, Council of Certification in Volunteer Administration
- Secretary, Board of Directors, Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement
- Former Board Member & VP of Membership Committee, ALIVE



Personal Hobbies: I volunteer a lot outside of work as a foster for our local animal shelter, my partner and I also love to travel and spend many weekends exploring

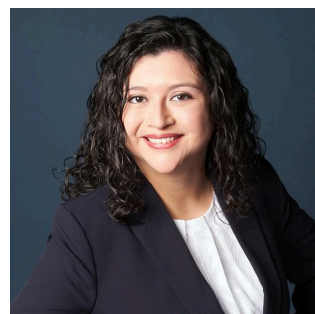
Why participate as a mentor: *"I see a huge gap in folks in the corporate space with background in volunteer management and would like to see that change. I hope to share not only best practices and resources but a larger career view for what is possible."*

Corina Sadler, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 18 years

Organization type: Local Government



EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Resources Manager, City of Plano
- National Service Commission, OneStar Foundation
- Founder, North Texas Volunteer Administrators in Government Group
- Marketing Committee Member, CCVA
- Past ALIVE Mentor

Personal Hobbies: Reading, social media

Why participate as a mentor: *"As a Hispanic volunteer engagement professional I also think it is important to have a diverse pool of mentors to encourage volunteer managers of color to consider the program. Through some of my committee work I've been able to connect with so many volunteer managers and provide informal feedback and advice, I'd like to focus that experience on one person."*

Karen Reid, MA, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 25+ years

Organization type: Communication and Engagement Consultancy

Professional experience:

- CEO & Founder, Kaber Communications
- Leadership Team * Chair of Communication, National Alliance for Volunteer Engagement
- Past Vice Chair, Texas Volunteer Management Conference
- Past Chair of Foundation Fundraising Committee, International Association of Business Communicators

Personal Hobbies: Skiing, hiking, mountain biking and creating culinary treats!

Why participate as a mentor: *"Throughout my career path, I have always been fortunate to have mentors to help me along, and I, in turn, prioritize sharing my experiences and knowledge with my colleagues. I have mentored many people throughout the years and am happy to support the personal and professional growth of our volunteer engagement professionals – this helps ensure the future of our profession."*

EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

Amanda Schmierer, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amanda-schmierer-idaho/>

Length of time in field: 11 years

Organization type: Blood & Disaster Services/Volunteer Management Professional Organization

Professional experience:

- Representative II, Volunteer Engagement, American Red Cross
- Secretary, Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services

Personal Hobbies: Volunteering, gardening, staying fit and teaching fitness class

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have been in Volunteer Management since 2010, and I, like many others, never studied or went to school for this career. I learned by doing and discovering that I had a real passion for working with volunteers. My first supervisor was an incredible mentor to me, and he really showed me how to not just be an excellent Volunteer Coordinator, but also how to be a good leader and supervisor. He introduced me to the Southwest Idaho Directors of Volunteer Services (SWIDOVs), and I've been part of their leadership board ever since, devoting my time to volunteer with this organization that helps other volunteer managers throughout Idaho get connected to resources, information and training they need to succeed, as well as being an advocate for the value that we as volunteer managers bring to the table. I've seen many new volunteer managers come and go over the course of my career. I've always offered my knowledge and resources to these new managers, and have tried to help them the way that my mentor and SWIDOVs helped me. I've learned a lot over my many years in this field, and it really can have it's ups and downs. I believe firmly that we must work together and share our knowledge and resources with others. I want to see others succeed in this field, and to have a chance to find their passion for working with volunteers, as I did. I could not have come this far without having someone take me under their wing and teach me the importance of going above and beyond to provide the best experience for volunteers and organization staff. I want to be that to someone else, to show them that they can have an amazing and rewarding career, just as I have!"*



Nicole Smith, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 5.5 years



EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

Organization type: Arts

Professional experience:

- Manager, Volunteer and Internship Services, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts
- Published Author, Contributing Writer/Blogger, Keynote Speaker
- Board Member, Arts & Business Council-Miami
- Past AL!VE Mentor

Personal Hobbies: Reading, dancing, writing

Why participate as a mentor: *"I believe the strength of our profession depends upon the support that new volunteer professionals receive in the early years. My first few years would have been so much easier with someone to turn to for advice and support. I would like to be that to someone joining the profession to encourage and support them in this on beautiful journey called volunteer management."*

Kim Soto, CVA

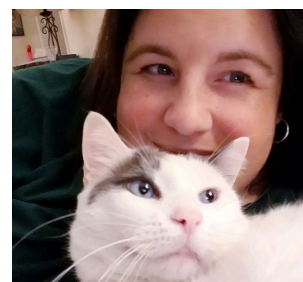
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-soto-cva-2b892740/>

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
- Volunteer Coordinator, San Diego History Center
- Past AL!VE Mentor



Personal Hobbies: crocheting lopsided creatures, badly singing showtunes, supporting parents with children who are newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have had two great experiences as an AL!VE mentor and I would love the opportunity to do it again. I learned so much! I cherish the awesome reviews I received from my mentees and love watching their careers catch on fire in the Volunteer Engagement world."*

EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

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!"*

Tim Suda, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 6 years

Organization type: Humanitarian Services

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Services Engagement Specialist, American Red Cross
- Vice President, Georgia Association for Volunteer Administration
- 2021 Emerging Leader Award Recipient, AL!VE Impact Awards



Personal hobbies: Wood working and carpentry, volunteering

Why participate as a mentor: *"I was mentored through the AL!VE program and it helped me to learn a lot and I want to pay it back!"*

EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

Sharleen Tarnate-Nguyen, CVA, MAT

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharleen-tarnatenguyen/>

Length of time in field: 12 years

Organization type: animal welfare

Professional experience:

- Manager of Volunteer Program Development, San Diego Humane Society
- Facilitator/presenter on Volunteer Essentials and Inclusion & Equity, Nonprofit Solutions
- Volunteer Programs Manager, Museum of Us
- Volunteer and Special Projects Coordinator, Los Angeles Philharmonic
- Master of Arts in Teaching, Museum Education, The George Washington University



Personal Hobbies: Travel is life! (I try to go somewhere new at least once a year); avid museum-goer (when life permits); dabbler in crochet, calligraphy and writing; toddler mom learning how to manage life!

Why participate as a mentor: *"In my time as a volunteer engagement professional, I have benefited greatly from more experienced colleagues who have guided me and offered me growth opportunities. I'd love a chance to pay it forward and serve as a resource for another volunteer engagement professional who might be interested in the experience and lessons learned that I have to offer."*

Bethany Tatro, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bethany-tatro-cva-certified-volunteer-administrator-79702056/>

Length of time in field: 8 years

Organization type: Food bank

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Manager, Good Shepherd Food Bank
- University Residence Life leadership



EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

Personal hobbies: Weight lifting/power lifting, cooking, disc golf, knitting, travel

Why participate as a mentor: *"I am interested in making connections in the field and encouraging others to grow in their positions."*

Jennifer Thompson, CVA

Length of time in field: 24 years

Organization type: Retired

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Coordinator (21 years hospice programs; 3 years in Senior programs_
- Former adjunct faculty member, Tulsa COmmunity College
- Board Member, TulsALIVE
- Board Member, AL!VE



Personal hobbies: Baking/cooking, Fantasy Baseball

Why participate as a mentor: *"I think all new volunteer engagement specialists and even those who have been in the field for any length of time, to have a person who can continue to encourage and support their growth so they can increase their knowledge, skills and abilities which are changing all the time."*

Faiza Venzant, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 21 years

Organization type: Various social services

Professional experience:

- General Manager, Volunteer Development, YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Executive Director, Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration
- Board Development Committee, Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement



EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

- Past presenter, AL!VE Hybrid Conference
- Past AL!VE Mentor

Personal hobbies: Ultra-running, chess, making and collecting art, and hiking

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have been a mentor in the PAVRO mentor program twice and found it to be a rewarding, fun and insightful experience."*

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

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

Length of time in field: 17 years

Organization type: Healthcare, government

Professional experience:

- Chief Engagement Officer, Beach Cities Health District
- Past President, AL!VE
- Past presenter, Points of Light Conference
- Past AL!VE 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 passion of mine so we can continue to elevate this field and ensure volunteer engagement professionals become critical, key decision makers at their organizations."*

Amber Webb, CVA

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amber-webb-cva-7463ba85/>

Length of time in field: 12 years

Organization type: Animal welfare

Professional experience:

- Director of Volunteer Services, Animal Protective Association of Missouri
- Membership Vice President, Metropolitan Volunteer Management Association



Personal hobbies: I'm a beekeeper who loves all outdoor activities!

EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

Why participate as a mentor: *"I'm very interested in being able to connect with individuals in the volunteer management field and look forward to being able to share the knowledge I have gained over the years. As a current board member for my local volunteer management association, I have really enjoyed being able to provide leadership to those who are new to the field."*

Angela Williamson, MS, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 14+ years

Organization type: Healthcare

Professional experience:

- Volunteer & Community Relations Specialist, Blood Bank of Delmarva
- Board Member, Delaware Association of Volunteer Administrators
- Past presenter, AL!VE Hybrid Conference
- Past AL!VE Mentor



Personal hobbies: Gardening, cooking, board games, gathering with people

Why participate as a mentor: *"So many people have given time, energy, support, encouragement, wisdom, and patience to me as I've grown in the volunteer leadership role I'm in and want to give back and share what I can with those upcoming in the field as well."*

EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

PROGRAM FACILITATORS:

Kim Soto, CVA

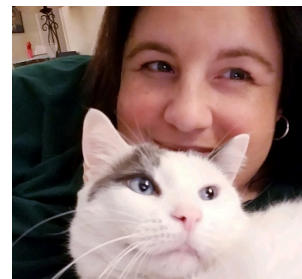
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-soto-cva-2b892740/>

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: crocheting lopsided creatures, badly singing showtunes, supporting parents with children who are newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder

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."*

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

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

Length of time in field: 17 years

Organization type: Healthcare, government

Professional experience:

- Chief Engagement Officer, Beach Cities Health District
- 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*



EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

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

Interested?

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

Applications are due by Friday, October 1st!

IMPORTANT:

If interested in participating, save the date for **mandatory orientation that will be held on Thursday, October 7th, 2021 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.