



PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESS

THROUGH SCHOOLS CONVENING

**APRIL 9-10, 2024
THE ROYAL SONESTA
WASHINGTON DC DUPONT CIRCLE**

AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH

7:30am – 8:30am

Check-In & Breakfast

National Foyer

Check-in begins at 7:30am and breakfast service starts at 8:00am

8:30am – 9:45am

Welcome & Opening Plenary

National Room

REMARKS

Topaz Arthur

Senior Manager, Education & School Food Partnerships
Share Our Strength

Chloe Eberhardt

Senior Manager, Education & Training
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

Steven McCullough

Chief Operating Officer
Share Our Strength

Where Schools & Families Meet: Perspectives on Schools as Connectors

In this conversation, held in two parts, we will hear from people situated where families and schools meet. Speaking with parents and those liaising with families, we'll hear about the different ways that schools can be powerful connectors for families, the opportunities to do this work better, and challenges that remain to be addressed. From the perspectives of families and school staff, we'll discuss what is needed to make schools as effective as possible in linking families to critical resources.

MODERATOR

Elyse Kovalsky

Senior Manager, Program Innovation
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

PANELISTS

Jenny Torres

Associate Executive Director
The Y in Central Maryland

Additional Panelists

9:45am - 10:00am

Break & Transition

10:00am - 11:15am

BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 1

How Federal Benefits Support Schools— Impact & Opportunities

Freer

Federal benefit enrollment supports students, families, schools, and communities in many ways. In this session, you will hear about how enrollment in benefit programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, impacts childhood nutrition programs both during and outside of school time as well as student funding. You will also gain some perspective on policy and implementation approaches to connect students and families to federal benefits through schools.

SESSION LEADS

Carolyn Vega

Associate Director, Policy Analysis
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

Regis Whaley

Senior Program Manager, Education & Training
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Emily Gutierrez, MS, PhD

Senior Research Associate
Urban Institute

Daisy Munguia

Associate Director
No Kid Hungry CA campaign

Schools as a Vehicle for Addressing Food Insecurity

Corcoran

This panel discussion will explore how challenges around food insecurity impact student learning, attendance, and parent engagement. Areas of progress and regress will also be discussed from both an urban and rural landscape as well as local and regional perspectives. Partnerships are a critical component to this work. To that end, the panelists will highlight local and statewide partners that understand community need and work with and within schools to systemize and formalize approaches, interventions, and results.

SESSION LEAD

Tenisha Swift

Associate Executive Director of Operations
After-School All Stars

SPEAKERS

Melanie Acosta

Community School Director
United Community Schools

Michelle Bridgewater

District Improvement Director and President of the
Administrators Association, City School District of Albany

Joseph DiCrescento

Principal PS 48X, NYC DOE

Dena Donaldson

Assistant Director of Educational Issues
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

Tukiiya Stephens

Principal
Madison Shannon Palmer High School

11:15am - 11:30am

Break & Transition

11:30am - 12:45pm

BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 2

**SNAP in Schools:
Approaches and Best Practices**

Freer

Learn from schools and community-based organizations about their on-the-ground work to connect families with SNAP and other public benefits through school settings. Speakers will share their approaches to collaborative partnership, building SNAP awareness, identifying and referring families for application assistance, and their vision for the future of this model.

SESSION LEAD

Chloe Eberhardt

Senior Manager, Education & Training
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Rachel Viens, RDN

Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Syracuse City School District

Amalia Swan

Chief Community Impact Officer
Food Bank of Central New York

Kate Hanson

Executive Director
Meals4Families

Gabby Pulig

Benefits Outreach Manager
MANNA FoodBank

Angel Jones, MBA

Strategic Alignment Business Consultant
Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO NC)

Melissa Elliot, MPA, BS Criminal Justice

Mayor, City of Henderson, NC; Community Health Worker,
Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO NC)
Executive Director, Gang Free Inc.

Conor Carroll

Engagement Manager, Benefits Data Trust

Mitchell Bloom

Director of Advancement, Benefits Data Trust

**Community Schools:
Nourishing Minds, Amplifying Access**

Corcoran

Are you tired of theoretical strategies? Do you want to learn how best practices are being implemented on the ground? If so, this session is for you! Join us as we explore the vital role Community Schools play in increasing access to public benefits. Through an interactive panel discussion, participants will engage with on-the-ground practitioners to learn tips and tricks for partnering with their local schools, as well as valuable insights and action steps that can be implemented in their own communities.

SESSION LEAD

Joline Collins, M.ED

Northeast Deputy Director
Coalition for Community Schools at IEL

SPEAKERS

Ariana Itzel De la Hoya

Community Schools Specialist
El Paso Independent School District

Ivey Horton, PLPC, TBRI Practitioner

Site Coordinator at Phyllis Wheatley Community School

Mesha Joseph

District 21 Community Engagement Director
United Community Schools

April Rosales Dominguez

Social Services Site Manager
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger

Kayla Taylor

Coordinator of School-Based Food Pantries & Family
Resource Centers, Mercer Street Friends

12:45pm – 2:30pm

**Lunch Plenary – Leading the Charge:
Transforming Policy and Education Systems
for Public Benefits Access through Schools**

National Room

Programming will begin at 1:00pm.

Join us for an insightful panel discussion aimed at exploring the intersection of education systems, public policies, and efforts to combat food insecurity. As we delve into the pressing issue of access to public benefits for families, our esteemed panelists, representing leaders from policy, education, and anti-hunger sectors, will illuminate the current landscape and shed light on why school settings serve as pivotal platforms for providing support. Let's envision a future where strong leadership and national initiatives ensure every child and their families have equitable access to the nutrition and support they need to thrive.

MODERATOR

Topaz Arthur

Senior Manager, Education & School Food Partnerships
Share Our Strength

PANELISTS

Angelica Solis-Montero

Chief Policy Officer
Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)

S. Kwesi Rollins, MSW

Senior Vice President, Leadership & Engagement
Institute for Educational Leadership

Dr. Candice Castillo, MA, PhD

Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation
New Mexico Public Education Department

Chloe Green, MPH

Senior Policy Associate, Food and Nutrition Services
American Public Human Services Association (APHSA)

2:30pm – 2:45pm

Break & Transition

2:45pm - 4:00pm

BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 3

Smarter, not Harder: Building Relationships between Schools and Anti-Hunger Organizations to Increase SNAP Access

Freer

Helping families access food is a big job. Luckily, there's no reason any organization has to take on that job alone. Learn from school and Food Bank staff across the country how their partnerships with one another got started, and how they leverage their strengths to make sure families can get the food they need.

SESSION LEADS

Eileen Emerson

Access Capacity Services Manager
Feeding America

Allison Brown

Senior Community School Director, PS 14Q
United Community Schools

SPEAKERS

Guy A. Hamilton

Programs Manager
Chattanooga Area Food Bank

Additional Panelists

Youth Engagement in Public Benefits Access

Corcoran

This session will highlight a youth engagement project in the Coachella Valley, where migrant students worked to increase enrollment in CalFresh benefits. After hearing from Dinora, our student representative, attendees will participate in an interactive workshop to brainstorm youth inclusion in their own bodies of work. Whether there is no experience or a lot of experience in youth engagement, this session will meet participants where they are to engage students in this work.

SESSION LEAD

Riya Rahman

Senior Manager, Youth Engagement and Empowerment, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Dinora Gabriel Díaz

Public Health Policy
University of California Irvine

4:00pm - 4:15pm

Break & Transition

4:15pm - 5:30pm

BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 4

Leveraging School-Based Health Centers for Public Benefits Access

Freer

In this session, attendees will gain awareness of the unique role that school-based health centers (SBHC) can play in connecting youth and families with public benefits programs. National and state level technical assistance providers will offer lessons learned from SBHCs on the ground working to integrate nutrition assistance into SBHC services. Presenters will discuss models for screening families, providing referrals or application assistance and tracking enrollment, sharing lessons learned and challenges encountered along the way. Key partnerships and opportunities to work collaboratively with your local SBHC will be highlighted, as well as methods for engaging youth in this work.

SESSION LEAD

Sarah Mills

Senior Manager, Health Systems
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Addie VanZwoll, MJ, MSW, LCSW

Director of Programs
School-Based Health Alliance

Dr. Rachael Schilling, PhD

Program Manager
Ohio School-Based Health Alliance

Harper Byers

Program Coordinator
School-Based Health Alliance

Advocating for Increased Access to Public Benefits in Schools

Corcoran

Advocacy can play a critical role in increasing public benefits access in schools, and advocates like you have the ability to drive impact at all levels of government. Hear from No Kid Hungry partners as they discuss federal, state, and local advocacy campaigns that have resulted in increased funding and capacity for schools to connect students and families with benefits. Whether you are new to advocacy or a seasoned advocate, this session will offer important insights and opportunities for your voice to drive change.

SESSION LEAD

Matthew Smith

Senior Manager, Advocacy Engagement
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Dr. Michelle Lessly Blackburn, M.Ed, D.LP.

Senior Policy Manager and Interim National Director of EPFP
Institute for Educational Leadership

Allison Schnitzer, RDN

Director, Food Access Initiatives
Montgomery County Food Council

Elizabeth Teuwen

Manager, Food Access Initiatives
Montgomery County Food Council

Anmarie Hart-Bookbinder

Manager, Food Security Programs
Montgomery County Food Council

5:30pm - 6:00pm

Break

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Reception

Certo

An opportunity to relax, socialize, and network over hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

END OF DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH

8:00am - 8:30am

Breakfast

National Foyer

8:30am - 9:30am

Breakfast Plenary—Increasing Student Food Access: Hillsborough School District Partnership

National Room & Foyer

Hillsborough School District set out to increase access to food both in and out of school for their students and families. This panel will highlight the partnerships and strategies that provided more food resources at their schools, boosted SNAP enrollment, and allowed thousands more students to receive free school meals.

MODERATOR

Sky Beard

Florida Director
No Kid Hungry campaign

PANELISTS

Rachelle Thompson

Senior Director of Neighbor Experience
Feeding Tampa Bay

Porschia Davis

Interim Executive Director
mRelief

Arianne Corbett, RD

Nutritionist
Hillsborough County Public Schools

9:30am - 9:45am

Break & Transition

9:45am – 11:00am

BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 5

**Leveraging Schools to Support Benefits Access
for Immigrant Communities**

Freer

For decades, the Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) network has been a national leader in both refugee resettlement and legal immigration. Their “Border is Everywhere” program supports access to wraparound services that promote the healthy integration and wellbeing of our newest neighbors as they start their lives in the United States. During this session, you will hear from five expert speakers who will share valuable strategies on engaging with immigrant families to enhance access to and participation in federal nutrition benefits within schools. Whether you are an educator, community organizer, and/or advocate, this session will provide you with replicable, scalable and sustainable approaches to boost access and participation in federal nutrition benefits programs for immigrant communities.

SESSION LEAD

Chioma Hauenstein

Manager, National Partnerships and Underfunded Communities
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Inga Jelescheff

Director, Major Gifts
Catholic Charities USA

Sister Sharlet Ann Wagner, CSC, JD

Executive Director, Newcomer Network
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

Anthony T. Sciacca

Executive Vice President & Chief Development Officer
Catholic Charities USA

Antonio Fernandez

President/CEO, Catholic Charities San Antonio

Patrick J. Raglow

Executive Director, Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Jane Stenson

Vice President of Food and Nutrition
Catholic Charities USA

Supporting Students Year-Round: New Options for Summer Benefits

Corcoran

Summer – when students lose access to school meals -- has historically been the hungriest time of year, setting students up for physical and mental health challenges. The traditional summer meals programs have long struggled to fill this gap, but now there are two new options for ensuring students have the nutrition they need to thrive over the summer and return to school ready to learn. This session will discuss non-congregate meals in rural areas and Summer EBT, particularly their connection to other public benefits and the role of schools and other partners.

SESSION LEAD

Carolyn Vega

Associate Director, Policy Analysis
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

SPEAKERS

Chris Bernard

President/CEO
Hunger Free Oklahoma

Katie Raymond, MS, RDN

OKC Regional Program Manager
Hunger Free Oklahoma

11:00am - 11:15am

Break & Transition

11:15am - 1:00pm

FACILITATED SESSION

Where Do We Go from Here? Growing Connections between Education & Public Benefits

National Room

This interactive workshop will provide a space for all attendees to “digest” the conference and think big. We will facilitate a simulating space where participants

can share in large and small groups, bounce ideas off each other, ask questions, and envision the future of public benefits access efforts through schools.

SESSION LEADS

Topaz Arthur

Senior Manager, Education & School Food Partnerships
No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Chloe Eberhardt

Senior Manager, Education & Training
Center for Best Practices, No Kid Hungry campaign
Share Our Strength

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Lunch Plenary & Closing Remarks

National Room

Programming will begin at 1:45pm.

Closing out the convening, we will hear from a leadership perspective on the profound insights and opportunities unearthed during our time together. This momentous occasion will serve as a catalyst for crafting a visionary roadmap for our education systems, policies, and human services. Together, we will chart a course that ensures children and families receive the unwavering support necessary for them to not only succeed but to truly thrive. Let us seize this opportunity to transform challenges into triumphs and dreams into realities.

REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF CLOSING KEYNOTE

Jillien Meier

Managing Director
Program Partnerships and Campaign Strategy
No Kid Hungry campaign

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Eddie L. Koen, MPA, JD

President
Institute for Educational Leadership

2:30pm

Official Close of Convening

SPEAKERS

MELANIE ACOSTA (SHE/HER)

Community School Director, PS 48X Joseph R. Drake

Melanie Acosta is a dedicated Community School Director at PS 48X Joseph R. Drake in the heart of the South Bronx, and former case manager for adults with mental health and disabilities. She has a heartfelt commitment to student achievement focusing on securing the resources they need. Melanie not only ensures academic support but also cares deeply to meet the diverse needs of families in her community to the best of her ability. Graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Health Education and Promotion from Lehman College, she brings a solid foundation of knowledge to her role.

TOPAZ ARTHUR (SHE/HER)

Senior Manager, Education & School Food Partnerships No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Topaz Arthur, a native of New York, has dedicated her life to serving the youth, particularly those in marginalized communities. With over a decade of experience, she has been deeply involved in providing direct support to students and their families. In her various roles, she has confronted the barriers hindering students' academic success, with food insecurity being a pervasive issue she has actively addressed. In her current role, she is committed to leveraging her expertise to maximize the potential of school environments in tackling food insecurity among students, families, and communities. Topaz's passion for youth empowerment, coupled with her extensive experience and dedication, continues to make a profound impact in the ongoing fight against hunger and educational inequity, ensuring that all children have the resources they need to thrive.

SKY BEARD (SHE/HER)

Florida Director, No Kid Hungry campaign

Sky Beard serves as the Florida Director for No Kid Hungry where she is honored to lead a mission-driven team focused on addressing child hunger across the state. Sky has extensive experience working with schools and community organizations focused on child and family programming in Florida. As the Florida Director, Sky oversees the team's strategic planning and program operations focused on increasing access to nutrition programs for children and their families. Prior to joining No Kid Hungry, Sky served as the Executive Director of the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County. In this role, she led

a community-based organization serving early learning providers and Florida’s youngest learners. Sky is a strong advocate for ensuring that all children have an opportunity to benefit from existing services and championing additional programs when gaps in services are identified.

CHRIS BERNARD

President/CEO of Hunger Free Oklahoma

Chris, a proud native of Oklahoma, became part of Hunger Free Oklahoma in December of 2017. With a robust background in policy, advocacy, legislative strategy, and program implementation, Chris brings invaluable expertise to the organization. Chris’s track record includes building scalable solutions to complex societal problems including the areas of public safety, public health, and food insecurity in Oklahoma. “Scale it or fail it” is Chris’ mantra. This has resulted in the expansion of the Double Up Oklahoma (DUO) program, for example, a statewide nutrition incentive program that encourages fruit and vegetable purchases among Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants, the creation of a statewide SNAP Outreach plan in Oklahoma and multiple large scale emergency response efforts.

In 2023, Chris was honored with the Rodney Bivens Innovation Award by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits, recognizing his groundbreaking contributions to the field. Additionally, he was named among The Journal Record’s Most Admired CEOs in 2023 and the Most Admired Nonprofit CEO in 2021. Chris was a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class 35 and is a Lifetime member of the organization.

Chris earned his BA from the University of Texas at Austin and furthered his education by obtaining a JD from Northwestern University School of Law.

MITCHELL BLOOM

Director of Advancement, Benefits Data Trust

Mitchell Bloom is Director of Advancement at Benefits Data Trust (BDT). In this role, Mitchell cultivates partner investment in BDT’s mission to transform the social safety net and ensure that people receive dignified, efficient access to public benefits. Mitchell joined BDT in 2019 after nearly a decade in Philadelphia’s arts and culture sector, where he worked in a variety of capacities, from grant writing for the Grammy Award-winning new music choir The Crossing to teaching playwriting in the School District of Philadelphia. Mitchell has an M.A. Theatre from Villanova University and a B.A. English from Temple University.

MICHELE BRIDGEWATER (SHE/HER)

District Improvement Director and President of the Administrators Association, City School District of Albany

Michele Bridgewater, an esteemed figure in the City School District of Albany, serves as the District Improvement Director and President of the Administrators Association. With a rich background in educational leadership, Michele has held pivotal roles such as Assistant Director of Special Education, Interim Middle School Principal, and Magnet School Administrator. A proud alumna of Georgetown University and The University at Albany, Michele's unwavering dedication stems from her profound belief that "our children are waiting for us to get this right," propelling her relentless pursuit of educational excellence.

ALLISON BROWN (SHE/HER)

Senior Community School Director, PS 14Q United Community Schools

Allison has been a Community School Director in NYC since 2015. Through the height of the pandemic, she ran 2 weekly food pantries serving over 350 families in Corona, Queens. She received her MSW in Community Organizing from Hunter College School of Social Work in 2009. Allison received the "Acting for Justice" award from the Fair Housing Justice Center in 2015 and served on their Board of Directors from 2016-2019.

LOWAN BROWN

School Programs Coordinator, Foodlink

LoWan retired from the Rochester City School District in New Year after thirty-one years of serving as a school counselor and school administrator, making a significant impact on the lives of countless students. Currently, she leverages her expertise as the School Programs Coordinator at Foodlink, supporting school food pantries across a ten-county region.

LoWan demonstrates a strong commitment to professional development. She holds a BS in Psychology from Nazareth College, an MS in Counseling and Human Development from the University of Rochester, a Certificate of Advanced Studies in School Administration from SUNY Brockport, and a Certificate in School Leadership for Social-Emotional Learning and Character Development from the College of St. Elizabeth, in collaboration with Rutgers University.

HARPER BYERS (SHE/HER)

Program Coordinator at School-Based Health Alliance

Harper Byers has worked at School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) for three years and has been a part of Youth Development work for nearly two of them. She directs the SBHA Youth Advisory Council and coordinates the 'Be the Change' Youth Training Program. 'Be the Change' is an annual event where young people from across the country unite to engage in health, education, policy, and leadership workshops. Harper has co-developed and co-facilitated several Youth Development trainings related to Youth Advisory Councils and best practices for engaging youth in school-based health centers (SBHCs). Before coming to SBHA, Harper worked for the Health Education Department of Seattle Public Schools on projects relating to reproductive healthcare accessibility. She graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Sociology from Colgate University.

CONOR CARROLL (HE/HIM)

Engagement Manager, Benefits Data Trust

Conor Carroll is an Engagement Manager with Benefits Data Trust where he oversees BenePhilly, a direct service program which helps 15,000 Philadelphia families enroll in public benefits each year. Before joining BDT in December of 2020, Conor was a social impact fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for High Impact Philanthropy and a researcher with Georgetown's Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation. Previously, Conor worked as a senior research analyst at Gartner and in research roles at the U.S. Treasury Department and the Joint Economic Committee. He is an AmeriCorps alum who received his BA cum laude from Penn State University and his MPA from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs where he concentrated in economics and public policy.

DR. CANDICE CASTILLO, MA, PHD (SHE/HER/ELLA)

Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation New Mexico Public Education Department

Dr. Candice Castillo currently serves as the Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation for the New Mexico Public Education Department, where her work focuses on leading the necessary support education agencies across the state need to provide students to reach their maximum potential by removing barriers and creating opportunities to enhance their educational, social, personal, and post K-12 growth. She has statewide oversight of federal funding programs, safe and healthy schools, language and culture, the Black and Hispanic Education Acts, and student, school,

and family support. Prior to her current position, she was the Executive Officer of Student Support Services in the Houston Independent School District, the eighth largest district in the country, where she was responsible for districtwide oversight and strategic leadership of the district's student support services, including Wraparound Services, Afterschool, Counseling and Socio-Emotional Learning, Student Assistance, Health and Medical Services, and Athletics and UIL programming. In addition, she led the district's COVID-19 response, which received accolades from the U.S. Secretary of Education. During her last year with Houston ISD, she launched their telehealth services initiative to serve students' physical and mental health needs in 77 schools. Before joining Houston ISD, Dr. Castillo spent nearly two decades in the corporate world, where she worked in various industries and roles, including corporate communications for a leading global financial institution. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, a master's degree in Global Management and a doctorate in education in Ethical Leadership degree.

NAOMI M. CHAVEZ LOPEZ (SHE/HER/ELLA)
Community Schools District Manager
Las Cruces Public Schools

A through and through bilingual New Mexican with strong Latina roots, Naomi Chavez Lopez currently uses her decade long experience as a secondary language arts teacher and assistant principal to serve Las Cruces Public Schools as their Community Schools District Manager. She walks the talk at home with her husband's unwavering support as they have enrolled their son, Mateo, in a community school since he was in Kindergarten. Naomi's drive is firmly defined by the disposition of belonging, safety, and care and she has her sights set on creating systems for education transformation through the strategy that is community schools.

JOLINE COLLINS, M.ED (SHE/HER)
Northeast Deputy Director
Coalition for Community Schools at IEL

Joline Collins serves as the Northeast Region Deputy Director for the Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership. Within this role, she facilitates collaboration and serves as a bridge of support to strengthen and scale Community School initiatives by coaching school, local, and state leaders working to develop cross-sector sustainable systems and impactful results. As co-author of Taking it to the Next Level: Strengthening and Sustaining Family Engagement through Integrated Systemic Practice, Joline

has expertise in systemic family and community engagement, leadership development, and network management. In 2022, Joline graduated from Harvard University Graduate School of Education, studying education policy and management. She is a proud first-generation college student, wife, and mother, who is dedicated to advancing equity and opportunity in education and beyond.

ARIANNE CORBETT, R.D.

Nutritionist, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Arienne Corbett is Nutritionist for Hillsborough County Public Schools and President of Leading Health, LLC with more than fifteen years of experience in food and nutrition policy, school nutrition programs, and advocacy. Arienne's work is focused on efforts to improve children's access to healthy, high-quality food in schools and community settings. Prior to her work with Hillsborough County Public Schools, she supported No Kid Hungry's Florida Team efforts around school breakfast and community nutrition. She also managed public health and nutrition advocacy efforts for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and School Nutrition Association. Arienne is a Registered Dietitian and holds a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition from the University of Florida.

PORSCHIA DAVIS (SHE/HER)

Interim Executive Director, mRelief

Porschia Davis currently resides in Chicago, where she was born and raised. She attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana where she received her Bachelors Degree in Communication & Education. She later went on to obtain her Masters Degree as Professional School Counselor from Concordia University-Chicago. Having a background as a mental health professional with ten years as a public servant and in nonprofit, she is passionate about social services and families in need. With her ability to connect with others, garnering strong relationships, has contributed to partnerships in and with key states aiding in mRelief's scale. Porschia is honored to hold the Interim Executive Director role to further lead the organization to achieve its mission of transforming access to social services for the inherent dignity of all people, and she believes that food is a human right.

DINORA GABRIEL DÍAZ (SHE/HER)

Public Health Policy, University of California Irvine

Dinora Gabriel Diaz is currently a second year student at the University of California, Irvine studying Public Health Policy. Dinora loves to be active physically or mentally at all times,

currently running an E-commerce business, collaborating with professionals across various domains. Being an active member at UCI FYRE program where she's able to create community building and build supportive relationships. Additionally, she is an active member of the U.S Army ROTC program at UCI.

JOSEPH DICRESCENTO (HE/HIM)
Principal PS 48X NYC DOE

Joseph DiCrescento is a dedicated educator with 24 years of experience, exclusively serving in Title 1 schools throughout his career. He holds a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Oneonta, a Master's in Special Education from Touro College, and an Administration Master's from the College of Saint Rose. As the Principal of PS 48 Joseph R. Drake School in NYC DOE, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, recently achieving the remarkable feat of removing PS 48 from the NYS State List of Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools within a single year. DiCrescento's passion for education and commitment to student success shine through his transformative leadership at PS 48.

DENA DONALDSON (SHE/HER)
Assistant Director, AFT Educational Issues
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

Dena Donaldson serves as Assistant Director in the Educational Issues Department of the AFT overseeing community schools and early childhood education policy initiatives. Dena works with AFT affiliates and national partners to provide technical assistance related to policy, advocacy, and implementation of the community school strategy for states and local communities. She currently sits on the National Coalition for Community Schools Steering Committee and is on the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project Board of Directors.

CHLOE EBERHARDT (SHE/HER)
Senior Manager, Education & Training
No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Chloe is responsible for supporting a growing body of work on SNAP, Summer EBT, and benefits integration. She identifies and shares best practices in expanding access to federal nutrition assistance programs, develops tools and resources that facilitate program improvement and access, and fosters systems change efforts and cross-state learning. Prior to joining Share Our Strength, Chloe worked as a Policy Advocate with Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon ensuring SNAP access and leading policy and legislative initiatives addressing the root causes of hunger. Before her time with Hunger-Free Oregon, she was a community

organizer in rural Oregon focused on local food systems efforts. Chloe has a B.A in International Political Economy from Fordham University.

MELISSA ELLIOT, MPA, BS CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Mayor, City of Henderson, NC; Community Health Worker, Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO NC); Executive Director, Gang Free Inc.

Melissa Elliott is a staunch advocate for those who are challenged with Social Determinants of Health, with food insecurity at the top of her list. Through her work as Mayor, as Executive Director of Gang Free, Inc., and establishing the first food pantry in Vance County Middle School, Melissa's teams support thousands of individuals who are food insecure with programming that is fun, educational, and with added components of financial literacy, physical movement, the power of choice, and healthy food. Honored for her work in food insecurity by the NAACP, a BPA Torch Award, Delta Sigma Theta, and Vance County Schools, Melissa is the epitome of Mother Teresa's quote "If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

EILEEN EMERSON (SHE/HER)

Access Capacity Services Manager, Feeding America

Currently on the Network Team at Feeding America, Eileen previously served as the Agency Relations Manager at Second Harvest of East Tennessee, where she worked to increase capacity at community food pantries and to diversify the Food Bank's partner network. Prior to that, she spent five years managing children's programs at Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in Virginia, where she led the Food Bank's CACFP, SFSP, and school pantry programs.

ANTONIO FERNANDEZ

President/CEO, Catholic Charities San Antonio

J. Antonio Fernandez has been the President/CEO of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio since 2013. He has been leading the programs, growth, and development of the largest Catholic social services agency in the city. Under his leadership, Catholic Charities expanded programs from 17 to over 50 and quadrupled the annual budget.

Before joining Catholic Charities, Mr. Fernandez was the Senior Vice President of Operations for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, which was the largest Catholic Charities in the country. In this role, he was responsible for the overall leadership and operations of the programs providing social services and physical plant oversight.

Mr. Fernandez has a Master's degree in Business Administration, a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. In addition, he is certified for Non-Profit Organizations and is a licensed Professional Counselor.

CHLOE GREEN, MPH (SHE/HER)

**Senior Policy Associate, Food and Nutrition Services
American Public Human Services Association**

Chloe Green is the Senior Policy Associate for Food and Nutrition Services at the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) where she leads the organization's SNAP and nutrition policy portfolio, including Summer EBT. Within this role, she facilitates the American Association of SNAP Directors (AASD) and works with partners across the country in helping to move toward a more modern, effective, and customer-centered SNAP program. She has previously been a Bloomberg Fellow in Food Systems for Health, a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow, and a Wisconsin Idea Fellow. She holds degrees in Dietetics and Community and Environmental Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

EMILY GUTIERREZ, MS, PHD (SHE/HER)

Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute

Emily Gutierrez is a senior research associate in the Center on Education Data and Policy at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on K-12 education policies that aim to mitigate educational inequities, disparities, and external factors that hinder student success. Her work often focuses on the administration of school food programs, their consequences, and the subsequent measurement of student poverty. She and her co-authors have created Urban's Modeled Estimates of Poverty in Schools (MEPS) and have worked alongside Colorado's Department of Education to replace their state funding formula's measure of student poverty. Gutierrez spent time as a math teacher in Fort Worth, Texas. She received both her MS in economics and BBA in economics, Spanish, and public administration from Baylor University, and she holds a PhD in public administration from Syracuse University.

GUY A. HAMILTON (HE/HIM)

Programs Manager, Chattanooga Area Food Bank

With almost 12 years of food banking experience at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, with a specialized focus on community food distribution programs, Guy is currently responsible for overseeing all community food distribution programs, children/ school programs

and Public Benefits Access teams. These programs provide food and assistance with navigating the states of TN's and GA's public benefits systems in our 20 county service area throughout SETN and NWGA.

KATE HANSON (SHE/HER)
Executive Director, Meals4Families

Kate Hanson is a mom, scientist, and advocate working to support families across North Carolina. Leading the anti-poverty organization Meals4Families, Kate works to break down barriers that prevent families from accessing food, healthcare, and economic support resources. Meals4Families works to expand access to food support programs including SNAP, WIC, and school meals, and to connect more families with tax credits. Our work is focused on community health, community wealth, and wealth equity as pathways to ending child hunger in North Carolina.

ANNMARIE HART-BOOKBINDER
Manager, Food Security Programs
Montgomery County Food Council

Annmarie manages the Food Council's food security programs, providing technical assistance, resources, and support to the County's food security community; and implementing aspects of the County's Strategic Plan to End Childhood Hunger, of which she served as a lead author and project coordinator. Annmarie is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and holds a BS in Dietetics from the University of Maryland, College Park; as well as a BA in English from Brooklyn College, and a Master's in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

CHIOMA HAUENSTEIN
Manager, National Partnerships and Underfunded Communities
Share Our Strength

Chioma Hauenstein, a former educator and Assistant Principal in the New York City Department of Education, brings her over a decade long experience into her current role at Share Our Strength- No Kid Hungry. As the first American-born in her family, she brings a unique perspective to her work, to advocate for the health and wellbeing of immigrant families and other disinvested communities. Her journey from teacher to educational leader has imbued her with a deep understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by students and families. With her lived experience and professional expertise in mind and heart, Chioma passionately engages with organizations to champion equity and support diverse populations in schools and beyond.

IVEY HORTON, PLPC, TBRI PRACTITIONER (SHE/HER)
Site Coordinator, Phillis Wheatley Community School

Ivey Horton is a Provisionally Licensed Professional Counselor working for Communities in Schools, Gulf South in New Orleans, LA. Ivey received her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Practitioner. Ivey has a passion for empowering children and working in tandem with caretakers to empower and educate from a trauma-informed lens. With boots on the ground experience in a New Orleans community school, Ivey brings a unique perspective to the challenges students and families encounter and offers insights into how we can partner together in efforts to see children and families succeed.

ARIANA ITZEL DE LA HOYA (SHE/HER)
Community Schools Specialist
El Paso Independent School District

Ariana graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a B.S. in Environmental Science. She is a Community Schools Specialist with El Paso Independent School District focusing on food security. She is a proud Mexican-American that was born in El Paso, Texas, but grew up in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Being raised on the U.S-Mexico border has made her appreciate the struggles families go through as they look for the best opportunities and education for their families.

INGA JELESCHOFF
Director, Major Gifts, Catholic Charities USA

Inga has been with Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) for 13 years. In her role as a member of their Development team, she works to help secure financial resources for CCUSA and collaborates with partners such as Share our Strength to support the critical work of local Catholic Charities agencies across the country. Prior to her time at CCUSA, Inga held a number of positions within the American Red Cross, both domestically and internationally. While with Red Cross, she served as the National Director for all preparedness programs, as Deputy Job Director for Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and as lead for both the Red Cross roles at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games and Super Bowl XLI in Miami.

ANGEL JONES, MBA (SHE/HER)
Strategic Alignment Business Consultant

Angel Jones grew up in rural North Carolina and has been professionally consulting for more than ten years. Working for the international non-profit, FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology) and AmeriCorps, she has led several anti-poverty initiatives across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Serving as a lead consultant for school start-ups, Jones has been a pillar for policy changes in education and currently works with the Green Rural Redevelopment Organization and the Eva Clayton Rural Food Institute. Having more than 20 years of experience in community building and advocacy, she is the proud product of North Carolina Colleges and Universities, namely the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Louisburg College where she was a student-athlete (softball) and honor student. Angel has also worked in the financial industry since 2009 and has held Series 6, Series 63, and Series 26 investment licenses with the SEC and FINRA. Attending DUKE University's continuing studies program she has also gained certifications in general financial planning and employee benefits and insurance planning.

MESHA JOSEPH (SHE/HER)
District 21 Community Engagement Directory
United Community Schools

Mesha Joseph is a current Community Engagement Director for the United Community Schools. She has worked in the youth development field for over 11 years and holds a Master's in Science with a concentration in Nonprofit Management and Leadership. Mesha has always desired a career focused on social change, and a profession in the nonprofit field has allowed her to do just that! Mesha drives impactful change in creative and innovative ways while fostering powerful partnerships and sharing her vast knowledge with others. Throughout her various roles in youth development, Mesha has learned that for children and their families to succeed holistically, they need access to better opportunities, access they deserve. Therefore, she is committed to working diligently to provide equitable access to resources and provide others with the tools to do so.

EDDIE L. KOEN MPA, JD (HE/HIM)

President, Institution for Educational Leadership

A Chicago native with roots in Alabama, he has a passion for education, equity, and criminal justice Reform. Before his arrival at IEL, Eddie Koen served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio (ULGSO), one of the largest Urban League affiliates in the country serving Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Dayton, Ohio. He grew the League from 45 to 90 staff members during his tenure, increased the budget from 4.9 to 13 million, and launched the first Center for Social Justice to serve as the regional catalyst for collaborative police reform efforts. ULGSO secured at least one job per day in the region and served 1600 black, brown, & women-owned businesses a year with total revenues of over seven billion and 60 thousand employees. After securing the most significant programmatic personal gift of \$1M, the center expanded to education advocacy and health equity work. The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio also serves as headquarters to the Small Business Development Center of Hamilton County.

Before his role at Urban League, he served as the Chief Impact Officer for Mile High United Way, where he directed \$18 million in investment strategies and programming, shifting the work towards neighborhood needs.

Eddie served as the chief-of-staff for Denver Public Schools (DPS), the largest school district in Colorado with a one-billion-dollar budget, where he was charged with overall coordination of policy, lobbying, and strategy. Under Eddie's efforts, DPS eliminated expulsions and drastically reduced suspensions for all students in the district from K-3.

In Denver, Eddie served as vice-chair of the Board of Trustees for the Denver Foundation (TDF), an \$820M community foundation, chaired their work around racial equity, and served as a finance committee member.

ELYSE KOVALSKY (SHE/HER)

Senior Manager, Program Innovation No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Elyse brings the voices of families and children facing food insecurity to the strategic work of Share Our Strength. Using the principles of human-centered design and qualitative research methodologies, she works closely with families and partner organizations to identify and test innovative models in key programmatic areas. Prior to joining

Share Our Strength, Elyse conducted research with families facing housing insecurity and home foreclosure in California's Central Valley, studying economic decision-making and the implications for parents and children. Throughout her career, she has researched and managed programs at the intersections of health, housing, and economic insecurity. She has worked in various roles, including managing a quality improvement initiative for community health clinics in her work with the California Primary Care Association and advocating for stronger financial protections for American families with Americans for Financial Reform. Elyse has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University and a B.A. in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University.

MICHELLE LESSLY BLACKBURN, M.ED, D.LP. (SHE/HER)
Senior Policy Manager and Interim National Director of EPFP
Institute for Educational Leadership

Michelle Lessly Blackburn is the Senior Policy Manager and Interim National Director of EPFP at the Institute for Educational Leadership. She works to advance the policy agenda of both IEL and the Coalition for Community Schools on the federal level. Prior to entering the K-12 space, Michelle spent 15 years working in higher education administration and policy research, focusing on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Clery Act, and accreditation innovation. In previous roles, Michelle was the Head of Student Success at an EdTech nonprofit based in San Francisco and worked at MIT in the Division of Student Life. She currently serves as the Executive Director for the Blackburn Foundation, a non-profit focused on college readiness for K-12 students in North Texas. She holds a Doctorate in Law and Public Policy from Northeastern University and a Master's of Education from Abilene Christian University. A Texas native, Michelle now lives in Oakland, CA, with her husband and son.

STEVEN MCCULLOUGH, MBA (HE/HIM)
Chief Operating Officer, Share Our Strength

Steven McCullough is the Chief Operating Officer of Share Our Strength and leads the areas of Strategy, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Legal. He started this newly created role in Fall 2023. Steven is a dynamic leader with a rich tapestry of experiences spanning over three decades, marked by a steadfast commitment to driving positive change and fostering equitable outcomes for children and families. Steven has left an indelible mark on organizations across various sectors.

Steven began his career in operations management at The Quaker Oats Company and supply chain consulting at Accenture. He has held leadership roles at the Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations (CANDO); Bethel New Life, a faith-based community development corporation; Safer Foundation, which is dedicated to helping individuals with criminal records re-enter society across the State of Illinois; and the Greater Chicago Food Depository where he led the building relationships with community partners to achieve a collaborative response to addressing hunger and increasing food access across Cook County and Illinois. Most recently, Steven served as the Chief Operating & Equity Officer of Communities In Schools National Office since 2015.

McCullough holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from Loyola University of Chicago and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Chicago.

JILLIEN MEIER (SHE/HER)

Managing Director of Program Partnerships and Campaign Strategy, No Kid Hungry campaign

Since joining Share Our Strength in 2012, Jillien has focused on maximizing access to federal nutrition programs, on behalf of children and families. Jillien works to center communities and racial equity in the design of federal nutrition programs, with an emphasis on supporting national, state, and local organizations supporting immigrant families.

SARAH MILLS, MPH, RD

Senior Manager, Health Systems, Share Our Strength

Sarah is the Senior Manager of Health Systems at Share Our Strength, an organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in America by ensuring all children get the healthy food they need. Central to this mission are strategic initiatives to reach families with critical food and financial resources through the communities, systems, and places they regularly use – such as schools, healthcare, housing, and childcare. In her role, Sarah supports partnerships and projects at the intersection of healthcare and food access, identifying and amplifying solutions for integrating nutrition assistance into preventative care. Prior to this, Sarah was employed at Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit, MI where she oversaw the growth and expansion of cooking and nutrition education programs, as well as leading initiatives with health care providers to improve food security and health outcomes for their patient populations. Sarah is a registered dietitian and has a Master's degree in Public Health from Michigan State University. She is passionate about connecting people with the healthy foods they need to thrive.

DAISY MUNGUIA (SHE/HER/ELLA)

Associate Director, No Kid Hungry CA campaign

Daisy Munguia is the Associate Director for Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign, dedicated to ending childhood hunger in America by ensuring all children have access to healthy food daily. Based in Southern California, Daisy focuses on maximizing enrollment in federal nutrition programs, fostering community partnerships, and strategically innovating programs to combat childhood hunger.

With over a decade of experience in the non-profit and education sectors, Daisy previously served as the Regional Director for Rocket Learning, a national educational service provider. There, she spearheaded free after-school tutoring programs and parent engagement workshops, driving educational awareness in black and brown communities.

Daisy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a minor in Chicano Studies from California State University, Fullerton. She also earned a School Business Management certificate from the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California and an MBA with a concentration in leadership and strategy from the Peter Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University. Passionate about creating lasting change, Daisy combines her educational background with hands-on experience to make a meaningful impact in the fight against childhood hunger.

GABBY PULIG (SHE/HER)

Benefits Outreach Manager, MANNA FoodBank

Gabby Pulig comes from a diverse background in education, environmental stewardship, and advocacy. Originally from Long Beach, California, Gabby received her teaching license at California State University, Long Beach, and taught in the Southern California public school systems for 4 years. She transitioned to international education and worked for several organizations throughout Asia that brought innovative curricula to schools and communities that focus on environmental stewardship, race and class equity, local food systems, and multicultural understanding and appreciation. Gabby relocated to Asheville, North Carolina in January of 2020 and found herself volunteering at MANNA FoodBank during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once a volunteer, now a program manager, Gabby leads a team that focuses on connecting individuals with food and non-food resources in Western North Carolina.

Gabby is passionate about advocating for individuals in underserved communities, building partnerships in the community, and creating opportunities for students to access life-changing learning and skills development experiences.

PATRICK J. RAGLOW

Executive Director, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Patrick Raglow serves as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, a \$15+M not-for-profit agency serving residents of central and western Oklahoma through more than 14 service programs. In 2013/15/19/22 and 2023, he guided Catholic Charities' response to tornadoes, floods, and wildfires that frequently impact central Oklahoma. Drawing from that experience, Patrick and Catholic Charities led an unprecedented (and ongoing) state-wide resettlement effort for more than 1,800 Afghan allies in the months following the fall of Kabul in August 2021. Patrick is expanding Catholic Charities' affordable housing efforts with over 180 units and more on the way.

Patrick Raglow retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Air Force in 2009. His final assignment was Commander, 505th Operations Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, with over 260 personnel in five units across nine states.

RIYA RAHMAN (SHE/HER)

Senior Manager, Youth Engagement & Empowerment No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Riya leads the youth engagement and empowerment work within the organization, working to increase equity and inclusion of youth voices within our No Kid Hungry strategy. With almost a decade of experience in the anti-hunger space at the national, state, and local levels, she has worked with organizations and school districts across the country to advance child nutrition programs. Riya has a master's from Tufts University and a bachelor's from Baylor University.

KATIE RAYMOND, MS, RDN

OKC Regional Program Manager, Hunger Free Oklahoma

Katie Raymond joined Hunger Free Oklahoma in February 2019. Katie was born and raised in central Oklahoma and brings knowledge of nutrition and public health to the team. She served a year in a public school district with the national nonprofit FoodCorps, leading hands-on lessons, influencing healthful school meals, and promoting a district-wide culture of health. She spent her two years of graduate

school working with the campus food pantry and food recovery programs where she worked in program coordination, community collaboration, and engaging new stakeholders. Katie loves working with Hunger Free Oklahoma to help ensure her fellow Oklahomans have access to adequate, appropriate, and nourishing food.

Katie received both her BS in Human Nutrition and MS in Community Health Promotion from the University of Arkansas. She completed her dietetic internship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

S. KWESI ROLLINS, MSW

Senior Vice President, Leadership & Engagement Institute for Educational Leadership

A member of IEL's Senior Leadership Team, Kwesi guides IEL's portfolio of programs designed to develop and support leaders with a particular emphasis on Family and Community Engagement, Community Schools, Principal Leadership, and Community-based Leadership Development. Kwesi has over 30 years of experience working with local communities and state agencies to improve cross-sector collaboration and service delivery systems supporting children, youth and families.

APRIL ROSALES DOMINGUEZ

Social Services Site Manager, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger

April Rosales Dominguez is the Social Services Site Manager at El Pasoans Fighting Hunger. She has been doing social services for 7 years now, but prior to this she worked with the Health Plans which are known as Managed Care Organizations. Prior to this, April received her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Human Services. Her best accomplishment is not just being able to help our community fill out processed ready applications but also giving people hope with any barrier they may be facing.

JAY ROSCUP (HE/HIM)

Community Schools Director, Wayne County Consortium

Jay Roscup works with schools and community agencies to gather and focus resources using the Community Schools model. Experiences as a high school teacher, youth center director, school administrator and grant writer and grant project director provide perspective and experience in organizing cross-sector efforts to benefit young people and families. He is certified as a NYS School District Leader, has obtained millions of dollars in grant resources for Wayne County schools and agencies, and currently chairs the Wayne Partnership for Strengthening Families and the Wayne County Coordinating Council.

DR. RACHAEL SCHILLING, PHD (SHE/HER)
Program Manager, Ohio School-Based Health Alliance

Rachael Schilling comes from an academic background, where she gained experience in quantitative and qualitative research, data management, and communicating findings. Through her work in graduate school, she developed an interest in social determinants of health and health equity, especially among youth. She holds both a BS and MS in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati, as well as a PhD in criminology from the University of Delaware. Rachael is currently a program manager with the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance.

ALLISON SCHNITZER, RDN (SHE/HER)
Director, Food Access Initiatives
Montgomery County Food Council

Allison Schnitzer is the Director of Food Access Initiatives at the Montgomery County Food Council in Montgomery County, Maryland. She leads the Food Council's SNAP outreach and enrollment efforts and also convenes the Montgomery County SNAP Work Group. Allison is a registered dietitian, and received her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Sciences from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she also completed her dietetic internship. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Wellesley College.

ANTHONY T. SCIACCA
Executive Vice President & Chief Development Officer
Catholic Charities USA

Anthony Sciacca serves as Executive Vice President & Chief Development Officer of Catholic Charities USA – the national office for 168-member agencies that comprise the largest network of social service providers in the U.S., outside of the federal government, a Network that served 15M people last year. In his role, Mr. Sciacca has been responsible for helping develop a number of programs and initiatives to serve people in greatest need, including The Border Is Everywhere pilot to address the needs of asylum seekers entering the U.S. as well as developing innovative programs to provide food and nutrition.

Prior to joining CCUSA, Mr. Sciacca dedicated more than two decades to helping at-risk youth and vulnerable children, working for Boys & Girls Clubs for many years, as well as for the Catholic Education Foundation, which provided children from low income households with scholarships. Presented with a lifetime Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary International, Anthony has served children at every stage in his professional career.

MATTHEW SMITH (HE/HIM)

Senior Manager, National Partnerships, Advocacy Engagement, Share Our Strength

Matthew Smith is the senior manager of national partnerships, advocacy engagement for Share Our Strength. He is responsible for building relationships with external partners to further the organization's advocacy goals and uplift partner priorities. Matthew also leads the national partnerships team's summer meals strategy and LGBTQIA+ youth strategy. Previous to Share Our Strength, Matthew led federal government affairs for the Council of Graduate Schools and supported member engagement and public policy at the Agricultural Retailers Association.

ANGELICA SOLIS-MONTERO (SHE/HER)

Chief Policy Officer, Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)

Angelica is an experienced nonprofit executive skilled at strategic planning and partnerships, policy and advocacy, coalition building and communications. She has dedicated her career to improving equity for underserved communities in education, health, economic development, and civic engagement. She currently serves on the Board of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Los Angeles and on the boards of various Los Angeles based community organizations. Angelica received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's degree from the University of Southern California.

JANE STENSON

Vice President of Food and Nutrition, Catholic Charities USA

Jane Stenson currently serves as the Vice President for Food and Nutrition and Poverty Reduction Strategies for Catholic Charities USA. In this role, Ms. Stenson is responsible for leading the organization's strategic priority on Food and Nutrition and supporting agencies identify and implement best practice in multiple program areas including poverty reduction and asset development strategies. She provides networking support and consultation with agencies in selective areas and also serves on the Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition Advisory Committee. Ms. Stenson received a B.A. from Trinity College, Washington, DC and a Masters in Social Work, MSW from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.

TUKIYA STEPHENS

Principal, Madison Shannon Palmer High School

Tukiya Stephens is an accomplished graduate of Alcorn State University, holding B.S. degrees in Biology and Chemistry and an M.A. in Elementary Education. For nine years, she excelled as a high school science teacher, earning awards such as Teacher of the Year. Her exceptional teaching skills and dedication to her students garnered prestigious accolades, including the titles of Natchez Early College Teacher of the Year and Natchez-Adams School District Teacher of the Year. Additionally, she was recognized as the Natchez Unsung Hero in 2014, highlighting her commitment to her community. Transitioning to administration in 2017, she became Principal of Madison S. Palmer High School in Marks, MS. Under her leadership, the school achieved its first-ever “A” rating academically. Currently pursuing a doctorate in Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment, Tukiya remains dedicated to enhancing education and empowering students.

AMALIA SWAN (SHE/HER)

Chief Community Impact Officer Food Bank of Central New York

Amalia Swan is the Chief Community Impact Officer at the Food Bank of Central New York. Amalia has been with the Food Bank for 27 years, largely focused on increasing participation in several federal nutrition assistance programs including SNAP, WIC, National School Breakfast, CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program. During her tenure, Amalia has coordinated outreach efforts in six counties, created a website that allows individuals to self-screen for SNAP and played a critical role in reducing the New York State SNAP application from 17 pages to 2 pages, eliminating a major barrier to service. She currently oversees the following departments; Advocacy, Agency Relations, Outreach, Nutrition and healthcare partnerships.

TENISHA SWIFT

Associate Executive Director of Operations After-School All Stars

Tenisha Swift is the Associate Executive Director of Operations for the New York Chapter of After-School All Stars (ASAS). Upon joining ASAS NY, initially as the Senior Director of Grants & Compliance where she refined the chapter’s operational practices within the areas of finance, procurement, and HR she was then promoted to her current role. Additionally, during that time she developed strategic partnerships with No Kid Hungry and The Campaign Against Hunger to strengthen access to nutritious food options for school communities

in NYC, specifically Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. Tenisha brings a career history of progressively responsible educational and nonprofit leadership experience. She served as a Service-Learning Coordinator at Manhattanville College; Program Administrator for the Collegiate/Science and Technology Enrichment Program at Fordham University; Program Director for the Post Graduate Institute at Harlem Children’s Zone; and various program-focused roles at the United Federation of Teachers-United Community Schools, most recently as Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives. Tenisha holds a Bachelor’s in Biology and a Master’s in Public Health Policy & Management.

KAYLA TAYLOR (SHE/HER)

Coordinator of School-Based Food Pantries & Family Resource Centers, Mercer Street Friends

Kayla Taylor graduated from The College of New Jersey and now serves as the Coordinator of School-Based Food Pantries & Family Resource Centers for Mercer Street Friends in Trenton, NJ. In her role, she has headed the School-Based Food Pantry and Family Resource initiative, opening three locations, in partnership with the Trenton Public School district, since September 2023. With extensive experience in education, youth development, and nonprofit social services, her passion for her community and its families drives her efforts to bring community-based services directly to families at their schools.

ELIZABETH TEUWEN (SHE/HER)

**Manager, Food Access Initiatives
Montgomery County Food Council**

Elizabeth manages food access initiatives for the Montgomery County Food Council, focusing on SNAP outreach and enrollment. She assists residents in applying for SNAP, educates the community on the complexities of SNAP enrollment, and advocates for increased access to nutrition benefits. She was previously a member of the Food Council’s food security team, working on implementing the County’s Food Security Plan. Prior to joining the Food Council, Elizabeth was a chef, a food educator, and an attorney practicing energy law. She holds a B.A. from Holy Cross College, a J.D. from Georgetown University, and a certificate in pastry arts from L’Academie de Cuisine.

JENNY TORRES, LMSW (SHE/HER)

Associate Executive Director, The Y In Central Maryland

Jenny Torres is an Associate Executive Director of School Partnerships with The Y of Central Maryland Association. She is a Baltimore-based, bilingual social worker that has supported various communities in navigating broken social systems to address basic needs. Her background in community organizing provides a unique lens to bridging systemic gaps between schools and communities.

ELISHA VANNORMAN (SHE/HER)

Rural Programs Coordinator, Foodlink

Elisha VanNorman is currently working as the Rural Programs Coordinator at Foodlink, and she has over 10 years of experience in customer service. Her primary responsibility at Foodlink is to enhance food access and fill gaps in rural communities within the Foodlink 10 county network. Before joining Foodlink, she worked at Liberty Travel as the Assistant Team Lead and was recognized for her exceptional performance as the top sales agent in the office. Additionally, she worked as the store manager at Icing by Claire's, and her store was one of the most profitable stores in upstate NY. Her remarkable achievements have made her an expert in customer service and client relationships.

ADDIE VAN ZWOLL, MJ, MSW, LCSW (SHE/HER)

Director of Programs, National School Based Health Alliance

Addie Van Zwoll is a Director of Programs with the National School Based Health Alliance. She has worked in the school-based health care field at the local, state, and national level since 2011. As a clinical social worker and manager of behavioral health services at a local SBHC, she provided direct clinical services and expanded behavioral health programming, including the introduction of alternative to suspension programs and a calm room. Ms. Van Zwoll is passionate about working with adolescents and increasing access to mental health care. Prior to working in the school-based health center field, she began her career in child welfare and juvenile justice, providing children and families with much-needed support as a case manager, program manager, and therapist. Ms. Van Zwoll has a Masters in Children's Law and Policy from Loyola University Chicago, a Masters in Social Work from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelors in Social Work and Criminal Justice from Western Michigan University. Ms. Van Zwoll is also pursuing her Ph.D. in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago.

CAROLYN VEGA, MPH, RD (SHE/HER)
Associate Director of Policy Analysis
No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Carolyn Vega leads the development of Share Our Strength's state and federal policy priorities, provides analysis of policy opportunities, and supports the government relations team. She joined Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign in 2015 and initially worked to expand access to the Afterschool Meals Program before focusing on policy beginning in 2020. Prior to that, she was a CACFP Specialist for the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education and a National Nutrition Policy Fellow at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). Carolyn, a Registered Dietitian, holds a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from Ohio State University and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

RACHEL VIENS, RDN (SHE/HER)
Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Syracuse City School District

Rachel Viens is the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for the Syracuse City School District. She is responsible for operating the USDA child nutrition programs such as the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program within the Syracuse City School district. Rachel graduated from Syracuse University in 2004 where she also completed her Dietetic internship and is currently an Executive MPA candidate at Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University.

SISTER SHARLET ANN WAGNER, CSC, JD (SHE/HER)
Executive Director, Newcomer Network
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

Sister Sharlet Ann Wagner is Executive Director of the Newcomer Network of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Sr. Sharlet practiced as an immigration attorney in California and Utah and served on the General Council of her religious congregation in Indiana before moving to Washington, D.C. She brings international experience having lived and worked in Uganda and Ghana. In her current position she directs a team of immigration attorneys and case managers who work with newcomers to the United States, helping families move from crisis to stability and integration into their new communities.

REGIS WHALEY (HE/HIM)

Senior Manager, Education & Training No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

Regis is responsible for identifying best practices and providing technical assistance to support our student eligibility work as well as overseeing projects related to our school meals modernization work. Prior to joining Share Our Strength in 2023, Regis worked for seven years at Three Square Food Bank, serving in numerous roles to build the organization's capacity to leverage data, technology, and policy to reduce hunger and food insecurity in Southern Nevada. He holds a B.A. in Psychology and a Master of Public Health from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is currently a Bloomberg Fellow, completing his Doctor of Public Health degree at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



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