

STEERING COMMITTEE



Susi & Mike Bickley, Chairs

Susi and Mike Bickley are long-time advocates of Center for Transforming Lives. Both have a strong history of working with non-profits and, after being inspired by CEO, Carol Klocek, Susi invited her husband Mike, now retired from the banking industry, to join her in the CTL vision of working side-by-side with women and children experiencing poverty. Susi and Mike's heart to serve have been a perfect fit with the growing impact of CTL's programs. Having three children and five grandchildren of their own, Susi and Mike understand the value of family. This understanding has galvanized their resolve to invest in CTL's two-generation programs and to see families experiencing poverty have the same opportunities to prosper together.

"We both believe this organization is changing lives and that is what we need to change the world."



Commissioner Roy C. Brooks

For over 30 years, Commissioner Brooks has represented his community as a community volunteer, a city elected official, and as County Commissioner. He embraces the core values of integrity, innovation, and growth. He continues to take on issues such as Healthcare for the Homeless, Infant Mortality, Obesity, Access of Care, Health Disparities, and AIDS Education.

"For those living in poverty, one episode of a crisis or financial challenge (car problems, illness, unexpected bill) can quickly spiral a family into homelessness. Unfortunately, more than 15,000 children and their parents – primarily single mothers – will experience homelessness in Tarrant County this year. To improve community accessibility and increase capacity, CTL is relocating to a new, larger, and more accessible facility for women and their children."



Kathryn Bryan

A native of Marshall, Texas, and of graduate Texas Tech University, Kathryn began her career as a Home Economist with Texas Electric Service Company in Fort Worth. She and her husband, Lowell, have one son, and have both traveled to all nine sister cities of Fort Worth. Kathryn has extensive involvement with non-profit organizations, including a 28-year relationship with CTL.

"I see the results of the collaboration with various non-profits, leaders, and benefactors of the community to enable women and children to become self-sufficient and begin a new life. I strongly believe in the CTL mission to disrupt the cycle of poverty and feel that CEO Carol Klocek and her staff along with the Board of Directors are proficient in the use of the funds in a most effective manner."



Caroline Cranz

Connecting with CTL through her workplace, Caroline brings a wealth of volunteer experience to the Steering Committee. Giving time and talent to invest in others is common ground for Caroline, volunteering for the Housing Opportunities of Fort Worth, the Foundation for the Young Women's Leadership Academy of Fort Worth, and Cristo Rey. She and her husband, Jonathan, have two amazing and sweet children.

"I support CTL because I think their approach of addressing not just emergency housing needs for women in crisis, but providing holistic support for women to sustain themselves and their families into the future makes so much sense. As a mother, it speaks directly to my heart that an organization looks at the whole woman who comes to them."



Lisa Grady

With a heart for child development, Lisa became a part of CTL through a colleague. Since then, she has served as the CTL board president, been an Ambassador for the Transforming Lives Tours, and given her time in many other ways. As a mother of one son, she loves the two-generation programming CTL offers women and their children.

"I believe in the mission of helping to bring women and children out of poverty. By providing assistance through the avenues of child development, housing, financial empowerment, and counseling, CTL changes their lives."



Linda Hurt

Linda and her husband, Bill, have lived in Southlake for 23 years. They have three children and one grandchild. She is a member of Altrusa International of DFW, Inc. This volunteer organization provides service in our community and builds leaders. Linda also serves on the Altrusa District Nine board, where she serves as Second Vice Governor.

"Twenty years ago, when I attended a fundraising event, I immediately fell in love with the temporary housing/support program for young women and knew that I wanted to get involved. CTL has made a real difference in women's lives for many years, whether through housing assistance, childcare, economic mobility, or counseling services. And the services provided come with much empathy for the women and their families."



JR Labbe

An accomplished journalist, business owner, and longtime Rotary Club member, JR Labbe enjoys spending time with Mark, her husband of 31 years, and her rescue dog, Ricochet. She has invested much of her life investing in others. Accepting an invitation to a CTL luncheon, JR Labbe's personal journey advocating for others immediately resonated with CEO Carol Klocek's presentation of CTL.

"Providing women with knowledge and certificates/licenses that will serve them - and their children - for the rest of their lives is imperative. Housing, childcare, financial education, and counseling are all support services that make the focus on economic empowerment possible."



Scott Lydick

Scott was originally introduced to CTL at a luncheon over seven years ago. He was immediately hooked and wanted to get more involved financially, emotionally, and professionally. Scott is a husband and father and has firsthand knowledge of how difficult it is to break a cycle of poverty when a family's mental state is in "fight or flight" mode.

"The work we do helps reduce some of the significant barriers to becoming stable and in a position to improve. I was initially shocked by how little I knew about the size and scope of the issue in our community. I want to find a way to support the most vulnerable; the women and children in our community experiencing poverty and homelessness."



Ginny Markley

She has been extremely invested in the work of CTL for more than two decades. Ginny has served on the CTL Board for six years, the Foundation Board for six years, and has been on the Development Committee for eight years. Ginny is retired from XTO Energy/Exxon Mobil. She has been married for forty years, has two children and four grandchildren.

"I've seen such great results in CTL working with women and Children." What excites Ginny the most about CTL is "All of it - seeing how all of the programs have been added and expanded."



Melissa Mitchell

Melissa Mitchell has a deep passion for the Center's work and has been a part of its work as a donor, volunteer leader, and advocate for several years. She and her husband, Michael Bennett, work together in their architecture firm, Bennett Partners, and have three children.

"I was able to attain the life I have now because people believed in me. CTL does the same for other women and, just as importantly, their children. I know trauma-informed, two-generational care can change a family's trajectory. I am honored to help CTL in any way I can, to both help repay the belief and kindness shown to me and to make our community and our most vulnerable families grow through our programs."



Amy Newell

Once Amy moved to Texas with her husband, Jeff, and their two children, she became a stay-at-home parent and found that she loved to volunteer and support nonprofits in the community. From that passion, she launched a software company focused on supporting small nonprofits. Amy was introduced to CTL through a friend, and after learning more about how successful CTL is and hearing CEO Carol Klocek’s vision and passion, she knew this was an organization she wanted to support.

“One word - Community. I feel strongly that we all have a responsibility to help those in our community and that the best charitable organizations that can make a meaningful impact are those that are community based. CTL is making a difference in the lives of women and children that live in our community.”



Ben Rosenthal

Having three children under the age of nine, Ben and his wife Madolin deeply value the programs CTL offers children and know how important school and social interaction are to a child’s development. Ben has a long history of serving others and has been doing so at CTL since 2011.

“I believe in the mission of CTL. Life is hard. It’s even harder when the odds are stacked against you as a mother experiencing poverty. These mothers and their children often have very little chance of getting back on track without various types of relief. CTL is there to provide this support and sustainably redirect course for these families. Sustainable change is key, and that is CTL’s goal.”



Valerie Skinner

Valerie has over twenty-five years of experience as a private foundation director and administrator. She is married, has four children, and four adorable grandchildren. Valerie is a very invested volunteer serving on the CTL Board and as Program Committee Chair. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer’s Association North Central Texas Chapter, and ‘I Can Still Shine’ (a local non-profit serving victims of domestic violence).

“I care deeply about the lives of women and children in our community. I support CTL because I want to be an active participant in the disruption of poverty in my community and because CTL’s demonstrated combination of compassion and researched best practices aligns perfectly with my personal values.”



Bishop Kenneth Spears

Bishop Kenneth Bernard Spears is a pastor, bishop, author, media personality, and community leader. He is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, and has served as pastor of First Saint John Cathedral since 1995. Bishop Spears is joined in ministry by his lovely wife Angela and their two sons, Kenneth and Kyle.

“When I moved here twenty-seven years ago, I walked and prayed through the park, the neighborhoods, and over that property. I am so happy to see that building being used to serve the women and children of this area.”



Kathy Spicer

Kathy is a long-time docent at the Kimbell Art Museum. She has served on local, regional, and state level boards for organizations that help promote women, women’s health, and children. A mother of two and a grandmother of two, she also volunteers as a reading tutor with Reading Partners of North Texas.

“I believe in solving our problems on the front end with education and access to health care and prevention. However, because the programs at CTL are well integrated, I appreciate the overall CTL approach to breaking the cycle of generational poverty. CTL is a well-run, effective organization.”



Elizabeth Teeters

Elizabeth and her husband Greg (who is retired from the US Marine Corps) have lived all over the country; throughout Texas, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Louisiana. In addition to being a social worker, she worked for IBM in a service division, owned a direct mail business, worked as a massage therapist and esthetician, and retired from a position of marketing director for a bowling center.

"My first job after college was as a caseworker for Texas State Department of Public Welfare where I certified people for welfare and food stamps. Most of the clients I saw were single women and children. I support CTL because it is the only organization I know of in Tarrant County that provides the whole package of housing, early childhood education, economic mobility, and counseling. It works."



Katherine Thompson

Having volunteered with many non-profit organizations and on countless service projects with her church, Katherine is a firm believer in the value of a healthy community. She is the wife of French F. Thompson III, the mother of two amazing children, and the dog mom of a 14-year-old Miniature Pinscher. She enjoys spending time with her family and close friends.

"I support CTL because of the alignment with my personal mission, vision, and values, as well as the holistic approach to impacting the community and the tangible transformational results. This environment gives them exposure to a healthy community and what the future holds for them."



Stephanie Usher

Stephanie has always made time to invest in the mission of CTL. Having a long-time relationship with CTL, Stephanie has been a valuable partner in coming alongside women and their children who are experiencing poverty.

"I enjoy my relationship with the CTL because I feel like you can see real results of the programs that they offer to the community. They are also inclusive of so many needed areas in the community – homeless, families, single women, and children. I am so excited for this new chapter in CTL's future."

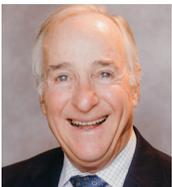


Jim Whitton

Jim and his wife, Debbie, were introduced to CTL by a friend. After a tour and a CTL luncheon, Jim said, "I was hooked." He has since been very active in CTL's programs and leadership. He is a member of the Rotary Club and last year chaired the Council of School Attorneys for the Texas Association of School Boards. He and his wife are active members at First United Methodist Church and have two children and two grandchildren.

"I support CTL because our program works. We (CTL) are helping thousands of single mothers and their children move from homelessness to prosperity!"

IN MEMORY



Thomas M. Kleuser, MD 1950 - 2023

Tom became involved with CTL through his late wife, Mary Ann. Mary Ann had been involved with CTL since 2006. Tom would accompany Mary Ann to the annual CTL Awards event. He would watch as she knew all the clients and she knew their stories. Mary Ann would tell him, with tears of joy and happiness, about how CTL had helped each of these women and their children.

"Tom was an active, enthusiastic member of our steering community until his sudden passing In March of 2023. We all miss the laughter and fun he brought to his involvement with CTL, along with a strong sense of mission, faith and purpose."

- Carol Klocek