

PROJECT LEAD



— *Class III* —



UNITED WAY
Emerald Coast

WHAT IS PROJECT LEAD?

This unique program prepared our graduates to serve as effective leaders on non-profit and public sector boards and committees. Designed to strengthen local boards of directors, it focused on cultivating a diverse pipeline of future board members.

Through six workshops led by local experts, participants gained practical knowledge in areas like strategic planning, marketing, financial oversight, and governance. Graduates have the skills, tools, and connections to be engaged and impactful volunteers across Okaloosa and Walton counties.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS III! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

If you would like to be connected with any of our graduates, please contact UWEC President & CEO Kelly Jasen at kelly@united-way.org or 850-812-3382.

**Thank you to our Project LEAD
sponsors and in-kind supporters:**



Florida Blue | Renasant Bank | Adams Sanitation | Best Gurl, Inc. | Boomi | Caring & Sharing of South Walton | Carr, Riggs & Ingram | City of Crestview | City of Niceville | Destin Chamber of Commerce | DJ Salty | Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast | Elder Services of Okaloosa County | Emerald Coast Science Center | Emerald Coast Wealth Advisors of Raymond James | Emerald Coast Vibe | Fish Window Cleaning | Florida Power & Light | Frances Roy Agency | Freedom Life Compass | Full Circle Music Foundation | Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce | Home2 Suites by Hilton in Fort Walton Beach | Homelessness & Housing Alliance | MidSouth Bank | Okaloosa County | Okaloosa County School District | One Hopeful Place | Publix | RELI Marketing | Sean Devlin Home + Design | TBspeaks | Walton Area Chamber of Commerce | 1Shot Creations | 3rd Planet Brewing Co.

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Andrew Kindle

**OKALOOSA COUNTY
EMS COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC**

Skills: Government; Healthcare; Military;
Public Relations; Risk Management

Community Issues: Health &
Disabilities; Mental Health; Senior
Services; Substance Abuse; Veterans &
Military



Annalise Dedicke

**FRANCES ROY AGENCY
NON-PROFIT ACCOUNT MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning; Fundraising;
Marketing; Volunteer Management;
Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Animals; Arts &
Culture; Children & Youth; Mental
Health; Veterans & Military



Brittany Curry

**FRESH START FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
PROGRAM MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning; Fundraising;
Volunteer Management; Strategic
Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Community Improvement; Financial
Literacy; Housing; Substance Abuse

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Catie Munns Feeney

**WALTON COUNTY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**

Skills: Government; Marketing; Policy or Advocacy; Public Relations; Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth; Community Improvement; Housing; Mental Health; Mentoring & Coaching



Chrissy Hartley

**DREAM TEAM REALTY
REALTOR**

Skills: Event Planning; Fundraising; Marketing; Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth; Community Improvement; Housing; Mentoring & Coaching; Veterans & Military



Ed Hartley

**LEE NISSAN
MANAGER**

Skills: Construction; Event Planning; Public Relations; Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth; Community Improvement; Mentoring & Coaching; Veterans & Military

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Erika Peterson

**OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERVENTION COORDINATOR**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed);
Event Planning

Community: Children & Youth; Early
Childhood Education; Mental Health;
Parenting & Caregiver Support



Gerard Bhagwatsingh, Jr.

**FORT WALTON BEACH
POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE OFFICER**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed); Event
Planning; Fundraising; Military; Public
Relations

Community: Children & Youth; Housing;
Hunger; Mental Health; Veterans &
Military



Gina Duke

**FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT
ARBORIST**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed);
Event Planning; Fundraising

Community Issues: Animals; Children &
Youth; Domestic Violence; Early
Childhood Education; Hunger

CLASS



Jacob Hill

**CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH
GOLF COURSE DIRECTOR**

Skills: Event Planning; General Business;
Government; Marketing

Community Issues: Animals; Children &
Youth; Community Improvement



Jackie Blue

**ODOM HOTELZ
DIRECTOR OF SALES**

Skills: Event Planning; Marketing;
Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Community Improvement; Employment
& Job Training; Housing; Veterans &
Military



Jae Baldizzi

**RELI MARKETING
CEO**

Skills: General Business; Marketing

Community Issues: Animals; Community
Improvement; Veterans & Military

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Jared Sheffield

**GAIA INITIATIVE- UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN
DIRECTOR/ADJUNCT PROFESSOR**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed);
Finance or Accounting; Marketing

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Community Improvement; Financial
Literacy



Jay Azzaretto

**DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH
DESTINATION STEWARDSHIP
COORDINATOR**

Skills: General Business; Human
Resources; Marketing; Public Relations;
Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Employment & Job Training; Mentoring
& Coaching; Veterans & Military



Jessica McCormack

**MCCORMACK TAX
OWNER**

Skills: Finance or Accounting; General
Business; Technology/IT/Cyber

Community Issues: Arts & Culture;
Community Improvement; Financial
Literacy; Health & Disabilities; Parenting
& Caregiver Support

CLASS



Joe Gordon

**OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LIEUTENANT**

Skills: Construction; Event Planning;
Finance or Accounting; Government;
Public Relations

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Community Improvement; Mentoring &
Coaching; Substance Abuse; Veterans &
Military



Josh Cottrell

**ADAMS SANITATION
RESIDENTIAL FIELD SUPERVISOR**

Skills: Construction; General Business

Community Issues: Community
Improvement



Julie Kauffmann

**OKALOOSA COUNTY CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
SENIOR SPECIALIST - COURT FINANCIAL
SERVICES**

Skills: Finance or Accounting;
Fundraising; Governance; Legal and
Compliance; Public Relations

Community Issues: Animals; Arts &
Culture; Community Improvement; Early
Childhood Education; Housing

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Katie Cagle

**RENASANT BANK
BRANCH MANAGER & BANKING OFFICER**

Skills: Finance or Accounting

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Early Childhood Education; Financial
Literacy; Mentoring & Coaching



Katie Healey

**CRESTVIEW ANIMAL SERVICES
ANIMAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR**

Skills: Government; Legal and
Compliance; Public Relations; Strategic
Planning

Community Issues: Animals; Housing;
Hunger; Mental Health; Substance Abuse



Lesli Harding

**AVP
BRANCH OPERATIONS**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed);
Finance or Accounting; Marketing;
Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Financial Literacy; Hunger; Mentoring &
Coaching

CLASS



Makiko Simmons

**CHOCTAWHATCHEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING**

Skills: Finance or Accounting; General Business; Military; Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Employment & Job Training; Financial Literacy; Veterans & Military



Marlene Verdejo

**PENAIR CREDIT UNION
BRANCH MANAGER**

Skills: Fundraising; Military Spouse, Bilingual (Spanish)

Community Issues: Community Improvement; Employment & Job Training; Financial Literacy; Hunger; Veterans & Military



Mia Mortensen

**UNITED WAY EMERALD COAST
MARKETING AND DESIGN MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning; Marketing; Public Relations; Volunteer Management; Technology/IT/Cyber

Community Issues: Animals; Arts & Culture; Community Improvement; Mental Health; Mentoring & Coaching

CLASS



Miranda Cross

**ANTIOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CHILDCARE COORDINATOR**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed);
Event Planning; General Business;
Marketing; Public Relations

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Domestic Violence; Housing; Mental
Health; Veterans & Military



Nicci Meng

**ALWAYS BEST CARE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND
DEVELOPMENT**

Skills: Event Planning; Volunteer
Management; Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Community
Improvement; Mentoring & Coaching;
Senior Services; Veterans & Military



Phillip Kent

**WALTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SERGEANT
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**

Skills: Event Planning; Fundraising;
General Business; Public Relations;
Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Community Improvement; Mental
Health; Mentoring & Coaching;
Substance Abuse

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Seth Ewing

**OPERATION TABLETOP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Skills: Event Planning; Military; Volunteer Management; Risk Management; Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Animals; Arts & Culture; Community Improvement; Mental Health; Veterans & Military



Shannetra Francis

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
CITY OF NICEVILLE**

Skills: Event Planning; Marketing; Public Relations

Community Issues: Arts & Culture; Children & Youth; Early Childhood Education; Housing



Shaun Foster

**UNITED FIDELITY BANK
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Skills: Finance or Accounting; Fundraising; General Business; Public Relations; Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth; Community Improvement; Domestic Violence; Employment & Job Training; Mentoring & Coaching

CLASS



Stephanie C. Jones

**MERRILL LYNCH WEALTH MANAGEMENT
SENIOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Skills: Event Planning; Finance or Accounting; General Business; Military

Community Issues: Children & Youth; Financial Literacy; Mentoring & Coaching; Substance Abuse; Veterans & Military



Tarajoy Hill

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OKALOOSA COUNTY (ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT III)**

Skills: Event Planning; Government; Healthcare; Human Resources; Policy or Advocacy

Community Issues: Animals; Community Improvement; Health & Disabilities; Mental Health



Ted Toedte

**WALTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
CRIME PREVENTION SPECIALIST**

Skills: Government; Military; Public Relations; Risk Management; Technology/IT/Cyber

Community Issues: Adult Education; Children & Youth; Community Improvement; Housing; Senior Services

CLASS



Tiffany Ruckel

**THE MIND CARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Skills: Fundraising; General Business;
Governance; Healthcare; Strategic
Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth;
Domestic Violence; Health & Disabilities;
Housing; Mental Health



Tyler Wood

**CHOCTAWHATCHEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**

Skills: Event Planning; Marketing; Public
Relations; Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Animals; Children &
Youth; Community Improvement;
Hunger; Senior Services



UNITED WAY
Emerald Coast

THANK YOU!

Florida Blue 
Foundation

 **RENASANT**
BANK

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