

# Child Care Aware® of Missouri Board of Directors

## Executive Committee



**Amy Jackson, Board Chair**

Amy is a Director in Armanino's National State & Local Tax (SALT) practice and leads the firm's Sales Tax Compliance Team. Amy was initially interested in serving on the board to offer her legal and consulting experiences to help support child care businesses. However, her leadership and support have grown past even what she could imagine. Amy sees how child care has a domino effect on areas in our state and how child care specifically impacts workforce development.

Amy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams Woods University and a Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University School of Law. She is a member of the Missouri Bar Association and serves as Vice-Chair on the Tax Committee. Amy is also a member of the Institute for Professionals in Taxation and serves as the Vice-Chair for the local chapter in St. Louis.



**Shannon Weber, Vice-Chair**

Shannon was introduced to the Child Care Aware® of Missouri Board through a long-time staff member. Shannon's experience serving on other boards and his professional career as a financial advisor allows him to lend a unique perspective to the board's commitment to the organization's goal of building awareness for its programs and strengthening support for the business education focus of the organization.

Shannon graduated cum laude and earned a degree in Agricultural Economics with a minor in Personal Financial Planning from the University of Missouri-Columbia. In addition to his role as Vice-Chair on the Child Care Aware® of Missouri board, Shannon also serves as the President of the St. Louis Agribusiness Club and is a member of the St. Charles County Farm Bureau Board and the Young Professionals Board of HavenHouse St. Louis.



**Brittney Zylstra, Treasurer**

Coming Soon



**Steven Hastings, Secretary**

Steve currently co-owns, along with his brother, a powdered nutrition manufacturing business located in Chesterfield, MO. Before purchasing his business, he was the Executive Vice President of Reliv International for over 25 years. Steve has been involved in many philanthropic organizations and projects throughout his life. However, Steve's passion for helping children reach their maximum led him to become a Child Care Aware® of Missouri Board member.

Steve holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Illinois and a Master of Business Administration degree from Butler University. Steve's past experiences volunteering with the Reliv Kalogris Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

## Directors



### **Bryan Zimmer**

Bryan has worked at Emerson in St. Louis since 2015 and is currently an Operations Strategic Planner. In this role he has responsibility for planning related to strategy, budgeting, capital, and cost reductions at 10 sites across North America and Europe. Bryan connected with Child Care Aware® of Missouri through a colleague and immediately identified with our mission, vision, and values. He is using this role to address some of the challenges and opportunities that exist to make sure children are given the tools and opportunities to succeed from the start.

Bryan has a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Southeast Missouri State University. He also earned an Executive Master of International Business from Saint Louis University. Bryan's community involvement includes volunteering at The Crossing in Chesterfield and leading the yearly Make-A-Wish Walk for Wishes campaign for his division at Emerson.



### **Charneth Pfeiffer**

Charneth "Char" Pfeiffer is a senior HR executive with almost two decades of HR and leadership experience in healthcare, technology, and nonprofit industries, specializing in workforce development, change management, and strategic planning. Char serves as the Senior Director of Human Resources for Total Access Urgent Care (TAUC), supporting hundreds of employees across 27 sites, providing fast, friendly, and affordable healthcare to our community. Before TAUC, she served with Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care as National Director of Human Resources, where she had the opportunity to drive numerous organizational effectiveness projects. Char has enjoyed a diverse career path, including entrepreneurial ventures, IT, education, and managing a daytime homeless shelter. Winning multiple awards for best places to work, social entrepreneurship, and affordable

housing community support have been rewarding. Still, the best reward of all has been empowering people at every level to be successful in their chosen field.

Char resides in the St. Louis area. She spends most of her free time traveling with family and serving as Board Member for Child Care Aware of Missouri.



### **Jennifer Simms**

Jennifer has been with the University of Missouri – St. Louis for 22 years and has served in multiple roles, including staff, adjunct faculty, and student. She has been fortunate to work in spaces in the academy as a thought leader, helping to support technology use, teaching, and learning. As a mother of two, and a grandmother of three, Child Care Aware® of Missouri's mission is near and dear to her heart. Jennifer believes it is her right and responsibility to help ensure children have access to quality educational services to shape their future and define their destiny. She is excited to be apart of an organization whose efforts align with her values.

Jennifer holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. She also earned master's degrees in Human Resources Management and Business Administration from Webster University.



### **Katie Mihok**

Coming Soon



### **Patrick Lawler**

Coming Soon



### **Paul Romine**

Paul is a lead project manager with Centene Corporation and has led the team in launching new products, such as Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Ambetter Virtual Access with Teladoc. Before joining Centene, he served as a Franchise Consultant for Cardinal Health and Kumon North America. Paul has extensive experience working with small business owners in the education industry to improve their business operation and the quality of their education. This experience helped Paul realize the need for an organization such as Child Care Aware® of Missouri that provides training, education, coaching, and business supports to Missouri's child care businesses.

Paul holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and a Master of Business Administration degree from Lindenwood University. He also earned a Certification in Franchise Management from Georgetown University. Before joining the Child Care Aware® of Missouri board, Paul served on the HavenHouse Board of Directors and Young Professionals Board and the Make-A-Wish Missouri Young Professionals Board.



### **Raja Mikkili**

Raja is a technology leader with focus in cybersecurity and cloud technologies. He currently serves as the executive director and head of technology & security for Arcutis Biotherapeutics. During his career, he had the opportunity to work across different industries such as pharmaceuticals, aerospace & defense, construction, private equity. As a person who believes in knowledge and empowerment as the key to personal success, growth, and individual development, he is thrilled to be part of the Child Care Aware® of Missouri board and is committed to supporting the organization's mission.

Raja holds a Master of Science degree in electrical & computer engineering from the Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. A member of ISACA and IAPP organizations, he continues to engage in professional development activities and is an ISACA Certified Information Security Manager. As a resident of St. Louis, MO for the past 20 years, he enjoys spending time with his family. He loves spicy food, enjoys motorcycle riding, travelling, and hiking.



### **Sara Wright**

Sara has been with Washington University St. Louis in the Human Resources Department since 2014. Her focus is on employee and labor relations, federal compliance, policy and process development, global employment matters, and family and child care benefits. Sara's passion for supporting Missouri families and early childhood educators led her to be a part of the Child Care Aware® of Missouri board.

Sara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Science from Truman State University and a Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University School of Law. She is a member of the Missouri Bar and holds an SHRM-SCP certification. In addition to her role on the Child Care Aware® of Missouri Board, Sara volunteers as an Ambassador for the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank and a Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri.



### **Sean Hutto**

Sean is a Mortgage Consultant with On Q Financial and has extensive experience in sales and mortgage banking. Sean's peers describe him as a "Firestarter" – a person who ignites those same qualities in others through passion, tenacity, and leadership. Sean was initially introduced to the Child Care Aware® of Missouri Board through a long-time staff member. As a long-time board member, he now utilizes his passion and leadership abilities to make a difference for Missouri's young children.

Sean holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri Western State University. Sean is actively engaged in the community and helps build awareness of Child Care Aware® of Missouri's mission and values.



### **Stefanie Fischer**

Stefanie has been in the health care industry for most of her career, and she is currently a registered postpartum nurse at Mercy Hospital – St. Louis. Stephanie is experienced in guiding families throughout their new journey and educating them on healthy outcomes for newborns. Stephanie was initially interested in the Child Care Aware® of Missouri Board because she desired to learn about child care systems and how she could play a role in ensuring Missouri's children receive quality early childhood educational experiences. Education has played a vital role in Stephanie's life, and she understands the benefits that accrue from high-quality early education for young children.

Stephanie initially earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. However, she quickly learned that she found more joy in helping others find their story and not writing them. This led her to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.



### **Vivek Mehta**

Vivek is the Chief Information Security Officer with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. He manages information technology and cyber-security strategy and operations to protect digital assets to ensure data privacy and compliance. Vivek relates to Child Care Aware® of Missouri's mission and recognizes the need for safe, quality child care. He is especially drawn to the organization's approach to building child care capacity across Missouri's communities through its workforce and leadership development programs

Vivek earned a Master of Business Administration with honors from the University of Chicago School of Business and attended executive education programs at Harvard. In addition to his role on Child Care Aware® of Missouri's Board, Vivek is also a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors and is a speaker at industry conferences such as Med Invest and the Center for Digital Innovation.