

## Highland Park Community Nursery School and Day Care Center *2009-2010 Board of Directors*



In addition to our amazing faculty and staff, Community's success and excellent reputation is in large part due to parental involvement and participation. Community's Board of Directors is formed by a group of parents with diverse talents and backgrounds. Through our social, fundraising, administrative, and public relations committees, the Board provides opportunities to participate in many activities, which all make a difference in our children's education and experience at Community.

The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 9:15 am in the Education Room at the Lake County Health Center. If you're interested in learning more, please contact any Board member listed below or Jean Wallace-Baker.

### **Board Member Bios**

#### **Catherine Spencer, President**

This is Cathy's second year on the Board and first year as President. Since she is taking an extended maternity leave from her work as a clinical social worker, she is glad that she will be able to use her specialty in early childhood and families to guide her work as president of the Board. Cathy believes in Community's mission and is honored to have the opportunity to take an active part in carrying out that mission and to work with all the wonderful faculty, staff and volunteers. Cathy has fun

attempting to keep up with her three young children, but every now and then finds time to read a good book, improve her photography skills, run, knit, and sing in her church choir.

#### **Elysia Garcia, Administrative Vice President**

Elysia is an early childhood teacher when she can work it into her family schedule. She has taught here at Community a little, but is now a full time mom of two boys. She also tries to fit in running and some creative activities from sewing costumes to whatever her boys come up with. This is Elysia's third year on the board and she has enjoyed the opportunities it has given her to work with other parents, learn new skills and feel a sense of accomplishment helping such a great school.

#### **Linda Knapp, Fundraising Vice President**

This is Linda's first year on the board and second year on the Benefit Committee. Her work experience reflects her inclination towards management (Store Manager, Wish Granting Program Manager at the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Estate Manager); and she enjoys using those capabilities to support the amazing people involved with Community – the staff, volunteers, and families. She also enjoys focusing on health and fitness which, not incidentally, enables her to keep up with her husband and two preschoolers.

#### **Jorge Abreu, Treasurer**

Jorge Abreu currently serves as Board Treasurer after having done so for 3 years in his first stint on the Board in 2004-2006. Jorge is currently a Realtor in Highland Park. Previous work experience includes overseeing university recruiting strategy and operations for a major consulting firm, international tax consulting and, most recently, staying home with his three children full-time. Outside of trying to develop his business and trying to remain as involved as possible in his children's interests and activities, Jorge also occasionally enjoys tennis and sports in general as well as cooking.

#### **Caitlin Schwenk, Recording Secretary**

#### **Lori Kelly, Corresponding Secretary and Benefit Committee Co-Chair**

This is Lori's fourth year on the board. She has a daughter who has gone through Community and is in first grade at Lincoln and her son is in the morning blue room. The board has given Lori the opportunity to make wonderful friends and be connected with her children's school. She enjoys scrapbooking and baking.

#### **Kim Matthews, Immediate Past President**

Kim has been a Board member for six years. She had been the Vice President-Administration for one year and the Board President for three years. As a Board member, Kim has enjoyed the opportunity to work with other parents and staff to influence school policy, raise money for Community and to recognize staff for their phenomenal contributions to our children. She treasures the lasting friendships that she has made while working so closely with the wonderful parents of Community's children. Kim has worked as a psychotherapist at The Cancer Wellness Center in Northbrook for twelve years where she is the Support Programs Coordinator. However, her favorite job is being the mom to three daughters who are now in elementary school.

**Teresa Anliker**

Teresa is a first year board member. She and her husband, Bradley, daughters, Madeline and Allie, and dogs, Chili and Gracie, recently relocated to Highland Park from Louisville, Kentucky. Madeline is a second grader at Lincoln School and Allie is in the Orange Room at Community. Teresa is very interested in the play based philosophy of the school and excited to have the opportunity to become involved.

**A.J. Chalom**

A.J. is a stay at home mother of two. She formerly worked as a Historic Preservation Consultant and an Environmental Geologist. Her hobbies and interests include Humanistic Judaism, biking, cross country skiing, nature, cooking and food allergy support groups. This is her first year on the board. She enjoys helping to make our school succeed.

**Tricia Goldfarb**

This is Tricia's first year on the Board. She is the chair of our Parent Survey committee. Tricia works full-time as a Product Manager at Block and Company. She enjoys spending time with her family, running and exercise (aiming for her first triathlon Summer 2010). Contributing to Community's board allows Tricia to feel connected to her daughter and the school. She feels that she is using her time and efforts productively and is learning things from people and sources she would have never had the opportunity to learn from had she not joined.

**Kathleen Illes**

Kathleen has been on the Board for four year and served as the Fundraising Vice President. Her background is in marketing and design. Her interests include soccer, design work, and photography. She enjoys being on the Board because she meets new people and supports a school she believes in.

**Chris Lawrence**

This is Chris' first year on the Board. When not working as a General Contractor, he enjoys fishing and spending time with his wife and two young daughters.

**Kristin Lerner****Sean Bloom Logan**

Sean was past president of ProfitTech Inc, an IT consulting firm specializing in Sales Force Automation. He has been a stay-at-home dad for almost 5 years for his son who is in the Blue Room PM and his daughter who will join the Orange Room next fall. This is his first year on the board. Sean launched a blog this year with his wife Jeannie: <http://reggioparent.wordpress.com/> in order to assist all of us in the challenge of bringing the Reggio philosophy into our parenting. Sean enjoys kayaking, camping, hiking and snow-shoeing in his attempt to live a balanced life.

**Mila Love**

Mila is a part-time instructor for family programs at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Her interests include tennis, biking, running and enjoying nature with her family. This is Mila's first year on the

Board. Mila is thrilled to be able to give back to Highland Park Community by organizing lots of fun events for Community families as our social Chair.

### **Sharlyn Maciel**

Sharlyn's past work experience has been in the area of human resources within the biotech/pharmaceutical industries. She enjoys cooking, photography, sewing and spending time with her two daughters Karina and Claryssa. Sharlyn is new to the board this year and enjoys meeting new people through board activities.

### **Sari Montgomery**

Sari has been on Community's Board for eight years, serving as its President, Vice-President and Treasurer. She currently is Community's representative on the Community Family Center Board and serves as its Secretary. Sari works part-time as an Adjunct Professor at Loyola University School of Law and enjoys reading, travel, and spending time with friends in her spare time. Sari has truly enjoyed her experiences on the Board where she has met some amazing people, and made some lifelong friends.

### **Joan Pasquesi**

Joan has been on the Board for 4 years. Her two older children, Olivia and Daniel are alumni of Community and are currently in 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Indian Trail. Her son, Michael is currently in the Orange Room. Louis, her husband of 12 years is also an alumnus of Community! For the past 19 years, Joan has worked as a registered nurse in the Clinical Research Unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Along with spending time with her family, Joan enjoys reading and scrapbooking. Joan enjoys being on the board because it gives her the opportunity to not only be involved in her own child's first school experiences, but to also help support the faculty and staff to carry out their mission to provide all the community's children, in spite of their circumstances, with quality care and education.

### **Patricia Velazquez**

Last year Patricia volunteered for many Board activities and enjoyed it so much that she joined the Board this year. For the last 14 years, Patricia has been using her degree in business management as an office manager at Task Force. She enjoys spending time with her daughter running, dancing, shopping, trying out new restaurants, and going to musicals. She likes to help others and volunteers one day a week at Community. The Board has given her the opportunity to make new friends and share ideas.

### **Jacqui Wallach**

Jacqui joined the Board in 2008 as a result of discovering what a wonderful place Community is. She and her husband Ben have two daughters Catalina in the yellow room and Tia 15 who is a sophomore at Highland Park High School. She comes to the Board with previous experience in sales and office management. Jacqui enjoys being with her family, being outdoors, and attempting anything crafty.