

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**

S.H.A.R.E - **Karlynn Barnes**

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**

Via Collective, Inc. - **Libby Cole**

Faithworks - **Wright Culpepper**

STAR of Coastal Georgia - **Donna Davis**

Just Love - **Madhur Dey**

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

Skylark - **Patrick Eades**

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**

Keep Golden Isles Beautiful - **Lea King-Badyna**

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

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

Golden Isles Film Festival - **Pryce May**

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

ORGANIZATIONS

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**

Grace House of Brunswick - **Kayla Peterman**

Opportunity Uplifted - **Charmaine Day Richardson**

Forward Brunswick - **Lance Sabbe**

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

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

Centered for Life - **Debby Temmer**

Memory Matters Glynn - **Julie Andrew Tharpe**

Glynn Environmental Coalition - **Rachael Thompson**

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

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



LaTanya Abbott-Austin, Executive Director

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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.



Karlynn Barnes, Executive Director

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Karlynn Barnes is a retired educator and dedicated special needs advocate with 27 years of service in Glynn County Schools. A Valdosta State University education alumna, she has spent her career empowering neurodivergent youth through specialized instruction and vocational development. Notably, she led the PAES Lab at the Golden Isles College & Career Academy, equipping students with vital work-readiness and life skills for independent adulthood. Beyond the classroom, Karlynn Barnes, (Executive Director) is a prominent grassroots leader for SHARE, a community initiative providing summer programming for teenagers and young adults with disabilities. She actively collaborates with local school networks to champion inclusive care and address seasonal childcare shortages. Today, she continues to serve as an advisor and champion for Georgia families.



**William Bilancio, Founder, President &
Executive Director**
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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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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
CRISIS CENTER

Dottie Bromley, Executive Director
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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.



Derek "D-REK" Canas, Founder & Executive Director
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Derek Canas founded D-REK'S Angels & Warriors from a deeply personal understanding of what it means to live with HIV and to be misunderstood by the broader community. As a long-term survivor impacted by medical transmission, Derek brings a rare and necessary voice to HIV education, advocacy, and stigma reduction in Coastal Georgia. His work centers on creating space for people and families often left out of the conversation, including heterosexual individuals living with HIV, serodiscordant couples, and those carrying the legacy of medical transmission. Through D-REK'S Angels & Warriors, Derek seeks to build honest community dialogue, connect people with resources, and replace shame-based assumptions with truth, dignity, and compassion. His leadership is rooted in resilience, lived experience, and a commitment to ensuring that no person impacted by HIV feels invisible.



Sylvia Cashdollar, Executive Director
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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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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.



Libby Cole, President & Chairperson
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843-425-9309

As President and Chairperson of VIA Collective Inc. (Voices in Action), Libby Cole is committed to building a community where every woman feels empowered to find her voice, cultivate meaningful connections, and create lasting impact. Guided by VIA's values of empowerment, inclusivity, growth, respect, and connection, she is passionate about expanding the organization's vision of curating an ecosystem of possibility and access for women across the Golden Isles. As one of the founders of VIA and after serving 5 years as secretary of the board, Libby is excited to continue to grow authentic relationships, collaborative leadership, and meaningful learning opportunities. Libby is dedicated to advancing VIA's mission of inspiring, supporting, uplifting, and celebrating women so they can positively impact their communities and beyond.



Wright Culpepper, Executive Director
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Reverend Dr. Wright Culpepper is the founder and executive director of FaithWorks. Since 1995, FaithWorks has sought to bring people of all faith groups together to serve the people of the community. Culpepper says, "no one church can do it all, but if we can get a Methodist, a Presbyterian, and a Catholic (and any other denomination) together, then we create a critical mass that can have major impact in the lives of our neighbors who may be struggling with spiritual questions, healthcare, food insecurity, or housing concerns." FaithWorks has championed innovative initiatives that strengthen families, address behavioral health challenges, respond to community crises, and journeys with individuals which lead to lasting solutions. FaithWorks ministry includes providing chaplaincy to Southeast Georgia Health System, Sparrow's Nest, The Well, the Samaria Initiative, and more.



Donna Davis, President & CEO
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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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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 OF THE
GOLDEN ISLES

Paula DiLandro, Executive Director
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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.



SKYLARK  TM

WITH YOU *on the* JOURNEY

A SEXUAL HEALTH + CARE CLINIC

Patrick Eades, Executive Director
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Patrick K. Eades has dedicated 34 years to Skylark: A Sexual Health + Care Clinic, joining its founding steering committee in 1990 and becoming founding Executive Director in 1992. Under his leadership, a single storefront has grown into three clinics — Brunswick, Jesup, and Kingsland — plus a mobile unit, serving nine counties across Southeast Georgia with free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, and parenting support. Patrick leads Skylark as a Christ-centered ministry advancing the sanctity of human life, with a vision of a Southeast Georgia where abortion is unthinkable because support, truth, and hope abound. He has served on Care Net's Executive Committee and as a Regional Consultant, and speaks each year to thousands of area youth on healthy relationships.



Emily Ellison, Executive Director

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“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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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.



Johnny Evans, President

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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.



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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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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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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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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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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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.



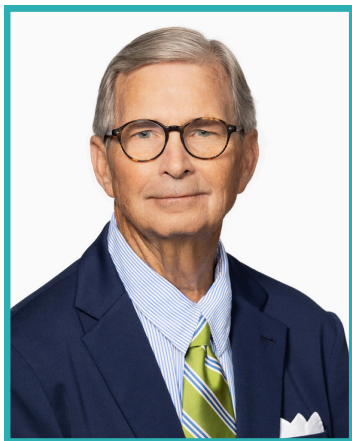
Donna Howard, Executive Director
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Donna Howard is driven by a deep passion to serve men, women and families in need, empowering them to grow stronger both spiritually and personally. As Founder and Executive Director of Saved By Grace, she is dedicated 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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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.



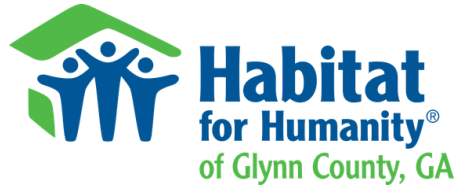
Lea King-Badyna-, Executive Director

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With a coastal natural resources background and a 34-year public/community relations and volunteer management career in the Golden Isles, executive director Lea King-Badyna galvanizes volunteers and cultivates community partnerships supporting and promoting Keep Golden Isles Beautiful's community betterment efforts. Since 1979, KGIB has brought together local/state/federal governments, the private sector and the public for litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, community greening, water resource awareness and educational programming, projects and activities in the Golden Isles. A 501(C)(3) educational non-profit organization, KGIB is led by a volunteer Board of Directors and a two-person paid staff. Volunteer and community driven, KGIB is part of the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation and Keep America Beautiful affiliate systems.



Mary Lamond, Executive Director
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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.



Lynn Love, Executive Director
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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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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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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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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.



Yolanda Neely, CEO
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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.



Terri Neipert, Executive Director
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give2arf.org
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Terri Neipert serves as Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Research Foundation, where she leads the organization's efforts to advance groundbreaking research, raise awareness, and drive education around brain health, Alzheimer's prevention, and strategies that may help delay onset. At the Alzheimer's Research Foundation, Terri is dedicated to accelerating the search for better treatments, prevention strategies, and ultimately a cure for Alzheimer's disease. She is continually inspired by the researchers, advocates, caregivers, and families working every day to face one of the most significant health challenges of our time. The people she meets through the Foundation are her "why." Their stories fuel her passion, strengthen her commitment, and remind her daily of the importance of hope, compassion, and persistence in the fight against Alzheimer's.



Carrie Murray Nellis, Executive Director

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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

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.



Kayla Peterman, Executive Director
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(912) 602-5066

Kayla Peterman, Executive Director of GraceHouse of Brunswick, is a former resident who knows firsthand the power of recovery, faith, and community. With a background in the medical field and a passion for serving others, Kayla is dedicated to helping women transform their lives by providing the tools, support, and resources needed to build a new way of life. Kayla believes it takes a village to create lasting change and is committed to radically changing the course of recovery through faith, determination, and a heart for ministry. For more than 16 years, GraceHouse of Brunswick has empowered women in Glynn County through the 12 Steps and the teachings of Jesus Christ.



Charmaine Day Richardson, Executive Director
charmaine@opportunityuplifted.com
opportunityuplifted.com
912-242-6484

Opportunity Uplifted was created from a simple belief: the community already has brilliance, strength, and solutions within it, but people need access, support, and opportunities to fully thrive. As Executive Director, Charmaine Day Richardson leads work centered on education, equity, wellness, and economic empowerment through programs that address real needs and create meaningful impact. From literacy and leadership development to maternal health and support for local entrepreneurs, her purpose is to help build spaces where people feel informed, connected, and empowered. Her work is personal, community-rooted, and guided by the belief that uplifting people strengthens the whole community.



FORWARD BRUNSWICK

Lance Sabbe, Executive Director

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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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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.



Dr. Whitney Nell Stewart, Executive Director
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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.



CENTERED
for **LIFE**

Debby Temmer, Co-Founder & CEO
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centeredforlife.com
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

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.



Glynn Environmental Coalition

Rachael Thompson, Executive Director

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glynnenvironmental.org

(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.



Beth VanDerbeck, CEO
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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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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.

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*

Julie Tharpe, *visibility committee co-chair*

Lance Sabbe, *education committee chair*

Leslie Hartman, *collaboration committee chair*

Donna Davis, *collaboration committee co-chair*

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Thank you for joining us and for your commitment to strengthening our nonprofit community.

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Roundtable Fund

