



Front row sitting left to right: Madhu Joannlagadda, Joan Pasquesi, Jeannie Logan, and Elysia Garcia
Second row standing left to right: Sam Shepard, Linda Knapp, Mila Love, Catherine Spencer,
Jean Wallace-Baker, Holly Leskovich, and Tricia Goldfarb

Linda Knapp, President

This is Linda's second year on the board and first year as President. 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, preschooler, and kindergartener.

Elysia Garcia, Administrative Vice President

Elysia is in her fourth year on the board at Community. She has enjoyed the opportunities her work on the board has given her, including working with other parents, learning new skills and a sense of accomplishment through helping such a great school. Elysia is an early childhood teacher when she can fit it into her family schedule. Currently, however, she is a full time mom of two boys. When she can, she tries to fit in some running and creative projects.

Tricia Goldfarb, Fundraising Vice President

This is Tricia's second year on the board. Tricia works full-time as a Product Manager at Block and Company. She enjoys spending time with her family, running and exercise (she just finished her first triathlon this past summer). 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.

Ami Patel, Treasurer

This is Ami's first year on the board and she is serving as Treasurer. Ami is the Senior Director of Compensation at MillerCoors. She and her husband, Bhavesh, and son, Kalin (who is in the yellow room and afternoon blue room), live in Highland Park and enjoy Bollywood and spending time in the city enjoying its various cultural activities and restaurants. Contributing to Community's board allows Ami to feel connected to her son and the children of our community.

Jeannie Logan, Recording Secretary

This is Jeannie's first year on the board. She is taking time off from teaching history at New Trier High School to spend more time with her two children-- one who graduated from Community and another who currently attends the Orange Room. As an educator, Jeannie appreciates the commitment and philosophical approach to early childhood education at Community, and is excited to contribute to such an amazing school by becoming more involved through the board. In addition to getting used to being a stay-at-home mom, Jeannie tries to find time to read, exercise, and improve her cooking.

Ellen Idler, Corresponding Secretary

Ellen lives in Highland Park with her husband, Ron, and wonderful kids, Brina, 5, and Trevor, 22 months (a future Community student!). Ellen works full time at LTD Commodities, LLC, a mail order catalog, as a toy buyer. She is originally from Houston and moved to Chicago in 1992. She and her husband are so thankful for Community and Jean and the wonderful teachers. She is looking forward to serving on the board as Corresponding Secretary.

Catherine Spencer, Immediate Past President

This is Cathy's third year on the board. 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 on 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.

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, and cooking. This is her second year on the board. She is the Highland Park Community Nursery School representative on the Community Family Center board. She enjoys helping to make our school succeed.

Beth Erickson

This is Beth's first year on the board. She taught Fourth Grade for seventeen years and now she is a stay-at-home mom. She lives in Highland Park with her husband, George Chemers and their son, Teddy. Teddy is in his first year in the Orange Room. Beth is excited to be a part of this wonderful school community.

Katy Lee

This is Katy's first year on the board. She has two daughters at Community; Josslyn is in the Orange Room (Tuesday/Thursday) and Samaira is in the Blue Room (AM). Katy runs the Scholastic Books Clubs program at Community and is co-chair of the Annual Spring Benefit. As a PreK-Third Grade certified teacher, Katy can't say enough good things about the programs offered at Community. In addition to her role this year at Community, Katy is pursuing a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision. With whatever time is left in her day, she enjoys hanging out with her family and friends.

Holly Leskovich

This is Holly's first year on the board. She and her family have lived in Highland Park for a little over a year, and currently live in Ft. Sheridan military housing. They moved here from Florida, but have lived in Pittsburgh, Hawaii, Annapolis, MD and Norfolk, VA. Holly is a Registered Nurse, working part time at Condell Medical Center, and her husband, John, is a Naval Officer stationed at Great Lakes. Her son, Tommy, is in the AM Blue Room, her daughter, Sarah, is a fifth grader at Red Oak Elementary and her son, JP, is an eighth grader at Edgewood. Holly enjoys attending her children's soccer games, reading, sewing and needlework.

Mila Love

Mila is an instructor at the Chicago Botanic Garden. This is her second year on the board. Mila is passionate about early childhood issues and loves being involved at Community. Her interests include running, cooking and being outside with her family.

Joan Pasquesi

Joan has been on the board for 5 years. Her two older children, Olivia and Daniel, are alumni of Community and are currently in the 5th and 3rd grades at Indian Trail. Her son Michael is currently in the morning Blue Room. Louis, her husband of 13 years is also an alumnus of Community! For the past 20 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 as they carry out their mission to provide all of Community's children, regardless of their circumstances, with quality care and education.

Ami Polonsky

This is Ami's first year on the board. Her son Ben attends the Blue Room in the afternoons, and her daughter Ella is in the Orange Room in the mornings. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom, Ami taught middle school Language Arts for 7 years, worked as a literacy coach to Chicago Public School teachers, and was an instructor of Children's Literature at Loyola University. Ami enjoys reading and spending time with her family and friends. She is thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Patti Rios

This is Patti's first year as a board member. She has lived in the Highland Park area her whole life. She has a daughter, Haylee Elizabeth, who is currently in the Green room. Patti also attended Highland Park Community when she was a child. Mrs. Wallace Baker was her teacher! Patti and Haylee enjoy reading, coloring and putting puzzles together. She has 2 full time jobs: dental assistant in Lake Forest by day and mommy by night. She also enjoy playing sports and doing outdoor activities.

Lisa Roberts

This is Lisa's first year on the board. She has two sons who currently attend Community. Lisa works full time at Northwestern University and has recently completed her Masters in Medical Informatics from there. Her role on the board this year is to co-chair the Annual Spring Benefit and maintain the Community website. She is excited to be on the board to give back to Community.

Tammie Schallmo

Tammie is a first year board member and serves as the social chairman. She and her husband Chris have two children and their son, Nick, is currently in the blue room. Tammie is an investment banker in the public finance department at PMA Securities, Inc., where she helps public school districts and community colleges issue debt. She has played the sport of curling since she was 9 years old and is also an avid golfer and runner. Tammie and her family are delighted to be a part of Community!

Sam Shepard

Sam Shepard has lived in Highland Park for 2 years and has been a stay-at-home dad to his daughter, Lucy, since her birth. Lucy is currently in the Tuesday/Thursday Orange Room. Sam loves staying home with Lucy, going to parks, on bike rides, to museums, and on trips to the beach in the summer. Sam and his wife Debra Ceffalio are expecting their second child in November.

Jacqui Wallach

This is Jacqui's third and, sadly, final year here at Highland Park Community. She joined the board in 2008 with the intention of hopefully meeting some other parents and just staying involved. However, participating on the board has meant so much more to her than that. She feels that the connections that she and her family have made with other parents and with the teachers at Community are invaluable and immeasurable. She and her husband Ben live in Highland Park and have two daughters. Catalina is in the Orange Room Kindergarten Enrichment and Tia is a junior at Highland Park High School. Jacqui is looking forward to being on the board again this year and being part of the Community family.

Consuelo Wilson

Consuelo and her husband Dave are parents to twins, Isabella and Nicholas, who are almost 9 years old, and Alexander, who is in the Blue Room PM. This is their first year at Community and Consuelo's first year on the board. She and Alexander are very happy to be at Community and Consuelo feels they both have jobs-- Alexander is learning how to share and play with his friends and wonderful teachers and Consuelo is sharing with all of us at Community her talents and skills! Consuelo loves to teach kids how to make things through using their imaginations and she enjoys cooking food from all over the world. She and her family love to keep themselves healthy. They keep a very active life by spending an hour playing together everyday. Consuelo loves to see kids learning new things everyday. In the past, Consuelo ran Rio Frio Designs (a wholesale gift company and retail store) in Chicago. Consuelo is looking forward to working with and getting to know everyone throughout the year.