



Children's Policy and Funding Initiative

Workshop – October 1& 2, 2020

Initiative's Advisory Committee (Alphabetical Order by First Name)



Daniel Lauer is Senior Program Officer for Global Development and for the Children in Families initiative at GHR Foundation and Advisory Committee Member for the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative. With the Children in Families initiative, Dan works to leverage child protection interventions that strengthen families, deinstitutionalize children and drive further evidence of innovative, pro-family approaches. Partnering with experts in the field, Children in Families uses innovative, research-based solutions to scale and support effective programs while pursuing systemic change through pro-family alliances, systems and policies. Dan was previously vice president of international programs at Holt International Children's Services in Eugene, Oregon where he worked in various capacities since 1986. During his tenure, his responsibilities included work in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, finding permanent, secure, in-country families or family-like settings for children without homes. Dan earned a master's degree in international development, community and regional planning from the University of Missouri at Columbia and a bachelor's degree in community services and public affairs from the University of Oregon.



Krista Riddley is Program Officer for the Global Child Rights—Realizing Rights for Girls and Boy at Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, and Advisory Committee Co-Chair for the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative. Krista has over 20 years of experience in leadership and management positions at organizations focused on global development, human rights and humanitarian issues. She has extensive knowledge and applied skills in campaigns, policy and advocacy, resource mobilization, social justice and rights-based program development in complex environments. In addition, Krista has in-country experience in West, Central and Southern Africa. She currently leads work on Wellspring's preventing violence against children portfolio. Prior to her current position, Krista was Senior Director for Gender and Humanitarian Programs at the Clean Cooking Alliance, Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor at the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Director of Humanitarian Policy at Oxfam America, and Advocacy Director for Africa and for the Middle East at Amnesty International USA. Throughout her professional career, Krista has demonstrated skills in building collaborative relationships with local and global organizations, governments, associations and communities; and an ability to lead and motivate teams in a wide variety of cultural contexts. She is fluent in French.



Maureen Greenwood-Basken, is Interim Director for the Global Child Rights—Realizing Rights for Girls and Boy at Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, and Advisory Committee Co-Chair for the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative. A recognized leader in social justice, Maureen has held leadership positions in philanthropy, advocacy and civil society for the past two decades. Maureen has led the portfolio on Global Children’s Rights: Realizing Rights for Girls and Boys since September 2019. She previously serves as a Senior Program Officer. She currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Elevate Children Funders Group and on the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership to End Violence. Previously, Maureen was the Executive Director, Women, Girls and Population at the United

Nations Foundation. She guided the creation of Family Planning 2020, a global multi-stakeholder partnership start-up., and the Universal Access Project, an advocacy pooled fund. At Amnesty International USA, Maureen worked as Managing Director of Government Relations and Advocacy Strategy as well as the Advocacy Director for the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. She has held a number of other positions at other organizations including the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union. Maureen earned her M.A. in International Relations at the University of Chicago and her B.A. in Russian Studies and Psychology from the University of Michigan.



Vicky Rateau serves as Program Officer and Campaigns Advisor for the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Program at Oak Foundation and Advisory Committee Member for the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative. At Oak Foundation, she focuses on accountability of tech platforms and sporting, supporting campaigning efforts, and movement-building to tackle child sexual abuse. Vicky also serves as a Member of the Fund Steering Committee for the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and is Member of the Council of Advisors for Climate Justice Resilience Fund. Prior to joining Oak Foundation, Vicky was a campaign consultant for philanthropy and social justice non-profits; previously, Vicky was at Oxfam where she served as U.S. Campaign Manager of the Climate Change and

Food Security Campaigns and as Global Public Campaign Lead for the GROW Campaign.

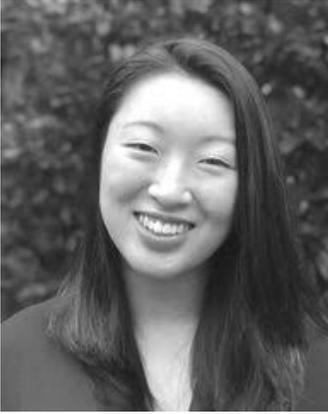
Lead Staff and Consultants for the Initiative

(Alphabetical Order by First Name)



Ariel Carroll is Program Manager for the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative, Tides Center. Previously, Ariel was Program Officer at Elevate Children Funders Group (ECFG) where she was responsible for member stewardship, programming, information resources and operations. Prior to joining ECFG, she worked with Save the Children as an Education and Early Childhood Development Specialist where she managed a sub-grant program targeting emergency recovery and spearheaded national partnerships to strengthen the resilience of early childhood development systems in US Cities. Ariel has also worked at with Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, the Global Alliance for Children, and Save the Children’s international programs team.

In addition to experience working on U.S. Government accounts at a multi-cultural communications agency, she has led sustainable agriculture programs in Costa Rica and developed curriculum for primary schools in Brazil and Colorado. Ariel received her B.A. from the University of Colorado in Spanish and Portuguese languages with a focus in Pedagogy and Education Policy and holds an M.A. in International Education and Development from American University.



Kaitlin (Katie) Lee is a 2020 Research Fellow at Strategy for Humanity. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, concentrating on public policy and bioethics with a focus on international development and humanitarian aid policy. Katie's research has centered on child-trafficking, refugees, and asylum policies, and on foreign assistance programs relating to international child development. As a student, Katie previously interned at United Way, International Justice Mission, and Justice Ventures International. At United Way, she wrote and served as an advocate for their programs on early childhood and adolescent development. Katie hopes to pursue a career advocating for policies relating to civil society and international aid. As a Research Fellow for Strategy for Humanity, Katie is synthesizing learning and

best practices on topics such as whole child development, meaningful youth engagement, and effective integration of diversity and anti-racist practices.



Maria Alexandra (Alex) Arriaga is Founder and Partner of Strategy for Humanity, and Senior Strategy Advisor for the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative. Alex has served in leadership positions at the White House, the U.S. Department of State, in the U.S. Congress, at major non-profit organizations, and now in the private sector. She has more than 30 years of experience working at the global and national level crafting policies and achieving priorities to advance international human rights. At Strategy for Humanity, Arriaga leads a consulting firm that works with mission-driven organizations and those who fund them to develop effective strategies, conduct smart advocacy and analysis, and achieve meaningful results. Her clients include major foundations, large and small non-profits, academic institutes, and governmental institutions. Previously, Arriaga

held leadership roles at Amnesty International U.S.A., guiding government relations, policy and advocacy. She served in the White House as Special Assistant to President and as Chief of Staff to the President's Special Envoy for the Americas. At the U.S. Department of State, she received the Secretary of State's Superior Honor Award and was Executive Director of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad, U.S. Delegate to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (twice), and Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Arriaga began her career as Director of the bipartisan Congressional Human Rights Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. At the state and local level, Arriaga has engaged to enhance access to education for all. She was recognized as an Honored Citizen for her many contributions to improve the experience for students with disabilities in the Arlington Public School system. In 2020, Governor Northam appointed Arriaga to serve on the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Arriaga has authored and edited several publications and is on boards of organizations focused on human rights, education, and disabilities. She is bilingual and of Spanish and Chilean descent.

Technical and Executive Support



Jenny Kelley is Executive Coordinator at Strategy for Humanity where she provides a broad range of administrative support for the firm's team of expert consultants. She has more than 20 years of administrative and management experience in a wide range of industries that include government, financial, information technology, legal, medical, education, and non-profits. Jenny also has extensive public relations and corporate event management experience.



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Guest Speakers – October 1

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Kyle D. Kondik is Director of Communications and Managing Editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball, the University of Virginia Center for Politics' authoritative, nonpartisan newsletter on American campaigns and elections. He is a frequently cited expert on American politics who has appeared on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, PBS NewsHour and Comedy Central's The Daily Show. His book on Ohio's presidential voting history, *The Bellwether*, was released in June 2016. He is based in Washington, where he manages the Center's DC office. Before joining the Center for Politics in 2011, Kyle served as director

of policy and research for former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray and as a reporter, editorial page editor, and political columnist at newspapers in Northeast Ohio. He is a 2006 graduate of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, where he also served as editor of the university's student-run newspaper, *The Post*.



Sean Carroll is President and CEO of Anera, where he leads a staff of 150 in Lebanon, Palestine (West Bank, Gaza), Jordan and Washington, DC, delivering \$75 million of humanitarian and development assistance annually to refugees and vulnerable communities in the Middle East. Sean oversees a wide range of programs, from distribution of in-kind medicines and other medical and humanitarian relief; to building community infrastructure in water, sanitation, education, sports and health; to revenue-generating agriculture and other economic growth programs, that improve thousands of families' lives. Before joining Anera, Sean worked in several international development and policy roles in Washington, DC, Europe and the Middle East, including Creative Associates International, the United States Agency

for International Development (USAID), the Club of Madrid, the US Congress, the UN's World Food Programme and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). For three years he served in the Obama Administration as chief of staff and COO at USAID, which has 9,500 staff and 84 missions around the world, and a \$1.7 billion operating budget. Sean also served for six years as director of programs for the Club of Madrid, a leadership alliance that includes 106 former presidents and prime ministers.



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Participant Featured Presenter – October 2



Ambassador Donald Steinberg brings distinguished leadership experience in government and nongovernmental organizations, and expertise in the fields of international relations and development. Currently, he is Senior Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at InterAction, the umbrella group for nearly 200 non-profits working in international development and humanitarian relief. In this role, he guides the CEOs and leadership teams of the largest American global charities to become more inclusive, equitable and effective. He is also Executive Director of Mobilizing

Men as Partners for Women, Peace and Security, an international non-profit working to enhance the role of women in peace processes and post-conflict reconciliation in two dozen countries. He is also co-chair of the board of the Women's Refugee Commission, senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, fellow at the Our Secure Future foundation, and serves on many non-profit boards and advisory councils.

A former career diplomat, Ambassador Steinberg served as the Deputy Administrator at the US Agency for International Development in the Obama administration, where he helped guide the \$18 billion development and humanitarian foreign assistance budget. Previous service included US Ambassador to Angola, Special Assistant for African Affairs to President Clinton, Director of the State Department Joint Policy Council, White House Deputy Press Secretary, Special Haiti Coordinator, the President's Special Representative for Humanitarian Demining, and Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Embassy in South Africa.

From 2013 to 2018, he was president and CEO of World Learning, a \$180 million NGO working on education, exchange, and development in more than 100 countries. As a visiting professor at Dartmouth College, he taught poverty eradication, women's rights and atrocity prevention. He was Deputy President for Policy at the International Crisis Group, a Randolph Jennings senior fellow at the US Institute of Peace, senior adviser for foreign affairs and defense to House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, director of the House Task Force on Trade and Competitiveness, and a member of the UN Secretary General's Civil Society Advisory Group for Women, Peace and Security.

He received the President's Meritorious Service Award, Distinguished Service Awards from the State Department and USAID, the Frasure Award for International Peace, the Leet Award for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, the Hunt Award for Women Equality, the Cohen Award for Holocaust and Genocide Awareness, and a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship. He has addressed the UN General Assembly and U.N. Security Council, testified before the U.S. Congress, and gave the commencement address at his alma mater, Reed College. He holds a master's degree in political economy from University of Toronto, a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree in international development from Reed College.

He has written more than 200 articles and speaks frequently on global development, African affairs, women's rights, atrocity prevention, diversity/inclusion, humanitarian crises, conflict transformation, refugees and immigration. He resides in Falls Church, Virginia, with his two teen-aged sons.



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Participants

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Anne Smith is the Global Director of Changing the Way We Care which is a partnership between Catholic Relief Services, Maestral, and Lumos working to change the way we care for children around the world. Anne has been working with Catholic Relief Services for the past 8 years in positions including Senior Advisor for Strategy and Divisional Affairs and Deputy Regional Director for Program Quality in the Southern Africa Region before working as Global Director of Changing the Way We Care. Prior to her role at Global Director, Anne has worked with Catholic Relief Services and CHF International in roles including Country Representative in Uganda, Burkina Faso and Mali as well as Country Director. Anne earned her B.A in management and psychology at Earlham College.



Bruce Lesley is the President of First Focus on Children. Bruce brings more than 25 years of public policy experience, at all levels of government, to his position as President demonstrating his commitment to making children's lives better. Bruce directs all aspects of policy development and internal operations at First Focus. In 12 years on Capitol Hill, Bruce worked on health care, education, human services, and immigration issues in several different capacities. Prior to his work at First Focus, he served as Senior Health Policy Advisor on the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. He also worked for the U.S. Senator Bob Graham on the Senate Finance Committee, served as minority Chief of Staff for the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and was a legislative aide in the offices of the U.S. Representatives Ronald Coleman and Diana DeGette. In addition to public service at the federal level, Bruce worked at the state and county levels of government on health and human services policy for Texas State Representative Mary Polk, El Paso County Judge Pat F. O'Rourke, and Texas Governor Ann Richards in the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, D.C. Bruce has also worked in the healthcare sector as the Director of Congressional Relations for the Children's Hospitals of America (also known as the National Association of Children's Hospitals) and as Director of Government Relations for University Medical Center, a public hospital in El Paso, Texas. Bruce holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland University College, in College Park, Maryland. He also attended the University of Texas at El Paso and University of Texas at Austin.



Carolyn Moore is the Policy and Advocacy Advisor at SPOON Foundation. Carolyn joined SPOON as the Advocacy and Policy Advisor in 2019 and developed, and now implements, SPOON's advocacy strategy. She promotes action to improve nutrition and feeding for highly vulnerable children; and partners with local governments and the global community to maximize the impact of SPOON's work. Carolyn's background is in global health advocacy and coalition building. Her work has focused on maternal and child health; digital health; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and community-based development. She started her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Kyrgyz Republic. Carolyn

holds a Master's in Public Health from Tulane University, and is based in Washington, DC. She enjoys hiking, bike commuting, and travel.



Dr. Chelsea Ullman is a Research Scientist at the Global Women's Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University (GW). She is a triple alumna of the George Washington University with an undergraduate major in sociology, a Master's degree in public policy from the Trachtenberg School of public Policy and Administration and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in public policy and public administration. Her PhD studies were on gender and social policy with a research focus on violence against women, campus sexual assaults, and women's empowerment. She has a deep interest in issues of gender inequality and spent a summer studying International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford with a focus in gender and sexuality issues in the law.



Chrissy Hart is the Senior Advisor at Together for Girls overseeing the partnership's work in sub-Saharan Africa. She has been working in the area of human rights, gender equality, and international development for over a decade. Chrissy served as a peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso in the area of girls' education and empowerment, followed by positions working in advocacy, partnerships, and research at RFK Human Rights, the University of Denver's Human Trafficking Center, women Thrive Alliance, where she led the organization's portfolio on gender-based violence, and most recently, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and UN Women. She holds her B.A in Political Science from Colgate University and an M.A in International Human Rights from the University of Denver.



Cristina Shapiro is the President of the Impact Fund for Children under UNICEF USA. Prior to joining the Impact Fund, Cristina worked for Goldman Sachs where she led multiple strategic impact investing and philanthropic initiatives over the last 9 years. From 2011 to 2018, Crista worked in the Urban Investment Group as the lead for the Access to Capital program where she sourced and underwrote over \$259 million in loans. She also led transactions with a focus on social innovations such as the Hurricane Harvey Emergency Loan Fund and the social impact bond deals in Massachusetts, Utah and Chicago. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs, she was Assistant Commissioner at the NYC Department of Small Business Services, overseeing the suite of services to help businesses start, operate, and expand. She currently serves

on the board of Accion East, a nonprofit organization that assist small business owners through access to capital and financial education. She also is on the credit committee of the Community Investment Guarantee Pool, a new, national financing tool for intermediaries participating in affordable housing, small business and climate lending. Crista received her B.A from the University of Pennsylvania and her Master's in Economic Development from Columbia University.



Dr. Daniela Ligiero is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Together for Girls. Daniela also serves as the Chair of the Executive Committee of the global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Before she joined Together for girls, she served as the Vice President of Girls and Women’s Strategy at the UN Foundation and developed the foundation’s gender integration strategy. In addition, she spent over five years at the U.S Department of State where she led the integration of gender issues into all foreign policy and investments in global health- working with over 70 countries and over 1 billion dollars in investments on issues like preventing gender-based violence and improving the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women. She helped develop the first ever international U.S

Government Strategy to End Gender- Based Violence. Daniela also served in leadership roles at UNICEF, as Chief of HIV and then as Senior Program Officer in the UNICEF Brazil Country Office. In addition, she has held positions at the World Bank and the U.S Senate, and she has worked directly with survivors of sexual assault in a variety of settings. She is also a survivor of sexual violence herself and has been speaking publicly about her story for the last decade. She earned her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park, ranked the number 1 program in the U.S. Daniela is fluent in four languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish, and French.



Elli Oswald is the Executive Director of Faith to Action Initiative. She handles the strategic planning and outreach of Faith to Action to promote best practice in supporting orphans and vulnerable children through family-based care. Before starting with Faith to Action, Elli served as Director of Mission and Outreach at Bethany Community Church in Seattle, where she guided Bethany Community Church as they pursued God’s kingdom work daily, through various ministries to the poor and vulnerable in Seattle and around the world, including partnerships in Uganda, Rwanda and Costa Rica. Before being called to Bethany, Elli served as the Children in Crisis Research and Communications Coordinator for World Vision International’s Child

Development and Rights Technical Team, specializing in community-based care for children deprived of parental care. She has a B.A. from Pepperdine University and a M.A. in Cross Cultural Studies and International Development from Fuller Theological Seminary. Elli has also worked with a wide variety of non-profit organizations in the Los Angeles area, including, Union Station Homeless Services and Habitat for Humanity.



Emily Cashman Kirstein is the Senior Manager of Government Affairs at Thorn and manages their policy portfolio and presence in Washington, D.C. She raises awareness about the issue of child sexual exploitation and furthers Thorn’s mission of building technology to defend children from this abuse. Emily joined Thorn after seven years working for the United States Senate and on several political campaigns. She holds a bachelor’s degree in History and Spanish from the College of the Holy Cross and a master’s degree in International Relations from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.



Eric Rosenthal is the Founder and Executive Director of Disability Rights International (DRI). Since establishing DRI in 1993, Eric has trained human rights and disability activists and aided governments and international development organizations worldwide. Eric has conducted investigations and trained activists in more than 25 countries and DRI reports have brought worldwide attention to the rights of people with disabilities. Eric has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the US National Council on Disability (NCD). On behalf of NCD, he co-authored US Foreign Policy and Disability (September 2003), a report that led to legislation to make US foreign assistance

accessible to people with disabilities. The report calls on the United States to extend the enforcement of US disability rights law to all US government-funded programs abroad. In 2013, Eric received the Charles Bronfman Prize, which is awarded annually to a young humanitarian whose work is informed by Jewish values and has global impact that changes lives and inspires others. In 2008, Eric received the Henry A. Betts Award from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) for “pioneering the field of international human rights advocacy for people with disabilities and bringing unprecedented international awareness to their concerns.” The adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is, according to AAPD, “in no small part due to Eric’s role promoting disability rights as a human right.” In 2007, Eric accepted the Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights on behalf of Disability Rights International. Eric was awarded a Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, by the Georgetown University Law Center in 2016. He received a law degree cum laude from Georgetown University (1992) and a BA with honors in Politics, Economics, Rhetoric, and Law from the University of Chicago (1985). Eric has served as an advisor in the Public Interest Law Scholar’s program of the Georgetown University Law Center and has been an adjunct professor of law in public interest advocacy. Eric is a board member and former Vice-President of the US International Council on Disability (USICD), and he chaired the USICD Committee working for US ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Erica Dahl-Bredine, Director for Global Influence, Learning and Engagement at Changing the Way We Care



Erin Kennedy is the Senior Director of External Engagement at ChildFund International providing leadership to the development, implementation and coordination of programs and policies relating to business development, external engagement, and advocacy and visibility. Erin also leads and facilitates efforts to influence U.S. government policy and crafted organizational positions on issues important to the welfare and protection of children and youth. She is responsible for creating and managing a strategy to increase ChildFund’s visibility among partners, policymakers and donors as well as strategic partnership development. Before joining ChildFund International, Erin was the Senior Advisor for Advocacy and Partnerships for the Gender and Empowerment Unit at CARE USA, leading a team focused on representation, partnership, advocacy and knowledge management. Erin was previously the Director of Legislative Affairs at a small federal affairs firm, advocating on behalf of cities and public authorities on Capitol Hill. Erin started her policy work as a legislative assistant to Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA), who represents her hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Duquesne University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from American University. Erin is a mother to two young children, Violet and Stella, and resides in Arlington, VA with her family.

Erin was previously the Director of Legislative Affairs at a small federal affairs firm, advocating on behalf of cities and public authorities on Capitol Hill. Erin started her policy work as a legislative assistant to Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA), who represents her hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Duquesne University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from American University. Erin is a mother to two young children, Violet and Stella, and resides in Arlington, VA with her family.



Florence Martin is the Director of the Better Care Network. She is a human rights lawyer and clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience in child protection and children’s rights in both emergency and development contexts. Her work has focused on reforming and strengthening national child protection systems, including the framework for the delivery of social services and social work practice with children and their families. Prior to joining BCN, Florence worked as child protection adviser to the Ministry of Social Affairs in Indonesia where she supported major reforms of the child welfare and social work systems. Florence also worked as global adviser on child protection for Save the Children UK, adviser in child protection to the East Timorese Ministry of Social Welfare, and legal adviser to the Human Rights Unit of the

UN Transitional Administration for East Timor. Florence also represented Amnesty International at the United Nations for five years. Florence holds an MSSW from Columbia University and a Master of Public International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Jedd Medefind is the President of Christian Alliance for Orphans which works in tandem with its members to inspire and equip families, churches and organizations for effective service to vulnerable children and families. Prior to this role, Jedd served in the White House as a Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, leading the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. In this post, he oversaw reform efforts across the government to make community- and faith-based groups central partners in all Federal efforts to aid the needy, from prisoner reentry to global AIDS. As described by the Harvard Political Review, these reforms “fundamentally changed the government’s strategy for improving the lives of the downtrodden...”

Previously, Jedd held a range of posts in the California State Legislature. He also helped establish the California Community Renewal Project, which strengthens nonprofits in some of the state’s most challenged communities. He has worked, studied and served in more than thirty countries, with organizations ranging from Price-Waterhouse in Moscow to Christian Life Bangladesh. Books written by Jedd include Upended and Four Souls. He also writes articles and op-eds for publications ranging from the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post to Comment Magazine, and he engages radio interviews with both faith-based and mainstream outlets, from NPR and Al Jazeera to Moody Radio. Jedd’s most recent book, Becoming Home, offers a brief-yet-rich exploration of how families and communities can embrace vulnerable children with wisdom and love through adoption, foster care, mentoring and more.



Jeff Meer is the U.S Executive Director of Humanity and Inclusion. With over 30 years of experience working in the international humanitarian sector, Jeff has held leadership roles at the U.S. Association for UNHCR, CHF International, and most recently, The Public Health Institute (PHI). Prior to Humanity and Inclusion, Jeff was at PHI, where he served as the Special Advisor for Global Health Policy and Development, coordinating 18 global health programs, conducting congressional and administration advocacy for global health, and creating new global health initiatives, including a focus on non-communicable disease prevention. Jeff entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1986, with overseas postings in Guangzhou, China, and Frankfurt, Germany. Back home

in Washington, D.C., he specialized in human rights and humanitarian issues. Jeff then became the founding program officer for peace and security at the United Nations Foundation. Later he became Executive Director of the U.S. Association for UNHCR, where for five years he led efforts to raise awareness and funds on behalf of the UN Refugee Agency. Jeff is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he earned a degree in French literature. He speaks French, German, and Cantonese Chinese, and resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.



Jennifer Rigg is the Executive Director of the Global Campaign for Education -U.S. Jennifer brings over 20 years of experience, including international education and development, public policy, coalition building, and strategic communications and public management. Previously, Jennifer was the Director of Policy & Partnerships and Interim Executive Director at the 1,000 Days Partnership. At Save the Children, Jennifer led policy and advocacy on early childhood development, education, nutrition and food security, livelihoods, microfinance, and aid effectiveness. Jennifer has also worked with CARE, United Way Worldwide, and the Nancy Bell Evans Center on Nonprofits & Philanthropy at the University of Washington. She received an MPA and graduate certificate in International

Development Policy and Management from the University of Washington, a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of Wisconsin/Learning Institute for Nonprofits, and a BA in International Studies/Political Science from Emory University.



Jenny Marron is the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at InterAction where she leads the team that shapes and coordinates coalition policy and advocacy efforts related to the U.S government. She is a seasoned expert on conflict and fragility with over a decade of experience in strategic thinking and problem-solving in foreign affairs. Jenny previously served as the White House National Security Council's (NSC) Director for Syria in 2016 and most recently as the Deputy Office Director of Advanced Analytics in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations at the U.S Department of State. While with the NSC, she provided senior officials with analysis and policy recommendations on critical security developments affecting Syria and coordinated decision-making processes among federal agencies to reduce

violence and support negotiations, humanitarian response, and stabilizations. At the State Department, she managed multiple teams and oversaw the launch of a new instability monitoring and analysis platform to aid decision-making in complex environments. Jenny holds a B.A in Political Science from Duke University and a Master's in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



Dr. Joan Lombardi is a Senior Scholar at the Center for Child and Human Development, Georgetown University. Over the past 48 years, Joan has made significant contributions in the areas of child and family policy as an innovative leader and policy advisor to national and international organizations and foundations and as a public servant. Joan directs Early Opportunities LLC, a strategic advisement service focused on the development of young children, families and the communities that support them. In this role she has served as an advisor to a number of foundations and organizations including: The Buffett Early Childhood Fund, The J.B and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation, the Bainum Family Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, the World Bank and UNICEF, among others. In addition, she is a Senior Scholar at the Center for Child and Human Development at Georgetown University where she focuses on global early childhood initiatives. She served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood during the Obama Administration 2009-2011, and as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and External Affairs and the first

Commissioner for Child Care, among other positions during the Clinton Administration (1993-98). Joan is the founding chair of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance (now the Alliance for Early Success), one of the founding members of the Early Childhood Development Action Network, a member of the Moving Minds Coalition and the program advisory for Saving Brains, Grand Challenges Canada, and the author of numerous publications related to children and families.



Dr. Joanne Carter is the Executive Director of RESULTS, supporting a movement of passionate, committed everyday people who are using their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. Under her direction, RESULTS leads advocacy campaigns to create more equitable policies and drive billions of dollars of government investment toward the highest-impact solutions to poverty. Joanne joined RESULTS as Legislative Director in 1992, was appointed Associate Executive Director in 2007, and became Executive Director in 2008. Under her leadership, RESULTS has grown to include chapters and grassroots volunteers in every state in the U.S., with advocacy partnerships around the world. As a founding project leader for the global health advocacy partnership, ACTION (www.action.org),

Joanne has helped build this partnership across more than a dozen countries on five continents, guiding its efforts to help mobilize billions of dollars of financial resources and change policy to ensure equitable access to health. Joanne is Vice Chair of the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board, a partnership of more than 1000 organizations globally. She has also served in a range of board and advisory roles with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Micronutrient Initiative, the Global Campaign for Education-U.S., and the Global Financing Facility for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health. Joanne holds a DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) degree from Cornell University and was a practicing veterinarian from 1987 to 1992. She has served as a VISTA volunteer and as a recruiter for the Peace Corps. Prior to joining RESULTS staff, Joanne served as a RESULTS volunteer Group Leader and then Regional Coordinator for four years in the New York City area.



Kathy Carney Sacco serves as Vice President, International Children's Policy at First Focus on Children. Prior to First Focus, Kathy worked for nearly eight years at the U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues, shaping and leading policies related to child protection, intercountry adoption, and international parental child abduction. Previously, she facilitated foster care and intercountry adoptions for 13 years. In her work on various agency boards, Kathy advocated for ethical adoption practices and the expansion of post-adoption services. Kathy was adopted from Korea at age five along with her biological sister. She is a licensed clinical social worker who obtained her Master of Social Work from Arizona State University. She resides in Baltimore, Maryland with her husband and two daughters.



Lauren Lamb serves as the Senior Director for Grassroots Advocacy at First Focus on Children, where she is building a network of highly engaged Ambassadors for Children. Prior to joining First Focus, Lauren served as the Campaign Manager for Baltimore City Councilman Zeke Cohen. She coordinated a broad network of volunteers, managed a 7-person field team, and shifted to a fully virtual campaign strategy in the spring of 2020. The re-election campaign resulted in a 32-point victory for Zeke Cohen in Baltimore's Democratic primary. Previously, Lauren worked as a teacher for Baltimore City Public Schools, where she taught ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) at the high school level for three years. She also worked with

Baltimoreans for Educational Equity and Strong Schools Maryland to advocate for increased state-level education funding and equitable wraparound services. Lauren is an alumna of Teach for America, and she earned a Master of Science in Education from Johns Hopkins University in 2018.



Leila Milani is the Senior International Policy Advocate at Futures Without Violence. She leads the work on global violence prevention, with a focus on women and children. In this capacity, she is instrumental in developing innovative policy solutions, driving advocacy efforts, and influencing the agendas of national coalitions such as Girls Not Brides; Coalition for Adolescent Girls; the US Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security; Alliance To End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST); the End Violence Against Children Task Force; and the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally, for which she serves on the executive committee. Leila also serves on the board of directors of Soccer Without Borders, which aims to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change, providing underserved youth in the U.S. and overseas with the tools to overcome

obstacles to growth, inclusion, and personal success. Leila is a lawyer and human rights advocate with special expertise in women’s rights, religious freedom, and conditions in Iran. She earned her J.D from Wake Forest University, an M.A from the University of Virginia Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, and a B.S from Auburn University.



Leila Nimatallah is the Senior Legislative and Policy Specialist at Catholic Relief Services (CRS) leading and implementing strategic global health and child health advocacy campaigns, engaging members and impacting bilateral government and multilateral policy and funding for CRS. Leila has 20 years of advocacy experience having worked for organizations like Global Action for Children, RESULTS, GAVI the Vaccine Alliance, Older Women’s League and IMA World Health. She earned her J.D from Villanova Law School and he B.A from Boston College.



Lori Cohen is the Executive Director of ECPAT- USA and joined ECPAT-USA in November of 2019 after founding the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Sanctuary for Families in New York. She has garnered international recognition assisting immigrants and domestic violence victims of human trafficking including children. In addition to supervising staff, Lori engaged pro bono attorneys from New York’s leading law firms, law students and volunteers; and coordinated with city, state and federal law enforcement, domestic violence shelters and social service providers. Lori has drawn upon her experience representing victims to advocate for anti-trafficking policy on federal, state and local levels. She has conducted trainings in the U.S and abroad for attorneys, prosecutors, judges, social service providers, health care

professionals and financial service providers, and has taught at Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School.



Luci Meade is a Global Development Policy and Learning Program Associate at InterAction. After years studying the Middle East and government, Luci has found her passion in foreign policy that focuses on civil society empowerment and good governance. Prior to joining InterAction, Luci spent time in the NGO community and on Capitol Hill. In 2017, she interned for Senator Marco Rubio in his Washington, D.C. office learning about U.S. foreign and domestic policy. She then worked for Al-Hayat, a Jordanian NGO focused on civil society and governance. While there, she developed tools to measure the Jordanian government’s progress on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. An Ohio native, Luci holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Arabic from St.

Lawrence University. In her free time, you can find Luci biking around D.C. or reading in one of her favorite coffee shops.



Lyric Thompson is the Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). In this capacity, she leads the institution's formulation of evidence-based policy recommendations and oversees ICRW's advocacy efforts with the U.S. Government and internationally. She is an adjunct professor at the George Washington University, where she teaches a graduate level course on women's rights advocacy. Lyric brings more than ten years of experience in global gender and development issues, including women, peace and security; women's economic empowerment; violence against women; child marriage and adolescent girls' issues. She has advocated for gender-equitable policies at the United Nations, the World Bank, the White House, State Department, Department of Defense, USAID and on Capitol Hill. Her ICRW field work includes building the advocacy capacity of youth activists

throughout the Commonwealth and of women's rights advocates in Egypt, Morocco, Tanzania and Uganda, as well as mobilizing a wide variety of stakeholders to achieve gender-responsive, urban development in slum communities of Mumbai, India. Previously, Lyric served for five years as a primary expert and strategist for Amnesty International USA's women's human rights program, as senior policy manager at Women for Women International and as a project manager for overseas development contracts at DAI.



Mandy Slutsker is the Director of Global Child Health Advocacy at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is a public health policy and advocacy professional with more than twelve years of experience developing and implementing multi-stakeholder advocacy and communications strategies, engaging policymakers, building coalitions, and synthesizing complex science and health care policies into lay and media-ready lexicons. Mandy has previously worked for organizations such as RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund, BRAC University and The National Institutes of Health. She obtained her B.A in Political Science and Public Health and her MPH in Global health at George Washington University.



Mark Engman is Managing Director, Policy and Advocacy, at UNICEF USA. He has served in this role since 2005 providing critical public policy analysis and community outreach expertise to UNICEF USA. Mark received his B.A from Colorado College and pursued a Master's in American Foreign Policy/ International Economics from The John Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. He also obtained his M.B.A in Public Policy and Management at The Wharton School.



Messellech "Selley" Looby serves as Senior Vice President, Development & Strategy of First Focus on Children. In this role, Ms. Looby is working to improve and expand donor relationships and strategic partnerships. Before joining First Focus, Messellech served as the Director of Development at The Constitution Project and was responsible for creating and implementing a strategic development strategy; as fundraising Consultant at WealthEngine where she managed a portfolio of 80 clients ranging from higher education to healthcare to national nonprofit organizations; and Development Manager for the Cancer Support Community and as Chair for the National Development Committee where she worked closely with affiliate fundraising leaders from across the country. Messellech earned her BA in Political Science with a minor in Professional and Technical Writing from the University of Hartford and her MA in International Affairs from Georgetown University. She serves as the Board Chair for District Motherhued – a DC-based nonprofit that works to empower mothers of color. Messellech resides in Washington, DC with her husband and two children.



Michael Chasnow, Senior Advisor, Tides Center. Michael brings to Tides over a decade of experience working on projects that bring capital and resources to socially & environmentally accretive projects. With Tides, Michael works with donors and fiscally sponsored social ventures, helping these Tides partners achieve their intended impact, particularly in the economic opportunity and housing spaces. Some of Michael's experiences include leading new communications and partnership initiatives for the Centre for Microfinance, building small business banking systems and conducting business development for green lending at Self-Help Credit Union, and leading operations and partnerships for the 1:1 Fund, a non-profit crowdfunding platform focused on matching low-income students saving for college. Michael holds an AB in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis and was graduated with dual Master's

degrees in business and urban planning at UNC-Chapel Hill.



Michael J. Gibbons has worked in basic education, community development and social justice since the mid 1970s in Asia, Africa, Latin America and low-income areas of the USA. Mr. Gibbons teaches courses in international training, education and development at The American University. Mr. Gibbons headed Children's Rights and Education Programs at Wellspring Philanthropic Fund a major social justice/human rights foundation for a decade, where he led global efforts to advance the right to education and wider children's rights. He served as associate director at Banyan Tree Foundation funding similar work. He was country director and education advisor for Save the Children for 14 years, and he also was director of agricultural training for the US Peace Corps after serving as a volunteer in Sierra Leone in the 1970s. He has lived and worked in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the coastal SE US.



Michelle Brané is the Senior Director of the Migrant Rights and Justice program at the Women’s Refugee Commission. One of the nation’s foremost experts on US asylum protections, migrant children, and detention policies for migrants, with more than three decades of experience in the field, Michelle conducts research and monitors policy, develops recommendations, and advocates for the critical protection needs of migrant women, children, and other vulnerable migrant populations in the United States while holding governments and policymakers accountable. Michelle has authored and overseen many of WRC’s landmark reports on migration and asylum issues.

She leads the program’s national advocacy on critical issues such as family separation, border policies, alternatives to detention, and unaccompanied children’s rights. Michelle has testified before Congress and other governmental and international bodies, appears frequently in print and broadcast outlets, and presents regularly as an expert at conferences, briefings, and professional trainings. Prior to her work at WRC, Michelle worked at the Department of Justice Board of Immigration Appeals and as a labor negotiator at the National Treasury Employees Union. She also held positions at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, with human rights organizations in India, and as a human rights officer with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Bosnia, where she also served as the head of the Sarajevo Field Office. Michelle holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Law degree (JD) from Georgetown University. She is admitted to the New York Bar.



Minky Worden is Director of Global Initiatives at Human Rights Watch where she develops and implements international outreach and advocacy campaigns. She previously served as Human Rights Watch’s Media Director, working with the world’s journalists to help them cover crises, wars, human rights abuses and political developments in some 90 countries worldwide. Minky has taught as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) since 2013. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1998, Minky lived and worked in Hong Kong as an adviser to Democratic Party chairman Martin Lee and worked at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. as a speechwriter for the U.S. Attorney General and in the Executive Office

for US Attorneys. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Minky speaks Cantonese and German, and is an elected member of the Overseas Press Club’s Board of Governors.



Miriam Abaya is Senior Director for Immigration and Children’s Rights at First Focus on Children. Before joining First Focus, Miriam was a Policy Analyst at the Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights, where she advocated for immigration policies that would protect the best interests and rights of unaccompanied children in government custody. While at the Young Center, Miriam focused on access to the asylum, border policies, and due process for immigrant children. Miriam also advocated before international bodies, regarding U.S. immigration policy, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Miriam graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2017. During law school, Miriam was a 2015 Law & Public Policy Scholar and

interned with the DOJ Office of Immigration Litigation, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy. After law school, Miriam was a Law & Public Policy Fellow for the Law & Public Policy Program, where she conducted research on international justice outreach on the African continent. That research was later published in the UCLA Journal of International Law & Foreign Affairs. She also worked part-time for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where she supported a project on victim participation in the Central African Republic’s Special Criminal Court. Miriam is Nigerian American and grew up in Jos, Nigeria.



Nancy Kay Blackwell is the Executive Director of Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). Nancy is a passionate child welfare professional with more than 20 years in human services for social and public policy driven organizations in Baltimore, Annapolis, and Washington, D.C. Her areas of focus include child welfare, early childhood development, faith-based policy, workforce development, and family homelessness. Nancy was most recently a Special Assistant at the D.C. Department of Family Services in the Family Services Administration where she provided strategic support on complex, politically sensitive special projects and managed a portfolio that included program rules and domestic violence. Prior to this role, Nancy was the Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Baltimore City for five years. She managed the day-to-day operations; raised the annual operating expenses through grant writing, individual, and corporate giving; and raised the voices of foster youth throughout the city. She was also very active with National CASA Association and chaired their Urban Programs Council to coordinate the views and needs of urban programs nationally. Nancy has also worked at National Association of Foster Care Children of America, D.C. Child and Family Services, Maryland Interfaith Legislative Committee, Center for Urban Families (formerly Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development), Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and Maryland Department of Human Services. Nancy has a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language and Political Science, Master of Public Administration, and Master of Jurisprudence. She is married to Michael, a social worker, and has two children Christian, 28, and Zoe, 13.



Nate Lance is a Policy Advisor for Child Protection at World Vision. Nate is a political and public policy professional with experience in strategy, advocacy and lobbying, communications public policy, consulting, research, events, and grassroots political organizing. His passion for seeking a better community has driven his professional success in advising presidential campaigns, congressmen and governors, the development and execution of successful public policy advocacy, fundraising initiatives and grassroots campaigns. Nate has worked with International Religious Freedom NGO, The Polling Company, The Heritage Foundation and on the McCain-Palin 2008 Presidential Campaign. Nate received his B.A at Baldwin-Wallace College and is a proud father to a toddler.



Noam Unger is Vice President for Development Policy, Advocacy and Learning at InterAction. In this role, he leads efforts to strengthen the voice and role of civil society in global development, international relief, and associated policy deliberations. Noam oversees work with Members and partners to: enhance their impact through networked learning; align common interests; and mobilize together to influence U.S. and international policies and practices. Prior to joining InterAction in 2018, Noam served as the Acting Chief Strategy Officer at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Noam also previously served as the Director of USAID's Office of Policy, and as an Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning. His early career additionally included service at the State Department and USAID

in roles focused on international conflict and humanitarian assistance. In the non-profit sector, Noam served as Vice President for Partnerships and External Affairs for Global Citizen Year, an education-related social enterprise committed to building the next generation of leaders. From 2007 to 2012, he worked at Brookings as a Global Economy and Development Fellow, where he directed the Foreign Aid Reform Project, co-founded the Development Assistance and Governance Initiative, and managed the annual Brookings Blum Roundtable. Noam was also a founding member and principal of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN), and his background also includes consulting work with Save the Children in Haiti and with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. Noam received his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and then spent a year on a solo, around-the-world project in Central America, South America, West Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia as a fellow of the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. At the start of his career, he worked in the private sector as an analyst and inventor for a software company. He holds a Master's degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.



Priscila Rodriguez is the Associate Director for Advocacy in Disability Rights International's Washington, DC office. Prior to this position, she was Director of DRI's Mexico and Central America regional office and Director of the Women's Rights Initiative for the Americas. Priscila has served as a Human Rights Officer and mental Health Specialist for the United Nations High commissioner for Human Rights and as an expert on sexual and reproductive rights and disability for the United Nations Population Fund. She has also been a Faculty Member of the International Disability Law Summer School at the National University of Ireland. Priscila has led DRI's legal work in the Americas before the Inter-American Commission on human Rights and has filed groundbreaking cases on the rights of children and adults with disabilities in the region. She has also led human rights investigations in Mexico, Guatemala and Kenya and has published

several human rights reports. In 2005 Priscila designed one of the first human rights investigations to employ women with psychosocial disabilities as researchers to document the sterilization and denial of sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls. Priscila studies International Law at University College Utrecht and obtained a B.A degree cum laude She earned an LL.M cum laude in International Law of Human Rights and Criminal Justice at the Utrecht University School of Law. For two years she was part of the Human Rights Law Clinic at the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, where she conducted legal research for attorneys at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In 2007 she founded a school feeding program for children in rural Kenya that has provided over one million breakfasts to children in primary school.



Roxanne Paisible is the Senior Manager for InterAction’s Children and Youth Initiative. She is an international development professional with 13 years of professional experience in spearheading advocacy and communications campaigns and managing strategic partnerships. Prior to joining InterAction, she served as the advocacy, branding, and partnerships consultant with the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. In this role, she advised the Bank on its human capital advocacy and partnerships strategy and developed policy products to advance country-level investments in nutrition, education, and youth workforce development programs. In addition, she has held policy and advocacy roles with PATH, International Rescue Committee, and Oxfam in Haiti. While at PATH, she provided strategic advocacy guidance to colleagues in the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, Senegal, and Uganda to increase access to lifesaving immunization services for children, women, and vulnerable communities. While serving as the media, advocacy, and communications manager at Oxfam in Haiti, she oversaw external relations and policy initiatives and developed joint communications and advocacy products for five Oxfam affiliates. During her tenure at the International Rescue Committee, she managed the organization’s engagement with U.S. policymakers on refugee resettlement issues and the needs of marginalized Haitians after the 2010 earthquake. She was also awarded a Human Rights Fellowship from the University of Chicago and conducted research on access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe. Roxanne holds a B.A. in Africana Studies and French from Hamilton College and an M.A. in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago.



Saji Prelis is the Director for the Children & Youth Programs at Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and the Co-Chair of the UN-Civil Society Working Group on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding. He has over twenty years’ experience working with youth movements and youth focused organizations in conflict and transition environments in over 35 countries throughout the world. In 2010 he co-founded and has been co-chairing the first UN-CSO-Donor working group on Youth and Peacebuilding (Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security) that helped successfully advocate for the historic UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (in 2015) on Youth, Peace and Security. As a result of the

Working Group’s advocacy, a second Security Council Resolution (Res 2419) was unanimously adopted in June 2018 and a third (Res 2535) in July 2020. Prior to joining SFCG, Saji was the founding director of the Peacebuilding & Development Institute at American University in Washington, DC. Over eleven years at the university resulted in him co-developing over 100 training curricula exploring the nexus of peace building with development. Saji has served as an adviser to governments and governmental agencies in over a dozen countries. He has also played an advisory role to the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Ministers on youth and peacebuilding. In June 2017, Saji received the distinguished Luxembourg Peace Prize for his Outstanding Achievements in Peace Support. Saji obtained his Master’s Degree in International Peace & Conflict Resolution with a Concentration in International Law from American University in Washington, DC.



Sue Swenson is the President of Inclusion International. Sue got involved with disability advocacy because her middle son, Charlie, had profound disabilities. Sue was very active in the Minneapolis schools as well as in State and federal advocacy while working as a professional services marketing director before being named a Kennedy Fellow in the US Senate in 1996. There she worked for the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy on both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Developmental Disabilities Services and Bill of Rights Act. Sue served the Obama administration in the US Department of Education as deputy assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services. These two federal programs regulate and fund States to help them support people with disabilities in American schools and workplaces. She

represented the US Department of Education on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Sue previously served as the commissioner for developmental disabilities in the US Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration, as executive director of the national chapter of The Arc, and as executive director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. She was educated at the University of Chicago (AB, AM) and earned an MBA at the University of Minnesota.



Ambassador Susan Jacobs was a career Foreign Service Officer for over 40 years. Her assignments included Deputy Consul General in Tel Aviv, Refugee Officer in New Delhi and Consul General in Bucharest. After serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, she was the U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In 2010 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appointed her to be the first Special Advisor for Children's Issues at the Department of State where she focused on promoting ethical international adoptions and inter-governmental cooperation to resolve international parental child abduction. In her retirement, Ambassador Jacobs has continued her interest in children's welfare. She is the Chair of the Governing Board of International Social Services-Global and Vice –Chair of ISS-USA. She also serves on the Boards of Limitless Child International, Return US Home and

U.S. Friends of the Hague Conference and provides advice to the Both Ends Believing, an organization that promotes case management systems to help children in institutions find permanent placements.



Taylor Draddy is Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) Director of Policy. She previously served as the Policy & Programs Associate at CCAI from 2014 to 2017. In her role, Taylor leads CCAI's government relations, education, and advocacy work in domestic and international child welfare policy. Taylor supports the Congressional Resources Program and in her work with CCAI's 20/20 Vision Program has coordinated several congressional delegations. Taylor also played an instrumental role in including the Adoption Tax Credit in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Prior to re-joining CCAI, Taylor served as the Public Affairs Coordinator at Foley & Larder LLP. In her role, Taylor assisted and supported the firm and clients by monitoring and tracking federal and state

legislative and regulatory policy, research, advocacy, and facilitated meetings with Members of Congress and Administration officials. She has experience in managing large client fly-ins, congressional delegations, and events. She also served in several internships on Capitol Hill. Taylor received her undergraduate degree in political science from the Catholic University of America and a Master's degree in Public Management from Johns Hopkins University.



Terry FitzPatrick is Director of Communications and Advocacy at Free the Slaves, an organization dedicated to changing global conditions that allow modern day slavery to exist. In this role, Terry leads initiatives of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST), which Free the Slaves currently co-chairs. Terry is also founder of FitzPatrick Media and is a seasoned, dynamic, and award-winning television, radio, print and Internet professional with extensive experience in environmental, economic, political, legal and human rights issues in the U.S. and around the globe. He has conducted journalism and communications training projects in 17 countries.