

# Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable *For Coastal Georgia*

Inaugural 2026 CEO Bio Book



# A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second annual Nonprofit Showcase. We are delighted to gather fundholders, donors, and community leaders to highlight the strength and diversity of the nonprofit sector in Coastal Georgia and to inspire meaningful year-end giving.

This morning you will hear three dozen 60-second pitches from nonprofit executives representing a wide range of missions. The lookbook you are holding serves as your guide to these organizations—their leadership, their work, and their contact information. We hope it will be a helpful resource as you consider your philanthropic investments.

We are also proud to share that the leaders featured today have formally launched the Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable for Coastal Georgia, a member-driven network committed to collaboration, shared learning, and elevating the visibility of our sector. Members contribute annual dues, meet regularly, and are organized into three subcommittees focused on visibility, collaboration, and leadership development.

At the conclusion of today's pitches, we will officially inaugurate the Roundtable. Through a \$25,000 matching grant—paired with member dues—we are establishing a \$50,000 fund at the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation to support the Roundtable's work. We invite you to support the individual nonprofits represented here and, if inspired, to make a gift to the Roundtable's fund to strengthen sector-wide positive impact. QR codes on the final page of this lookbook provide access to both the digital version and the giving link.

Thank you for being here. Your presence affirms a new era of nonprofit leadership in Coastal Georgia—one marked by excellence, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the common good.

Truly yours,

Keeva Kase  
President & CEO, Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation  
Chairman, Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable for Coastal Georgia

# ORGANIZATIONS

The Abbott Institute - **LaTanya Abott-Austin**

Brunswick Community Radio, Inc. - **William Bilancio**

Girls on the Run - **Stormye Brantley**

Amity House - **Dottie Bromley**

Angels & Warriors - **Derek “D-REK” Canas**

Golden Isles Veterans Village- **Sylvia Cashdollar**

Hope 1312 Collective - **Ally Christianson**

Faithworks - **Wright Culpepper**

STAR of Coastal Georgia - **Donna Davis**

Just Love - **Madhur Dey**

Hospice of the Golden Isles - **Paula DiLandro**

St. Simons Land Trust - **Emily Ellison**

Heads Up Guidance Services - **Andrea Mamalakis Epting**

College of Coastal Georgia - **Dr. Johnny Evans**

St. Marys Methodist Church Foundation - **Bryan Farmer**

# ORGANIZATIONS

St. Marys RiverKeeper - **Emily Floore**

Brunswick Rocks - **Michael Gowen**

CASA Glynn - **Cary Greenfield**

The Gathering Place - **Jimmy Gunderman**

Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority - **Tres Hamilton**

Safe Harbor - **Leslie Hartman**

Coastal Coalition for Children - **Lori Hatton**

Golden Isles Arts & Humanities - **Heather Heath**

Saved By Grace - **Donna Howard**

Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation - **Keeva Kase**

The Remedy Project - **John Keen**

Habitat for Humanity of Glynn County - **Mary Lamond**

Via Collective, Inc. - **Carrie Lofstrom**

Communities in Schools of Glynn County - **Lynn Love**

Golden Isles Film Festival - **Pryce May**

# ORGANIZATIONS

Camden House FV Service Center and Shelter - **Lynnea Maystrick**

St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition - **Tanya McDowell**

Glynn Visual Arts - **Kari Morris**

St. Simons Radio, Inc. - **Yolanda Neely**

Alzheimer's Research Foundation - **Terri Neipert**

Abiding Love Charities - **Carrie Murray Nellis**

Lucas Center for Entrepreneurship - **Ande Noktes**

Forward Brunswick - **Lance Sabbe**

Grateful Cats/Canines Allies & Supporters - **Stephanie Schafer**

Centered for Life - **Debby Temmer**

Glynn Environmental Coalition - **Rachael Thompson**

Memory Matters Glynn - **Julie Andrew Tharpe**

Coastal Georgia Historical Society - **Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart**

Morningstar Children & Family Services - **Beth VanDerbeck**

Golden Isles College & Career Academy - **Brian Weese**



**LaTanya Abbott-Austin, Executive Director**  
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**912-996-1111**

As Executive Director and a founding board member of the Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute, LaTanya Abbott-Austin leads the mission to advance racial unity, cultural preservation, and leadership development across the Golden Isles. Her work centers on building high-impact programs—including the Unity in Diversity Luncheon Series, the Defenders Youth Leadership Initiative, and the Coastal Georgia Culture Fest—that engage residents, elevate underrepresented voices, and strengthen community partnerships. Rooted in the legacy of Robert S. Abbott, born on St. Simons Island, LaTanya is committed to creating sustainable, community-driven pathways that foster a more connected and equitable Golden Isles.



**William Bilancio, Founder, President & Executive Director**  
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**<https://www.brunswickcommunityradio.org/>**  
**912-217-3299**

As the Founder, President, and Executive Director of Brunswick Community Radio, Inc., William Bilancio is driven by a deep passion for community empowerment, cultural enrichment, and giving residents of Brunswick a powerful voice. His leadership is rooted in the belief that a strong, vibrant community thrives when its people have a dedicated, accessible space to share their stories, music, and ideas. Every broadcast and initiative spearheaded by the organization—centered around its flagship station, WBWK - 95.7 The Kraken—represents an opportunity to foster genuine connection, celebrate local talent, and build a more informed, inclusive, and unified Brunswick.



**Stormye Brantley, Territory Director**  
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[gotrgoldenisles.org](http://gotrgoldenisles.org)  
912-270-1827

As the Territory Director for Girls on the Run of the Golden Isles, Stormye Brantley's enthusiasm to serve stems from her experience as a local elementary school teacher and witnessing firsthand the necessity for positive role models for children in the community. Through Girls on the Run, Stormye has the opportunity to share her passion for encouraging an active lifestyle among females in the community. Girls on the Run coaches deliver fun, evidence-based programs that inspire participants to recognize their inner strength, increase their level of physical activity, imagine their possibilities and confidently stand up for themselves and others.



*Amity House*  
GLYNN COMMUNITY

**Dottie Bromley, Executive Director**  
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[amityhouse.org](http://amityhouse.org)  
912-264-1348

Dottie Bromley is the Executive Director of the Glynn Community Crisis Center/Amity House and a dedicated nonprofit leader with over a decade of service to the organization. She leads trauma-informed, community-based services supporting survivors of domestic violence and their families. Known for her thoughtful, mission-driven approach, Dottie brings a strong understanding of trauma-informed care and organizational stewardship to her work and is committed to survivor safety, program integrity, and building strong partnerships with donors, volunteers, and community organizations that strengthen the agency's mission and impact.



Sylvia Cashdollar, Executive Director  
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<https://goldenislsveteransvillage.org/>  
912-679-9314

Sylvia Cashdollar is an accomplished leader and decorated U.S. Navy veteran who serves as Executive Director of Golden Isles Veterans Village. She holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management, combining military experience with strong academic credentials to advance initiatives that support veterans. Passionate about helping fellow veterans, Sylvia is committed to making a meaningful impact in their lives. As a mother and the proud spouse of an active-duty Navy service member, she brings compassion and resilience to both her professional and personal roles. She is also active in the community through the Golden Isles Rotary Club, VFW Post 4092, and the Golden Isles Navy League. In her free time, she enjoys being with her family and dogs, spending time outdoors, and staying active through half marathons and weightlifting.



**Ally Christianson, Founding Director**  
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[hope1312co.org](http://hope1312co.org)  
912-399-7866

Ally Christianson is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker passionate about offering hope in seemingly hopeless situations and giving voice to the voiceless. Ally finds much joy in connecting resources to people in need. It is from this passion that she founded Hope 1312 Collective, a non-profit seeking to re-write the story of child welfare in our community by enabling the local church to engage in the Department of Children and Family Services system. Ally has been described as a fierce advocate. Governor Brian Kemp has appointed Ally to the DFCS State Advisory Board, noting her faith and commitment to Georgia's most vulnerable children. Ally seeks to lead from the trenches, valuing relationships and with the posture of a wounded healer.



**Donna Davis, President & CEO**  
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912-223-0719

As President & CEO of STAR of Coastal Georgia, Donna Davis is honored to lead an organization that has advanced workforce education in the region for over 28 years. Guided by an unwavering faith and a deep commitment to service, Donna believes in the power of partnerships and collaboration to create a strong, vibrant, and compassionate community. Leveraging partnerships with over 40 organizations in Glynn and surrounding Counties, STAR provides a comprehensive five-week Workforce-Ready Course, Teen Reality Fairs, Financial Literacy Classes and Senior Citizen Scam Protection Bootcamps.



**Madhur Dey, CEO & Founding Director**

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**[just-love.co](http://just-love.co)**

**770-530-4881**

Madhur Dey believes a community truly thrives when people build deep trust, real unity, and keep showing up for one another. It's more than resources or growth — it's the courage to work together across divided lines until hope is restored, belonging deepens, and relationships begin to reconcile. That's the heartbeat behind JustLove — a desire to help the community live out reconciliation through Jesus' justice and love so that neighborhoods, congregations, and cities can truly flourish together.



**HOSPICE <sup>OF</sup> <sub>THE</sub>**  
**GOLDEN ISLES**

**Paula DiLandro, Executive Director**

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**[hospice.me](http://hospice.me)**

**912-265-4735**

As the Executive Director of Hospice of the Golden Isles, Paula DiLandro is driven by a deep passion for ensuring that every person in our community can die with dignity and receive compassionate, high-quality care, regardless of their ability to pay. Paula strives to embody servant leadership by putting patients and families first, empowering staff and volunteers, and listening closely to the community to meet its evolving needs. For 45 years, Hospice of the Golden Isles has been the only nonprofit hospice in the region, providing critical support to patients and families at life's most vulnerable moments. For Paula, it is a privilege to lead this organization and uphold the legacy of hometown care that has touched generations.



**Emily Ellison, Executive Director**  
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404-539-9772

“Leave each corner of the world better than the way you found it” has been Emily Ellison’s mission statement during her past three decades in nonprofit leadership and fits well with the St. Simons Land Trust’s mission of protecting and preserving the finest qualities of St. Simons for present and future generations. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, the Trust has preserved more than 1,400 acres across 39 properties and has land assets of more than \$70 million. Ellison works closely with SSLT’s board, partners, volunteers, and staff to conduct scientific research, utilize protected properties as platforms for education, provide public access to conserved land, and prepare for the next quarter century of land conservation.



**Andrea Epting, Founder & CEO**  
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912-507-8576

Andrea is a Savannah Native & Licensed Professional Counselor providing Mental Health & Addiction Recovery services for over 20 years. In 2009, Andrea founded Heads-Up Guidance Services (HUGS), a Non-Profit organization making professional counseling services available to all motivated individuals through the utilization of a 100% volunteer counseling team. HUGS trains and utilizes civic minded clinicians working towards licensure and eliminates barriers to outpatient behavioral healthcare services.



COLLEGE of  
COASTAL  
GEORGIA

**Johnny Evans, President**

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**912-279-5960**

Dr. Johnny L. Evans, Jr. is the seventh President of the College of Coastal Georgia. Having served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Coastal since January 2019, he was named the President in January of 2025. Known for his dedication to fostering strong academic programs that deliver transformative educational experiences, Dr. Evans prioritizes student success, drawing from his own formative years as a student at Georgia College. He attributes much of his academic success to the deep care and mentoring provided by his faculty mentors. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Georgia College and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Florida. Dr. Evans spent the first 13 years of his academic career at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, where he was a Professor of Chemistry and Physics and the Chemistry Program Coordinator. Dr. Evans is active in the Coastal Georgia community, serving as a board member with the Brunswick, Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, STAR of Coastal Georgia, and Coastal Georgia Historical Society Treasurer.



**St. Marys**  
Methodist Church  
Foundation, Inc.

**Bryan Farmer, President & CEO**

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Bryan serves as the President and CEO of the St. Marys Methodist Church Foundation. Bryan's vision for the foundation is rooted in the same principles that have guided his career—serving others and fostering meaningful change through relationships. He is a dedicated leader and community advocate, driven by a deep commitment to empowering others to walk in freedom and discover their unique roles in advancing the Kingdom of God. Guided by the scriptures Isaiah 61:1-7 and Matthew 28:16-20, Bryan's work is a testament to his belief in the transformative power of faith and service.



**Emily Floore, Executive Director**  
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843-906-6548

As Executive Director & Riverkeeper for St. Marys Riverkeeper, Emily Floore is honored to serve the St. Marys River watershed and the communities that depend on it. St. Marys Riverkeeper stands as the river's leading advocate, dedicated to protecting its health, beauty, and resilience for current and future generations. Through advocacy, education, collaboration, and community engagement, Emily works to ensure that the St. Marys River continues to thrive as a vital natural resource and a cherished part of this region's identity.



**Michael Gowen, Co-Executive Director**  
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Brunswick Rocks was founded to collaborate with community partners to create a space where kids can be kids, progress at their own pace, and learn that effort leads to improvement, ultimately opening doors to opportunities beyond the gym. Brunswick Rocks is one of only three 501(c)(3) nonprofit bouldering gyms in the United States, and the only one of its kind operated entirely by volunteers. Their mission is to provide a fun, supportive learning environment that fosters self-improvement, confidence, health, fitness, and personal growth for people of all abilities.



**Cary Greenfield, Executive Director**  
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912-264-4448

Driven by passion for helping hurting abused and neglected children, Cary Greenfield works to create a family of caring advocates at CASA Glynn. As the Executive Director for 15 years, she shares a passion, a conviction, to give these children a voice. To give them hope for a future. To help them heal from the trauma of abuse, and to see them SUCCEED. Her first experience with CASA was shortly after she graduated from college in 1998. Working as a Residential Counselor at Hillview Acres Children's Home in Chino, California, she noted that CASA was the only constant and stable relationship that the children had while in the foster care.



**Jimmy Gunderman, President**  
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[thegp.org](http://thegp.org)  
912-264-3474

Jimmy Gunderman serves as President of The Gathering Place, a Christian non-profit that has served the Golden Isles since 1981. The GP is dedicated to reaching, equipping, and sending students for their joy in the glory of God. With a deep passion for developing young leaders, Jimmy provides vision and direction for ministry programs impacting middle school, high school, and college students across Coastal Georgia. He leads with a heart for discipleship and a conviction that transformed students transform communities. Jimmy strives to see every student equipped with the character, faith, and leadership skills needed to make a lasting impact in their generation and live boldly for the glory of Christ.



**COASTAL GEORGIA AREA  
COMMUNITY ACTION AUTHORITY, INC.**

**Tres Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer**  
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**912-222-4452**

As CEO of Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority, Tres Hamilton leads with a steadfast belief that hope can be restored, futures rebuilt, and communities uplifted when compassion meets bold action. Tres's mission is to help people, change lives, and build families by creating pathways where possibility becomes real. With over two decades in human services, she guides programs that strengthen early childhood education, expand workforce opportunities, support seniors, empower low-income households, and cultivate the next generation of leaders through youth leadership programs. Each day, Tres work to open doors, remove barriers, and help individuals rise into their fullest potential—leaving every community stronger, every family more hopeful, and every life touched by the power of opportunity.



**Leslie Hartman, Executive Director**  
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With the belief that all children deserve a safe place, Leslie became the Executive Director of Safe Harbor Center, Inc. sixteen years ago. The 35-year-old local nonprofit serves children from birth to age 24 through eight distinct programs. Safe Harbor provides an array of life-changing services, including residential facilities, drop-in centers, outreach programs, children's advocacy, family preservation, parenting education, and a maternity group home. These programs deeply impact the community, reaching more than 2,800 children, youth, and families in just the past year. Under Leslie's leadership, Safe Harbor Center continues its mission to provide services that promote security and stability for at-risk families, children, and individuals—offering hope, safety, and opportunity to those who need it most.



**Lori Hatton, Executive Director**  
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912-614-0626

As Executive Director of Coastal Coalition for Children, Lori Hatton leverages over 28 years of front-line and leadership experience in social services to champion early childhood development in South Georgia. Having served the Coalition for 13 years and rising to this role in 2022, her leadership is laser-focused on community impact. Her strategy centers on closing the early learning opportunity gap for newborns, improving robust support systems for grandparents raising grandchildren, and advocating for critical maternal/infant health and early intervention services. Ultimately, these critical services prevent child abuse and ensure the early, optimal development that is foundational for every child's lifelong success and a stronger community future.



**Heather Heath, Executive Director**  
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912-262-6934

For over 25 years as Executive Director, Heather Heath has been committed to developing and expanding the arts and humanities in her community. She strongly believes that a cultural life defines us and connects us, enriches and improves quality of life, preserves our heritage and helps build our economy. The arts are for everyone, and through their programs and events, be it the Annual Performing Arts Series, Arts Education programs for students and adults, or the Golden Isles Penguin Project, Heather is proud that Golden Isles Arts & Humanities is connecting and engaging with people from all across Glynn County and Southeast Georgia.



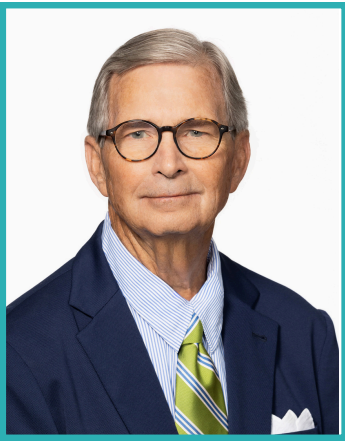
**Donna Howard, Executive Director**  
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**912-266-3459**

Donna Howard is driven by a deep passion to serve men, women and families in need, empowering them to grow stronger both spiritually and personally. As Founder and Executive Director of Saved By Grace, she is dedicated to creating opportunities for transformation, hope, and lasting change in the lives of those God places in her path. With a background in ministry, martial arts, and mental health coaching, Donna combines faith, discipline, and compassion to lead with purpose. Her mission is to equip others with the tools, support, and encouragement they need to overcome challenges and live out their God-given potential.



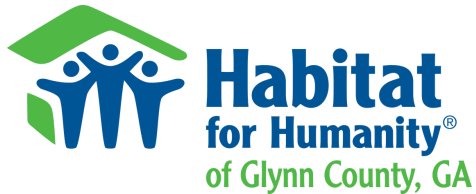
**Keeva Kase, President & CEO**  
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As a St. Simons native and 25-year nonprofit professional, Keeva Kase leads the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation with a passion for mission, sector knowledge, and regional insight that is deeply personal. Strengthening the communities in Coastal Georgia through engaged philanthropy by connecting people who care with causes that matter is a mission that brings together all facets of our region in way that aligns generosity and purpose for the common and greater good. In its twenty-year history, the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation has invested more than \$50 million into the communities they serve and presently has \$60 million in assets.



**John Keen, Founder & Executive Director**  
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912-580-7679

Recognizing the community's need for accessible and affordable addiction care, John—a former addict, Certified Addiction Counselor, and mental health professional—founded The Remedy Project with his wife, Beth, in 2010. Now in its fifteenth year, the organization provides no-cost, evidence-based, biblical counseling to individuals and families struggling with addiction. Led by a team of seven highly credentialed professionals, The Remedy Project also partners with the Glynn Learning Center Alternative School, delivering transformative counseling to at-risk teens and bringing hope and healing to the wider community.



**Mary Lamond, Executive Director**  
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912-265-7455

Mary Lamond serves as the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Glynn County. Over the past 20 years, she has been actively involved in nonprofit work, including roles with CASA of Forsyth County, Georgia, and Habitat for Humanity of North Central Georgia. Throughout her career, Mary has been a strong and effective advocate for the individuals and communities she serves. Her compassion for others, combined with her commitment to service, makes her especially well-suited for leadership in the nonprofit sector. Mary is passionate about making the world a better place to live and is honored to help improve the lives of others as a way to express her faith.



**Carrie Lofstrom, Chairperson**

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**678-595-4723**

As Chair of VIA Collective Inc. (Voices in Action), Carrie Lofstrom continues to support the mission and vision developed by women of the Golden Isles to empower, connect, and celebrate women in this community. Through inspiring programs and collaborative initiatives, VIA creates opportunities for women from all backgrounds to learn together, share experiences, and uplift one another. Rooted in the belief that every woman's voice holds power, VIA curates an ecosystem of possibility, fostering authentic connection, growth, and collective impact. Carrie is passionate about building inclusive environments where every voice is valued, and she strives to empower both her board and the women of her community through transparent, mission-driven leadership.



**Communities  
In Schools**

**Glynn County**

*Also serving McIntosh County*

**Lynn Love, Executive Director**

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**912-617-8001**

As Executive Director for Communities In Schools of Glynn and McIntosh Counties for thirteen years, Lynn Love is deeply passionate about leading this organization because she has seen firsthand how a caring adult and the right support can transform a student's future. Too many young people face challenges that have nothing to do with their ability to learn — and everything to do with circumstances beyond their control. Communities In Schools changes that story. Every day, Lynn is inspired by the opportunity to build partnerships, empower her staff, and ensure that every child in this community has the support and resources they need to succeed in school and in life.



**Pryce May, Executive Director**  
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912-242-9082

As Founder & Executive Director of the Golden Isles Film Festival, Pryce May is building sustainable infrastructure for Georgia's film industry while driving economic impact in Coastal Georgia. Through GIFF, he platforms independent filmmakers, educates the next generation of creators via the Film Society and Academy, and positions the region as a destination for independent cinema. His work extends to PM Cinematography, bringing visual storytelling expertise to clients, and SoGlo Theatre, expanding cultural opportunities across the region. Pryce believes thriving creative industries and entrepreneurial communities don't just belong in major cities. They have a seat at the table here in Coastal Georgia.



**Lynnea Maystrick, Executive Director**  
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912-729-9390

As Executive Director of Camden House Domestic Violence Shelter and Community Crisis Center, Lynnea Maystrick is committed to creating pathways to safety, healing, and hope for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Drawing on experience in child welfare, nursing, education, and nonprofit leadership, she leads with authenticity, collaboration, and a belief that strong organizations create stronger outcomes for the people they serve. At Camden House, she focuses on expanding survivor-centered services, helping survivors move from crisis to stability and independence, and strengthening community partnerships. Lynnea is passionate about authentic transformational change, developing future leaders, fostering meaningful collaboration, and creating lasting impact for individuals and families across Coastal Georgia.



**Tanya McDowell, Executive Director**  
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404-536-6463

Tanya McDowell, the Executive Director of St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition, is a mission-driven executive and strategic consultant here on the Georgia coast. She champions her responsibility in African American heritage preservation, cultural programming, and organizational management. Tanya leads strategic initiatives to protect, interpret, and promote Black history, at sites like the Historic Harrington School located on St. Simons Island. She is passionate about advancing cultural equity, building collaborative partnerships, and leveraging research-driven strategies for sustainable organizational and community growth. Outside of professional commitment, Tanya loves traveling, outdoor events and staying physically active.



**Kari Morris, Executive Director**  
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At Glynn Visual Arts, we foster creativity, connect people, and inspire community through a wide variety of education and engagement. Art embraces and transcends differences such as age, race, class, and ideology. GVA welcomes all into our visual arts center, and we expand our impact through meaningful outreach and collaboration in the region. With more than 70 years of service, GVA is foundational to societal benefits resulting from a vibrant local arts culture. As Executive Director, Kari Morris strives to honor this legacy while spearheading operations to paint a canvas of community, art, and impact.



**ST SIMONS  
RADIO  
INC.**

**Yolanda Neely, CEO**  
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615-415-3826

Yolanda Neely is the visionary CEO of St. Simons Radio Inc., a nonprofit media organization dedicated to uplifting the Golden Isles. Under her leadership, St. Simons Radio Inc. operates The Island 94.7/97.5 Smooth Jazz & More and the youth-focused Golden Isles Media Academy, providing hands-on media education, podcast training, and real-world career pathways for local students. Yolanda's mission-driven approach blends creativity, community engagement, and entrepreneurship, ensuring that both the station and its programs enrich the cultural and educational landscape of Brunswick and the Golden Isles. Driven by purpose and powered by passion, Yolanda continues to expand St. Simons Radio's impact through innovative programming, strategic partnerships, and a deep commitment to serving her community.



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[abidinglovecharities.org](http://abidinglovecharities.org)  
912-596-8778

An Adoption Attorney for 20 years, Carrie Murray Nellis is one of the nation's leading Adoption Experts. As a practicing Adoption Attorney Carrie was concerned to see Adoption becoming more transactional. The primary focus was on the Adoptive Parents and not the mother placing her child for adoption. In 2016, Carrie created the nation's first Adoption Agency focused solely on empowering Expectant Mothers without the pressure of matching mothers with Prospective Adoptive Parents. As Carrie focused on Expectant Mothers within Adoptions, she also saw a need for Post-Placement Care. In 2020, Carrie created Abiding Love Charities to provide care for Birth Families, Adoptive Parents and Adoptees after all the documents have been signed and the adoption had been finalized.



**Ande Noktes, CEO**  
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[lucascenter.com](http://lucascenter.com)  
912-254-7340

When the Lucas Center for Entrepreneurship was launched in spring 2022, Art Lucas tasked them with a singular mission: make more entrepreneurs. Three years later, their work has impacted the lives and businesses of over 1,100 founders and entrepreneurial leaders. Founding CEO Ande Noktes has a deep commitment to creating spaces and opportunities for people to grow into their fullest potential. For Ande, this translates into the best job ever: helping entrepreneurs bring their dreams to life. The support the Lucas Center receives from their donors translates into visible economic and social change: once empty storefronts are now full, local festivals welcome more vendors than ever, families are transformed by economic resilience, and the community uplifts and celebrates its entrepreneurs.



**Lance Sabbe, Executive Director**  
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[forwardbrunswick.org](http://forwardbrunswick.org)  
912-577-2599

As Executive Director of Forward Brunswick, Lance Sabbe is driven by a deep passion for community revitalization and improving quality of life for all residents of Brunswick. His leadership is rooted in a belief that strong, vibrant communities are built through collaboration, transparency, and a shared vision for progress. Every project Forward Brunswick takes on, whether it's revitalizing downtown corridors, developing workforce housing like the Reynolds Cottages, or creating spaces that foster connection and pride, represents an opportunity to build a stronger, more inclusive Brunswick.



**Stephanie Schafer, Founder/President**  
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[gcasallies.com](http://gcasallies.com)  
202-550-1291

Stephanie Schafer is the Founder and President of Grateful Cats/Canines Allies & Supporters (GCAS), a nonprofit organization supporting Glynn County Animal Services. A lifelong dog lover, Stephanie launched GCAS in May 2024 to help bridge the gap between county funding and the resources the shelter animals need to thrive. In less than two years, GCAS has raised nearly \$200,000 to support the shelter dogs and cats with medical care, enrichment, adoption events, and community outreach. Under Stephanie's leadership and with a passionate and dedicated Board, GCAS also advocates for more humane animal welfare ordinances while building strong partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and volunteers throughout Glynn County. Stephanie believes there is a home for every shelter animal and remains deeply committed to improving outcomes for them through compassion, collaboration, and action.



**Rachael Thompson, Executive Director**  
[gcc@glynnenvironmental.org](mailto:gcc@glynnenvironmental.org)  
<https://www.glynnenvironmental.org/>  
Office: (912) 466-0934

Since 2012, Rachael Thompson has been educating and inspiring people to protect coastal Georgia's most special places - our ecosystems and the people and wildlife supported by them. She began her tenure with the Glynn Environmental Coalition in 2018, facilitating the first leadership transition the organization had experienced since its inception in 1990. The Glynn Environmental Coalition is an environmental health and environmental justice advocacy organization that is committed to assuring a clean environment and a healthy economy for citizens of coastal Georgia. Rachael has been locally and nationally recognized for her community organizing work, having been awarded the 2019 and 2025 U.S. EPA National Notable Achievement Award for Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement and has been twice awarded the Outstanding Community Partner Award from the College of Coastal Georgia.



**Debby Temmer, Co-Founder & CEO**  
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912-268-4488

Debby Temmer is a co-founder of Centered for Life, a faith-based non-profit counseling center with offices on St. Simons Island and Nahunta, Georgia. She serves as CEO and Chief Clinical Director for a staff of 13 while also maintaining a caseload of clients. Debby loves coaching a team with a shared vision and developing counselors that are beginning their journey in the field. Before founding Centered for Life, Debby was an independent counselor in Brunswick, for 5 years and served 13 years with Campus Crusade for Christ. Debby and her husband, Steve, are members of Wesley Church at Frederica and enjoy spending recreational time with family and friends.



SUPPORTING THE MEMORY LOSS JOURNEY

**Julie Andrew Tharpe, Executive Director**  
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[memorymattersglynn.com](http://memorymattersglynn.com)  
912-264-0777

As Executive Director of Memory Matters Glynn, Julie Tharpe is driven by a deep commitment to improving the lives of people living with dementia and the caregivers who support them. Julie's work is rooted in compassion and the belief that every family deserves guidance, connection, and hope while navigating the challenges of memory loss. Through free programs—including education, counseling, social activities, and caregiver support—Julie has the privilege of helping create a community where no one feels alone in this journey. Every day at Memory Matters is an opportunity to enrich lives, strengthen families, and ensure dignity and support for those facing dementia.



**Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart, Executive Director**  
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[coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://coastalgeorgiahistory.org)  
912-634-7080

As Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart has the privilege of leading the growth of a beloved local institution as they deepen their commitment as a community museum and embrace their role as the region's center for historical education and research. Dr. Stewart's experience as a scholar, author, and educator fostered a passion for and belief in the power of history in our world today. This dedication to exploring the past to create a brighter future drives the work at CGHS, including their popular interactive exhibits, far-reaching educational services, and top-notch cultural programming. CGHS continually strives to engage wider audiences, encouraging a love of history for the many people that call Coastal Georgia home, past and present.



**Beth VanDerbeck, CEO**  
[bvanderbeck@morningstarcfs.org](mailto:bvanderbeck@morningstarcfs.org)  
[morningstarcfs.org](http://morningstarcfs.org)  
912-267-3700 ext. 2107

All children deserve a safe place to live, someone in their life who is crazy about them, and opportunities to play and learn as they grow. Morningstar embodies this mission by providing home and healing for Georgia's special needs foster boys through our residential campus and counseling services. As CEO, Beth VanDerbeck is proud to dedicate her heart, strategy, and resilience to work alongside a caring team to create a safe and supportive environment for foster youth on Morningstar's Coastal Georgia campus. Together, Beth and her team are building brighter futures for the children who find their way to Morningstar.



**Brian M. Weese, CEO**  
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**912-280-4000 ext. 4205**

Brian Weese is the CEO and Workforce Strategy Leader for the Golden Isles College and Career Academy (GICCA), a position he has held since September 2022. In this role, he develops talent development strategies, strengthens community partnerships, and manages outreach programs. Previously, he dedicated over a decade to the College of Coastal Georgia, where he served in various career development leadership roles, most recently as Director of Compass Career & Academic Advising. Weese also has experience with the Georgia Department of Labor, assisting job seekers with disabilities. An active community member, he is a former president of the Brunswick Rotary Club and a current board member for Golden Isles Veterans Village. Weese holds an MBA and a BA from Georgia Southern University.

# DEDICATION

This book is dedicated with gratitude to the Executive Committee of the Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable For Coastal Georgia. Your leadership, commitment, and vision continue to strengthen and elevate our nonprofit community and inspire the work of every leader represented in this book.

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**Keeva Kase**, *chair*

**Ande Noktes**, *co-vice-chair*

**Bryan Farmer**, *co-vice-chair*

**Kari Morris**, *secretary*

**Paula DiLandro**, *treasurer*

**Lynn Love**, *visibility committee co-chair*

**John Keen**, *visibility committee co-chair*

**Lance Sabbe**, *education committee chair*

**Leslie Hartman**, *collaboration chair*

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