



United Way
**PROJECT
BLUEPRINT**

a blueprint for diversity in board leadership

Project Blueprint Class XLIII **graduate profiles**

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead



Andre Shaw

Title: Application Engineer

Organization: ExxonMobil Technology and Engineering Company

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Technology and Fundraising

About Me: After working for almost 30 years, I am now at the point in my career when I am beginning to think about the "what next". Getting more involved in non-profit organizations and volunteering is high on the list. I am an immigrant to this country and strongly believe in inclusion and diversity. I have been involved in Big Brothers and Sisters previously and am currently on a loan assignment with United Way of Greater Houston. This assignment has opened my eyes to the lack of diversity on non-profit boards, and I feel this is an area where I can contribute with my skills and experiences.



Areas of Interest: Arts and Culture, Environmental and International

Annette Frazier

Title: Business Improvement Manager

Organization: Sodexo

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Strategic Planning and Leadership Development

About Me: I have been involved in volunteerism and giving since childhood. Volunteering my time, talent and treasure is part of who I am. Over the years the events that stand out the most for me are, first, preparing for and providing Christmas dinners and gifts for low-income families. Second, teaching class for at HWAC to help prepare the clients to go back to the workforce. Knowing that there are many, many individuals out in the world who need help and support keeps me drawn to the work and now is the best time to do more. I currently serve as a board member for my church.



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

Bola Adeshina

Title: GIS Manager

Organization: Williams Companies, Inc.

Skills/Strengths: Leadership Development, Volunteer Management and Written Communication

About Me: As an immigrant, Bola is driven by passion and a sense of obligation to give back and serve the community where she lives and works. She has supported various nonprofit organizations both personally and professionally including local food distribution, language interpretation to asylees, career coaching to minorities and co-chairing an annual Williams United Way Campaign that raised over \$1.0 million. Going forward, she wants to elevate her service and community involvement to nonprofit board leadership so she can share her diverse experiences and resources to make meaningful impact and positive contributions.



Areas of Interest: Housing and Community Development, Public and Societal Benefit and Human Services/International

Crystal Walker Green

Title: CI Consultant

Organization: CenterPoint Energy

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Leadership Development and Volunteer Management

About Me: I find fulfillment in volunteering, as it allows me to channel my passion for causes like UNCF, United Way, Junior Achievement, and various other charitable endeavors. I aspire to dedicate myself to non-profit board service, aiming to make significant and positive changes in areas I deeply care about. Serving on a board is my pathway to becoming a philanthropist, as it offers the chance to contribute to the community, acquire valuable skills, foster personal growth, and create incredible experiences.

Areas of Interest: Human Services, Education and Health



Daniel Ortiz

Title: Senior Business Analyst

Organization: GEP Worldwide Inc.

Skills/Strengths: Public Relations, Technology and Leadership Development

About Me: I'm passionate about empowering the young and old to live their most authentic selves. I worked with the National Hispanic Institute to run bilingual debate tournaments for high school students in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Austin. I have also worked with the Montrose Center to help facilitate events for LGBT seniors at the Law Herrington community center. Learning how to better serve my communities through board leadership allows me to make that much more of an impact for good.

Areas of Interest: Youth Leadership, LGBT Resources and Immigration



Dexter Davis

Title: Community Banking Education Program Administrator

Organization: Amegy Bank

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Strategic Planning and Leadership Development

About Me: Nonprofit board service is all about providing additional voices and perspective to the leadership of the organization to allow it to thrive, grow, and meet its goals and objectives. I want to be a part of an organization that improves the homeless situation for seniors and or mentor program for young men.

Areas of Interest: Mentoring Young Men, Homelessness, Seniors and Youth Programs



Eric Cruz

Title: Continuous Improvement PMO Manager

Organization: CenterPoint Energy

Skills/Strengths: Facilitation, Strategic Planning and Technology

About Me: I am committing to nonprofit board service because I can be most impactful for my community by leveraging my education and corporate and professional experience being where decisions are made on how to best them. I bring a perspective that represents the diversity of Houston. My volunteer experience has been predominantly working with young men in my community and it brings me joy to see them mature and make smart decisions and grow to become responsible citizens that give back.



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

Jessica Verdinez

Title: Environmental Specialist

Organization: NAES

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Program Development and Legal

About Me: I currently volunteer at the Youth Center for Immigrants, interacting with immigrant children and helping them feel more supported by visiting them and engaging in their interests, comfort, or help. I would like to know how I can expand my time with not just immigration issues but those including with global climate change organizations.



Areas of Interest: Immigration, Global Climate Change and Elderly Care

Joyce Chapel

Title: Reinsurance Accounting Manager

Organization: Tokio Marine HCC

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Volunteer Management and Written Communication

About Me: Serving in any capacity is life-enriching to me as well as the population being served. I'm committed to serving on a nonprofit board to familiarize myself more with the needs and issues facing my community, be a part of a team of people whose ideas, thoughts, and efforts will positively impact the community we serve, and be the voice of people whose perspective has not traditionally been properly represented.



Areas of Interest: Human services

Kenneth Copeland

Title: Business Planning Manager

Organization: ExxonMobil

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Strategic Planning and Volunteer Management

About Me: Like so many others in the Houston area, I am not a native Houstonian. So I am especially grateful to United Way and Project Blueprint for helping me get connected to my adopted city and while making a positive difference for Houstonians. I have significant public speaking experience that I believe translates well to public advocacy and fundraising. I have extensive large team/project leadership experience throughout my career with ExxonMobil which include strategic planning, budgeting, stewardship, and operations leadership.



Areas of Interest: Arts & Culture, Business and Economic Development and STEM Education

Lisle Smart

Title: Chief Operating Officer and Senior Manager Consultant

Organization: TNTP

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Program Development and Volunteer Management

About Me: I am the Chief Operating Officer of Smartscaping, a family-owned and operated landscaping, design, and construction firm. I have a background in driving operational excellence and financial management and a proven track record of optimizing business operations, maximizing profitability, and fostering strategic partnerships. My passion for civic engagement and desire to positively impact the community drives me to volunteer. Volunteering allows me to actively contribute to causes I deeply care about and empowers me to be part of the solution.



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

Mariam Ghiacy

Title: Manager, Operational Excellence

Organization: Enbridge

Skills/Strengths: Finance/Accounting, Program Development and Strategic Planning

About Me: I have a people-first motto and I'm passionate about putting people at the center of my leadership. In over a decade, this philosophy has guided my volunteer work as a leader in the communities that I have lived in. An avid supporter of education, I believe in helping individuals see the future and cultivate the confidence and capabilities they need to step into it with optimism, bravery and creativity. I am a firm believer in vibrant communities where everyone has equal access to education, where differences are celebrated and cherished, and harnessed to fuel the collective creativity. My passion for nonprofit service is intrinsic and as such I have a strong desire to 'pay it forward.' I am committed to strengthening the vibrancy of communities by participating in educational programs that are inclusive, future-thinking and help bring out the best in people.



Areas of Interest: Education, Human Services and International

Marja Crockett

Title: Corporate Affairs Manager

Organization: Woodside Energy

Skills/Strengths: Public Relations, Volunteer Management and Written Communication

About Me: As a native Houstonian, I have a passion for the city that raised me and I want to give back to the community that has given so much to me. I know that there are so many ways to serve in any capacity and I am open to a wealth of opportunities, particularly in serving minority youth and young women.



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

Meagan St.Cyr

Title: CEO

Organization: Novus Vos Skills LLC

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Facilitation and Written Communication

About Me: I am a dedicated agent of change through service and commitment. I am a mental health professional who can hold others' struggles with empathy, compassion, and understanding. I'm committed to nonprofit board service as I recognize the need through my social work background and daily interactions. I have worked directly and indirectly with individuals, families, and communities to improve overall functioning. I understand the need for service and vow to work hand-in-hand with others for the betterment of those in need.



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

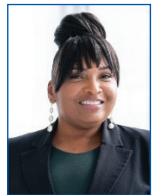
Nannette Ray, MBA

Title: President and CEO

Organization: TNR Advisors & Management Consultants, LLC

Skills/Strengths: Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning and Volunteer Management

About Me: I serve as President and CEO of TNR Advisors & Management Consultants, LLC where I collaborate with Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized businesses, nonprofits and governmental agencies on translating their financial numbers to help leadership teams make data-driven business decisions consistent with their organizational goals. I have worked with agencies such as Women's Business Center of WBEA, Women's Business Center for Greater Houston Women's Chamber, Collaborative for Children, and TruFund to provide financial training to minority and women-owned business owners. My passion is assisting minority families in building generational wealth through business development, financial coaching, and job readiness in the Houston community.



Areas of Interest: Public and Societal Benefit, Education and Health

Nora Luna

Title: Program Manager

Organization: CenterPoint Energy

Skills/Strengths: Fundraising, Public Relations and Volunteer Management

About Me: Years ago while volunteering with the Fort Bend Women's Center teaching a computer class, one of the ladies humbled me. I would love to serve with an organization that helps those who are or have experienced domestic and sexual abuse. I feel that because of my background, I can relate and better assist that community.



Areas of Interest: Domestic/Sexual Abuse Survivors and Animal Welfare

Poh Ko

Title: Senior Associate Director

Organization: Corebridge Financial

Skills/Strengths: Marketing, Program Development and Strategic Planning

About Me: I am passionate about leveraging skill sets and experiences to broaden the appeal of non-profits serving children, specifically in education based non-profits and those serving children who are intellectually disabled.

Areas of Interest: Youth Education and Serving the Intellectually Disabled



Shavonne Spencer

Title: Crude Supply Coordination Supervisor

Organization: ExxonMobil

Skills/Strengths: Marketing, Volunteer Management and Written Communication

About Me: I hail from Camden, NJ, the city Walt Whitman viewed as invincible. My hometown is one of America's infamous post-industrial cities, and teeters on the verge of revitalization after over fifty years of urban decline and blight. The people of the community are strong in heart, resilient and have great faith. I credit my instincts, work ethic, perseverance and heart to serve to the family friends and non-profit organizations of this community. I take great joy in volunteering and offering my skills, experience and talents to make a greater impact at the leadership level.

Areas of Interest: Human Services, Housing and Community Development, Public and Societal Benefit



Shuying Helen De La Rosa

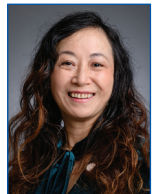
Title: Finance Manager

Organization: bp

Skills/Strengths: Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning and Leadership Development

About Me: I am the Finance Manager at bp Pulse US and excel in delivering valuable business insights and leading interdisciplinary teams to succeed. I specialize in financial reporting, analysis, and planning, with a focus on financial models, budget planning, M&A, and variance analysis. I drive strategic decision-making and optimize business outcomes through providing management insights. I foster positive work environments through leadership, supervision, and mentoring, and thrive in fast-paced and dynamic environments. I am a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the state of Texas and an active volunteer as a bp Change Maker and serves as Chair of Education Committee of bp's Inclusion Business Resource Group.

Areas of Interest: Education, Environmental and Houston & Community Development



Toi Anderson

Title: Commercial Development Leader

Organization: Williams

Skills/Strengths: Advocacy, Leadership Development and Volunteer Management

About Me: My belief is that serving each other is the best way for us all to thrive as a community. My interest in nonprofit board work is to use my skills to work with an organization that encourages the next generation of young people so that they recognize their full potential through education or the arts.

Areas of Interest: Education, Arts and Culture, Houston and Community Development



Whitney J Sisney

Title: Manager, Finance Analytics and Solutions

Organization: Phillips 66

Skills/Strengths: Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning and Leadership Development

About Me: I'm an optimistic realist who leads with love and follows with discipline that is committed to nonprofit board service, by believing all people should have the opportunity to be the best version of themselves. I'm passionate about facilitating a platform and environment where teenagers and young adults can address their needs to be contributing members of society without fear of judgment.

Areas of Interest: Human Services, Education and Health

