

NJVOAD & NJGOV Presents...

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY: *Sparking Innovation*

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



ALEXANDER J. DIAZ leads the AI for Social Good team at Google.org, Google’s philanthropic arm. Through this role, Alex manages Google’s philanthropic efforts to empower nonprofits to develop and deploy high-impact AI applications that address critical global challenges and ensure the benefits of AI reach marginalized populations. He also manages Google’s efforts in response to global crises, such as natural disasters and public health emergencies, providing innovative nonprofits on the frontlines with funding and volunteers to help communities better prepare, respond, and recover from crises. As a Rhodes Scholar, Alex received a Master’s of Public Policy and a Master’s of Financial Economics at the University of Oxford. Alex graduated from Harvard College Phi Beta Kappa with highest honors in psychology. Alex has been named to Forbes’ List of 30 Under 30 for Law & Policy. The son of Dominican and Cuban immigrants, Alex was raised in Union City, NJ.



ALEXANDRA E. KILDUFF is a Staff Attorney at Pro Bono Partnership, a legal services organization dedicated to providing free transactional legal services to nonprofit organizations. She handles client matters, volunteer outreach and educational offerings for the New Jersey program. Prior to joining Pro Bono Partnership, she was in private practice specializing in commercial and construction litigation and corporate governance. She also has professional experience as a development specialist and fundraiser for The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Inc. and continues to be involved with several charitable organizations throughout the state. She is admitted to the bar in New Jersey and is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and Seton Hall University School of Law.



BLANCHE BRANN has been a volunteer for over 20+ years. She began her career in trade book publishing, working with such remarkable authors as James Baldwin and John Edgar Wideman. She took a detour into the tech industry, working for AOL in its infancy in the Marketing Strategy Division. From there she joined the strategy and M&A team at AT&T, retiring as a corporate director. For several years she worked as a Strategy Consultant in the high tech and telco areas. Just as the fiscal crisis of 2008 began, she became a certified Housing Counselor (Neighborworks) and worked as a foreclosure prevention advocate working for two HUD agencies in New Jersey and serving as a Mediator in the Foreclosure Mediation Program for the New Jersey Judiciary. She also was an advisor to the Treasury Department under the Obama Administration. She has worked for a variety of nonprofits, from CASA for Children of Mercer and Burlington Counties to the Trenton Circus Squad. She and Marge Smith host volunteer workshops for Nonprofits on Nonprofit management tools and techniques. She is a long-time volunteer committee member with Princeton Community Works, which hosts an all-volunteer run annual conference on nonprofit management topics each year.



BRANDON PUGH is the director and senior fellow of the R Street Institute's Cybersecurity and Emerging Threats team. He also serves as an international law officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and as a fellow for the Army Cyber Institute at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has proudly served on the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism for over a decade. Previously, he served in elected and appointed office at the local, county, and state level, managed a cyberwarfare publication, was a fellow with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was legislative counsel for the New Jersey General Assembly (Minority Office), where he handled nearly all policy and legislation on cybersecurity, emerging technology and privacy. Brandon has presented and been published dozens of times, including congressional testimony and on national television.



BRITTANY BEYER serves as the Fundraising Coordinator at Better Tomorrows, where her primary focus lies in corporate volunteerism and grant management. With an extensive background in communications and community engagement, Brittany enjoys cultivating meaningful relationships with community members, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and student groups. Before joining Better Tomorrows, Brittany held the position of Director of Community Engagement at the United Way of Gloucester County. In this role, she collaborated with external stakeholders and volunteer committees driving impactful initiatives. Brittany proudly serves as the Chairperson for her local municipal Green Team in Barrington, NJ, a role she has held since 2022. She also volunteers with New Jersey Tri-County Sustainability and the United Way of Gloucester County, contributing to community engagement, grant review, and writing. Brittany holds a Bachelor's Degree in

Psychology from Rowan University, as well as a certificate in grant writing for both profit and nonprofit entities from the Community College of Philadelphia.



CAROL HAUEISEN FLORES has worked in the humanitarian disaster response space since she first discovered this world after Tropical Storm Allison impacted Houston in 2001. Over the last 20+ years she has supported multiple grant-funded programs, including Camp Noah and FEMA’s Disaster Case Management Program. She is a past chair of the Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD (serving the greater Houston area) and a member at large of the Texas VOAD.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey in Texas in 2017, Carol was tapped to lead the 14-agency consortium that was awarded, through National VOAD, one of two FEMA DCMPs to support the 41 County recovery efforts.

Carol joined Visionlink in 2021 as the lead staff for supporting customers using Visionlink’s disaster tools. In her time there, she has supported nearly a dozen FEMA DCMPs and has helped design and build volunteer and donations management solutions.

Carol now calls Aurora, NE home where she, along with her husband Rudy, enjoy spending their downtime exploring in their camper.



CHRISTINA WOLFE is the AmeriCorps Program Director at St. Paul’s Community Development Corporation in Paterson, NJ. Prior to entering the world of AmeriCorps, Christina spent much of her career helping young adults navigate various life challenges and paths- helping aged-out foster youth navigate life after foster care, working with youth residing in emergency and transitional housing, and helping prospective college bound students work through the daunting college admissions and financial aid process. As a first-generation college student herself, Christina is passionate about equipping individuals looking at higher education with the tools

and knowledge they need to make informed decisions throughout the process. Christina received her Bachelor’s in Youth and Family Studies from Nyack College in Nyack, NY. In her spare time, Christina enjoys baking desserts for family and friends, and training in CrossFit.



CHRISTINE SEMINERIO serves as the Executive Director for the Garden State Animal Resource Team (GSART). Christine's 10+ years of emergency management experience includes serving as Director of the Monmouth County Animal Response Team (CART) and trainer of County & State Animal Response Teams. She has provided extensive contributions to the NJ Animal Response Teams Standard Operating Procedures. During Hurricane Sandy she operated a CART co-located shelter with 4 weeks of nonstop dedication to people and pets. Christine was inducted into the NJVMA Animal Hall of Fame for her efforts during the crisis. Christine provides lectures to the community and first responders on pet emergency preparedness and the role of animal response teams. She is a licensed veterinary nurse and has worked at a prestigious veterinary hospital for over 25 years. In addition to working with veterinary patients, she served as the company's Director of Safety and Health where she oversaw emergency response planning for the fifty hospital Network. Her free time is spent with her husband, two children, and beloved French Bulldog.



DEBORAH COSTA serves as the Region 2 Community Preparedness Officer (CPO) since 2020. In this position she conducts community outreach, fosters individual and family preparedness, and provides technical assistance and education about preparedness policies and programs which allow communities to become more resilient. Ms. Costa provides workshops to Senior Serving Organizations and Homeless Service Providers as well as CERTs (Community Response Teams) throughout the Region. She is the Editor of the Region 2 Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin, Host of the Region 2 Preparedness and Resilience Webinar Series and founder of the Regional Youth Preparedness Council.



DENISE DANIELS, with almost ten years of dedicated service at United Way of Greater Mercer County as the Director of Outreach and Volunteer Services, spearheads initiatives to provide reading kits and essential resources to children and families across Mercer County. She successfully manages Strike Out Hunger events, that has distributed over 806,000 meals, 181,000 pounds of fresh produce and 12,000 pounds of nonperishable food to alleviate food insecurity in the region. In her prior role as Community Affairs Manager at Comcast, Denise was committed to community development.

Currently, Denise supports various nonprofits, lending her expertise to gala committees for The Father Center, Dress for Success, Mercer County Community College Spring Gala and Kidsbridge. Her affiliations with TDI Connect that distributes refurbished computers to students, Princeton Community Works, an acclaimed annual nonprofit conference, and ambassadorship for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Campaign showcase her diverse community engagement.

Denise sits on the United Way Worldwide Volunteer Council and the United Worldwide Corporate Volunteer Services committee. She serves as a Councilwoman in East Windsor and as liaison to the Commission on Aging and the Health Advisory Board. Denise has received the Better Beginnings Shining Star Award, the Mercer County Woman of Achievement Award, and the prestigious Fred Young Champion for Business Award from the Princeton Regional Chamber.



DIANE JANSEN has 25+ years of professional experience in healthcare administration, strategic planning and program development. A civically engaged, community advocate and volunteer, Ms. Jansen is Social Media Administrator of “Englewood News” which provides key local, regional and state information to over 5,000 members. Ms. Jansen serves on Englewood groups including the Englewood Health Patient & Family Advisory Council, Rotary Club of Englewood Board, and Mayor's Cultural Affairs Committee as Community Engagement Co-chair.

Diane Jansen is passionate about advancing diversity, equity, and environmental justice in the City of Englewood. Ms. Jansen has been an active member of the Englewood Ida Recovery Team that assisted Hurricane Ida victims. At the State level, she has provided public comment on flooding and affordable housing as well as testimony at judicial hearings. Ms. Jansen has facilitated connections between Englewood and senior officials in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and NJ Department of Community Affairs.

In 2022, Ms. Jansen was among those formerly recognized for her volunteer service with awards from 3 local organizations along with government proclamations. Ms. Jansen holds an MBA in Health Care Administration from Bernard M. Baruch College-Mount Sinai School of Medicine via full scholarship as a U.S. Public Health Service Fellow. She received her BA, summa cum laude, in Economics and a Criminal Justice Certificate from Rutgers College.



DIANE YOUNG JOHNSON is the Director of Special Projects and Resource Development at Better Tomorrows. She is a highly experienced professional with a remarkable career spanning over 23+ years in the dynamic fields of Health Education, Social Services, and Support Resources. Her tenure at Better Tomorrows underscores a consistent dedication to Community Engagement, Resource Development, and the cultivation of impactful Partnerships.

Throughout her extensive career, Diane has played a pivotal role in conceiving, developing, and executing robust programs and community engagement events in collaboration with a diverse array of partners. Her work is grounded in the conviction that resources are abundantly available every day, provided one takes the initiative to seek them out. Diane possesses a fervent passion for establishing connections and effecting positive change in the lives of those she serves.

Diane's unwavering dedication to community development, coupled with her ability to forge meaningful partnerships, positions her as a valuable asset in her mission to create Better Tomorrows for the residents. Her tireless efforts underscore a profound belief in the power of collaboration and the positive impact it can have on the well-being of communities.



DR. W. DOUGLAS ZIMMERMAN is the founder and CEO of VisionLink, one of the nation's leading providers of community services and disaster relief software solutions. An expert in change management and multi-agency partnership building, Zimmerman received his doctorate from the Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. VisionLink's Community Operating System, known as CommunityOS, supports the American Red Cross, FEMA, the NVOAD's DART platform, United Ways, 2-1-1's, ADRC's, various state and county governments and a wide range of highly effective community partnerships—to improve community services and resilience, mitigate fraud, coordinate volunteers, manage cases, and leverage donor resources.



ERASTUS MONG'ARE, HSC is a presidential appointee serving as a Senior Advisor for National Service at the Peace Corps. Prior to Peace Corps, he served in different capacities at the State of Delaware government, including Social Service Senior Administrator at Delaware's Department of Health and Social Services and prior to that, he served a dual role as the Senior Administrator for Delaware's State Office of Volunteerism and Executive Director for the Governor's Commission for Community and Volunteer Service.

An AmeriCorps alumnus himself from Public Allies, Delaware, Erastus has continued his ethic of service in many capacities including serving as the Founder and Executive Director for StartUpAfrica (startupafrica.org), that supports youth in the building of business skills and in endeavors that foster financial independence, create jobs, and grow African economies. He mobilizes volunteers and resources to support development projects including initiating partnerships for various entrepreneurship initiatives.

He is a recipient of numerous awards including Kenya's Presidential Head of State Commendation (HSC), Delaware's Governor's Proclamation, Public Allies Delaware Changemaker, Distinguished Toastmasters Award, and two-time finalist: Philadelphia Eagles Community Quarterback Award.



HARDAYAL SINGH has worked on Wall Street for more than 14 years in the financial sector and now serves as a venture capitalist in the business and technology sector. He currently serves in a full-time job as a Vice President for City National Bank under their Division of Wealth Management and Private Banking, a private boutique wealth management bank with assets of more than 120 billion dollars and now a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (with assets worth 880 billion dollars). He is the founder of an international humanitarian NGO, a U.N. affiliate, UNITED SIKHS, which plays a spearheading role in the areas of Disaster Relief, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment and Education. He has been instrumental in opening UNITED SIKHS chapters in ten countries (USA, UK, India, France, Canada, Belgium, Australia, New Zealand, and Ukraine).



JANET SHARMA is coordinator of Age-Friendly Englewood, an initiative launched in 2016 to help older adults age with dignity and independence in their homes and community. She was Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Bergen Co. for 22 years and chaired Bergen County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, which operated a successful Hurricane Sandy Recovery Project that raised and distributed over \$10 million to help residents recover from the storm.

She participates in a robust local collaboration that during the pandemic helped older adults avoid food insecurity, isolation, anxiety and other negative impacts. After George Floyd's murder she helped launch the Coalition for Racial Unity and Equity to address systemic racism.

In response to Tropical Storm Ida, Mrs. Sharma formed the Englewood Ida Recovery Team, a group of nonprofits, houses of worship, elected officials and city leaders to mobilize local resources to help those impacted by the storm.

Mrs. Sharma's leadership has been recognized by YWCA and Girl Scouts of No. NJ, Center for Food Action, B.C. Council of Churches, Meadowlands Chamber, WCBS-880, Children's Aid & Family Services, Community Health Law Project and Bergen County Commissioners. She serves on the Governor's Age-Friendly Advisory Council and Advisory Council on Volunteerism, and Bergen Co. Human Relations Commission. She is a member and past-president of Flat Rock Brook Nature Center and the Rotary Club of Englewood. She resides in Cresskill.



JENNIFER DILORENZO began her work with FEMA post-Hurricane Sandy as a local hire in February 2013, working on Coastal Resiliency Projects and Long-Term Community Recovery Plans for the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination (FDRC). With her environmental background, she moved to Region II's EHP, working as Lead Environmental Protection Specialist (2014-2016) and deploying to Hurricane Matthew in FLA. Combining her community work and environmental expertise, she moved to Public Assistance as Section Chief (2016-2020) and later as Acting Deputy Branch Chief for DR4086NJ. Jennifer has also deployed to Hurricanes Irma and Maria

in Puerto Rico and USVI; most recently in USVI as Deputy Infrastructure Branch Chief. Jennifer is now Public Assistance Branch Chief for the Regional Operations Branch in Region 2 (2020-present). Her teaching skills for FEMA enabled many Region II staff to become Certified Floodplain Managers and DSA-qualified. Jennifer also served on the President's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. Prior to FEMA, Jennifer worked for several engineering firms on coastal restoration projects and taught science classes at Monmouth University and Stevens Institute of Technology. She served the State of New Jersey as Bureau Chief for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. She holds a M.S. degree in Marine Environmental Science (SUNY@Stony Brook) and is a Certified Floodplain Manager (C.F.M.).



JOE FORTE is a seasoned state government professional with over a decade of experience in senior leadership roles. Currently, he serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Diversity Officer at the New Jersey Department of State. In this capacity, he leads the Communications team, Business Action Center, and the Cultural Trust, overseeing a wide range of initiatives and programs. With a focus on diversity and inclusion, Joe has contributed to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, Ethics, and Diversity efforts at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

He holds a Master of Public Administration and a certificate in Strategic Communications from Rutgers University, as well as a Master of Science degree in International Affairs from Northeastern University. He has also completed certificates in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University and is currently pursuing a certificate in Human Resource Management from Drexel University.

Throughout his career, Joe has been recognized for his leadership and service, receiving awards such as the Community Advocate award with the NJ Pride Chamber of Commerce, Pride Network Awardee in Leadership and Service, Business Equality Magazine's "40 under 40," and the New Jersey Governor's Statewide Employee Recognition Award. He has actively participated in federal, state, and local political campaigns and served in various community organizations, contributing to the advancement of LGBTQ+ rights and diversity initiatives. In 2020, Joe was Co-Chair of NJ's Presidential Day of Service event and Co-Chair of LGBTQ for Biden NJ.



JOE GELETA currently serves as the Director of Emergency Management for the NJ Department of Human Services. He is directly responsible for emergency management activities associated with the Department's 7 facilities and 10,000 employees. He serves as the State of New Jersey's Mass Care (Sheltering/Feeding/ Reunification/ Distribution of Emergency Supplies) lead during disaster response operations. He retired from the NJ State Police after 30 years of service and was leading New Jersey's Hurricane Sandy recovery effort along with our FEMA Colleagues. Upon his retirement he served as the Executive Director of the NJ211

Partnership. NJ211 is the statewide help and referral call center for those needing health or human service needs. Simply call 2-1-1 or visit www.nj211.org to get connected.



JOHN A. SANTANA is the Director of Strategic Partnerships & Operations at the United Way of Greater Mercer County. John has worked in the non-profit, government and public sector fields and has gained a breadth of experience in effective engagement, collaborative strategies, and consensus building. Immediately prior to joining the UWGMC, John worked for the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy Recovery team where he used his vast experience in community engagement to assist victims throughout the state.

John is an experienced project manager who is well-versed in the collaboration and communication of public policies, and developing collaborative strategies. John has served two Governors of Puerto Rico as the Regional Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration [PRFAA] both in NJ and NY; U.S. Senator Jon S. Corzine as a Special Projects Director; and the Bellevue Hospital Center/South Manhattan Healthcare Network as the Director of Community Provider Relations & Network Partnership Development.

John earned his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, and earned his Masters of Public Administration from Bernard M. Baruch College, School of Public Affairs, City University of NY. He is a Commissioner of the NJ Puerto Rico Commission, a Board Member of The Father Center, a National Urban Fellow, and alumni member of Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity, Inc. John and his wife, Socorro, are the proud parents of two children, Alexis 23 and Jared 18.



JULIE HANLEY is the Executive Director of Volunteer Guardianship One on One Inc. (VG); joining VG in August of 2022. Julie brought with her three decades of experience working within nonprofit organizations in a direct service and management capacity, including one of her earliest jobs as Case Manager and Volunteer Recruiter with Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh. This experience continues to inform her deep belief in the efficacy of utilizing community volunteers in important roles within nonprofits. Julie holds a BS from Penn State University and an MSW from Rutgers University.



KAREN GEARY is the Case Manager at Volunteer Guardianship One on One Inc. She joined the organization in May 2023 upon her completion of a Public Health Masters certificate from TCNJ.

Karen is responsible for the recruitment, onboarding, training of our volunteer guardians. She is the point of contact for questions and additional resources for our guardians and is the liaison between our Board of Directors and volunteers when area expertise is required. Karen brings a wealth of experience to this position and has been an important addition to our team.



KEITH ADAMS is a Community Organizer with a focus on disaster resilience, response, and recovery. He has been the Executive Director of the New Jersey State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster since 2019. From 2014 through 2018, he served as the organizations Chairperson. The organization’s mission is focused on building disaster resilient communities throughout New Jersey. NJVOAD improves outcomes for people and communities affected by disasters by facilitating cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration among nonprofit organizations, community-based groups, government agencies and for-profit companies.

From 2017 through 2020, Keith served as a member of the Board of Directors for National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, and as Vice Chair.

From 2013 to 2018, Keith served as Coordinator for The Episcopal Church in NJ Superstorm Sandy Recovery Program, a partnership program with Episcopal Relief and Development and the Episcopal Dioceses of New Jersey and Newark.

Retired from a longtime career in Emergency Services with the United States Department of Defense, Keith has always been active in community and church affairs, serving as Fire Chief, Emergency Manager, Board of Education President, Church Warden, and many other civic and church activities. He currently serves as President of the Board of Trustees for the Volunteer Center of Burlington County, and on the Diocese of New Jersey Jubilee Ministries Advisory Board.



KENT DAVIS is a National Certified Guardian and former Trustee of Volunteer Guardianship One on One, Inc., in Flemington, New Jersey. Beginning in 2008, Mr. Davis served as a volunteer guardian to three incapacitated adults. Since 2015, Mr. Davis has served as both Trustee and President of the organization, committed to expanding the concept of community guardianship throughout New Jersey. Mr. Davis has a BS and MPH from Rutgers University, and works at Mathematica Policy Research in Princeton, New Jersey as a public health solutions architect, designing Medicaid and health systems reporting solutions for state and federal clients.



KRISTEN COPPOLA is well versed in the world of Corporate Social Responsibility and volunteerism. She has spent nearly a decade helping maximize the volunteer experience and meet community-identified needs through strategic planning, logistics management, and relationship building. As the Vice President of Corporate Solutions at Jersey Cares, Kristen oversees Corporate Service and Consulting teams to design strategic employee engagement plans, implement impactful signature corporate volunteer opportunities ranging from 10-1,000 volunteers, and continuously grow and develop programming year over year.



KRISTIE COLLINS is a Community Disaster Risk Reduction Manger with American Red Cross – NJ Region. With more than 25+ years of experience and success in Account Management, Relationship Building, Strategic planning and Creative Leadership, she has worked for 4 years serving the American Red Cross as a volunteer and as an Account Manager in Donor Recruitment Blood Services contributing towards the collection of blood products to help patients in need across the Tri-State area. Currently the Manager for the Community Adaptation Program in Atlantic County transforming how communities cope with disasters.



LEENA NAIR serves as the Grant Coordinator and Social Media/Newsletter Coordinator at the Central Jersey Chapter of Sewa International, USA. Leena has received FEMA training in Disaster Management. In addition to her responsibilities, Leena manages complex domestic violence cases for Family Services and provides support for the chapter's 24/7 Helpline. With a Master's in Business, Leena currently works as a Software Engineer in the Information Technology field, specializing in providing Enterprise-wide solutions.



LINDSAY MIXER (they/he/she) is a social data scientist, researcher, and educator specializing in social psychology, queer studies, and disability. They have an MA in Public Sociology from Humboldt State University and an MEd in Human Sexuality from Widener University, where they are also working on their PhD in Human Sexuality. Over their career, they have taught classes on race and on sexuality from a sociological perspective and have written about the different ways people develop their queer identity. Currently, Lindsay utilizes their data analysis and research expertise in their work as the Operations Coordinator for Vibrant Emotional Health's Crisis Emotional Care Team (CECT). With the CECT, they run an extensive data management system, a research library for the team's volunteers, and develop training materials. In their free time, Lindsay enjoys playing roller derby and following dog sled races.



LISA GALONARDO is the Director of Corporate Giving and Volunteer Engagement at the United Way of Northern New Jersey and has been responsible for recruiting, training and managing volunteers for over thirty years. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Lisa's tenure at United Way has included engaging all types of volunteers including corporate teams, individuals, families and students to perform a variety of work including tax preparation, program evaluation, disaster response, holiday and school-focused support and organizational leadership. Lisa also serves as the Co-chairperson of the Association of New Jersey Volunteer Centers, which facilitates cooperation and involvement among the Volunteer Centers/Volunteer Engagement organizations in

New Jersey, as well as serving as Chairperson for the Somerset County COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters), which assists in coordinating volunteers and local service response and support during community-level disasters.



LORI ROSS has worked for FEMA Region II as a Voluntary Agency Liaison since 2012, starting out as a local hire during Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey leading voluntary agency engagement resulting in millions of dollars of support to disaster survivors in New Jersey, robust Long Term Recovery Groups in the USVI while also leading the successful COVID-19 mobile vaccination effort there. A graduate of Monmouth University, prior to FEMA she has worked as an Analyst for a global insurer heading up their Homeowner’s Division and also for a municipal government in New Jersey where she secured significant federal, state, private sector and philanthropic funding and initiatives for a small, distressed community resulting in a revitalized downtown business district and a once crime riddled neighborhood. Lori has volunteered for non-profits and community-based organization her entire adult life and is passionate about whole community recovery.



MABEL RAMIREZ is the Volunteer Services Sr. Engagement Specialist at American Red Cross – NJ Region. Mabel has been working with the American Red Cross for five years as part of the Volunteer Services team. She focuses on volunteer engagement and retention practices and in training others on how to best engage their volunteers. She is also responsible for the state-wide Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation strategies and events for the American Red Cross. She has over 20 years of experience supervising, supporting and developing volunteers through work in other non-profits and through her own volunteer roles.



MARCUS COLEMAN serves as the Director for the Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (DHS Partnerships Center). As the Director of the DHS Partnerships Center, Marcus leads a team focused on building partnerships alongside others at FEMA and DHS to advance equity in emergency management and strengthen climate resilience, improving the safety and security of the places where people worship, fellowship and serve, and provides technical assistance to emergency managers, first responders and national security professionals on engaging faith-based and community organizations across DHS.

Marcus is an alum of Howard University, American University, Harvard University National Preparedness Leadership Initiative and the Obama for America Campaign. Originally from Tucson, Arizona, Marcus has served at the intersection of building public private partnerships with faith-based and non-profit organizations for more than 15 years.



MARGE SMITH has seen how volunteers can transform the lives of individuals, organizations and communities. She has experience working with volunteers from many different perspectives. She has served as president of 10 different boards and when Executive Director of Princeton YWCA in the 90s, she utilized over 1000 volunteers annually. Also, Princeton Community Works, a conference committed she founded to empower the nonprofit community, is totally organized and run by volunteers. Specifically designed to enable non-profit boards, staff, and volunteers to work together more effectively by networking, developing skills, and raising community awareness, Princeton Community Works has impacted more than 10,000 attendees in its 20-year history and in 2019 was named one of the top nonprofit conferences in the United States. She has devoted her life to building teams and empowering people as a way of creating sustainable positive change in the community. Marge continues to be a much sought-after consultant facilitating board retreats, strategic planning initiatives, and team building workshops for literally hundreds of non-profits.



MARIONNE FERNANDEZ serves as the Deputy Director of Service Delivery at Better Tomorrows. Marianne graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, and started her social service career at Better Tomorrows in 2015 as a Social Service Coordinator in Jersey City coordinating programs and services for affordable housing residents. Through several growth opportunities within Better Tomorrows, Marianne now oversees the upper East Coast portfolio of Service Delivery, from Virginia to Massachusetts, assuring that the service delivery team is provided with resources and support to excel in their roles while delivering quality services to all residents.



MAUREEN A. BROGAN, LPC, DRCC, ACS, DAAETS is the Program Manager for the Statewide Traumatic Loss Coalition. Maureen is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Approved Clinical Supervisor and a Diplomate at the American Academy of Experts in Trauma. She is a Master Trainer in the evidence based practice of suicide prevention Question Persuade Refer. She is a certified Talk Saves Lives trainer for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and the assistant producer of Signs Matter: Early Detection online suicide prevention training for educators. She is a certified Psychological First Aid Trainer (PFA) and Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

Maureen is a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Northeast Regional Terrorism and Disaster Coalition and led a state Disaster Response Crisis Counseling team (Hope and Healing) following Super Storm Sandy in Middlesex County. In August 2018, Maureen accompanied a caucus from the Rutgers Global Health Institute to visit Puerto Rico following Hurricane Marie with the Disaster Community Health and Resiliency program. In April 2020 she began assisting the NJ Disaster and Terrorism Branch with the NJ response

to the Pandemic and the Ida flood. She is a member of the school subcommittee for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

She was the Program Director for NJ FAM which was the state program supporting families impacted by the attacks on the world trade center September 11, 2001.



MEAGAN MULLER specializes in event and organizational logistics, harnessing the power of connection to facilitate events ranging from 25 to 1,500 volunteers. As Director of Volunteer Programs at Jersey Cares, Meagan leads a team that facilitates the organization's public volunteer events and leadership programming. Through the automation of Jersey Cares' six collection drives, she has expanded the organization's capacity for programming and is eager to inspire others to push the limits of their creativity.



MEGAN SULLIVAN is the Director of the Disaster & Terrorism Branch of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She is a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor, trained in the FEMA and Red Cross models and is currently a part of the Division of Mental Health and Addictions' Disaster and Terrorism Branch which develops contingency planning for the public's mental health needs surrounding various types of emergencies. Sullivan is a graduate of Villanova University and holds a Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She holds licenses as a Professional Counselor and Clinical Alcohol and

Drug Counselor.



MELISSA ACREE serves as the Chief Executive Officer of NJ 2-1-1 Partnership. She is an accomplished professional with a rich and diverse background. Her business exposure spans corporations, healthcare, accounting and nonprofit organizations. She began her tenure with NJ 211 in 2013 and was promoted to Director of Business Development where she launched the ReachNJ hotline to address the needs of those suffering from the opioid overdose epidemic. Melissa has been in her current role since 2017. She is known for her ability to respond at the highest level when needed.

This was evident in the 22 months that NJ 211 elevated its operation to meet the needs of the state and our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her collaborative nature, ability to lead by example, and strong interpersonal skills have resulted in new and meaningful partnerships. Melissa is also actively involved in the national initiatives of the 211 National Network.



MICHAEL PRASAD is a Certified Emergency Manager® and the executive director of the Center for Emergency Management Intelligence Research (www.cemir.org). He is also the chair of the Children and Disaster Caucus at the International Association of Emergency Managers-USA, and the vice president of their Region 2 grouping, which covers New Jersey, New York State, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Mr. Prasad has held emergency management director level positions at the State of New Jersey and the American Red Cross, serving in leadership positions on more than 25 disaster response operations, including Superstorm Sandy’s response and recovery

work. He currently serves as one of the liaison officers for Emergency Support Function #6 – Mass Care for FEMA’s Region 2, when they activate their Regional Response Coordination Center. He researches and writes professionally on emergency management policies and procedures from a pracademic perspective, advises non-governmental organizations on their continuity of operations planning, and provides emergency management intelligence analysis for the National Security Policy and Analysis Organization at American Public University. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Ohio University and a Master of Arts degree in emergency and disaster management from American Public University. Views expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of any of these organizations.



MICHELE FRANCESCONI is a dynamic leader in the nonprofit sector, currently focused on best practice strategies in operations, development, training, and volunteerism. Michele joined Jersey Cares in 2019, as the Vice President of Programs. Since then, she focused on the nonprofit change management and capacity building space. Michele has been responsible for oversight of the Volunteer Center of South Jersey, with a focus on capacity building training through effective volunteer engagement. Michele also launched the Points of Light Service Enterprise certification training program, where Jersey Cares is the only Points of Light certified HUB, in New Jersey.

Prior to 2019 and the recent merger with Jersey Cares, Michele was the Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of South Jersey (VCSJ). There she streamlined the volunteer match process, where today, over 7,000 volunteers are registered and connected to nonprofits. The Volunteer Center is also a premier partner with Rowan College of South Jersey serving as their Campus Office on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement.

Michele also works with State agencies that address disaster preparedness and response, volunteerism initiatives. In 2020, Michele worked with the NJ Department of Human Service to develop and implement a volunteer program, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to shop and deliver groceries to Seniors during the pandemic.

Ms. Francesconi holds a BA from Rowan University.



MILDRED GORTON is the Social Service Coordinator at Better Tomorrows. Mildred obtained her bachelor's degree in Sociology & Urban Studies at CUNY Hunter College. As a Social Service Coordinator, she is responsible for providing case management and programming at an affordable housing site in Newark, NJ. As a one-person team, Mildred has created excellent partnerships and recruited volunteers and interns to assist in delivering quality services to the residents. Mildred believes that thriving communities are formed by individuals working together as a whole for a brighter future.



PAUL GASS is the Community Preparedness Manager at American Red Cross - New Jersey Region. In his role Paul oversees all of NJ, advising individuals, families and local community groups on how to better prepare for any future disaster event.

He manages the New Jersey Red Cross 'Prepare NJ' initiative and the associated community preparedness programs under its umbrella, including Home Fire Campaign, Youth Preparedness, Be Red Cross Ready and Ready Rating community programs. Paul is a member of the American Red Cross's National Home Fire

Campaign Project Team.

Paul's Operational role is as a Regional and national lead for Red Cross Damage Assessment activities, supporting the Red Cross's broader disaster mission. He has deployed on numerous disaster operations over the last 10 years, including right here in New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Louisiana, Florida, the Carolina's, Texas, and Oregon to assist with flooding, hurricane, and wildfire disaster events.



PHYLLIS WORRELL is the corporate emergency management coordinator for Virtua, the largest health system in southern NJ. She has over 30 years of experience in emergency management & emergency response. Phyllis has been certified as a Master Exercise Practitioner through FEMA/EMI and as a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional through IBFCSM. In addition to her responsibilities for Virtua, Phyllis serves as the County OEM Healthcare Coordinator, Citizen Corps/CERT Coordinator and COAD Coordinator in Burlington County.



RACE HODGES is the Faith-Based Preparedness Coordinator for FEMA Region 2's National Preparedness Division and can be reached at Race.Hodges@fema.dhs.gov. Race provides disaster and emergency preparedness support, trainings, workshops, and planning assistance for faith-based organizations across New Jersey. Race has 12 years of emergency management experience. Race holds bachelor's degrees in philosophy and sociology, and a master's degree in community planning. Race is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer.



RAJESH SHARMA is currently Coordinator of Central New Jersey Chapter of Sewa International and is also Associate Director of AmeriCorps Programs for Sewa International. Rajesh is the founder coordinator of Central Jersey Chapter in 2018.

Rajesh graduated from the premier Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and went on to work as a consultant with financial firms at Wall Street. He is currently a Distinguished Architect at the Federal Reserve.



SARAHDJIE MONOSIET, a seasoned marketing strategist with a passion for empowering a variety of organizations, brings a wealth of expertise to the realm of social media. With over a decade of experience in crafting innovative marketing campaigns for non-profit organizations, Sarahdjie has honed her skills in leveraging digital platforms for maximum impact. Her dedication to helping non-profits thrive in the digital landscape has led her to specialize in social media strategies tailored specifically for them.

Sarahdjie is currently the owner of Well Plugged Services, a multi-service agency that amplifies the delivery of service in various industries. Sarahdjie uses her masters in digital marketing and personal knowledge to apply complex marketing analytics, global perspectives, and evolving marketing strategies in a digital environment for her clients.

Sarahdjie's commitment to driving meaningful change through effective communication strategies has seen her collaborate with non-profits, amplifying their voices and missions across social media channels. Her insightful guidance encompasses foundational principles of social media engagement, demystifying social platforms for those new to the digital sphere.

Recognized for her dynamic presentations and interactive workshops, Sarahdjie fosters an inclusive learning environment, where attendees leave equipped with practical tools and strategies to boost their organization's online presence.



STEVEN M. CRIMANDO is the Director of Training at the Disaster and Terrorism Branch, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services in the NJ Department of Human Services. Mr. Steven M. Crimando is internationally-known expert in the prevention, response and recovery from violence. He has developed violence prevention and response programs for government agencies, hospital and healthcare systems, and multinational corporations. Mr. Crimando is the author of many professional articles and text book chapters, and serves as an expert to the media and the courts in crisis intervention. He has provided training to many professional, academic, military and first responder agencies. Mr. Crimando is a Certified Threat Manager, and a Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress. He is also a certified Police Instructor. He has 30 years of experience as a front-line crisis responder, ranging from the 1993 and 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, to the Amerithrax bioterrorism case.



SYREETA GARBARINI is an Emergency Management Specialist working with the State of New Jersey on the FEMA Integration Team focusing on Individual Assistance. She recently worked for the New Jersey Department of Human Services. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the State University at Albany. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children traveling and enjoying diverse foods/culture.