

United Way
**PROJECT
BLUEPRINT**

a blueprint for diversity in board leadership

Project Blueprint Class XLII
GRADUATE PROFILES

*"You must be the change you want
to see in the world."*

Mahatma Gandhi



Greater Houston

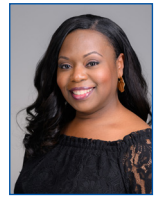
Aja Edwards-Smith

Title: Senior Director, Energy Transition and Transformation

Organization: EY

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Program Development and Volunteer Management

About Me: I'm an eager learner and excited to join an organization with a mission to improve the lives of people in a variety of capacities and industries. I bring passion, purpose and strategic thinking coupled with my background and expertise.



Areas of Interest: Housing & Community Development, Youth/Education and Transportation Infrastructure (Clean Energy)

Angelica Gonzalez

Title: Managing Director - Business Transformation

Organization: Embark

Skills/Strengths: Finance, Strategic Planning and Leadership Development

About Me: Growing up, I lived in 5 different countries and 6 cities prior to moving to the US, which opened up my mind to a lot of different cultures and backgrounds. I love to give back to the community, build relationships with others, and also help organizations the same way that I have been helped through them.



Areas of Interest: International, Health and Human Services

Annie Mbride Rose

Title: Account Manager

Organization: Microsoft

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Volunteer Management and Facilitation

About Me: The most impactful volunteer work I led last year was the HBCU college and history tour for 20 high school females with TWST4Girls non-profit organization in the Fall of 2022. As an education and equity advocate, this event was near and dear to my heart because we were able to eliminate the financial hurdle of the HS students not being able to afford to travel to visit schools. I have a passion for serving underserved and minority communities particularly in the areas of education, mentorship, and empowerment.



Areas of Interest: Education, Human Services and Housing & Community Development

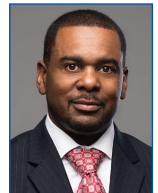
Art DuBose

Title: HR Executive

Organization: Bose Corporate / Group 1

Skills/Strengths: Human Resources, Leadership Development and Strategic Planning

About Me: I haven't volunteered in many places around the Houston area and just being out there helping people is what has been impactful. I know that my professional and personal experiences can help to serve many others.



Areas of Interest: Housing & Community Development, Education and Public & Societal Benefit

Ashley Moore

Title: Government & Public Affairs/CSR Administrative Advisor

Organization: CITGO Petroleum Corporation

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Program Development and Written Communication

About Me: I am a highly process and project oriented individual naturally. I am also an analyst at heart and am skilled at taking complex information and simplifying it for everyday people to understand. I like to understand how things work. I also ask lots of questions: whos, whats, whens, wheres, hows and sometimes why to help.

Areas of Interest: Education, Health and Human Services



Ayomide Lawal

Title: Senior Manager

Organization: EY

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Written Communication and Strategic Planning

About Me: I am motivated to volunteer because I believe it is important to help others and give back to the community. For me volunteering is instinctive, and I am motivated by an innate desire to give back to the community and help to make the world a better place to live in. From a very early age, I have volunteered through formal channels (church, school and non-profit organizations) or through informal channels (family and friends). My experience volunteering has truly shaped who I am as a person.

Areas of Interest: Education, Health and Housing & Community Development



Chanda King-Biagas

Title: Principal Finance Business Partner

Organization: Woodside Energy

Skills/Strengths: Finance, Human Resources and Facilitation

About Me: I've been given alot. I've had people invest in me. I want to do that on a bigger scale and pay it forward. I participated in the United Way Investment Review committee a few years ago and it cemented my desire to volunteer utilizing my finance skills. I appreciate the ideas, vision and talent of others and I thoroughly enjoy helping with the less glamorous aspects, like Finance!

Areas of Interest: Human Services, Public & Societal Benefit and Education



Christopher Williams

Title: Director Operations Patient Business Services

Organization: Memorial Hermann

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Advocacy and Leadership Development

About Me: Over the past 10 years I have continuously volunteered in the space of mentoring, public services and strategic/operational planning. I have chaired several committees in the EDI space and defining root causes to optimize opportunities and operational outcomes.

Areas of Interest: Healthcare, Human Services and Education



Chrystal Beasley

Title: Environmental Engineer

Organization: BeAspire Enviro Consulting

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Strategic Planning and Program Development



About Me: Volunteering has been the basis of my life since middle school. I enjoy sacrificing and giving my time to people in need and providing my expertise to assist in service. Volunteering provides a sense of purpose for my life which aids to never lose focus and strive for greater success and reach back to help along the way.

Areas of Interest: Environmental, Public & Societal Benefit and Education

Danielle Jones

Title: Assistant Director

Organization: Rice University office of Development and Alumni Relations

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Volunteer Management and Program Development



About Me: I am very interested in joining a board related to human services and those who provide resources to families to sustain their daily life activities. I am skilled with identifying issues with the intention to solve those issues while working with solution-driven individuals.

Areas of Interest: Food Insecurity, Housing & Community Development and Education

Ira Andhare

Title: Commercial Strategy Planning and Analysis

Organization: Chevron Phillips Chemical

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Program Development and Technology



About Me: Volunteer work gives me a deep sense of purpose and meaning. Serving the community that I and my family live in is immensely satisfying. Volunteering gives me an opportunity to do good, advance a cause that is important, improve our community and adds meaning to my life. Volunteering gives me an opportunity to leverage my professional and leadership skills, meet new people, and grow my network. Causes such as education, health, mental well-being, programs for kids are very important to me and they motivate me to continue to stay engaged in community volunteer activities. I am passionate about child education and coming from India growing up with little resources, I value education a lot. I am an advocate of educating girls in rural India and strongly believe in promoting education to drive financial independence in women.

Areas of Interest: Education, Environmental and Arts & Culture

Johnathan Leonard

Title: Associate Director

Organization: UnitedHealth Group

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Program Development and Leadership Development

About Me: My most impactful volunteer experience was serving as a mentor to young professionals in helping guide them in their careers. I want to help nonprofits realize their greatest potential, help with strategy, and ensure the organization stays true to its purpose.

Areas of Interest: Health, Human Services and Housing & Community Development



Juanita Parker

Title: Manager Supply Chain

Organization: Williams

Skills/Strengths: Program Development, Public Relations and Strategic Planning

About Me: I volunteer because I was once the person that needed help and received that help from a volunteer. I was able to grow and advance for myself and family. I now want to be the person to assist others. To empower them and let them know I understand. I want to be a beacon of light to others that change happens, things can and will get better. I volunteer because I care about people.

Areas of Interest: Young Mothers, Higher Education and Animal Welfare



Judy Rodriguez

Title: Senior Engineering Specialist

Organization: Centerpoint Energy

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Strategic Planning and Fundraising

About Me: I want to give back to my roots. I feel blessed for all the opportunities life has given me. I would like for people have the same or better opportunities that will help them grow economically to improve their social status as well as promote giving back so that the cycle of community service continues in the future.

Areas of Interest: Minority Economic Growth, Children's Arts & Education and Housing & Community Development



Kathryn Nicholson

Title: Financial Analyst

Organization: Wealth Development Strategies

Skills/Strengths: Leadership Development, Finance and Advocacy

About Me: I have experience as a teacher of health and coordinating socials for The Women's Fund. Helping young women has always been a core value of mine. I work in the finance industry so an organization that teaches financial literacy or something in that industry would be of interest. I'm also an environmentalist and try to reduce, reuse, or repurpose where I can.

Areas of Interest: Arts & Culture, Health and Environmental



Lister Carbon

Title: Capital Planning and Construction Executive

Organization: NA

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Written Communication and Finance

About Me: My background is in project management. I am a civil engineer with expertise in design and construction with a strong knowledge of corporate finance. I would like to apply my corporate experience as an executive to give back. I feel my experience as a strategic leader, passion for volunteering, and years of experience would be valuable in the capacity as a board member so I would like to learn how I can be most effective.



Areas of Interest: Housing and Community Development, Arts & Culture and STEM Education

L'Tanya Price

Title: Senior Relationship Manager

Organization: United Way of Greater Houston

Skills/Strengths: Fundraising, Volunteer Management and Strategic Planning

About Me: Serving on a non-profit board would allow me to help others and help an organization continue to progress and accomplish its goals and stay on track in serving their clients. I will bring in new perspectives since I work in the nonprofit sector. I am a STRATEGIC and CRITICAL thinker and not afraid to tackle the tough and critical issues. Service to others is a part of me!



Areas of Interest: Education, Health and Arts & Culture

Meridith "Yvette" Oldacre

Title: LCS Environmental Solutions Manager

Organization: ExxonMobil

Skills/Strengths: Leadership Development, Program Development and Strategic Planning

About Me: I have many experiences that have been equally impactful. Through mentoring at Risk students and helping them see someone that looks like them inspiring them to do better and their attendance and grades increased, through developing and leading a leadership academy and having several of the participants contact me this past week telling me about their new leadership roles, and through meals on wheels which I participate with my family and having an elder grasp my hand, hug me and bless me because we took time to bring them food, sat and chatted and my boys being mannerable and happy to be with them. I serve because there is much work to do. It is not the amount but the heart that goes with it. I serve so that those that are unseen can be seen. I serve so some one else can dream big and have resources to help them get there.



Areas of Interest: Education, Human Services & Health

Mikaela Dulan

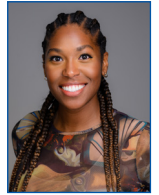
Title: Diversity Business Partner

Organization: Lyft

Skills/Strengths: Technology, Program Development and Facilitation

About Me: I enjoy making a difference for orgs that empower/educate the marginalized and remove barriers for success as it pertains to their desired livelihood. My most significant volunteer work was supporting an orphanage in Haiti with a team of close family and friends! We raised \$5,000 to build showers for the children and facilitated weekly Food Pantries for the children in the neighborhood.

Areas of Interest: Education, Housing & Community Development and Human Service



Nayeem Chowdhury

Title: Head of CCUS / Energy Transition

Organization: Project Canary

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Leadership Development and Advocacy

About Me: I'm a Rice MBA grad with over a decade of executive leadership experience, part time musician, and Energy Transition advocate with diverse international experience. I have the drive, energy, and motivation to lead. I would like to lead a cause that will better our society and make the world a better place for our children.

Areas of Interest: Music, Energy Transition and Employment



Porscha Jackson. PhD

Title: Business Development Manager

Organization: City of Houston

Skills/Strengths: Program Development, Facilitation and Written Communication

About Me: I'm drawn to organizations that create an experience that children or adults would not otherwise get.

Areas of Interest: Education, Animal Welfare and Human Services



Remi Chris-Rotimi

Title: Corporate Strategy Manager

Organization: HP, Inc.

Skills/Strengths: Strategic Planning, Finance and Technology

About Me: One of my most favorite volunteer experiences was serving as an Apple Corp Leader at the Houston Food Bank. It was a dedicated volunteer role where we regularly led shifts of other volunteers at the food bank. Giving back to the community I regularly interact with motivates me to volunteer. I understand that I'm in a privileged position to have the time and desire to help organizations through volunteering. Seeing the direct impact of my work as a volunteer on the community keeps me motivated and wanting to continue doing such work.

Areas of Interest: Arts & Culture, Environmental and Human Services



Shemeca Richard

Title: Program Director

Organization: Vibrant Comprehensive Services

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Leadership Development and Program Development

About Me: I have worked in social services for over 20 years and know the impact on those in who live in poverty. I want to serve on a board so that I can make a difference in the community for those in poverty, struggling with mental health or live in areas where there is subpar education. I want to make an impact on those lives.

Areas of Interest: Health, Human Services and Education



Stephen Lowe

Title: United Way Program Manager

Organization: ExxonMobil

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Facilitation and Volunteer Management

About Me: Nonprofits are a bedrock in making a difference in our communities. There is pressure to ensure that they are efficient in delivering on their commitments as well as being agile in meeting the ongoing needs of the community. I want to be able to provide insight, opportunities and stewardship in a way that ensures their success.

Areas of Interest: Food Insecurity, African American Male Development and Education



Tram Nguyen

Title: Director, Finance & Accounting & Special Project

Organization: Williams

Skills/Strengths: Finance, Leadership Development and Volunteer Management

About Me: I am the chair and founder of Asian American Pacific Islander @ Southern Company Gas. We support BPSOS organization in the last few years. We help immigrant students with English as their second language to pass the US Citizenship exams. This is the most valuable gift that we have earned and made direct impact on many lives. We make their dream of becoming U.S. citizens a reality.

Areas of Interest: Education, Housing & Community Development and Public & Social Benefit

