

EMERGING LEADERS MENTOR PROGRAM

Meet the Mentors!

ALIVE 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 ALIVE 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 ALIVE Mentors to receive individualized coaching and support as well as monthly mentee peer sessions pertaining to leadership development topics.

The following ALIVE 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.

Julie Booth, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 13 years

Organization type: Volunteer Program Management and Nonprofit Capacity Building

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Program Manager, The Open Link (regional human services nonprofit)
- Community Relations Coordinator, Volunteer Center of Lehigh Valley
- Volunteer Executive Consultant, RSVP Montgomery County



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.”*

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Faith Brummet

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

Length of time in field: 20 years

Organization type: Nonprofit

Professional experience:

- Manager of Volunteers and Construction Services, Habitat for Humanity Elkhart County
- Past ALIVE Mentor

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

Why participate as a mentor: *"I love working with people, problem solving. I think with my 18 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."*



Micaela de Loyola-Carkin

<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."*



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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 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."*

Jenn Forristal, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 14 years

Organization type: News, information, arts, & culture

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Resources Associate, Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Past President, Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association
- Past ALIVE Mentor



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

Why participate as a mentor: *"When I began my career in volunteer administration 14 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*

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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 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."

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 ALIVE 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 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."*

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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."*



Kris Martinez Hamilton

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

Length of time in field: 9 years

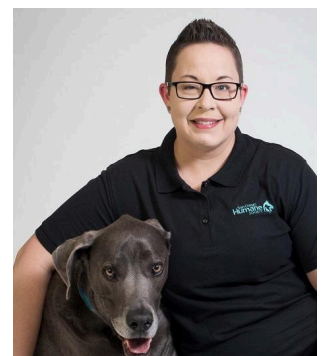
Organization type: Animal Welfare/Wildlife Rehabilitation/Sheltering

Professional experience:

- Volunteer Experience Manager, San Diego Humane Society
- Volunteering with several military and civilian organizations
- Currently working towards CVA
- Actively involved in organization's DEI committee

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*



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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.”

Brittany McGarry, 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, ALIVE 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!”*

Robin Popik

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

Length of time in field: 33 years

Organization type: Government/Non-Profit

Professional experience:



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- 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

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

Length of time in field: 12 years

Organization type: Healthcare

Professional experience:

- Sr. Liaison, Territory Volunteer Experience, ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- Global Advisor, Volunteer Programs, ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- Past Board Member, Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement



Personal Hobbies: Taking kids to sports, traveling, camping, boating, and riding side-by-sides with family

Why participate as a mentor: *“I have had mentors throughout the years support me as I was developing in my career and I would love to do the same.”*

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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 and 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
- Past Presenter, ALIVE Academy



Personal Hobbies: Skiing, gardening, musical theatre, cooking/baking

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.”*

Amanda Schmierer

<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*

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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!"

Kim Soto

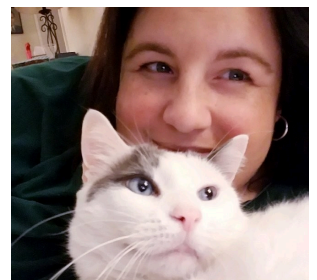
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-soto-cva-2b892740/>

Length of time in field: 17 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 ALIVE Mentor



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

Why participate as a mentor: *"I have had two great experiences as an ALIVE mentor and I would love the opportunity to do it again. I learned so much! I cherish the awesome reviews*

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I received from my mentees and love watching their careers catch on fire in the Volunteer Engagement world.”

Tim Suda, CVA

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

Length of time in field: 6 years

Organization type: Humanitarian Services

Professional experience:

- Disaster Workforce Engagement Manager, American Red Cross
- Vice President, Georgia Association for Volunteer Administration
- 2021 Emerging Leader Award Recipient, ALIVE Impact Awards

Personal hobbies: Wood working and carpentry, volunteering

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



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, ALIVE

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.”*



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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 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

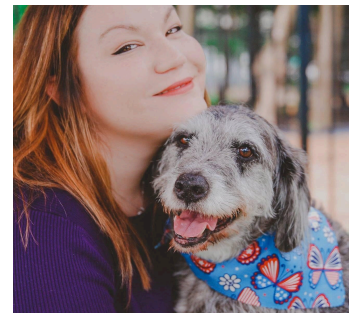
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amber-webb-cva-7463ba85/>

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!

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.”*



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Interested?

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

Applications are due by Friday, March 4th!

Save the date for orientation on Thursday, March 10th, 2022 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.